

# 45th Division News

May, 1994

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

## COMBAT CHRONICLES

By Louis Scott

*(Note: A portion of one sentence in the January Combat Chronicles was inadvertently omitted, making it read as if the entire Anzio beachhead was covered with hospital tents--it should have read: The beachhead radius was only 10 miles and there was not a spot anywhere that was not vulnerable to German artillery fire, including the clustered hospital area with tents blazoned with huge red crosses.)*

The official Department of the Army pamphlet entitled "Anzio Beachhead" states "In the four months between this landing (Anzio) and Fifth Army's May offensive, the short stretch of coast known as the Anzio beachhead was the scene of one of the most courageous and bloody dramas of the war." Chronicles of the courage, bravery, valor, fortitude, and pure determination prevalent at Anzio are outstanding in a war noted for its heroism. No one was truly safe or secure at Anzio from the dogged and determined Germans. Service personnel suffered right along with those in the combat arms. Ernie Pyle in *Brave Men* said: "There on the Anzio beachhead, nobody was immune. It was not only a standing joke, but a standing fact that a lot of front-line people would not voluntarily return to the hot Anzio-Nettuno area for a small fortune." In his official history of the war, U.S. Army in World War II, Martin Blumenson wrote "the horror of the beachhead was the constant, yet hidden presence of death...for every part of the beachhead was vulnerable to enemy gun and planes."

This is the saga of one of the main players in this high drama of bravery at Anzio...the Thunderbirds of the 45th Infantry Division. Once again the "Fighting Forty-Fifth" proved its valor and that it was "the best under American arms." The heaviest fighting of the operation came between 3 February and 3 March 1944.

Hitler had personally ordered that the "abscess" below Rome be removed, whatever the cost; therefore, the German forces, reinforced with battle-hardened veterans, began a massive all-out offensive to drive the Allies into the sea. The most logical area for this assault, suitable for employment of tanks and heavy equipment, was along the highway from Anzio to Albano.

On 3 February, the 45th Division (157th Infantry on line) was in defensive positions along the MOLETTA RIVER on the left flank of VI Corps with the water on their left and the British 1 Division on their right. The other two regiments of the 45th Division were held in Corps reserve. The British had pushed forward to form a bulge (salient) that reached to CAMPOLEONE. The main German attack was focused on this bulge in an attempt to cut off this protrusion and isolate the British.

The initial German attack was stopped by 1700 on 4 February, but MG Lucas, VI Corps commander, decided to pull the British 1 Division back to a safer line where they would be less exposed and to straighten out the bulge in the Allied line. The British withdrew to the area of CARROCETO-APRILIA (THE FACTORY--so nicknamed because the building in the town resembled a factory).

This is when "it hit the fan." The Germans, smelling possible victory, felt that the Allies were retreating and they hit the British 1 Division with everything they had--the artillery and tank fire was devastating, backed up by tough infantry troops.

VI Corps anticipated a strong attack against the 3d Division at the center of the beachhead line, but instead around midnight on 6 February, the enemy laid down a concentration of 800 rounds of medium artillery fire on the positions of the 2d Battalion, 157th Infantry, along the MOLETTA RIVER line. The following enemy attack was hurled back with heavy German losses. At 2115 on 7 February, the 3d Battalion, 157th Infantry, in contact with the British 1 Division on the right, reported that its right flank was under heavy attack. The enemy held all the advantage of terrain and defilade. Early in the morning of 8 February, the 3d Battalion discovered that enemy tanks and infantry had infiltrated and were operating in 3d Battalion's rear. Seventy men, all that was left of the 2 North Staff (British), requested permission to attach themselves

to the 3d Battalion. In order to protect its right flank, the 3d Battalion 157th was ordered to withdraw a short distance and a company of the 179th Infantry was sent forward to support it.

On 9 February, the enemy once again renewed his efforts to take the FACTORY area. By early afternoon, the Germans controlled the lateral road and the FACTORY. Part of the 1st Armored Division was moved up to support the British 1 Division.

Late in the afternoon of 9 February, the fighting slackened. Both Allied and enemy units had suffered heavy losses; both sides were near the point of exhaustion. The 180th Infantry was moved up to relieve the 2 Brigade of the British 1 Division. Thus, the 45th Division was split, the 157th Infantry on the left of the 1 Division, and the 180th Infantry on the right.

By 9 February, the Germans had achieved their main objective--the capture of the FACTORY. Then the enemy occupied CARROCETO station on 10 February. They had to pause to consolidate their gains and bring up fresh troops before renewing their offensive.

The hard and protracted struggle to hold the FACTORY area had drained the fighting strength of the British 1 Division.

On 10 February, the 3d Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, relieved the 168 Brigade of the 1 Division and the 1st Battalion, 179th, prepared to launch a counterattack on the morning of the 11th to retake the FACTORY. VI Corps reserves were depleted by this move and the 1 Division was left holding less than half of its former front.

At 0630, after a 15-minute artillery concentration on the FACTORY, the 1st Battalion 179th jumped off, accompanied by tanks of the 191st Tank Battalion. The tanks had to attack through an overpass at CARROCETO, and they were knocked out one by one by accurate antitank fire. Under cover of smoke from the tanks, Company A, 179th Infantry, fought its way into the building at the FACTORY where they were engaged in bitter close-in fighting by the Germans. Outnumbered and scattered, Company A was forced to withdraw. Company B was also driven back by counterattacking German troops. Information was obtained from captured enemy prisoners that the 179th Infantry and 191st Tank attack had come close to retaking the FACTORY because German troop strength was near depletion and the soldiers were utterly exhausted.

The next morning the 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry, again stormed the FACTORY, but were thrown back. The enemy made no attempt to follow up the counterattack and the 1st Battalion was able to establish a line of defense 500 yards south of the FACTORY. Company A, 179th Infantry, has been reduced to three officers and forty enlisted men. This failure of the second attempt by 45th Division troops to take the FACTORY marked the end of the first phase of the battle to hold the beachhead.

The Germans now held all the key position from which they could launch an all-out attack. The Germans also held a superiority in numbers and in heavy artillery weapons.

The 1 Division and the 157th Infantry switched positions, placing all of the 45th Division in harm's way, smack dab in front of the main German force regrouping in the CARROCETO-FACTORY area. The 157th Infantry was on the division left, the 179th Infantry in the center, and the 180th Infantry on the right flank of the 45th Division line.

One the morning of 16 February, the Germans struck in force, firing a very heavy 30-minute artillery preparation followed by tanks and infantry. The brunt of the enemy attack was borne by the 45th Infantry Division, which held a 6-mile sector of the front that coincided almost exactly with that upon which the Germans had determined to concentrate their assault. The Germans had perfect observation sites in the FACTORY buildings and could easily see all of the action of the 17th Infantry.

The 170th Infantry beat off attack after attack all morning with heavy losses to the enemy. The 160th FA Battalion (179th RCT) massed the fire of 144 guns on a concentration of infantry near the FACTORY, causing much damage to the enemy and destroying a large number of tanks. At nightfall, when remnants of two enemy companies were pulled back

(Note cont'd on page 2)

## "REUNION FORMS INSIDE"



(NOTE cont'd from page 1)

completely disorganized, no deep penetrations had been made anywhere along the 45th Division front.

On 17 February, one company of German infantry infiltrated the ranks of Company E, 157th Infantry, while a second company surrounded the flanks. During the night the enemy slowly wiped out the forward positions from front and rear, forcing the remnants of the company into a small area around the command post. Three tanks of the 191st Tank Battalion assisted the company in holding out. Before dawn there were only fourteen men left in Company E and four from Company H and they were almost out of ammunition. The artillery laid down a smoke screen and with the help of the three tanks, the handful of men fought their way out of the trap.

The Germans wasted no time in exploiting the tactical advantage they had won the night before. About 0745, a large flight of German planes strafed and bombed the 45th Division front, followed almost immediately with a powerful attack on the ground against the 2d and 3d Battalions, 179th Infantry. The enemy succeeded in driving a wedge two miles wide and over a mile deep into the center of the 45th Division front, but the line held. VI Corps brought all of its superior artillery, consisting of over 432 artillery pieces, plus 3 companies of tanks four batteries of 90-mm antiaircraft guns, and the guns of two navy cruisers to bear on enemy ground targets. The enemy breakthrough was stopped.

The final crisis began on 18 February. Despite their losses and setbacks, the Germans moved up massive amounts of fresh troops in preparation for a knockout blow against the beachhead. During the night, enemy units infiltrated the Allied lines, causing much confusion and disorientation, cutting off and isolating entire American units. At dawn, the Germans hit the 179th Infantry front with a vengeance, almost destroying Company K and only remnants of the 3rd Battalion filtered back to the final beachhead line. Enemy tanks moved down the "bowling alley" almost without opposition until stopped by a blown bridge. Company I, 157th Infantry suffered terrific losses, but the enemy losses were greater, their bodies littered the barbed wire surrounding the company.

An aerial observer for the 45th Division artillery spotted a force of tanks and about 2,000 Germans moving south from CARROCE TO and called for artillery fire, bringing to bear the massed fire of over 224 British and American guns on the target. The ground around the advancing enemy seemed to blow up and when the smoke cleared, the enemy had disintegrated. Many enemy units were disorganized and decimated before they were even in position to attack, yet there appeared no end to the waves of enemy infantry thrown against the 45th Division. (Official War Department Pamphlet, "Anzio Beachhead".)

Units of the 45th Infantry Division fought tenaciously throughout the day to keep from being overrun against impossible odds. But they held, even though some units of the division were almost completely wiped out.

On 19 February, the enemy renewed their attack at 0400 in a final serious effort to break through the Allied lines, but their effort was weaker, and their punch had slackened. In the meantime, VI Corps planned a counterattack to regain lost ground. The 6th Armored Infantry and the 30th Infantry, 3rd Division, were moved from the less active 3rd Division front to assist the 45th Division, and after a massive artillery preparation, the troops jumped off and attacked abreast the "bowling alley."

By the end of the day on 19 February, over 413 prisoners had been taken, and it was obvious from the disorganization and spirit of disillusionment exhibited by the variety of motley prisoners taken that the Allies had won their battle and saved the beachhead. The enemy forces were near exhaustion and fresh troops were not available. The same was true of Allied troops, but to a lesser degree. The enemy suffered at least 5,389 battle casualties, the Allies 3,496. On 21 February, the 179th Infantry counted at least 500 enemy bodies lying in front of its sector. An escaped American prisoner reported he had seen enemy dead stacked up like cordwood in piles of 150 each.

The Germans had started their all-out offensive with many advantages. VI Corps was forced to defend a front of nearly 35 miles with less than five division of troops, many of whom had been in the lines continuously for nearly a month. The Germans had nearly ten division to pit against a small area of the beachhead, mostly against the 45th Infantry Division. Still they failed, because of the Allied superiority in artillery and air power, The German's inability to employ their tanks in masses, and finally, because of the stubborn resistance of the Allied troops. ("Anzio Beachhead")

Carlo D'Este in Fatal Decision states that the brunt of the German offensive was against the 3rd Division. Not so. Although the 3rd Division did some heavy fighting to keep their line from being turned, the brutal force of the German drives to break the Anzio Beachhead forces came totally against the 45th Infantry Division, and the Germans never faced a more determined, stubborn, and well-disciplined force than the "Fightin' Thunderbirds" of the 45th Infantry Division.

Ahead was the battle of the caves on the left shoulder of the salient that pitted the 157th Infantry and the British against a still very determined German Army. Whole squads and platoons disappeared without a trace. The War Department Pamphlet, Anzio Beachhead, states: "That any man returned (from the Caves) is a tribute to the courage and stamina of the American infantry soldiers who have made the battle of the caves an epic of defensive fighting."

During March, April, and most of May, 1944, the front was relatively quiet with most activity consisting of patrols, artillery dueling, and improving defensive positions.

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## The Artillery was Awesome

by Louis Scott

Artillery was definitely the "King of Battle" at Anzio. When the breakout from the beachhead began in late May, 1944, more artillery was concentrated on that small area of real estate than had ever been assembled in any combat area in the history of warfare.

Included in the 2242 artillery-type weapons at Anzio on 23 May 1944, were three of America's newest heavy artillery pieces--two 240-mm howitzers and one 8-inch gun. These weapons coupled with the 8-inch howitzers and 155-mm guns (Long Tom) already on the beachhead, brought the Allies up to parity with the German long range artillery.

The Germans had a formidable array of heavy artillery at Anzio. The largest was a 280-mm railroad rifle, nicknamed "Anzio Annie" or the "Anzio Express" by Allied troops. In addition, there were 220-mm howitzers, 210-mm howitzers, and 170-mm guns in addition to their morale-shattering 88-mm gun. The 170-mm guns caused more damage than the railroad guns--it was the best artillery weapon the Germans had at Anzio. (Official history of U.S. Army in World War II, The Ordnance Department: On Beachhead and Battlefront, Office of Chief of Military History, Washington, D.C., 1968)

In preparation for the breakout, 40-mm and 90-mm AA guns were positioned close behind the front lines. The 40s fired air bursts about waist high and the 90s fired air bursts about 20 feet above the ground. The effect on enemy infantrymen was devastating, not only in casualties produced, but also in morale. The larger artillery was used to shell troop movements, supply dumps, and enemy installations to the rear.

All VI Corps fire control was consolidated in a highly centralized center that allowed them to carry out a systematic program of counterbattery fire on enemy artillery. A method called time-on-target (TOT), so-called because it allowed for a difference in time of flight of the various artillery rounds to insure that all shells reached the target simultaneously, was used to pulverize the enemy. The damage was devastating to enemy supply lines and fortifications, and the ultimate result was shattering to their morale. Prisoners of war said that the intensity, accuracy, and volume of Allied artillery fire exceeded anything they had experienced on the Russian front, and caused "a general feeling of helplessness, panic, and confusion" in the ranks. General MacKensen, commander of the German 14th Army, in a report to Field Marshal Kesselring, stated that artillery fire was responsible for the bulk of German casualties, and that 75 percent of all wounds had been inflicted by shell fragments. For every shell the enemy artillery fired, the Allies at Anzio threw back from fifteen to twenty rounds.

A chart in Carlo D'Este's Fatal Decision shows that the Allies expended 4,561,518 rounds of artillery ammunition at Anzio during the four months from January 22 to May 31, 1944.

The earth trembled that beautiful May morning when the Allies began their barrage to start the breakout from Anzio after four long months of nerve-racking confinement. The heavens shook when tons of high explosives and shrapnel rained on the wearily, entrenched German troops. It was as if a massive earthquake had ripped the earth asunder and continued to vibrate long after an actual earthquake would have ceased.

Everyone who was present on that never-to-be-forgotten day will agree that the "artillery was awesome."

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## Museum Special Exhibit "WW II, The World in Flame"

The 45th Infantry Division Museum has been selected by the Department of Defense as a World War II Commemoration Community Activity. The museum is proud to announce the opening of the Center of Military History's exhibit: "World War II, The World in Flame", which is displayed in the museum "Special Exhibits Area".

The exhibit is composed of thirty-one posters which take the museum visitor through major combat activities in all Theaters of Operation from



Pearl Harbor to VJ Day. The posters relate the story of America's involvement in World War II through copies of photographs and historic documents long buried in the store rooms of the National Archives.

The exhibit opened in February 1994 and will remain open until January 1995 when it will be replaced by an exhibit depicting major events of 1945.

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## First Korean MIA Identified

The remains of a US Army soldier, previously unaccounted for in Korea, have been identified as Sergeant Frank M. Morales. This is the first identification of remains returned by the Korean People's Army since the end of the Korean War.

Sergeant Morales's remains were repatriated on 30 November 1993. He was lost in November 1950, while assigned to Company L, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in the area of Unsan, North Korea. He was born on 10 June 1913, and his home of record was Naguabo, Puerto Rico.

There are over 8,100 American servicemen still unaccounted for from the Korean conflict. Currently the Korean Peoples Army has returned to the United States Government 194 coffins thought to contain the remains of unaccounted for American servicemen. Many of these coffins contain commingled remains.

(Information furnished 3 February 1994 by the Public Affairs Office of the DA Personnel Command, Alexandria, VA).

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## Thunderbird Supports Korean War Memorial

Jack Gunter, a young photographer in the public information section of the 45th Infantry Division in Korea, who is today the vice president and general manager of the Nashville Banner newspaper, is a board member and treasurer of the Tennessee Korean War Memorial Association, which recently constructed a \$250,000 War Memorial to the Korean veterans.

Gunter, who was assigned to the 45th as a filler after the division was called into active duty in 1950, drew early attention of the PIO and the editor of the 45th Division News, because of his photographic ability. He joined the section and the newspaper staff in Japan and was well known throughout the division, as he trudged among units with his camera.

Besides the 45th Division News, his pictures appeared in Stars and Stripes and in newspapers nationwide. He returned to the Nashville Banner as a photographer following the war, and gradually moved up to the newspaper's top spot.

When the Oklahoma Army National Guard held its parade during the 1990 annual reunion, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the division's mobilization for World War II, Gunter was the person responsible for the focus on the 45th Division over the nationwide Nashville TV channel.

During the dedication of the Memorial, Gunter stated that as a Korean War veteran "Being from Nashville, Tennessee, the Volunteer state, I was proud to serve in the 45th Infantry Division."

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## Looking For Buddies

I was a member of the Medical Detachment, 180th Infantry Regiment attached to the Third Battalion during stateside service and throughout the European Theater of World War II. I would enjoy hearing from anyone in this unit during that time.

**RALPH BOERGER**, 05078 State Route 66, New Bremen, OH 45869, 419/629-2007.

You asked about news from 45th Division veterans. The only news is PFC Daniel H. Witts is still living, healthy and happy in Port St. Lucie, Florida. I want to say Hello! to all my veteran friends in Altus, Oklahoma. I was a member of Anti-Tank Company, 179th Infantry during World War II, anyone who want to say Hi! write me.

**DANIEL H. WITTS**, 1026 SW Dartmouth Avenue, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953.

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I served during the Korean War from October 1950 - September 1952 with the 45th Quartermaster Company and would be interested in hearing from any of my old company buddies.

**CHESTER M. HARVEY**, 14430 North Lost Arrow Drive, Tucson, AZ 85737, 602/825-0406.

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I am proud to become a new member of the 45th Infantry Division Association. I was with Company A, 179th Infantry in Korea, June 1952-may 1953.

I would like to hear from old buddies who were in the same company during the same time period. I would also appreciate info on how I can become a member of the Korean Veterans Association.

Thanks, and I am looking forward to reading my first 45th Division News.

**DONALD R. JOHNSON**, 7739 Huron Street, Taylor, MI 48180.

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I served with the Communication Platoon, Wire Section, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry Regiment from 1 October 1944 to 27 March 1945. I would like to hear from anyone who served with me in this time span.

**JOHN B. REEVES**, Route 4, Box 33, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

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I was member of Company H, 180th Infantry during the Korean War. I recently visited with Lou Frye in Battlecreek, MI. He has been ill, but well on the road to recovery.

Spent an evening with Ed Abaray in Sharon, PA last month. He has a lovely wife, too good for him though. Would like to hear from any Company H men.

**LARRY GRAHAM**, 1990 Tall Oak Drive, Aurora, IL 60505, 708/978-0523.

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I am very interested in contacting members of the 45th Division Band that served in Europe from March 1943 to August 1945.

**CHRIS JOHNSON**, 763 Oakridge Drive, Youngstown, OH 44512.

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I wish to contact anyone who participated in the Korean War during the Spring 1952 and engaged in a platoon sweep of Pokkae Ridge in which two medics were killed and a Lieutenant was wounded in the shoulder.

I do not know which unit it was, but I believe it was from Ardmore, OK. I was member of the 179th Infantry Regiment.

Please contact me if you have any knowledge of this combat action.

**ROBERT F. EVANS**, 350 Tamarack Drive, Allentown, PA 18104, 610/398-3190.

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I am a World War II veteran of Company K, 180th Infantry and would like to contact anyone from my unit who remembers me.

**JOSEPH BARRON**, 159 Boulevard Avenue, Throop, PA 18512, 717/343-5647.



## REUNION NOTICES

**45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION:** 29 September - 2 October 1994, the Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK. Reunion Registration and Hotel Reservation forms included in this NWSLTR.

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**45TH SIGNAL COMPANY (KOREA):** Any member wishing to hold a mini reunion of the Signal Company in conjunction with the 1994 reunion of the 45th Division Association please contact George T. Nolan, 888 North Benton, Helena, MT 59601 or John W. Macagney, 29 Watervliet Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442.

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**TANK COMPANY, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA):** 10-12 June 1994, in Northeast, MD. Point of contact: John L. Harrison, 670 Hances Point Road, Northeast, MD 21901, 410/287-5192.

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**COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA):** Howard Johnson - North, 700 Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905, 10-12 June 1994. We will also have a reunion in Oklahoma City, OK with the 45th Association annual meeting 29 September - 2 October, 1994. Contact Bill Mac Swain, 3474 Bandera Road, Fort Worth, TX 76116, 817/244-0706.

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**COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY (WWII) AND COMPANY B, 279TH INFANTRY (KOREA):** Will meet Wednesday 28 September 1994 at Pawnee, Ok at 10:00 AM, then on to Oklahoma City 29 September-2 October for the Annual 45th Division Reunion. POC B 179 Infantry; Charles "Hook" Johnson, B 279 Infantry; Eddie Sneed 918/367-6858 or John Harshbarger 405/372-8585.

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**COMPANY C, 179TH INFANTRY:** 10-12 June 1994 in Topeka, Kansas. Contact A V Martin, RR 1 Box 159, Carbondale, KS 66414-9769.

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**COMPANY G, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA):** 7-10 July 1994, Radisson Inn, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Bill Renfrow 405/658-3475 or Penn Rabb 405/357-1796.

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**COMPANY G, 180TH INFANTRY (WW II AND KOREA):** Thunderbirds who were mobilized for Federal Service from McCurtain County, OK in September 1940 and/or 1950, 19-22 May 1994, Holiday Inn, US Highway 70 West, Idabel, OK for a Memorial dedication reunion. Contact Billy Weems, Route 4, Box 96, Broken Bow, OK 74728, 405/494-6601.

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**COMPANY G, 180TH INFANTRY (WW II AND KOREA):** 29 September - 2 October 1994, Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Jim Phipps, P.O. Box 347, Clarcona, FL 32710, 703/686-5088.

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**180TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION (WW II AND KOREA):** 29 September - 2 October 1994, Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Raul Trevino, 1918 Leander, San Antonio, TX 210/681-9134.

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**279TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (ALL UNITS):** 7-9 October 1994, Western Hills Guest Ranch, near Wagoner, Oklahoma. Contact: Lee Fry, 804 North Main, Broken Arrow, OK 74012, 918/251-8842. "BIG SARGE SEZ---BE THERE"

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**COMPANY L, 279TH INFANTRY:** 7-9 October 1994 in conjunction with the 279th reunion at Western Hill Lodge, near Wagoner, OK For more information please contact Paul Elkin,

671 44th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

**700 Ordnance Maintenance Company (KOREA):** Planning a reunion for 8-9 October 1994 in the St. Louis, MO area. The exact location will established at a later date. Please contact George A. Buhr, 1173 Maynard Road, Cheboygan, MI 49721, 616/627-7458.

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**45th FINANCE SECTION (WORLD WAR II & KOREA):** Thursday 29 September 1994 in conjunction with the annual reunion of the 45th Division Association. POC: Donald E. Oldham, 2712 North Sterling Avenue, OKC, OK 73127, 405/942-6597 or David Rose, 808 Grove Avenue, Waukegan, IL 60085, 708/336-7248.

## Hawaii Chapter



Christmas party Chairperson Eloise Murakami, wife of Thunderbird Clayton Murakami, poses with the Thunderbird cake she baked for dessert.

The wives of the 45th Division Association, Hawaii Chapter and AKA wives of the Korean War Veterans Association, Hawaii Chapter #1, led by Chairperson Eloise Murakami, hosted a dinner reunion for Korean War veterans and their spouses who had participated since 1989 in the Korean War Revisit Program. The dinner was held at the Wisteria Restaurant on Friday, December 3, 1993. Of the 130 guests attending the event 75 were veterans of the Korean War.

Guest speaker included Consul General Sei-Hoon Yang of the Korean Consulate General's office, Mr. Larry Lee, Director of the State Office of Veterans Affairs, and Mr. Louis Baldovi, member of the Governor's State Advisory Board of Veteran Affairs. Consul General Yang expressed the gratitude of the Republic of Korea for the Hawaii veterans role in the Korean War. Mr. Lee spoke about the progress of the Korean Vietnam War Memorial, the State Veteran's Cemetery in Kaneohe and the government's proposed long term care program for veteran's health services. Mr. Baldovi urged fellow veterans to help raise the level of awareness of Hawaii's citizens about the Korean War and to become involved in legislation affecting veterans interests.

After dinner, guests enjoyed a Chinese Auction. Monies raised go to purchase memorial wreaths for special occasions honoring Hawaii's veterans.

## REUNION REPORTS

**COMPANY L, 279TH INFANTRY:** held its annual reunion at Fort Polk, LA from 9-11 September 1993. We visited local sites, told war stories and reminisced about the good old days. On Friday we visited the Post, complete with an Army guide and the Post Historian. We ate lunch at the chow hall, a far cry from what we all remember in 1950. The Post Historian took us to our old Company area in the afternoon where we took a group picture. All the barracks nearby had been torn down in about 1975 and were replaced by modern buildings. There are still some of the old barracks around, but most are long since gone. We had a banquet Saturday night at the American Legion Hall in New Llano and departed on Sunday. WE HAD A GOOD TIME!!

**PAUL ELKINS, 671 44th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544, 505/662-4634**



## TID BITS

James "Buddy" Ryan a Platoon Sergeant in Company F, 179th Infantry during the Korean War was recently named as the new head coach of the Phoenix Cardinals football team. Ryan was inducted with the division in September 1950 as a member of the unit from Frederick, Oklahoma.

Ryan still has some of the "fire" he exhibited as a teenage leader during the Korean War. We wish him well in his new position of leadership.

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New association memeber Harold E. Clark was a member of Companies I and M, 179th Infantry during the period November 1952 - July 1953. He stated that he was interested in receiving the 45th Division News, and possibly hearing from some of his associates during the War. He resides at 350 Petit Road, Albany, Ohio 45710.

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This will extend my membership for another ten years. I hooked up with the 45th Division during the 1941 Louisiana maneuvers, and served with them until the war was over in Europe. I am glad that I served with one of the best outfits in the war, and the newsletter bring back lots of memories.

**THOMAS HALE, 525 East Charles, Marion, IN 46952, 189th Field Artillery.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I enlisted in Battery B, 160 FA, McAlester, OK at age 16 while still in High School. I was mobilized into Federal Service with the same outfit, then commanded by Captain Walter J. Arnote. I left the Division in March 1942 to transfer to the Air Corps and enter flight training at San Antonio, TX with Pilot Class 43-F. Was shipped to the CBI in 1943 and finished the war with General Clair L. Chenault's 14th Air Force (Flying Tigers).

I returned to the States in 1945 and rejoined the 45th Division and was assigned to Battery B, 171 FA as a Recon Officer and Forward Observer. In May 1947 I enlisted in the Air Corps at Tinker AFB and was there until September 1948 when I was transferred to Okinawa and appointed a Regular AF Warrant Officer. I later served at various CONUS and overseas AF Bases, including the Pentagon from 1963 to 1966. In August 1966 I was retired as a CWO-4 at Bolling AFB, Washington DC.

**LEWIS R. EDEN, 4132 Shannon Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76116-8042.**

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I served with Company E, 279th Infantry from Novebmer 1950 to September 1952. I was at Camp Polk, LA, Hokkaido, Japan and Korea as a 60mm Mortar gunner. From 1956 thru 1988 I was in the US Navy Reserve as a Aircrew member in navy Patrol Planes (P2V and P3V) in Europe, Africa, Cuba and the Mediterranean.

After retiring in 1988, I began enjoying the 45th Infantry Division Association, the 279th Infantry Association and Naval Air Reserve reunions and newsletters, seeing old friends and making new ones.

**BILL L. GEORGE, P.O. BOX 23732, Jacksonville, FL 32241-3732.**

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I was assigned to Company C, 245 Tank Battalion in January 1952. While serving in this unit, I was seriously injured one night and taken to the Aid Station for treatment and further evaucuated to a field medical facility. Several days later I was released to return to my unit although I required crutches to assist me in walking. Upon release, I was instructed to return to a field dispensary for treatment every day.

I am totally disabled and need assistance in filing for disability compensation from the Veterans Administration. I need to hear from anyone who remembers me and can attest that I was in fact on crutches for a period of time while in Korea.

**ALVIN V. GRAHAM, P.O. BOX 187, Ghent, WV 25843.**

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When the 45th Division was stationed at Fort Devens, MA in the summer of 1942, with the blessing of the Company B, 179th Infantry Commanding Officer, I arranged a program where 75 Medway, MA families hosted a number of Company B soldiers for a Sunday dinner. After dinner, the soldiers put on a show at Town Park where Indian members performed a number of Tribal dances in costume, put on a Close Order Drill program and ended up the day with a softball game against a local team.

The program was so successfull that two weeks later the town of Holliston, MA did the samething. Still later that summer, we did the same thing at Camp Framingham, MA.

Two service men from the 45th that came to Medway ended up marrying daughters of their Medway hosts.

**ALLAN G. OSBORNE, SR., 21 Holliston Street, Medway, MA 02053.**

During the Korean War it was my pleasure to have commanded Company L, 180th Infantry. The only activity on Purple Heart Ridge was dueling the the "Commiss" by way of turkey shoots, artillery, sniper fire and night patrols.

Taking advantage of a stable situation and a motorized trolley, we had a kitchen bunker going. When our patrols returned before dawn, the cooks had hot coffee and pizza, both prepared on the spot. I met them every morning and enjoyed these moments.

The only sour note was the pizza cook. He was forever sympathizing with the Commiss by saying thing like, "I'll bet that their patrols don't get pampered like this", or "If they had equipment and money like us, we would have been kicked out long ago".

So, I reported a possible communist sympathizer in a sensitive position and would like to have him removed. Regimental and Battalion S-2 Staffs couldn't find anything wrong, so he stayed.

Ordered to Division Headquarters one day, I had lunch at the General's Mess where I bragged about daily pizzas, made fresh on the front line. About 3 days later, my pizza chef was transferred to Division Headquarters. terrific! I got rid of my problem, the General Staff had all the pizza they wanted, and a cook had less hazardous duty. My other cooks started making fresh pizzas every morning.

I never told a soul how I handled this problem. Hope the Division Headquarters commandant reads this.

**CARL B. CHANCE, 5021 Bellaire Avenue, Groves, TX 77619.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks to Richard Collins who I met at our church I found out about the 45th Division Association. I was in the 45th during World War II and went through Anzio, Rome Arno, Southern France etc., as member of the 179th Infantry.

I received two Bronze Stars, one for capturing a German Machine Gun position, killed three and brought in seven prisoners. Upon interrogation they revealed that the Germans were retreating toward Rome. Shortly afterwards the push began from Anzio to Rome.

A German Potato Masher got me just before we crossed the Rhine. I was sent to a hospital in England and thought I was on my way home. Wrong assumption, I was sent back to France to train soldiers who had no combat experience.

I spent 40 years in the TV industry in New York and lived in Valley Stream, Long Island, NY. I am now retired in Florida and thank God I am able to write about this.

**WALTER M. VETTER, 4218 SE Jacaranda Street, Stuart, FL 34007, 407/286-2946.**

\*\*\*\*\*

I enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard, Cannon Company, 180th Infantry in September 1946 as a Staff Sergeant and was employed as a full time caretaker of the unit. The company was later redesignated as Heavy Mortar Company. I mobilized with them as First Sergeant in September 1950. Appointed WOJG in March 1952. I was in the hospital when the main body of the Division departed for Japan and was reassigned to the provisional Training Regiment which remained at Fort Polk.

After arrival in Hokkaido with the last contingent of the Training Regiment I was assigned as Personnel Officer, 145 AAA. Upon return to Oklahoma after the Korean War, I was assigned to the 279th Infantry Regiment in Okmulgee, OK as assistant to Major Eddie A. Cope.

I am currently retired and live in Sulphur, OK and get out a newsletter to all former members of Heavy Mortar Company and maintain an address list on them.

**LUTHER B. STEPHENS, P.O. BOX 317, Sulphur, OK 73086.**

\*\*\*\*\*

I served with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 279th Infantry during the Korean War. I need to validate or confirm the dates of my service and combat record. If I can find some of the individuals that I served with and who remember me I may be able to get my service confirmed. The personnel center in St. Louis, MO has advised me that my records were destroyed in the great fire.

The only names I remember are my platoon sergeant Greenfield from Virginia, Joseph Carroll from Tennessee or Kentucky and Brad Hess from Kentucky.

I was involved in an enemy shelling incident at approximately 1600, 23 July 1953 on the side of a hill near Christmas Hill. The shelling was so intense that we were covered with dirt, debris and hot pieces of shrapnel. The shelling continued until approximately 2100 hours.

I am a small person, 5'7" weigh 140 pounds and was drafted from Early, Iowa.

If you can furnish any information that will help me please contact me by calling "collect" to the numbers listed below.

**DARRELL W. VONNAHME, 1005 South 131st Street, Omaha, NE 68154-2921, Call collect: Office 402/558-4194, Residence 402/334-5760.**



REGISTRATION APPLICATION FOR 49TH 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	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ <u>25.00</u>
LADIES LUNCHEON	PERSON	10.00	10.00	\$ _____
FRIDAY	MEMBER	20.00	25.00	\$ _____
	GUEST	20.00	25.00	\$ _____
SATURDAY	MEMBER	20.00	25.00	\$ _____
	GUEST	20.00	25.00	\$ _____

TOTAL PREPAID ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER)

TOTAL DUE AT DESK ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PREPAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 20 SEPTEMBER 1994  
TO QUALIFY FOR PREPAYMENT RATES.

\*\*\*\*\*

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

I WILL BE ARRIVING IN OKLAHOMA CITY AT \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ SEPTEMBER  
1994 ON \_\_\_\_\_ AIRLINES, FLIGHT # \_\_\_\_\_. THERE WILL BE  
\_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS IN MY PARTY REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION TO THE MOTEL.

RETURN FLIGHT

MY RETURN FLIGHT DEPARTS AT \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ OCTOBER 1994. I WANT  
TO LEAVE THE MOTEL AT \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS FROM (CIRCLE ONE) \*ROOM\* \*LOBBY\*  
\*TRANSPORTATION ROOM # 427\*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME-----PLEASE PRINT)





401 SOUTH MERIDIAN AVENUE • OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73108

To assist us in processing your reservation please provide all requested information. Should you wish your reservation guaranteed for late arrival, after 6:00PM, an advance payment guarantee of the first night's room and tax is required. This advance payment guarantee may be made by check or money order, or by providing the entire number of one of the following major credit cards: AMERICAN EXPRESS, DINERS CLUB, VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CARTE BLANCHE, ENROUTE, JCB, OR MÖVENPICK. Do not forget to provide the card's expiration date and the signature of the card holder.

Advance payment guarantees will be refunded only if a reservation cancellation notification is received by 6:00PM on the scheduled day of arrival.

NOTE: If rooms are not available at the rate requested your reservation will be made at the nearest available rate. Check-out time is 12NOON, Check-in time is 3:00PM. All reservation requests must be received at least two weeks prior to arrival. Please allow ten working days for confirmation of your reservations.

Please notify us if you require any special accommodations or services.

CALL: 405-947-7681 OR TOLL-FREE: 800-333-3333 • 800-522-6620 (OK ONLY)

(PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN LOWER HALF)

CHECK-IN TIME 3:00 PM

CHECK-OUT TIME 12:00 NOON

Name of Meeting: 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION

Name of Group: 45TH INF DIV REUNION

Official Dates: 9/29 - 10/2/94

Last day reservations may be  
accepted at special group rate: 9/15/94

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name Worldwar2veterans.org

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Indicate: ☐ Home ☐ Business

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Credit Card
Number
Expiration Date
Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> Check or Money order enclosed
Amount \$

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK TYPE OF ROOM DESIRED**

SINGLE - 1 PERSON ☐ \$46.00  
DOUBLE - 2 PERSONS ☐ \$46.00  
TRIPLE - 3 PERSONS ☐ \$46.00  
QUAD - 4 PERSONS ☐ \$46.00

PARLORS & SUITES RESERVED UPON REQUEST, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY-PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT. ROLLAWAY BED IN ROOM \$10.00 PER NIGHT, CRIBS-FREE, UPON AVAILABILITY. CHILDREN 16 AND UNDER ARE FREE IN SAME ROOM WITH PARENTS.

**SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

**PLEASE LIST NAMES OF THOSE SHARING ROOM:**

1. _____	Arrive _____	Depart _____
2. _____	Arrive _____	Depart _____
3. _____	Arrive _____	Depart _____



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

I wish to be a member of the 45th Infantry Division Association. I enclose my dues for:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 for a Life Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 for a 10-year Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 for a 4-year Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00 for a 1- year Membership

SEND TO:  
45th Infantry Division Association  
2145 NE 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Your Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street or P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Former or Present Thunderbird Unit \_\_\_\_\_

World War II \_\_\_\_\_ Korean War \_\_\_\_\_ Post Korean War \_\_\_\_\_

(SPECIAL NOTE: You are invited to submit a paragraph of current information or news item about yourself or another former or present Thunderbird for possible use in 45th Division News. Please submit it on a separate sheet of paper identifying each person mentioned by present location and former Thunderbird unit.)

cut here



## IT IS STILL DUES PAYING TIME FOR SOME, CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

45th Division Association dues expire on 31 December of the year indicated on the "**LABEL**" of your NWSLTR. As of 31 March 1994 over 300 members who last paid their dues in 1992 were dropped from the membership roll.

There are currently 673 members whose dues expired as of 31 December 1993. If these members do not pay their dues prior to 30 June 1994, they will also be dropped from the membership roll. **PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN.**

Payment of multiple year dues reduces the workload for our volunteers in the out years and also reduces your per year cost as indicated on the membership application which has been included in this NWSLTR for your convenience. **LET'S HELP KEEP THE THUNDERBIRD ALIVE**

## REUNION HOSPITALITY ROOMS

The Following policy is established on a permanent basis concerning assignment of Hospitality Rooms (CP's) during annual reunions.

Hospitality rooms listed below are assigned on a permanent basis and will be available to assigned organizations without action by their personnel, except for checking out the room upon arrival at the Radisson Hotel:

ROOM #	ASSIGNED ORGANIZATION (S)
403	45th Division Assn, HQ 45th Division 45th Brigade HQ
404	Special Troops, Troop Command, 120 Engr, MP Co 700 Ord, 120 Med, QM, Signal Co, Recon Trp/Co
615	179th Infantry
101	180th Infantry
102	279th Infantry
201	Div Artillery, 158 FA, 160FFA, 171 FA, 189 FA, 145 AAA

The following hospitality rooms may be rented from the hotel on a first come, first served basis: 202, 609, 643 and 647. These rooms will be available at a reduced rate to be determined by the hotel management. All reservation for these rooms must be made with Betty Ramsey in the Sales department, telephone (405)947-7681.

Assigned hospitality rooms will be required to remain open during hours specified by the Reunion Committee and an assortment of refreshments provided for visitors. Organizations will be responsible for all charges made to the assigned room and the cost of any adjoining rooms used for storage or staff quarters.

## 45th Division News

Published four times yearly by the 45th Infantry Division Association to support the work of the association and the 45th Division Museum.

Michael T. Jackson ..... President

### VOLUNTEER STAFF

Wm. Rex Wilson ..... Secretary/Editor

Louis A. Scott ..... Associate Editor

Neal E. Dodds ..... Treasurer

Robert L. Henthorn ..... Accounting & Records

Eva Lou Moon ..... Recorder

Address news contributions and other correspondence to Editor, 45th Division News, 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 N.E. 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111.

**DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!**

45th Infantry Division Association  
2145 N.E. 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

## LIFE MEMBERS

### SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

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FRANK L. GARRISON  
TARO GOYA

JERRY W. GRIZZLE  
ROBERT K. Y. HU  
CHARLES D. THAYER

## NEW MEMBERS

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LEROY C. FRINK  
H.P. "JACK" GUNTER  
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