

45th Division News

April, 1993

Published in support of the 45th Division Association and 45th Division Museum.

REUNION BANQUET SPEAKER



Major General Fred Daugherty, former Commanding General of the 45th Infantry Division, will be the principal speaker at the Saturday night banquet during the reunion 19-22 August, 1993.

MG Daugherty is a native Oklahoman, born in Oklahoma City, graduated from Central High School in Oklahoma City, Cumberland University, 1932-1934, LLB Degree, 1933, Oklahoma City University, 1934-1935 and Oklahoma University, 1936-1937. He was admitted to the Oklahoma State Bar in 1937 and was in General Practice from 1937 to 1940; a member of the firm of Ames, Ames and Daugherty, 1946-

1950; a member of the firm of Ames, Daugherty, Bynum and Black 1952-1955. Appointed State District Judge, 1955, and served until 1961. Appointed United States District Judge, 1961, Chief Judge Western District, 1972, and Senior Judge, 1982 to date.

He enlisted in Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, as a private in May, 1934, and was mobilized with the 45th Division in September, 1940, as a 1st Lieutenant. Shortly after returning from completion of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, the Commanding General, Third US Army, requested the transfer of Daugherty to his command, and despite the objections of Daugherty and MG William S. Key, CG, 45th Infantry Division, the transfer was made in December, 1941.

He later served with the Sixth US Army in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre from March, 1943, to December, 1945. Upon reorganization of the 45th Division in 1946, he was assigned as Commanding Officer, 179th Infantry Regiment, and called to active duty in that capacity in September, 1950. He commanded the 179th Infantry Regiment at Camp Polk, LA, Hokkaido, Japan and in combat in Korea from December 1951 to July 1952. He was promoted to Brigadier General of the Line and served as Assistant Division Commander from September, 1952 until September, 1960. He was promoted to Major General of the Line and served as Commanding General, 45th Infantry Division from September, 1960, until retirement on 20 November, 1964.

He participated in the following campaigns during World War II and the Korean War: Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, South Philippines, Leyte, Luzon, 2nd Korean Winter and Korean Spring-Summer, 1951. Military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit w/2 OLC, Bronze Star with OLC, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal with OLC and NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal.

Daugherty is a member of the following Service, Civic and Fraternal Organizations: Kiwanis Club, American National Red Cross, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, United Fund of Greater Oklahoma City, Community Council of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Council on Alcoholism, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Men's Dinner Club, Oklahoma Heritage Association, Guthrie Scottish Rite, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Delta Phi.

MG Daugherty was the first Chairman of the 45th Infantry Division Museum Board of Directors, and served from 1974 to 1984, and has served as Chairman Emeritus from 1984 to date. He was the prime mover in organizing and directing the formation and construction of the museum and continues to serve a major role in improving the status of the museum exhibits.

The subject of his address will be "CITIZEN SOLDIERS" and that identifies about 99 percent of all "Thunderbirds".

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

Llewellyn M. Chilson

Master Sergeant Llewellyn M. Chilson joined the 45th Infantry Division shortly before they embarked for North Africa in June, 1943. He was assigned to Company G, 179th Infantry, and remained with that unit throughout the war.

Chilson suffered shrapnel wounds and was taken prisoner on the Anzio Beachhead in Italy, but he escaped after three days as he was being taken to Rome for interrogation. He returned to his unit bringing several German prisoners with him.

In October, 1944, Chilson, still a private at the time, was given charge of 39 new recruits who had come from the States as a platoon. He gave them 3 days of combat training with emphasis on discipline. The platoon went into the line, Chilson leading, and were given a tough objective, a hill that had held out against three companies. Chilson and the novices took the objective in 20 minutes. Nine Germans were dead, 17 were prisoners. Several weapons were captured and only one man in the platoon was injured. The next day the platoon took a village and Chilson added five stripes to his previously unadorned sleeve.

On 26 March, 1945, when his platoon leader was wounded, Chilson assumed command. He destroyed an ammunition vehicle and two heavy machine guns and made possible the capture of two other heavy machine guns and the destruction of three enemy flak vehicles. The battle resulted in the death of 11 enemy soldiers and the capture of 225 Germans.

Five days later, under intense enemy fire, he led his five man combat patrol in gaining invaluable information on the enemy defensive position and eliminated a heavily defended stronghold in a close-range encounter. This enabled his company to enter the town of Obernau. At the risk of his own life, he exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to save a wounded man from his platoon.

On the same day, as his platoon was moving to Horsental, Germany, the enemy opened fire from two flak vehicles and the "one-man army" ran 300 yards through heavy fire, mounted the top of a tank and rode it back to a position suitable to deliver counterfire. He remained in his exposed position so he could obtain maximum observation and give detailed fire orders.

Twenty five days later, when the enemy opened fire with 20mm guns, Chilson moved a jeep to the middle of the street and opened fire with a machine gun, knocking out two flak guns and two 88mm guns, killing approximately 40 enemy riflemen.

On the same day, he mounted an abandoned enemy motorcycle and located six more 20mm guns. The cycle was shot from under him, but he eliminated the threat with hand grenades.

Two days later, Chilson and his platoon were halted by intense heavy weapons fire coming from a second story apartment house in Neuberg, Germany. He rushed across a bullet swept street into the house and tossed a grenade, killing two members of the enemy gun crew. He captured the other eight crew members.

Later the same day he had to fire his carbine with his left hand after being wounded in the right arm, but he killed two of the enemy and captured a third. He finally collapsed from loss of blood and was evacuated to an Army hospital at Stockbridge, England, where he met his wife-to-be, Mary, an Army nurse from Santa Barbara, CA.

On 6 December, 1946, President Harry S. Truman decorated Chilson with seven awards for valor, the most ever made to a soldier at one time. Chilson's heroism in World War II earned him a total of three Distinguished

(THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS cont'd on page 2)

"REUNION FORMS INSIDE"

Service Crosses, three Silver Stars, A Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars for valor, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and three Purple Hearts for combat wounds.

During the presentation President Truman said: "This is the most remarkable list of citations I have ever seen. For any of these, this young man is entitled to all the country has to offer. These ought to be worth a Medal of Honor! That's what I think about it."

Chilson was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor on two occasions, but both were "not favorably considered" in spite of the comments made by President Truman in 1946 when presenting Chilson with his medals.

He made the Army a career, and retired in 1964 to Tacoma, WA, and later moved to Puyallup Valley, WA, just a few miles from where Mary worked as a charge nurse.

Chilson died at age 61 while vacationing in Florida and was buried with full military honors in Mountain View Memorial Park Cemetery, Tacoma, WA.

On 29 April 1983 the "MASTER SERGEANT CHILSON HALL AND SCULPTURE" were dedicated at the Washington Soldiers' Home and Colony, Orting, WA.

(Editor's Note: During World War II there were a total of 8 Congressional Medals of Honor awarded to 45th Infantry Division personnel; 4 to members of the 157th Infantry and 4 to members of the 180th Infantry. The 3rd Infantry Division (Regular Army) fought alongside the 45th Division throughout the war and members of their division received a total of 39 Congressional Medals of Honor, including one to Audie Murphy.)

COMBAT CHRONICLES

180th INFANTRY REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM COMBAT IN ITALY, OCTOBER, 1943

The 3rd Battalion moved to the vicinity of GESAULDO in preparation for movement of the regiment to the West. One deserter from the 64th PGR was captured in the vicinity North of FRIGENTO.

Movement of the division on BENEVENTO, planned to start at daylight, was delayed by VI Corps with instructions to stop short of the CALORE River. One company of the 180th Infantry Regiment was already across the river when the order was received and was left in position to protect crossings.

One October 2nd, the 3rd Battalion closed on GROTTAMINARDA; the 2nd Battalion was in positions along Highway 90 just East of the CALORE River, and the rest of the regiment was in the vicinity.

Reconnaissance by Division Engineers disclosed a bridge blown in the vicinity of BENEVENTO with no bypass and the streets of BENEVENTO filled with debris that made the passage of vehicles impossible. Entrance into BENEVENTO would be delayed until the debris was cleared from the streets and a bypass built over the CALORE River.

Heavy Rain including hail and sleet fell all afternoon and night of October 3rd, seriously delaying any movement over the newly built bypasses. The enemy continued his withdrawal to the North and Northwest, leaving small groups to destroy bridges and to defend mine fields and roadblocks.

The American 3rd Infantry division was now on the 45th Division's left and the British Eighth Army was on our right. Heavy rainfall every day was a deterrent to any forward movement by Allied troops and aided the enemy in their well organized withdrawal.

On October 6th, the 180th Infantry moved by motors to the vicinity of PIETRELCINA and was prepared to resume the attack to the North the following morning at daylight.

The 2nd Battalion attacked at daylight in the direction of FRAGNETO MONFORTE and occupied the town about 0700 that morning. Six enemy prisoners were taken. Enemy tanks attacked the battalion, but were successfully beaten off with one tank left burning.

The 3rd Battalion, 180th Infantry, passed through the 2nd Battalion on October 8th and attacked in the direction of CAMPOLATTARO at daylight. The 1st Battalion turned to the West to proceed cross-country toward CASALDUNI. The 2nd Battalion remained in position in vicinity of FRAGNETO MONFORTE.

Colonel Cookson, 180th Regimental commander, was relieved from duty with the division by War Department orders and ordered back to the United

States. Lieutenant Colonel Dulaney assumed command of the regiment.

The enemy continued to offer strong resistance from high ground around GUARDIA and along the line from CASTELVENERE to TELESE. Elements of the 9th PGR were identified in the area along with the 93rd German Artillery Regiment.

The division encountered increased use of automatic weapons by the enemy and heavy bombardments from the infamous Nebelwerfer (better known to American troops as the Screaming Meemie), a 6-barrelled rocket mortar. Remember how they screamed like a banshee as they passed through the air toward our lines? They weren't very accurate, but they made us keep our heads down and were a great psychological weapon for the Germans.

On the 15th of October the 180th Infantry was ordered across the TITERNO River. The 2nd Battalion reinforced with tank destroyers and tanks proceeded to the Northwest along the VOLTURNO River. They came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire.

The regiment reached its objective of the high ground overlooking the PIEDIMONTE - ALIFE highway on October 17, where it held its position until relieved by the 157th Infantry Regiment. A patrol from the regiment ambushed an enemy patrol, killing 4, wounding 2, and capturing 9.

On October 20, the division went into Corps reserve, ending 40 days of continuous fighting and marked the longest period that an entire American division in the European Theatre of Operations had been in the line without relief.

On October 29, the 180th Infantry Regiment moved to a new assembly area West of PIEDIMONTE by motors in preparation for returning to the line. They then moved to forward assembly areas generally South of ATLANO and West of RAVISCANIO. The harsh Italian winter was beginning in earnest with heavy rains falling every day, the weather turning extremely cold in the mountains, and roads becoming almost totally impassable.

45TH INFANTRY BRIGADE SAVED

The Pentagon announced recently that the historic 45th Infantry Brigade in Oklahoma will remain an active National Guard unit. **This will assure that the Colors and Lineage of the 45th Infantry Division will remain active and not "mothballed", as previously planned.**

In a letter to Senator David Boren, Army Chief of Staff Gordon R. Sullivan said, "I am pleased to report to you that the 45th Infantry Brigade was removed from the list of units scheduled for inactivation."

The original plan would have cut the Brigade strength from 3,300 to 200 personnel, and would have required closing 30 armories in Oklahoma towns in every congressional district.

The brigade which is based in Edmond, OK, will be converted from a light infantry brigade to a mechanized infantry brigade, and become an organic part of the 35th Infantry Division based at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Daily Oklahoman attributed the following comments to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation:

Senator David Boren, D-Seminole: "I am extremely pleased that we have finally won the long battle to save the 45th and the historic Thunderbirds. The entire delegation has worked tirelessly during the past year to prevent unfair and disproportionate cuts to the unit that General George Patton described as 'one of the best, if not the best, division in the history of American arms'."

Senator Don Nickles, R-Ponca City: "The Thunderbirds now have a new and important place in the future defense of our nation."

Representative Dave McCurdy, D-Norman, presaged Friday's announcement when, last summer, he said the Army National Guard would look at job-shuffling that could keep the 45th alive as a heavy mechanized unit. That proved true. With this action, the 45th will remain a vibrant part of the Oklahoma military scene. In a time of drawdown, it is significant that Oklahoma's citizen soldiers will continue to play an important role in our nation's security.

Representative Glenn English, D-Cordell: "No doubt, with this wonderful news, the 45th will continue to play a critical role in our national defense."

Representative Mike Synar, D-Muskogee: "The security threats facing our country today must utilize the expertise of an experienced National Guard which can be mobilized quickly for many different contingencies."

Representative Bill Brewster, D-Marietta: "The 45th played a vital role in our national security in this century and it is a very wise decision to keep this important brigade in action as we enter the 21st century."

For one of Boren's staffers, the announcement was a going away present. Blythe Thomas, Boren's legislative assistant for defense and military affairs, had been working on this issue for most of the last year. The announcement was made on her last day as a full-time aide to Boren, and came about an hour before her going away party.

The 45th Division Association Board of Directors appreciates the efforts of the congressional delegation and their staffs in assuring the continued role of the 45th Infantry Brigade in our national defense effort. We also wish to recognize the efforts of association members who reside in other states for contacting their congressional delegations concerning this matter.

48th ANNUAL REUNION: AUGUST 19-22

The Forty-Eighth Annual Reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association will be held August 19-22, 1993, at the Radisson Inn, Interstate 40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Committee appointments have been made by President Danny Marler, and committee members have been busy since their appointments during the January Board of Directors meeting. Michael Jackson is the Reunion General Chairman and all planning is on target.

Friday activities are the same format as last year, including the business meeting and the sit-down dinner, followed by a Country and Western dance to "LIVE" music.

Saturday activities include a Memorial Service, Ladies Luncheon, the Annual Banquet and dancing to live music.

Hotel reservation and reunion "REGISTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION REQUEST" forms are included in this newsletter. Hotel reservation forms "MUST" be mailed direct to the Radisson Inn. "PLEASE" do not mail them to the association.

If you plan to attend, please complete the "Registration and Transportation Request" form and mail to: 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 N.E. 36th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111. This will facilitate advance planning and permit the registration committee to prepare registration packets prior to your arrival.

The reunion committee would appreciate a maximum effort by the membership towards "ADVANCE REGISTRATION" AND "PRE-PAYMENT" of the amount due. This will preclude the registration committee from handling large amounts of cash at the reunion site, and will permit us to serve you better.

THUNDERBIRD VETERANS ASSIST MUSEUM

The 45th Division Museum Long Range Plan includes additional aircraft for the military park, which will require a large outlay of funds to prepare and mount these items.

Odell Shaw, a Thunderbird veteran of World War II and Korea, has taken some individual action concerning acquisition of 12 inch pipe required for mounting static displays of aircraft.

While on vacation in Hawaii, he met 179th Infantry Regiment Korean War veteran Jack Van Dyke of Comanche, Oklahoma, who agreed without hesitation to donate 180 feet of pipe to the Museum.

Shaw also contacted Bill Goad, a veteran of the 189th Field Artillery, who coordinated a donation of 100 feet of pipe to support the future requirements for mounting aircraft.

Bill Evans, Chairman of the Museum Board of Directors, has written letters of appreciation to all individuals involved in these donations.

DOD INDIAN EXHIBIT

The Department of Defense Indian Exhibit referred to in the October, 1992, edition of this newsletter was completed and dedicated in November, 1992.

Fred Daugherty, the 45th Division Museum Archivist, has furnished numerous Indian related documents and photographs for the exhibit, and the booklet to be published relating to the subject.

The following is a partial list of items furnished for the exhibit and/or the booklet:

- Photographs of Company C, 180th Infantry (1941), Company C, 279th Infantry (1951), and Company I, 180th Infantry (1941).
- Color photographs of Brummet Echohawk's oil portraits of Jack Montgomery, Ernest Childers and Phillip Gover.
- Photograph and biography of Brummet Echohawk.
- Information and photographs of Indian Scouts.

SEEKING INFORMATION

I am a professional military writer and historian researching a project on US Army Amphibious Training during World War II, specifically that conducted by the Amphibious Training Center, Camp Edwards, MA, and later at Camp Gordon Johnston, Carrabelle, FL.

I am also interested in the training of Reconnaissance Troops at the Fort Pierce, FL, Scout and Raider School, and would like to get in touch with officers and enlisted members of the 45th Reconnaissance Troop who trained at Fort Pierce for their recollections of the training conducted there. Incidentally, the 45th was the first Reconnaissance Troop to train at Fort Pierce.

JOHN B. DWYER, 430 Westbrook, Dayton, OH 45415, 513/890-5654

U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home

Nestled in the heart of our Nation's Capital is 300 acres of secure, park-like setting in which 2,000 enlisted Army and Air Force veterans have found a home.

No longer called "The Old Soldiers' Home", the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH) is a thriving community that offers Army veterans a haven of retreat.

Financed by enlisted soldiers and airmen, and operated primarily for their benefit, the Soldiers' Home trust is supported by active-duty, monthly payroll deductions of 50 cents; fines and forfeitures imposed on wayward military members; interest from the trust fund; and a 25 percent user fee paid by the residents on all federal annuities, including social security (the average user fee is \$285 per month).

Membership of the USSAH is made up of veterans from the Armed Services whose active-duty service was at least 50 percent enlisted or warrant officer, and who are:

*Retirees at least 60 years of age (previously there was no age requirement).

*Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to service-connected disability.

*Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to non-service disability and who served in a war theater.

During its 140-year history, USSAH evolved from an "asylum for the old and disabled" to a retirement community that offers a secure and comfortable life-style filled with activity.

Whereas "inmates" once lived in 8-man squad rooms, most of today's members have private rooms, and many have private baths and walk-in closets. On-going renovation will enable all members to have private baths and amenities, such as cable TV, air conditioning and elevators.

Three meals a day are served in a modern cafeteria that seats 1,400 people. The facility offers a wide variety of food, including short-order and special diet lines and a salad bar.

Health care services range from community nursing and assisted living to primary, intermediate and skilled care at the King Health Center. This 385 bed, well equipped, long term care facility is dedicated to the members at no additional cost.

A city within a city, the Home has its own laundry, banking facilities and post office, as well as three chapels, a large gymnasium and a six-lane bowling alley. Residents can get their shirts cleaned, their pants pressed and then hop the Home's private bus for a day at a near-by race track or museum.

For those interested in hobbies, there are arts and crafts shops that cater to everyone's talents, such as: woodworking, ceramics, photography, oil painting and picture framing. Near the well groomed, nine hole golf course and driving range are garden plots and two tranquil lakes which offer sport fishing for crappie, bass, bream and catfish.

The Home is, after all, a special place for special people.

For additional information call 1-800-422-9988, or write: Admissions Office, USSAH, Washington, D.C. 20317.

Watertown, NY, Daily Times

(14 December, 1992)

Looking Backward (Headlines from the Past)

50 Years ago, 14 December, 1942: Good behavior by the members of the 45th Infantry Division of Pine Camp is urged in an editorial which appears in last Saturday's issue of the weekly *45th Division News*, issued by the personnel of the division. The editorial is the result of a series of "events" which occurred in Watertown during the past week, in which soldiers from the 45th were involved. (Submitted by Al Melisko, who resides in Gouverneur, NY, located 18 miles north of Fort Drum [formerly Pine Camp]. He was a member of Company K, 179th Infantry, during the Korean War.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My wife and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness, phone calls, cards, etc., when I became ill last year at the Saturday night banquet during the 45th Division Association reunion.

I was released from the hospital the following Friday and returned directly to my home. I am doing fine.

ROBERT MIDDLETON, 1018 Fairview Drive, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025.

I enjoy your newsletter very much. I am now, and always have been, in favor of a strong American Guard.

George Washington said well, "Put only Americans on guard tonight". I fear those Cicero described to the Roman Senate in 42 BC are with us today.

To be continued, maybe.

WAYNE E. WORLEY, 470 Piney Knob Road, Marshall, NC 28753.

Thanks for reminding us of our time to renew our membership dues. Seems like moving after 45 years in one spot takes more out of you than you think. As a rule, I keep on top of those things.

In October, George Schafer of Clear Lake, SD, and his friends came to visit and relive some of his and Dale's experiences, war time and later. He also farmed, but is only on a small scale now. Maybe someday he will be able to make the Oklahoma reunion. We are so glad we are able to attend, as so many others aren't able to get around — the price of fox holes and getting older.

DALE AND DELLA ATTIG, R.R. 4, Box 71, Austin, MN 55912.

Last August my wife and I attended my first reunion of the 45th Division Association. You really do a super job, and we both had a great time.

I served with Heavy Mortar Company, 179th Infantry, from October, 1950, to April, 1952, and we had our first reunion ever in conjunction with the association.

Lots of memories, sharing stories and photographs with over 30 members of our outfit made it an event we will never forget. It was great to see some of the friends that we haven't seen for so many years. We hope to attend again whenever another one is planned.

A very special "Thank You" to Guy Geiger for putting it all together for the "Heavy Mortar Company".

JOSEPH H. SHARER, JR., 14 Blaine St., Northeast, PA 16426.

What's it like to be a Thunderbird in combat, Korean War? Everyone knows terror is assigned to a Rifle Company. Sent on outpost, riflemen only. Blasted with massed artillery and mortar fire. Attacked by Chinese masses, extracted by another Rifle Company. Only 9 of us initially, 10 more escaped captivity during friendly barrages.

Men dead, wounded, captured, scattered to the winds, can't account for everyone, impossible! Down to one man, non-judiciary punishment, got the boot! During all this, Battalion Commanding Officer told me that "he" deserved a Silver Star. I'd die first! So proud of Company K, 180th Infantry! Wish I had told each survivor in person.

Hurt, shocked, disappointed, but still a Thunderbird.

CARL B. CHANCE, 5021 Bellaire Avenue, Groves, Texas 77619.

I am beyond expressing how I enjoyed the 1992 reunion with my buddies of Company B, 179th Infantry Regiment (Korea) after 40 plus years. I want to express my sincere "Thank You" to Company B and all for the great times we had.

I had to cut my time short due to car trouble. With the help of some good people just northeast of the Oklahoma fair grounds, I got it fixed.

VIRGIL ZWAHL, Route 1, Box 73, Wetmore, KS 66550.

I was inducted into the Army July 13, 1943, and assigned to Camp Wheeler, Macon, Georgia, for basic training. I was sent overseas October 12, 1944, and joined Company F, 157th Infantry at Epinal, France, as a replacement.

An injury sustained November 29, 1944, resulted in hospitalization and award of the Purple Heart. I returned to duty on December 29, and was assigned as Mess Sergeant of Company F for the duration of the war. I returned to the United States with the 45th Division and was discharged at

Camp Bowie, TX, November 1, 1945.

I have volunteered two days each week for seven years at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

Would like to hear from anyone who remembers me.

VICTOR A. BLUHM, 3101 Center Drive, Quincy, IL 62301.

Fifty years ago, almost to the day, I was greeted by Captain Glenn Lyon at Camp Pickett, VA, and became a member of Company B, 179th Infantry Regiment. After serving honorably from Sicily to Anzio, I received a combat wound. Upon return to the regiment after recovery from the wound, I was assigned to Company E. I later received the big wound, and was sent home with a proud heritage. Along the way I lost many good and great men, including Sgt. Bill Lasley. Combat awards included the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

After a full life I still cherish the memories of associating with them all. Now, at 75, I am counting the years left, but will never forget "my men" of the 45th. They were so nice to the Second Lieutenant from Boston.

ANDERS T. ANDERSON, 88 Walnut Street, Natick, MA 01760.

The combat history of Mr. Tillman Witt's narrative of the 279th Infantry Regiment, "Moving On", ended on a day in July, 1952. I subscribed to this journal with the understanding that the narrative would include the exploits of the 279th until the end of hostilities in Korea. Many of us were transferred from other combat units to fill the depleted ranks of the 279th, replacing those who would rotate home after a few short months of combat. Even though our serial numbers were prefixed by "US" or "RA", we were, nevertheless, members of the 279th Infantry Regiment, and proudly wore the patch of the "Thunderbirds" on our right shoulder when we returned home. When asked, "Isn't that the insignia of the Oklahoma National Guard?", we answered simply, "Yes, it is".

I would suggest that future historians researching the history of the 279th tell the entire story.

EDWARD G. ABRAHAM, 3736 Ortega Street, San Francisco, CA 94122.

Enclosed is a copy of the obituary of Andy Koren. I always check the TAPS column, and if it was there, I missed it. Andy was in the Second Platoon of Company G, 179th Infantry, when I joined it as a replacement platoon leader during late November, 1943. One night, about three weeks later, an 88 shell hit the rock wall behind which I was dug in. Andy was the first to start uncovering me while the shells were still coming in. After the war was over, we exchanged Christmas cards and notes every year until his death.

Reference Ernst Selig's letter in the January, 1993, issue, I remember him well. Somewhere south of the Vosges, I became S2 of 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry. I knew no German, so while Selig was doing the interrogating, I just sat there trying to look as menacing as I could and never understood a word of what was being said. He did a masterful job. I recall only one prisoner who stuck with Name, Rank, and Serial Number. I did learn one sentence from Selig, "Wer ist dein Kompagnie Chef?". A few years later I did study German for several semesters and I'm sorry to say that I never found an opportunity, in conversation courses, to demand of someone: "Who is your Company Commander?".

It was quite a shock to see my name in the letter from Dr. Hartmann of Neuberg. My first thoughts were: What did I sign for?, and is there a statute of limitations? I did write him and identified Ray Wantz as CO of Company G. I sent him photocopies of several pages of the 179th Regimental History and an apology for not remembering anything about Neuberg. How many towns and villages did we liberate during March, April, and May, 1945? I may have taken a few photos of Neuberg, but I gave them all the 45th Museum several years ago.

Finally, does anyone out there know the whereabouts of CPL Yeager, who was a staff driver for the 2nd Battalion? We had many adventures on reconnaissance patrols, plus a few more that we thought of ourselves. I have thought of him many times and wondered how he was.

CHARLES R. REIMAN, 528 Ambrose Creek Road, Stevensville, MT 59870.

(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR cont'd on page 5)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont'd from page 4)

I was drafted into the Army and assigned to Company A, 120th Engineer Battalion in November, 1950, for basic training. The Company Commander was Sam Magoffin, and some of the people I served with were Billy Joe Reeves, William Cannon, Bill Cadion, William Best, John Sutherland, William Seay, William C. Mitchell and John Adair. I would like to hear from any of them. I would like to know if they remember the men from New York and the East Coast. These were some of the best times of our lives.

LEON SILVER, Venter 46C, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442.

I served on the US Navy LST #692 in support of the 45th Infantry Division during operations in Sicily, Italy and Southern France, and am applying for membership on the basis of that service.

I was in the Engine Room of LST 692 and we in the "black gang" didn't have much time or opportunity to socialize. However, the scuttlebutt coming into the engine room was "give these guys a smooth ride and a dry landing". The deck crew said, "they look mean just saying 'good morning!'."

JOSEPH VALLELY, 14 Roberts Road, Canton, MA 02021

I got out of Korea and the Army in August, 1952. I went back to school and ended up teaching high school social studies until retirement age in 1982. I also joined the Washington National Guard in the late 50's, and retired militarily in 1977. I have been active in the Legion, VFW, AARP, Lions and the local little theater group. I am learning to play the piano, and am the mayor of my town.

I have been in touch with troops of the 160th Field Artillery off and on throughout the years. The last one was Cornie B. Currie, now from Arkansas. There is quite a contingent out here in Oregon and Washington who have gotten together once in a while.

WILLIAM J. BILSLAND, P.O. Box 765, Elma, WA 98541-0765.

I would like to join the 45th Infantry Division Association. I was born in the state of Maine, and took Engineer Training at Fort Belvoir, VA, in 1943, and then went overseas as a replacement, first to Africa, and then to Italy. Then I came to southern France with the 7th Army. After the invasion of southern France, I joined the 40th Engineer Regiment. We supported the 45th Infantry Division with bridges, minefields, etc., and fought as Infantry when required.

We took parts of the 179th Infantry across the Rhine River on March 26, 1945, and continued to support them until the end of the war.

ARNOLD H. DRYSDALE, P.O. Box 2350, White City, OR 97503.

I am a new member of the association, so when I received my first copy of the news, I read and re-read the paper several times. It was amazing to me that one of the first articles I read was about my assistant squad leader, Corporal Jack Korakian. So many years have passed since "The Greek" was killed-in-action that I believed that nobody other than me remembered him. What a thrill it is to know that others in my platoon still think about the time we served together with Jack. As the saying does, "I wouldn't take a thousand

dollars for my memories, nor would I take a million dollars to go through it again."

Keep up the good work of spreading the news about division personnel. I started to say former division personnel, but I realized that none of us who served in the division will ever be "former". We'll always be 45th Division soldiers as long as we live.

LEONARD J. MECKEL, 1502 Becklow Avenue, Balto, MD 21220

When we crossed the Rhine River, we came through the swamp and up on a dike. Tracer bullets were flying in both directions when two German soldiers walked out and surrendered. The Commanding Officer, Captain Wantz, took one of the prisoners and a patrol from our unit, including me. We captured more prisoners than we had in our company.

EUGENE NICHOLS, Box 26, Love Shop Trailer park, South Boston, VA 224592.

Enclosed is my application for renewal of my membership for four more years. I enjoy reading the 45th Division News very much. It is very interesting, and once in a while get to keep in touch with someone who served with me in the 180th Infantry in World War II.

I hear from two of my platoon buddies, Ray H. Russell and Francis Hykla.

Keep up the good work, and best of luck with your continued search for new members for the association. Thanks very much for the 45th Division News.

HARRY M. CHAZIN, 2842 N.W. 55th Avenue 1-B, Lauderhill, FL 33313-2532.

I joined the 45th Division the first week of January, 1945. I was assigned to Company E, 180th Infantry, and remained in the 45th until the Division was deactivated at Camp Bowie, Texas.

I am proud to have been a part of the 45th Division. I enjoy the newsletters and I hope to attend the reunion in the future.

I would like to hear from any of the men from Company E, 180th Infantry. I continue to reside on the farm where I have lived since 1947.

EDWARD M. LEDBETTER, 115 Ledbetter Lane, Greenville, AL 36037.

TID BITS

Tom Stauffacher and his wife, Dorothy, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary October 10, 1992. They were married in Ayer, Massachusetts, in 1942. Tom and Dorothy were school sweethearts in Monroe, Wisconsin. Tom was a member of Anti-Tank Company, 180th Infantry, during World War II. (Information furnished by their daughter, Jill Kilian.)

I have retired from the Medical Administrative field. My wife, Beverly, and I have moved back to Waukesha, where we are enjoying the good life and selling real estate to keep busy.

(Duane J. Meinke, 2132 Melody Lane, Waukesha, WI 53186)

I was a Team Chief of a Battalion Wire Section in the 158th Field Artillery and later served as Liaison Sergeant with the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 179th Infantry Regiment during the period from July, 1952, to July, 1953. I remained on active duty and retired in 1973 and have been employed with the US Postal Service since 1977.

(KENNETH V. JORDAN, 146 North Jody Lane, Ventura, CA 93001)



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ATTN: RESERVATIONS



LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I would like to contact Wayland Tatro, from Maine. We were captured together in France on October 18, 1944, and Louis (Doc) Savage, from Rhode Island. We were together on Anzio Beachhead.

BILL SHELLEY, 6403 Old Trail Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46809.

I joined Company B, 180th Infantry Regiment, in 1944, near Blainsville, France. I served with some fine soldiers, David Pressman, Ike Middleton, George Wahlleben, Sonner McCorkle and Ray Hufft, and would like to hear from any of them. I am proud to have served with them, and hope to attend the reunion this year and hopefully see some of my old Buddies.

FLOYD L. ANDREWS, R.R. 1, Box 175-122, Henderson, MD 21640.

I was a 50 Caliber Machine Gunner in Anti-Tank Company, 157th Infantry, twice wounded in Italy and Germany. I would like to locate my buddies, Allen Sheppard and Joseph H. McKinney. Sheppard was from Maine, and McKinney possibly from Pennsylvania.

ARLEY JOSEPH BAANA, 515 West Holmes Street, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.

I was assigned to Company H, 279th Infantry, in October, 1950, at Camp Polk, LA. I was with the unit in Japan and Korea, and rotated back to the States in August, 1952. I would like to hear from anyone who served in my unit during this time, and especially from Clyde Rolland from Virginia.

JOHN H. ACHORS, R.R. 1, Box 39A, Newberry, IN 47449.

Winston P. Rice and I served in three assignments together, Company I, 120th Medical Regiment, at Coleman Flying School as Cadets, and then at San Angelo Army Air Base. Winston was a pilot, and I worked in the hospital. Winston was assigned to the Pacific Theatre. I was transferred to the 70th Infantry Division, and sent to Europe. My Regiment, the 276th Infantry, was attached to the 45th Division as Herrin Task Force for a while in the North Wind Offensive. Winston's brother, Thomas, was also in the 120th Medical Regiment. I would like to locate either of them.

ROY N. MAHAFFEY, R.R. 1, Box 70, Logan, OK 73849.

I would like to locate Charles A. Mitchell, who was assigned to Company E, 179th Infantry, during the Korean War. He was from Decatur, Georgia. Anthony A. Birkel, Jr., who was listed in the January, 1993, newsletter as a new LIFE member was also a good friend.

CLYCE H. GRIER, P.O. Box 122, Jourdanon, TX 78026

Would like to hear from any members of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, or 242nd Field Artillery Liaison Team, during the period from December, 1952 to July, 1953.

ISIDRO MIRELES, 3056 Zion Lane, San Jose, CA 95132, 408/251-3189.

I was a member of Company G, 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division, during the Korean War. I was located in the Heartbreak Ridge area during the period from October, 1952, to April, 1953. I am trying to locate a member of 2nd Battalion, 180th Infantry Regiment, who replaced my unit on the line during this period. I do not remember the state he was from, but his name is Salisbury and he is (was) about 6' tall and had blond hair.

THOMAS W. PARKER, 546 Terry St., Warner Robins, GA 31903, 912/922-7433.

I am very proud to have served with the 45th Division and am honored to be called a "Thunderbird". I enjoy the newsletter very much. I served in the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, during World War II, and would like to hear from any of my buddies who I served with.

RAY N. WILLIAMS, 32008 Delaware Road, Coarsegold, CA 93614.

REUNION NOTICES

MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 120TH ENGINEER BATTALION (KOREA):

Held their third annual reunion October 22-25, 1992, in Atlanta, GA. Eight members and their wives/guests were in attendance. The fourth reunion will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC, in the latter part of 1993. POC Charles R. Roddy, 2200 Lancaster Drive, S.E., #22B, Salem, OR 97301.

45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION:

19-22 August, 1993, The Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK.

189TH FA BATTALION:

23-25 April, 1993, Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact Art Corley, Coordinator, Route 1, Box 690, Big Cabin, OK 74332-9520, 918/782-9500.

645 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION:

23-25 April, 1993. The Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact T.J. Hunker, Coordinator, P.O. Box 127, Wheatland, OK 73097, 405/745-2433.

180TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION (WW II AND KOREA):

Annual reunion will be held 7-9 May, 1993, Holiday Inn, McAlester, OK. Contact Raul Trevino, 7791 Woodchase Drive #1215, San Antonio, TX 78240, 210/681-9134.

COMPANY G, 180TH INFANTRY (WW II AND KOREA):

Annual reunion 7-9 May, 1993, Holiday Inn, McAlester, OK. Contact Jim M. Phipps, P.O. Box 347, Clarcona, FL 32710, 407/295-6759 or 703/686-5088.

HBB 45TH DIV. ARTY. (KOREA):

19-22 August, 1993, The Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Tommy Griggs, Rt. 14, Box 251, Lake Charles, LA 70605-9111, 318/477-1937.

BATTERY C, 189 FA BATTALION (KOREA):

19-22 August, 1993, in conjunction with the 45th Division Association reunion at the Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK.

Inviting Batteries Headquarters, A, B and Service to join in the fun. Contact Robert L. Faken, 1801 N.E. Woodland Road, Ponca City, OK 77604, 405/762-2826.

COMPANY A, 179TH INFANTRY (WORLD WAR II):

30 April-1 May, 1993. For details contact Peter Galdosh, 666 Chelsea Drive, Sanford, NC 27330, 919/499-9315.

700TH ORDNANCE LM CO (WW II):

Bi-annual reunion, 9-11 April, 1993, at New Orleans Hilton Riverside Hotel. Contact Fred Laughlin, Route 3, Box 474S, Crowley, LA 70526, 318/783-7269.

COMPANY I, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA):

Their reunion will be held 5-6 August, 1994, at Perry, Oklahoma. The reunion committee is extending an invitation to all Korean veterans of Company I to attend. The second reunion was held August 29, 1992, at Perry. Point of contact is Robert L. Kasper, 633 Delaware, Perry, OK 73077, First Sergeant of the Unit until April, 1992.

(cont'd on page 8)

NAME OF
GROUP

45TH INFANTRY DIVISION

THE DATES FOR THE MEETING ARE LISTED BELOW.
ANY VARIATION IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

ARRIVAL: 8-19-93

DEPARTURE: 8-22-93

			ARRIVAL		DEPARTURE	
			MONTH		MONTH	
			DAY		DAY	
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REGISTRATION APPLICATION FOR 48TH ANNUAL REUNION

COMPLETE AND MAIL TO: 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
2145 NE 36TH STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
(INCLUDE CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE)

UNIT: WW II _____ KOREA _____ POST KOREA _____

GUESTS _____
(FIRST AND LAST NAMES)

CIRCLE APPLICABLE EVENTS AND AMOUNTS AND COMPLETE APPROPRIATE BLOCKS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>BASIS</u>	<u>PREPAID</u>	<u>PAYMENT AT DESK</u>	<u>AMOUNT DUE</u>
REGISTRATION	MEMBER	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
LADIES LUNCHEON	PERSON	5.00	5.00	\$
FRIDAY	MEMBER	20.00	25.00	\$
	GUEST	25.00	25.00	\$
SATURDAY	MEMBER	25.00	30.00	\$
	GUEST	25.00	30.00	\$

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(ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER)

TOTAL DUE AT DESK: \$ _____

PREPAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 11 AUGUST 1993 TO QUALIFY FOR
PREPAYMENT RATES.

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

I WILL BE ARRIVING IN OKLAHOMA CITY AT _____ HOURS _____ AUGUST 1993
_____ AIRLINES, FLIGHT # _____. THERE WILL
BE _____ PERSONS IN MY PARTY REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION TO THE HOTEL.

(NAME *****PLEASE PRINT*****)

COMPANY D, 120TH ENGINEER BATTALION (KOREA): 17-19 June, 1993, Holiday Inn, I-40 at Clemmons, Winston-Salem, NC. Point of Contact: James R. Dyson, Route 8, Box 1350, Lexington, NC 27292, 919/764-1442.

ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS ASSOCIATION: Will hold their annual reunion in Oklahoma City, OK, 27-30 May, 1993, at the Radisson Inn. Point of Contact: Charles H. Johnson, 3501 East 30th Street South, Tulsa, OK 74114-6109, 918/747-6084.

COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY (WW II) AND COMPANY B, 279TH INFANTRY (KOREA): Will hold a joint Mini-Reunion Wednesday, August 18, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., on the Pawnee County Court House Square, Pawnee, OK, and will then participate in the 45th Division Association reunion in Oklahoma City, August 19-22, at the Radisson Inn.

THE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS REQUESTS THAT UNITS/ORGANIZATIONS SCHEDULING REUNIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 45TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION 19-22 AUGUST, 1993, REFRAIN FROM SCHEDULING ACTIVITIES THAT CONFLICT WITH ASSOCIATION EVENTS.

A TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP GOVER

By: Brummet Echohawk

Phillip Gover was not one man, but many. He was a well educated Pawnee, a Christian, father, teacher and leader; a gifted athlete in his youth, with Jim Thorpe prowess. Steeped in tribal ways, Phillip was a true Pawnee warrior.

In World War II, he was one of the original members of Company B, 179th Infantry, 45th Division from Pawnee, Oklahoma. Phillip was the oldest man in the company. With a wife and children he could have been exempt, but Phillip chose to serve his country.

A small percentage of soldiers on the field of battle ever meet the enemy face to face in hand to hand combat. At 37, Phillip was one of them. It was in one such battle that he was badly wounded and lost an arm. This was in the mountains near Venafo, Italy, in November, 1943.

As a member of the Pawnee Company, too, I was cut down by German shrapnel a week before and sent to a hospital in North Africa. Upon hearing about Phillip, I could only pray that he would pull through. We had fought together in Mediterranean heat, dust, driving rains, mud and cold weather, and there were times when we were bone-tired.

From what my father and uncle said, Phillip was a lot like my grandfather who had served in the Pawnee Scouts during the Indian Wars of the 1870's. As part of the army and cavalry, this Pawnee Unit never lost a battle. One of their members was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Grandfather Echohawk stressed that Pawnees were Men of Men; and always said, "Tus lah peedah hu", which

meant: "We must have love for our people." Phillip Gover used to say the same thing. Before a battle, Phillip always spoke to us in the Pawnee tongue, then burned into us the part about being Men of Men. We took courage.

"Uh-put" (Grandfather) passed away in 1922. Before he died, he told his folks at bedside that he had seen a vision. In the vision was a river at flood stage. On this side of the river, the land was barren. On the other side, Mother Earth smiled with flowers, plants, green trees, pretty birds and game. There, too, were relatives and other Pawnees who had passed on. Beyond was a village that rang with the laughter of children at play. Then a brother called to him saying that in three days the river would go down. Then he could come over. Uh-put said he would ride his best horse across when the waters went down.

The Uh-put told all at this bedside, "Tus lah peedah hu" ("We must have love for our people.") Three days later, Howard Echohawk, a true Pawnee warrior, died peacefully.

Now Phillip has crossed over. Perhaps he rode a horse . . . or, maybe, he walked across on strong legs and with a new body. I know in my heart that he has looked back and said, "Tus lah peedah hu". He would mean it, because he lived it. Phillip "Shield Chief" Gover, the excellence of dignity in Pawnee tradition, ceremony and dance, was that kind of man.

(Reprint from *The Pawnee (Oklahoma) Chief*, September 19, 1992)

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45th Division News

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