45th Divi Asion News

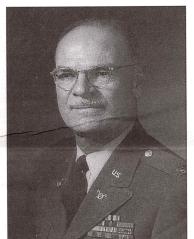
October, 1993

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

THUNDERBIRD



LEGENDS



Russell Dwight Funk

Dwight Funk was born in LaCygne, Kansas 14 June 1907. He was a graduate of Central High School in Oklahoma City and the University of Oklahoma, Norman,

He enlisted in the 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma National Guard in November 1925 commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant in 1929, promoted to Captain in 1932 and assigned as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battery, 70th Artillery Brigade. He was serving in this capacity when the Division was mobilized in September 1940.

When the division was changed from a square to a triangular orga-

nization in 1941 while we were stationed at Camp Barkeley, Texas, Funk was assigned as Commanding Officer of the 158 Field Artillery Battalion and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. The other battalion in the 70th Brigade was designated as the 157 Field Artillery battalion and became a part of the 158th Regimental Combat Team that served in the Pacific Theatre in World War II.

Dwight served as Commanding Officer of the 158th Field Artillery from 1941 to the end of World War II in May 1945. The 158th Field Artillery was the direct support battalion for the 157th Infantry Regiment and an integral part of the 157th Regimental Combat Team throughout World War II.

He was integrated into the Regular Army in 1947 as a Captain and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel RA in 1948 and Colonel RA in 1950.

Major military assignments included: 1949-50, Chief USA&AF Combined Mission to Honduras; 1950-1952, Chief US Army Mission to Honduras; 1952-54, CO Div Arty 8th Inf Division; 1955-56, CO I Corps Advisory Team, Taichung, Taiwan; 1957-60, Chief, Complaints Branch, Office of the IG, The Pentagon.

Funk retired from the military in 1962 and was employed by the Nashville Housing Authority as Chief of the Planning Division from December 1962 to March 1973 working mainly on urban renewal projects.

Awards and Decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, French Croix de Guerre, Army Commendation Medal, European Theater Medal with 8 Campaigns and 3 Amphibious landings.

Dwight was married to the former Wanda Barrett, daughter of Major General Charles F. Barrett who served for many years as the Adjutant General of the State of Oklahoma. They had one son, Charles Barrett Funk, born 14 July 1940.

Russell Dwight Funk died in April 1983 and was interred at Tampa, Florida.

COMBAT CHRONICLES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY-SALERNO!

(Editor's Note: Beginning with this issue, Louis Scott, author of Combat Chronicles, will retrace ground covered in previous Chronicle articles of the Division's combat, but with a different approach commemorating the 50th Anniversary of our days of combat in World War II.)

OPERATION AVALANCHE, September, 1943: In January 1943, the United States and Great Britain agreed that the Allies were not yet strong enough, militarily, to launch a massive offensive against fortress Europe, the stronghold of the Axis Powers. The Russians were demanding that the Allies do something to relieve some of the pressure the German forces were exerting on them. So, it was decided that the Allies would instigate military action against the soft underbelly of Europe-first by invading Sicily, then Italy. This had several advantages: first, it would provide some relief for the Russians by drawing away some German forces from that front; second, it would give the Allies time to strengthen their military forces; third, once established on the Italian mainland, the Allies might secure naval and aerial domination of the Mediterranean; and fourth, it would give the Allies important strategic ports and airfields for operations against Nazi forces in other parts of

Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily, was the first step in this plan. The operation was highly successful. Sicily was conquered in 38 days. The battle for Sicily proved several things: the American forces were ready and fit for combat; the Italian Army really had no will left to fight; and The Thunderbirds were a mean, lean, fightin' machine, capable of taking-on and defeating the best that Germany could send against them.

The original plan called for the 36th Infantry Division, a unit without combat experience, to be the sole division-size American assault force in the invasion of mainland Italy. They would be joined by units of the British 10 Corps, bringing the total strength to an equivalent of four divisions, about 48,000 troops. Because of a critical shortage of vessels, the 45th Infantry Division was to provide a reinforced regimental combat team as floating Fifth Army reserve--the 179th Infantry Regiment. Additional vessels became available and another combat team, the 157th Infantry Regiment (less 2nd Battalion), was added to the D Day convoy.

Leading elements of the 45th Division were loaded aboard 16 LSTs and 23 LCIs at TERMINI IMMERSE, SICILY and sailed for the GULF OF SALERNO. These leading elements consisted of the 179th Infantry Regiment (Reinforced), the 157th Infantry Regiment (less 2nd Battalion), a portion of Division Staff, Division Artillery Headquarters, the 158th, 160th, and 189th FA Battalions, plus one battalion of the 540th Engineer Shore Regt and part of the 242nd QM Service Bn. The 180th RCT and the balance of the Division would sail for Italy as soon as sufficient transport vessels

Higher command felt the invading forces would meet slight resistance since Italy had unconditionally surrendered on September 8th and would withdraw their forces from the battlefield. The Germans felt differently. Some of the best Panzer units of the Wehrmacht, estimated at 39,000 strong were entrenched on the SALERNO beaches waiting patiently for the invasion. Their strength increased to 100,000 within the next two days. The Germans were well defiladed on the high ground with a clear field of fire on the beaches while the landing forces were as unprotected as sitting

The 36th Division assault forces hit the beaches at PAESTUM exactly at 0330, H-Hour on September 9th and were immediately met with strong and devastating opposition from the Germans. It was later learned that all of the invasion beaches were plotted on German maps. German propaganda labeled the beachhead as a "death trap." The 36th Division was severely ravaged by the entrenched and well-equipped German forces. They suffered over 500 casualties on the first day of the invasion.

The 179th Regimental Combat Team began landing in the early morning hours of September 10th in the Vicinity of PAESTUM in the Gulf of Salerno on beaches littered with destroyed equipment, landing craft, and bodies. They immediately came under the direct control of VI Corps with order to attack NE along the SELE RIVER, secure PONTE SELE, Highway 19 and the high ground to the NE. They attacked North on Highway 18 and East toward ALTAVILLA with the British 10 Corps on their left and the 36th US Division on their right. The enemy was encountered West of PERSANO, where they were entrenched in well-protected defensive positions. PERSANO was bypassed. The 2nd Battalion attacked in the direction of ALTAVILLA under extremely heavy enemy fire. Positions along the South bank of the CALORE RIVER were reached and 5 enemy tanks were knocked out. The 1st and 3rd Battalions were attacked by the large tank concentrations and heavy artillery fire from the direction of EBOLI and the

(COMBAT CHRONICLES cont'd on page 2)

"GIFT SHOP FORM INSIDE"

SELE RIVER. The 160th FA poured heavy artillery fire into the concentration of tanks, stopping the counterattack.

The 157th RCT (less 2nd Bn) was landed on September 11th and ordered to attack on the left of the 179th Infantry in the direction of **EBOLI**. They met strong enemy machine gun fire in the vicinity of **PERSANO**. The 158th FA reinforced fires of the 160th FA to subdue a counterattack on the 179th Infantry front.

The five days from September 11th to the 15th became very critical times for the Fifth Army forces on the **SALERNO** beachhead. The Germans had had time to strongly reinforce their defenses with highly trained and battle-toughened troops from the North of Italy. They mounted an all-out effort to drive the division from the bitterly-contested beach. German forces hit the 45th Division hard with everything they had in an attempt to breakthrough their lines and push the invaders back into the sea. They came close to driving a wedge between the Allied forces, but failed--the Thunderbirds held and saved the beachhead.

The SELE-CALORE corridor became the pivot point on which the Salerno operation revolved. The 1st and 3rd Battalions, 179th Infantry, were nearly encircled and went into an allround defense. By late afternoon of September 11, the main body of the 179th Infantry was hardpressed. Many of the companies were without food and water; the Regimental Aid Station, crowded with casualties, was under shell fire. Batteries A and C, 160th Field Artillery Battalion, had exhausted their ammunition supply except for 10 rounds per gun kept as reserve for a last emergency. Enemy aircraft strafed and bombed the 3rd Battalion and a tank-infantry attack was launched in force against the 179th.

The 157th Infantry Regiment was ordered to advance to the west side of the SELE River to secure the fords north and east of PERSANO, and thus cut off the enemy attacks on the rear of the 179th. In an additional effort to provide relief for the 179th, the 157th was ordered to attack the TOBACCO FACTORY west of the SELE River. By this time a German force composed of units from six divisions, completely motorized, and with heavy strength in fire power and in armor, was moving against units of the Fifth Army on the beachhead. The main enemy strength was unleashed on the 13th against the 45th Division and down the SELE-CALORE corridor. The Thunderbirds hurled back every enemy thrust.

At 1310 on September 13th, the 158th FA detected German tanks and infantry moving in the vicinity of the **EBOLI-BATTIPAGLIA** road and fired on them. The enemy was on the move and attacked the 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry, less than an hour later. By 1530 the heaviest attack on the VI Corps front during the whole Salerno battle was unleashed.

Heavy tank and infantry forces attacked the 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry. Another heavy attack was against the front and rear of the 2nd Battalion, 143d Infantry (36th Division). Division Artillery fired almost continuously throughout the afternoon, but the enemy advance continued.

The 2nd Battalion, 143d Infantry was completely surrounded and practically annihilated with a loss of 508 officers and men. At 1800, 15 enemy tanks moved straight into a gap in the 45th lines held only by the 189th Field Artillery Battalion, under LTC Hal L. Muldrow, Jr., and the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, under LTC Russell D. Funk.

Brigadier General Raymond McLain, Division Artillery commander, LTC Hal Muldrow, and other Division Artillery officers went out on the roads and commandeered every soldier they found and placed them with rifles and machine guns to dig in and hold. Both artillery battalions gathered all available men, stripping their gun crews to the minimum, and posted them to defend the area. The sweating gun crews poured artillery fire on the enemy, firing 8 rounds per minute per gun at the height of the attack. Altogether the two artillery battalions fired 3,650 rounds. It was stated in the official War Department pamphlet, Salerno, that "this devastating fire pulverized the roads and fields in the tip of the corridor and, combined with the dogged resistance of the artillerymen at the ford, hurled back every enemy attack. At sunset, the enemy admitted failure and pulled back his tanks. The artillery had stopped the most serious break-through attempted during the whole Salerno beachhead fight." THAT is high praise, well deserved.

By evening of September 13th, the situation was desperate. The 142d Infantry and 143d Infantry had been thrown back from ALTAVILLA. Co. K, 143d, was cut off; the 1st Battalion, 142d had lost all except some 60 of its men. The 2d Battalion, 143d, had been smashed in the SELE-CALORE corridor; the 1st Battalion, 157th, had been hard hit at the TOBACCO FACTORY. Fifth Army lines had been dented, even pierced; and only the artillery had prevented a complete break-through. Worst of all, there were almost no reserves available to mend the line. Allied troops were too

extended to be able to meet the attacks that the enemy launched.

Very early in the campaign, on September 9th, when it looked like the invasion was a failure, LTG Mark Clark, Fifth Army commander told MG Troy Middleton, 45th Division commander, that he was considering pulling the troops off the beaches, that it looked like we had another Dunkirk. General Middleton reportedly told him to "let me land my combat teams and we'll save the beachhead." True prophesy, for that is essentially what the 45th Division did-saved the beachhead and won the battle.

Again, on September 13th, General Clark told the Fifth Army commanders that he had informed the Navy ships offshore to "stand-by for evacuation-just in case." General Middleton realized that an attempted withdrawal could only end in bloody disaster and probably death for every man on the beachhead. His answer sounded the battle cry that brought about the turning point in the fierce conflict: "PUT FOOD AND AMMUNITION BEHIND THE 45TH. WE ARE GOING TO STAY HERE." In him Memoirs, General Middleton stated that General Clark was incensed at his reply, but the Army Commander realized that maintaining the beachhead was of greater importance than castigating once of his subordinates, so he withdrew his plan for withdrawal.

Defensive lines were redrawn, the 179th Infantry was moved over to close the gap held only by 45th Artillery. On September 14th, the enemy attempted to exploit their advanced of the days before, but failed even though the fighting was heavy with the enemy sending massive amounts of tanks and firing intense artillery concentrations into 45th lines. The three 45th Artillery battalions, 158th, 160th, and 189th, fired 6,687 rounds that day--the most fired in one day during the Salerno landings. By late afternoon of the 14th, it was evident that the German offensive was petering out and the enemy was beginning to withdraw from the battlefield.

For all intents and purposes, the desperate fight to save the **SALERNO** beachhead was ended. On the 15th, Division infantry improved their defenses and the artillery fired heavy concentrations on enemy units, dumps, and CPs. The Division Artillery fired 5,358 rounds on September 15th. Patrols reported that the enemy had broken contact.

The cost to win the Battle of Salerno was high. US losses include 1,084 KIA, 1,869 MIA and presumed POWs, and 3,252 WIA. The battle did prove, without a doubt, that the Thunderbirds were the best, a battle-hardened and tough outfit that had survived and won one of the hardest-fought battles of World War II. The 45th Infantry and Artillery confirmed the fact already known by many--that the 45th Infantry Division had few, if any, equals.

In the History of World War II, historian Francis Trevelyan Miller gave the 45th Division high praise for its part in winning the Battle of Salerno. He said, "The Thunderbirds beat the Germans by a combination of grit and wit." He further stated that "Salerno was a triumph not only of courage but of skill."

Although the Battle of Salerno was over, ahead were many months of difficult struggling for the 45th through the mountains of Central Italy, fighting a tenacious, fierce, and tough German Army. The harsh Italian winter was approaching, bringing rain, rain, and more rain that made the roads almost impassable and the fields impossible with clinging, cloying clay that not only hampered the movement of foot soldiers, but also caused vehicles to become almost hopelessly mired in the thick goo. Thus began the arduous struggle not only against the cruel Italian Winter, but also against a determined German Army that fought indomitablely to impede the progress of friendly troops.

KOREAN CHRONICLES

December, 1951: The 45th Infantry Division had been alerted for movement to Korea on November 18th. All equipment, except individual arms and clothing, would be left in Japan and the Division would take over the equipment, in place, of the 1st Cavalry Division, the unit the 45th was replacing in Korea. In turn, the 45th equipment would be laterally transferred to the 1st Cav.

The combat elements of the Division embarked from Hokkaido, Japan for Inchon Harbor, Korea in three increments: 180th Infantry Regiment on December 5, 179th Infantry Regiment on December 17, and 279th Infantry Regiment on December 28. On December 17, the Division was assigned to Eighth US Army, then attached to I US Corps on December 18.

On December 23, the Division assumed responsibility for the sector occupied by the 1st Cavalry Division, plus part of the main line of resistance held by the 3d Infantry Division, our old friends from World War II, called Line JAMESTOWN. Sector responsibility

extended from OMGOGAE to NOLTARI. There were two critical terrain features in the division zone: the CHORWON-T'SON corridor and Hill mass 487-477. On January 1, 1952, the division was deployed on line with the 180th Infantry on the right, flanking the 9th ROK Division, and the 179th Infantry on the left, flanked by the 3d US Division. The 279th ROK Division was in division reserve. The 245th Tank Battalion remained in division reserve, but was physically located in the sector of the 9th ROK Division, blocking the most likely Avenue of approach for enemy armor.

Throughout the period, ambush and reconnaissance patrols were extremely active. Three major raids were conducted by elements of the 179th and 180th Infantry Regiments against strong enemy positions in the Hill 223 and Hill 290 areas. Despite bitter resistance, friendly forces succeeded in inflicting heavy casualties upon the enemy. The remainder of the combat activity centered about artillery fire placed on known and suspected enemy positions and personnel.

Battle casualties for January, 1952: 156.

TIDBITS

"Hurricane" Harry Illingworth, 157th Infantry, World War II produces and hosts a program "JAZZ QUEST" on WTBN 102.1 FM, St. Thomas, VI. The program was also syndicated on WOSO, San Juan, Puerto Rico during May 1993. Harry said this was a late in life venture, but was very rewarding. His address is 6501 Red Hook Plaza, Suite 76, St. Thomas, VI 00802-1306.

Bob Rouse, 138 C.R. 312, Ignacio, CO 81137 reports that he just retired from the Colorado Division of Wild Life after 25 years. He has been married to Joanna for 38 years, has 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Bob and Joanna have just finished building a new home and are enjoying retirement. Bob was a member of the 179th Infantry in Korea.

Thomas O. Barrow, Abingdon, VA, 160th Field Artillery, World War II, participated in the dedication of the guided-missile cruiser USS ANZIO which took place at the Norfolk, VA Naval Base.

DAN BLOCKER, "HOSS CARTWRIGHT" ON THE TELEVISION SERIES "BONANZA" WAS FIRST SERGEANT OF A RIFLE COMPANY IN THE 179TH INFANTRY REGIMENT DURING THE KOREAN WAR.

CURRENT PAID MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION IS 4,456 OF WHICH 760 ARE LIFE MEMBERS. THE PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP OUTSIDE THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA REMAINS CONSTANT AT 60 PERCENT INCLUDING FIVE MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

We continue to retain deceased members on the membership rolls, however, they are not counted in the membership numbers listed above. We currently have 928 deceased members on the roster.

Evan A. Lovegrove, Minster, OH recently received an award of the Bronze Star Medal for service during World War II while a member of the 179th Infantry. He would like to hear from anyone from Headquarters Company who remembers him. Current address is 12832 Luthman Road, Minster, OH 45865-9327

Clyde A. Murray, 1004 Oak Drive, Huntsville, TX 77340 served as a war correspondent with Headquarters 45th Infantry Division in Korea during 1952 and 1953. He was made a honorary member of the 180th Infantry Regiment while serving as a combat reporter covering the fighting on Heartbreak Ridge, Sandbag Castle and the Punchbowl.

REUNION NOTICES

45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION: 29 September-2 October 1994, (21-24 September 1995) the Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK

189TH FIELD ARTILLERY AND 645 TANK DESTROYER BN; will hold their annual combined reunion at the Saddleback Inn, 4300 SW3rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 14-16 April 1994. Contact T.J. Hunker, P.O. Box 127, Wheatland, OK 73097, Telephone 405/745-2433.

THE CHAIRMAN RESPONDS

Thank you for your letter. I am aware of the controversy surrounding LIBERATORS. Any question of the historical accuracy of Army military events is handled by the US Army Center of Military History. I understand that the Center has been assisting Mr. Mort Silverstein (WNET-PBS, Channel 13, New York City) in verifying the historical accuracy of LIBERATORS. Last month, Mr. Silverstein and his associates conducted a comprehensive review and they continue to consult the Center of Military History. Mr. Silverstein and his group have not yet completed their final report, but they seem to be making reasonable effort to correct the record.

With best Wishes.

Sincerely, Colin L. Powell Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

(Editor's note: This letter was in response to a packet of letters from the 4th Armored Division, 6th Armored Division, 45th Infantry Division and the 761st Tank Battalion, which were forwarded to General Powell by COL James Moncrief, WWII G-1 of the 6th Armored Division)

LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I would like to contact any members of Company "L" or "M" 279th Infantry during the time from 1952-1953 who remembers a Sergeant Blackie or a radio operator by the nickname of "Brooklyn".

MAX DAVID BAUMBACK, 1869 West 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223

ANDERSON FAMILY DONATES HITLER TEA SERVICE TO MUSEUM

The widow and children of the late Joseph Don Anderson donated a beautiful monogrammed tea set from Adolph Hitler's personal silver service to the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

This is a valuable and significant addition to the Hitler Collection and is currently on display in the museum.

Don was a member of the 189th field Artillery Battalion during World War II and Korea and later served as Commanding Officer of the 160th Field Artillery Battalion.



ALTHOUGH THIS IS A KOREA 1952 VINTAGE WILLYS JEEP AND I AM A SURVIVOR OF COMPANY E, 180TH INFANTRY FROM WORLD WAR II, I THINK I HAVE PAINTED CORRECT IDENTIFICATION FORE AND AFT.

(JAMES E. HILDEBRAND, 14724 VENTURA BOULEVARD, SUITE 301, SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91403).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I was a member of Company C, 157th Infantry Regiment from February to June 1944 at the Anzio Beachhead, when I was evacuated to a Hospital Ship near Bagnolia, a town near Naples.

The "Thunderbird Legends" article in the April Newsletter concerning Llewellyn Chilson was great and it is a shame he was never awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, especially after the remarks made by President Truman during the awards ceremony.

I would like to have the address of his family to permit writing a letter to express my thoughts concerning his courage and heroic actions.

PB (Bob) Simonioan, 94 Appleton Road, Auburn, MA 01501

(Editors' note: A copy of the NWSLTR forwarded to the last known address was returned as undeliverable.)

I called Raul Trevino about dates of the reunion of the 45th Division and as we talked, memories came flashing back. He said he had met Captains Zelmar and Weaver and also LT. Don Akin, that was many years ago.

I am looking forward to seeing the 45th Division Museum when I come out to Oklahoma. The museum here at Aberdeen Proving Grounds has the Anzio Express railroad cannon that we all remember hearing when it was fired from Rome.

I am still working for a large food chain as a shift supervisor of truck maintenance. Stuart F. Kelly. 1725 Marley Avenue, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060.

My first contact of knowledge of the 45th Infantry Division was when I was given orders that I would be assigned to Division Headquarters in early 1953, which was then located in Yong Dong Po. I reported in there, we later moved to Chunchon where I served with the AG Section until the 45th was removed from active duty at which time I was transferred to the 25th Infantry Division. I completed 22 years in the military, was retired and gained employment with the Proctor and Gamble Mfg. Co. here in Augusta, GA, completed 22 years with that firm and presently (thank goodness) retired.

Last year I received a shock in the form of a letter form Dick Walnwright asking if I was the Lt. Yount he was seeking and naturally I was. I shortly received a call from Will Kennedy another member of the AG Section. We enjoyed some fine conversation and have since exchanged letters. Through the lists furnished to me by Dick I was able to call Jerry Tippens, also a member of the AG Section. I have attempted to contact a Lt. DuGosh, address listed as Columbia, SC and am pursuing this at the present time.

Herbert Baily of Columbia, SC a very dear minister friend of mine is also an ex member of the 45th (earlier than me) and we plan on attending the reunion of 19-22 August 1993.

Luther F. Yount, 175 Springlakes Drive, Martinez, GA 30907

I was perched like a monkey (squatting down on my heals) on a Korean mountain top and looking at the country side when the sting of rocks on my backside roused me into an awareness that I was being shot at. I was part of an Infantry demolition team (AT & M Platoon) in the 180th Infantry Regiment which was given the task of clearing a path through a mountain side mine field in the area between the Chinese regulars and our troops. The job was going well, with the rest of our teams below me in the brush and all but invisible to the enemy.

The dumb mistake I was making was being on the top of ridge instead of just below it. That position was placing me in direct contrast to the sky. We had been warned there was a Chinese sniper raising havoc with the US forces. His first bullet hit the ground between my feet. There was a foxhole to my right and I made like an olympic diver getting into it, much to the discomfort of the GI who was already there.

Our team leader was in a trench to my left with a camouflage net over it and they were encouraging me to join them. That 30 feet seemed like a zillion miles and the sniper was trying, but couldn't keep up with me, his shots were hitting where I had been.

BRUCE NILES, 8520 Gruenewald Lane, Charlotte, NC 28210

I am reporting the finding of a World War II veteran, Father Alex Dryden, who was a member of the 45th Reconnaissance Company, who was unaware of the association.

On Saturday evening July 10th, I joined with several other WW II veterans and their wives at Valley Stream, NY to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of invading Sicily. I had received an invitation from Henry Wieselberg, President of the Eastern Chapter of the 45th Division Association, and Maurice Niernstein, Secretary/ Treasurer. This was a memorable occasion, there were veterans from all three

Infantry Regiments (157th, 179th and 180th) and two of us served with the 160th FA BN.

JAMES R. BIRD. 57 Bella Road, Medford, NJ 08055

Just received the 45th Division News and reading Louis Scott's Nightmare Revisited, it confirms our son's comment of not finding our Division posted during his visit to Dachau last year.

I joined the Division at Forth Devens, MA and was assigned to Company B, 180th Infantry. Ended up in Munich at the end of the war in Division Headquarters in the Chemical Section.

ORVILLE C. FRANK. 2 Buccaneer Drive, Leesburg, FL 34788

I was very glad to hear from a Thunderbird (Raul Trevino) after 40 years without contact with any of the guys that I served with, thanks a lot for the information and the news from the 45th Division.

I will not be able to attend the reunion this year, but sure hope I can make it next year. Tell the guys from Heavy Mortar Company that Childress is still around.

JESSE CHILDRESS, 853 Smith Road, Seneca, SC 29678

I completed my basic training on 105 Howitzers at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas in August 1952 and joined Battery B, 158th Field Artillery in Korea during January 1953. I remained with that unit throughout 1953 and returned to the US with the Division in April 1954. I would like to hear from anyone who served with me in Battery B.

After spending 35 years with Reynolds Metal Company in Michigan we retired to Florida in 1992.

ALLEN MORAN, 5110 14th Street West #93, Bradenton, FL 34207

I served with Company B, 120th Engineer Battalion from 1942 to 1945. I left the company sometime after the capture of the town of Epinal, France. I remember that Captain Max Hartnagel was wounded the night before I left.

Some of the people I remember are Larry Butler, "Ace" Holloway, Rhodes and Sam York. Would like to hear from anyone who remembers me.

NICHOLAS GURKA, 429 Hemlock Street, Jermyn, PA 18433

When the 1st Cavalry Division was replaced by the 45th Division in Korea I was transferred from the 1st Cavalry and assigned to Company K, 180th Infantry Regiment and served with them from December 1951 to September 1952. When I rotated home I was a Sergeant First Class and had been awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and The Combat Infantryman's Badge.

I retired from the local newspaper and am Chapter Adjutant in the Military Order of the Purole Heart.

WILLIAM F. WELLMAN, 4432 Grandview Drive, Ashland, KY 41101

I joined Company C., 179th Infantry Regiment on Christmas Eve 1944. For Christmas we received hot food and a parka. I was a Buck Sergeant when assigned and was promoted to Staff Sergeant when Sgt. Brinkman received his field commission and I took over the platoon. My CO was Lt. Harper who was killed when we crossed the Rhine. I told the boys, "we take no prisoners today". The Engineers took us across the Rhine in boats and when we reached the bank, all the fields were flooded.

I would like to hear from Sgt. Bitcher, Corporal Renaldo and a Medic named Green. If you remember me, write to me at the address listed below. Remember 8 shooting and 3 looting.

ERNEST L. CALABRETTA, 48 Livingston Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1231

Thought I would drop you a brief note to express our appreciation for the courtesy extended to my wife and I on our recent visit to the 45th Division Museum. If we hadn't moved to Arizona several years ago and driven through "OK" City on the freeway and spotted the sign, we wouldn't have known about the association or the museum.

We are giving some critical thought about the reunion this year as well as next years European Tour. If possible I would like more information on any people alive who were with Company B, 180th Infantry during the Italian Campaign.

The Company B, 180th Infantry Head Stones intrigued me immensely honoring two guys that I worshiped as an 18 year old kid 50 years ago. Garner whom I did not know had been killed after I was wounded, saved my life when on patrol behind enemy lines on the Venafro front. I was one of 3 guys with Garner when we were the first to enter Venafro.

WILLIAM E. LAUBE, 18836 Grandview Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375

I wish to thank you and the author of the article, Dauchau: Nightmare Revisited," in the current issue of the 45th Division News. I was the company commander of Company I of the 157th Infantry on the day the camp was liberated. During the last ten to fifteen years I was beginning to question whether or not I was dreaming when four or five different outfits made claims for liberation in spite of the efforts of Felix Sparks to set the record straight. My own family was beginning to question my version of the liberation in view of all the "evidence" including the US Army's effort to change the history of these times as published by the US Government.

I am glad I have lived long enough to see the facts exposed and would hope someone would focus on the culprits who wanted to change those facts. There are still a number of veterans from Company I living who can attest to the real story.

BILL WALSH. 1788 Hassam Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108

I am delighted that somebody is finally doing something about this "Monkey Business" concerning who captured the Dachau Concentration Camp.

The enclosed letter is a copy of the letter I sent to WGAL-TV on May 4th, 1992. Guess What? I am still waiting for an answer.

I sometimes get the feeling that the news media does not want to be confused with the facts. They are more interested in a "show".

You have certainly done your homework in this regrettable situation quite well. Congratulations!

Keep us posted on any further news.

DAVID H. SUMMERS. D.P. M., 2598 Brandywine Lane, York, PA 17404-1313

I write both as a 45th Division Association member, and as editor of our publications, 'POWDER RIVER JOURNAL AND DARE FORWARD', Official Publications of the 91st Infantry Division Association WW II. I applaud you for your excellent article in the July 1993 issue of the 45th Division News. It was certainly needed, factual, and very well done. Congratulations, on undertaking the effort to always keep the true combat accomplishments of the 45th out in front of a historically uninformed citizenry and especially our younger public. Without people like you, how will they ever know the truth about WW II?

I served with the 45th in Company F, 180th Infantry, at Hugo, Oklahoma in 1939 and up to the time I entered the RA in July 1940. I am also a member of the 180th Infantry Association. I ended up in Italy, as an enlisted FO with the 91st. Having been an original Cadre to that unit from the 5th Cavalry Regiment, mounted, at Fort Bliss. At that time LTC Lucian K. Truscott, Jr. was my CO.

I am well aware of the reasons for your article, and can sympathize completely with your dissatisfaction at the obvious injustice done to the 45th. Their fine war record is surely legend. I would have the pleasure to fight alongside the 45th, as a forward artillery observer, for a short time, just after the break out at Anzio. I do completely agree it is sad to admit there are those who seek to distort important historical war records; that not only affect an entire generation, but severely dishonor those KIA who gave their lives in WW II. These are those who can no longer defend their record. Like you, I am at a loss to understand exactly why people would do this 50 years later?

THUNDERBIRDS, FRONT AND CENTER!!!

JIM BELL, P.O. Box 1870, Lone Grove, OK 73443-1870

This is to thank you for your clear and accurate article "Dachau: Nightmare

Revisited" presented in the July 1993 issue of the 45th Division News. I have followed this story closely through conversations and correspondence with BG Felix Sparks over these past few years. You are right on all counts and it is important to assure all members of the 45th Division of the truth that they did liberate Dachau despite all those false and ridiculous claims currently being made.

I served with Company A, 120th Engineer Bn supporting the 157th Infantry regiment from before we left the states in June 1943 until July 4, 1945 when some of us were transferred to the 328 Engineer Battalion of the 103rd Division to come home. From our first day of combat, 10 July 1943 (today is our 50th anniversary) until after we took Rome on 5 June 1944, I was the 1st Platoon Leader of Company

A supporting the 1st Battalion of the 157th Infantry commanded by LTC Preston J C Murphy. I was his Engineer Officer. When the 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry was chosen to accompany the other American Divisions into Messina, Italy, my platoon went with them, the only engineers from the 45th Division to do so.

I became CO of Company A in July 1944 and thereafter was on the Staff of Colonel O'Brien, the regimental commander.

On the morning of 29 April 1945 I had gone to the 120th Engineer Battalion CP to see my CO, LTC C S Monnier. I was told he was not there and that "He has gone forward with MG Frederick, something about a major political objective in the town of Dachau". I decided to go to Dachau and try to find my CO.

My driver Cpt Lowell Hughes and I started out and after some difficulties, we found the Dachau Concentration Camp. the first thing we noticed was the terrible odor form the dead bodies on, in and around the railroad track and the box cars. This was shocking, but we went on into the administration area of the camp. Rifle and machine gun fire was still occurring with the area not too far ahead, so we ducked into one of the buildings.

Lo and behold, we were in a small ceramic production plant where beautiful 14" high porcelain figurines were being produced. Having a degree in ceramic engineering, I was fascinated and almost forgot the war for a few minutes.

We were inside the camp for some little time and I saw many of our 45th Division Infantry men, as well as German prison guards and I assume, SS Soldiers, but no american soldiers from any other units or divisions.

I found LTC Monnier, resolved my question and headed back to my unit. Having been there when LTC Sparks was liberating Dachau with the 3rd Battalion of the 157th Infantry I know what he reported was true. I saw it !!!

I wanted you to know how much I appreciated your reporting the true facts about history and not allowing others to change them--for whatever reason.

JAMES H. RICHEY, 117 Oak Hill Court, St. Charles, IL 60174

Enclosed is a clipping from your quarterly publication "45th Division News" entitled "422 Infantry Regiment". I am quite sure that you have been taking a great deal of flak from the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team and especially the 522nd Field Artillery BN of which I was a member. Although your article was quite flattering it wasn't quite accurate.

You probably haven't done enough research on the history of the 442nd RCT to know that is was comprised of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, an Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Engineers, a Medical Unit and the 522nd FA BN. We were a complete Regimental Combat Team capable of carrying on complete ground warfare as a specialty unit.

(LETTER TO THE EDITOR cont'd on page 7)

IF ONLY WE HAD KNOWN...

by Louis Scott

"You are going to make an amphibious landing in Europe. Your job and that of the few divisions who will land with you is to keep the enemy busy and occupied while we prepare a huge American Army."

General George Catlett Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, was speaking to the officers of the 45th Infantry Division when he visited us at Camp Pickett, Virginia, shortly before we embarked on naval vessels for the great venture of combat in World War II.

The broad plan for conduct of the War was formulated at the Casablanca Conference in January, 1943. President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and the Allied Combined Chiefs of Staff, agreed that only "unconditional Surrender" would be accepted from the Axis Powers and Japan. It was also agreed that Allied forces would strike at the "soft underbelly of Europe"--Sicily and Italy--as early as possible in order to effect some relief for the Russian forces by drawing off German troops to another area, and it would give the Allies time to prepare for a cross-channel invasion of fortress Europe.

Most of those in the audience had no idea what General Marshall meant

that day. He spoke in football terms that told us little that we could understand about the mission of the Division, but at the same time, he outlined exactly what the 45th Division, among others, would be doing throughout the war in Europe.

The gist of what he said was this: "In football, often the quarterback takes the ball and fakes to a back who runs into the center of the line and gets clobbered. Then the quarterback carries the ball around end and get all the glory."

True? Can you think of a better phrasing that would illustrate more precisely the very thing that happened to the 45th Infantry Division? These profound words portended our travail of combat and initiated the glory that was to be ours after heavy sacrifices.

After a year of hard struggles, fierce battles, and extreme hardships we realized when D-Day came and the armada crossed the channel and invaded fortress Europe that we were to be the scapegoats and our successes pushed into the background.

(IF ONLY WE HAD KNOWN cont'd on page 7)

MAIL ORDER FORM 45TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION GIFT SHOP

			45TH DIVISION ASSOC	CIATION GIFT SHOP		
	(IF THERE IS A CHOICE, CIRCLE T	THE ITEM	DESIRED)	(Date)		
	JEWELRY		,	45th Infantry Division	23.00	
	Charm TB Gold or Silver	\$4.00		157th Infantry Regiment	23.00	
	Necklace TB Gold or Silver	7.50		158th Infantry Regiment	15.00	1
	Tie Tack TB Gold w/chain	2.50		179th Infantry Regiment	23.00	
	Tie Clasp TB Gold Bar	4.00		180th Infantry Regiment	23.00	
	Lapel Pin TB Large	2.50		279th Infantry Regiment	6.00	
	Lapel Pin TB Small			The Thunderbird Tradition (Museum)		-
		2.00				
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	Lapel Pin, Indian Head Lg.	2.50		Reforger '87	15.00	
	Lapel Pin, Eagle w/spd wgs	2.00		Thunderbird, 45th INf. Div.		
	Money Clip TB Gold	5.00		Korea 1951-1953	12.00	
	Key Ring TB w/Slvr or Gold Charm	4.00		MISCELLANEOUS PRINTS (81/2")	-	
	Key Ring TB Black Leather	3.50		Saga of The Great TB	.50	
				Soldier	.50	
	EARRINGS (pierced)			War Is An Ugly Thing	.50	
	Oval, TB, Silver	8.00		I Am The Infantry	.50	
				·		
	BELT BUCKLES			T-SHIRTS		
	45th Inf. Div, TB, Gold	13.00		White, TB S/M/L/XL (Adult)	9.00	
	45th Inf. Div, TB, Red	8.00		Blue, TB S.M. (Adult)	8.00	
	45th Inf. Div, TB, Gold	8.00		White, TB 6/8, 10/12, 14/16 (Children		
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	POLO TIES			TB, Regular Size, Cloth	2.00	
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	TB, Red Nylon Cord	6.00		TB, Miniature Size, Cloth	1.25	
	TB, Yellow Nylon Cord	6.00		Swastika, Replica, Cloth	2.50	
	TB, Bule Nylone Cord	6.00		TB, Magnet	1.00	
				TB, Decal	.50	
	CAPS	10	Kets A / O S /	3 Flag Decal, TB/USA/OK	1.00	
W	Red/White TB	7.00		Decal, Amer. Flag, 2 1/2 x 4"	1.00	$(\Delta \Gamma)$
V	Blue/White TB	7.00		POST CARDS		9
	Red/White, 3 Flags, TB/USA/OK	9.00		Museum, Front View	.25	
	Blue/White, 3 Flags, TB/USA/OK	9.00		Willie & Joe by Mauldin	.25	
	3 1			MISCELLANEOUS		
	<u>MONOGRAPHS</u>			Coffee Mug, TB	4.00	
	From Swastika to Thunderbird	2.00		Knife, Pocket, TB	6.00	
	2. "Movin On" Story of the	2.00		Paper Weight TB, Marble Base	3.50	
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	3. 70th Field Artillery Brigade	2.00		Pencil, 45th Inf. Div. Museum	.25	-
		2.00				***************************************
	4. 1st OK Field Artillery and Its	0.00		Book, Add/Tele, Magnet, Gold	3.00	
	Successors to 1945	2.00		Book, Add/Tele, Blk Lthr, TB	1.50	
	5. Naval Gunfire Support of the			Card Caddy, Black Lthr, TB	2.00	The state of the s
	Landings in Sicily	2.00		Photo Caddy, Brown Lthr, TB	2.00	
	6. 160th Field Artillery Battalion				12.00	
	7. 171st Field Artillery Battalion}			Car Shade, OK, NG		
	(1946-1968)	2.00		(Say No To Drugs)	3.00	
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	13. 158th Field Artillery	2.00		POSTAGE/Handling	\$	3.00
	14. Dachau & Its Liberation		MANAGEMENT AND AN ADDRESS	TOTAL	\$	1459
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	15. 171st FA Bn.	2.00		NOTE: ENCLOSE CHECK/MC	NEY ORDE	R FOR TOTAL.
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	Bill Mauldin's Army	15.00		GIFT S		IVI

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Thunderbird, A History of

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5TH INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM GIFT SHOP 2145 N.E. 36TH STREET OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111

(LETTER TO THE EDITOR cont'd from page 5)

After the famous "Rescue of the Lost Battalion" in the Vosges Mountains of France, the 442 RCT minus the 552nd FA BN returned to Italy to break the Gothic Line. The 552nd FA BN went into Germany with the 7th Army to breach the Siegfried Line. We entered Germany in March 1945 and were attached to 17 different organizations including the 45th Infantry Division. At the time that we participated in the "Liberation of Dachau", we were attached to the 4th Division. After the seizure of Munich the 522nd Field Artillery trucks were used to haul the 101st Airborne Unit.

Enclosed are a number of articles and papers that my be of interest to you which will help your write your letter of retraction, that I think is in order. I realize that your article was written with good intentions, but the truth needs to be told. We will all be very grateful to you for taking care of this serious matter of military history.

GEORGE OIYE. 52 Alma Court, Los Altos, CA 94022, 405/941-4850 (Editor's Note: Edited for brevity. An accompanying testimonial by George Oiye indicated that their FA Bn would sometimes be as much as ten or fifteen miles ahead of the Infantry Unit they were supporting)

I have not been a member for very long but there is one thing that I have noticed, and I am not very happy about it. I already know that complaining about it will not change one thing, but I will feel better about it. I have submitted three items to your sheet hoping that they would be printed, Now, two of them have been printed before, in other organs, one was new. The items were not printed. Now this is not, and I mean, not unusual in itself, but as I looked over past "news" issues I find an interesting pattern. You apparently do not get published unless you wore a "Sam Brown Belt", or were from the 179th Infantry. I came to the 45th from the 9th Division after Africa so I know what being an outsider is, but this is worse. I am sure that you feel that you are putting out a good sheet, so keep up the good work.

CHARLES L. FEAY. HQ Btry, 171st FA BN, 2863 114th Lane North, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

(Editor's Notes: The above letter was printed "verbatim" so you can see that these volunteer jobs are not all a "bed of roses", but you have to take the bitter with the sweet. My research revealed that the last document submitted by Charles Feay was a poem submitted in 1992 with a by-line indicating that he was a member of the 180th Infantry (should be 180th Infantry Regimental Combat Team). We normally do not publish poems, however I did break the precedent by publishing a poem about General Norman Schwarzkopf, for which I have no regrets.)

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The following members were elected to the association Board of Directors during the annual business meeting 20 August, 1993.

Terms of office will expire in 1996:

Billy A. Stearns, Edmond, OK, Wm. Rex Wilson, Yukon, OK, Neal E. Dodds, Edmond, OK, David J. Willingham, Edmond, OK, James A. Pahdoco, Oklahoma City, OK, Raul Trevino, San Antonio, TX A minimum of three board meetings will be held prior to the next reunion.

The following officers were elected by the Board of Directors during the board meeting conducted 20 August, 1993

Secretary Rex Wilson and Treasurer Neal Dodds agreed to serve in their respective assignments for 1993-1994.

LOST ADDRESS/LIFE MEMBERS

Romauld J. Blahnik Chicago, IL William T. Bresnahan St. Augustine, FL Wilfred Dube Pelham, NH Robert E. Frazier Geoge Jacob Whittier, NC M.D. Gilbert Reno, NV Candyce Hutchins Las Vegas, NV George B. LaRoche Sacramento, CA Charles M. McCracken Heidelbert FRG, APA NY Michael T. McEwen Shawnee, OK David B. Mosby Muskogee, OK James O. Pridgen Decatur, GA John L. Sourvelis Wyoming, MI Henry Ratliff Pomerovton, KY Ward C. Woods Battle Creek, MI

Russell E. Sweeten

Kenneth Meyer

Oak Forest, IL

(PLEASE ADVISE THE ASSOCIATION IF YOU KNOW THE CURRENT ADDRESS OF ANY OF THESE MEMBERS)

(IF ONLY WE HAD KNOWN cont'd from page 5)

If only we had known...it wouldn't have made any difference. The Thunderbirds were ready. We were trained to the 9th degree, chomping at the bit and rarin' to get into combat. The 45th Infantry Division was undoubtedly the best trained division-size unit in the U.S. Army when we deployed overseas. We wanted make a contribution and do our part...and we did...and more.

The training, fortitude, and determination paid off in spades. No doubt existed in anyone's mind after 511 days of superbly-fought combat that the 45th Infantry Division was the best outfit under American Arms before, during, and at the end of World War II. The Division was to prove itself again in Korea.

Whatever destiny may hold in store for our great country and however long that country's military history may continue, readers in the future will search long before finding a chapter more brilliant than that written by the quill that was dipped in the blood of The Thunderbirds.

	APPLICATION FO			
\$7	75.00 for a Life Membership	SEND TO:		
\$:	35.00 for a 10-year Membership	45th Infantry Division Association 2145 NE 36th Street		
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Address (Str	(Please Print) reet or P.O. Box) resent Thunderbird Unit	State	Zip Code	
	I Korean War			
(SPECIAL NOTE: You in 45th Division News.	r are invited to submit a paragraph of current information or Please submit it on a separate sheet of paper identifying e	ach person mentioned by present to	or former or present Thunderbird for possible use occation and former Thunderbird unit.)	

REUNION REPORTS

45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, 19-22 August, Radisson Inn, OKC, OK. The 48th Annual Reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association was conducted at the Radisson Inn, Oklahoma City, OK. The reunion was well attended, mostly by members outside the State of Oklahoma (70 percent).

The Friday night dinner was attended by 415 members and guests. Saturday night 620 members and guests attended the banquet. The Ladies Luncheon on Saturday was attended by 200 wives and guests.

Former Commanding General Fred Daugherty was the speaker for the Saturday night banquet. The subject of this address was "Citizen Soldiers" which was well received by the audience.

The 45th Division Association Gift Shop sold almost \$9,000.00 worth of merchandise during the reunion, which was a record for sales. All profits from the gift shop operation are dedicated to support of the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

COMPANY A, 120TH ENGINEER BN (WWII); held their last formal reunion in September 1991. Starting recently, the unit began a new format of semi-annual breakfast get-togethers. The first one on 16 July 1993 was well attended and enthusiastically received by all present. Every member present at the breakfast entered federal service on 16 September 1940 with Company A and most were with the unit in the invasion of Sicily. The next breakfast will be in January 1994. AL P MORAGA (Ex-First Sergeant, 355 Tyler Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

COMPANY D. 120TH ENGINEER BN (KOREA): Organized in March 1949 in Hollis, Oklahoma and called to active duty for the Korean War, held a fifth annual reunion 18-19 June 1993 in Winston-Salem, NC. Sixty six of the original unit were from Oklahoma, the balance were recruits mostly from the southern states. There were approximately 80 members and guests present at the banquet. Activities included a Barbeque on Friday night and a banquet on Saturday night, and tours of a furniture manufacturing company and the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Jim Dyson, Lexington, NC served as committee chairman for the reunion.

COMPANY A. 179TH INFANTRY (WWII): held their first reunion at the Downtown Holiday Inn, Williamsburg, VA 30 April-2 May 1993. Attendance included 17 members and 25 wives and guests, including General and Mrs. Michael S. Davison. General Davison commanded 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry during World War II. Activities included Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens and Pottery shopping. For further information contact: Peter Galdosh, 667 Chelsea Drive, Sanford, NC 27330.

COMPANY D. 179TH INFANTRY: held their annual reunion 6-7 August 1993 at the Quality Inn, Norman, OK. Attendance included 50 members from five states.

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
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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

Information regarding next year's reunion may be obtained by contacting the new World Wide Coordinator, Clyde Antrim, 1175 Gowa Lane, Pueblo, CO 81006 or Ray Wall, 8508 South Ross, Oklahoma City, OK 73159.

COMPANY M. 279TH INFANTRY; held their 1993 reunion 6-8 August at the Ramada Inn, Fairview Heights, IL. Attendance included 42 members, wives and guests. Activities included visits to the Missouri Botanical Gardens and the Science Center, A dinner was scheduled each evening, Ralph and Connie Schwaegle were hosts for the reunion. For information contact Max D. Baumback, 1869 West 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223.

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