

45th Division News

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Fall, 1983



LEFT— Color Guards Paul Franklin and Charles Smith march into the meeting room to post the colors, opening the annual Association business meeting. CENTER — Museum Chairman Fred Daugherty



shows an army bridle, one of many items brought by Thunderbirds for the 45th Infantry Division Museum. RIGHT — Gary Lower, Russell Bracy, and Charles Richmond lead the annual Memorial Service.



Paul Robinson Is Elected President

Paul Robinson, who has served as reunion chairman several years, was elected president of the 45th Infantry Division Association at the annual national reunion, succeeding Hal Adamson, Jr.

Elected first vice president was Pendleton Woods, national membership chairman, while William B. Newberry was named second vice president.

Re-elected secretary was Leon Shackelford, while Pat Scully was elected treasurer.

Elected to three year terms on the board of directors were Donald Livesay, Billy G. Hughes, Arnold W. Hirsch, Robert Seringer, Jackie L. Self, and Allen Conway.

Record Crowd Turns Out For Thunderbird Reunion

The largest crowd in the history of the Association turned out for the 37th annual 45th Infantry Division Reunion in Oklahoma City August 26-28, and enjoyed three days of fellowship, entertainment, touring and inspiration.

Largest and most vocal of the crowd were the delegates from Colorado, who held their annual reunion of the 157th Infantry Regiment in connection with the division reunion. The Coloradans began arriving by special buses on Wednesday, and by mid-day Thursday all were there — 246 of them.

The 157th was part of the 45th Infantry Division before and during World War II, coming from the Colo-

rado Guard when the 45th was a 4-state division. Following the war, it returned to the Colorado Guard, separated from the division, and the 279th Infantry was created in Oklahoma.

All major units of the division had "command posts," where food, drink and fellowship were abundant. Although officially starting Friday, activity at the CP's and around the hotel was bustling most of the day Thursday.

Registration began Friday morning, with command posts open, and with buses pulling out regularly for the 45th Infantry Division Museum, Quail Springs and other locations.

(Continued on Next Page)

Record Crowd At Reunion

(Continued from Page One)

New for visitors at the museum were the more than 30 outdoor exhibits, including artillery equipment, military vehicles and airplanes.

A reception in the courtyard of the Hilton Inn West, followed by a dinner, dancing and bingo, highlighted the Friday night activity.

Saturday morning's activity began with the annual memorial service to departed Thunderbirds, conducted by Bill McNew, and with a message from Chaplain Russell Bracy and by Gary Lower. Then came the annual business meeting, with a report on the National Guard from the Adjutant General, Robert Morgan, and a museum report from its chairman, Fred Daugherty.

The Hilton Inn West in Oklahoma City was again selected as the convention site for the 1983 reunion, being chosen over three other proposed sites.

The annual banquet Saturday night featured entertainment by the Sweet Adelines, women's barbershop quartet and the passing of the gavel from President Hal Adamson to Paul Robinson.

Banquet speaker was Ross E. Harlan, a former Thunderbird, who later spent 25 years in the Airforce Reserve, whose patriotic message drew a standing ovation.

Association Assets Are Near \$41,000

Total assets of the 45th Infantry Division Association at the time of the Annual Reunion were \$40,830.73, Norris G. Hart, treasurer of the association, reported. This compares with assets of \$31,638.71 the previous year.

Included in the August 19 report were \$17,746.28 in cash on deposit, \$96.09 in savings account, \$14,186.83 in money market account, and \$8,801.53 in investments.

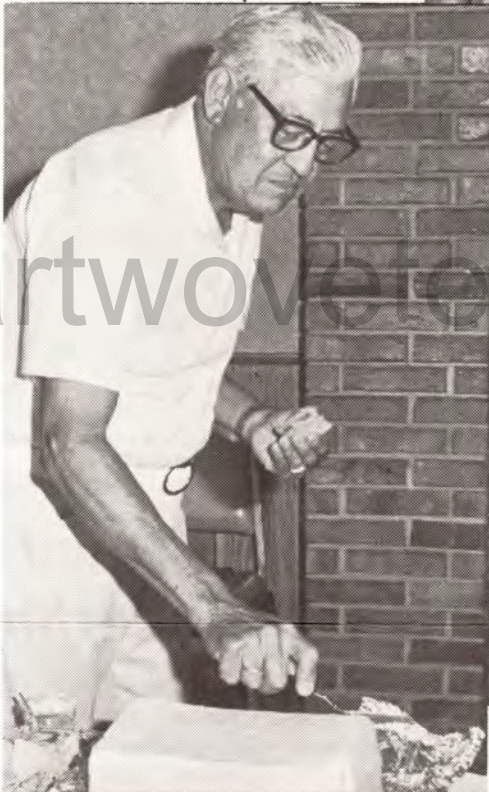
This total includes the assets of the 45th Infantry Division Educational Foundation.

Principal source of this increase in funds comes the new life memberships, which are invested in a money market account, resulting from a special drive for life memberships conducted earlier this year.

Scenes at the Reunion 45th Association Membership



TOP PHOTO — Thunderbirds look for friends on the registration board. CENTER LEFT — Ray Scoufos checks out the cheese at one of the command posts.



CENTER RIGHT — Truman (Mac) Watson with the floral Thunderbird used in the memorial service. LOWER PHOTO — 45th Ladies at their luncheon.



45th Division Association Membership Reaches 3,000

Current membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association stands at about 3,000, as compared with 2,682 members one year ago, Pendleton Woods, national membership chairman, announced at the annual meeting. Membership increase since the campaign began two years ago is nearly 1,000, representing a 33 percent increase in barely two years.

An effort was made at the beginning of 1983 to increase life memberships. It has resulted in the addition

of 146 life members, bringing the total up to 413. This compares with 267 life memberships one year ago. All money received from life memberships is invested and only the earnings are used in the operation of the Association.

Since that policy was affirmed at the 1982 reunion and made an official part bylaws, we have added \$14,000 in invested money providing income equal to that received from 225 annual memberships.

Two European Military Tour Plans Are Unveiled For 1984

D-Day Reunion '84 will be a four month event between June 3 and August 26, 1984, providing weekly departures between the United States and Europe for ten day European tours, highlighting the historic 1944 events of World War II.

Plans for the tours are being made by Russell A. Hartley, North America Project Director, 100 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. A folder on the reunion is available to those writing for it.

The events of 1944 include the landing at Anzio, the Battle of Cassino, the liberation of Rome, D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and other major battles.

Plans Are Unveiled For Local Chapters

A 1983-84 effort of the membership committee of the 45th Infantry Division Association will be to create chapters of the association throughout the nation.

Presently we have a local chapter only in New York City. However, our first new chapter — a Pennsylvania chapter — is being planned by state membership chairman Arnold Hirsch, and groundwork for the chapter began when some of the Pennsylvania Thunderbirds got together at the annual Reunion in Oklahoma City.

Hirsch plans to communicate with all Pennsylvania Thunderbirds by mail regarding a state chapter.

Another 1984 tour is being conducted by Galaxy Tours, P.O. Box 326, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

This touring company is offering four options — two starting at Sicily and moving upward in Europe, one starting in Rome and moving into the French Riviera, and one starting in the Riviera and moving into Germany.

If you are interested in a 1984 tour into Europe, which would include visiting the battle areas, it is suggested that you request folders from both of these two companies and make your own choice.

East Coast Reunion

The 157th Infantry, which held its 1983 reunion in Oklahoma City in connection with the 45th reunion, will hold its 1984 reunion on the east coast, followed by a 15-day trip to Italy, France and Germany.

Museum Has Display In National Capital

The 45th Infantry Division Museum has an exhibit in the Special Exhibit room of the heritage gallery of the National Guard Association Memorial Headquarters at 1 Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit, which was dedicated with a reception in mid-July, will remain on display through the remainder of the year and into early 1984.

It tells briefly, in words, pictures and artifacts, the history of the 45th Infantry Division in World War II and Korea.

Among a host of dignitaries attending the dedication reception were General William W. Eagles, the final World War II Thunderbird Division Commander; Edwin Meese, of the President's staff; both of the United States Senators from Oklahoma, David Boren and Don Nickles; Congressman Dave McCurdy, and a host of other Washington dignitaries.

Also attending was a large contingent of active and retired Guardsmen from Oklahoma, including the officers of the 45th Infantry Division Association.

Broken Arrow School Named For Childers

The newest school of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma is being named the Ernest Childers Middle School, in honor of the Broken Arrow native, who distinguished himself in World War II combat with the 45th Infantry Division, earning the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Childers earned the medal as a second lieutenant at Oliveto, Italy, for gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

45th Division News

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Leon Shackelford Secretary
Pendleton Woods Editor

Address news contributions and other correspondence to Editor, 45th Division News, 45th Infantry Division Association, 3501 Military Circle NE, Oklahoma City, OK 73111.

Ten Resolutions Are Passed At 1984 Division Reunion

Ten resolutions were passed August 27 at the annual reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association. They are:

1. Requesting full funding for enlistment — re-enlistment bonuses and an educational program for all Reserve/Guard units.

2. Advocating lifting the 60 point ceiling on reserve retirement points per year.

3. Calling for reducing reserve retirement to age 55.

4. Requesting increasing full-time force in support of National Guard.

5. Advocating the entitlement of Guard members on full time duty to the benefits offered for active duty for training, and authorizing retirement of enlisted members of reserve

components of the Army upon completion of 20 years of active duty.

6. Calling for amendment of laws providing for medical care coverage for Guard members injured while enroute to or from required training.

7. Commending the outgoing officers of the Association.

8. Calling for better state and federal programs of law enforcement and criminal justice to reduce crime.

9. Requesting the President to reinstitute the Monroe Doctrine as a vital part of the U.S. foreign policy and to use all available means to protect the independent nations of Central America from Communist insurgency and take-over.

10. Calling for reactivation of the 45th Infantry Division.

1983-84 Association Budget Is Approved

A 1983-84 budget for the 45th Infantry Division Association, as approved by the membership attending the annual meeting August 27, is for \$10,850.

Planned expenditures include \$1,500 for printing, stationery and office supplies; \$3,500 for postage; \$50 for the annual Officer Candidate School award; \$2,000 for reunion expenses; \$300 for the president's contingency fund; \$3,000 for publication of the 45th Infantry Division Association newsletter; and \$500 for membership committee expenses.

45th Educational Fund Receives \$1,000 Gift

The 45th Infantry Division Educational Fund received a gift of \$1,000 from W. S. "Stan" Carbaugh, Bend, Oregon, in memory of his son who was killed while in service with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Moneys donated to the Educational Fund, a non-profit organization administered by the officers and board of the 45th Infantry Division Association, are used for educational or charitable purposes, including educational projects of the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

Bushmaster Reunion Is Held in Phoenix

The 158th (Bushmaster) regimental reunion was held in Phoenix in September. The 158th was part of the 45th Infantry Division when it was a "square" division prior to World War II, and was separated, and later sent to the Pacific Theater, after triangularization of the division.

Guard Organizations Cited For Association Recruiting

Three Oklahoma Army National Guard organizations were recognized at the Annual Reunion for membership recruiting efforts in the 45th Infantry Division Association.

The 45th Aviation Battalion brought in the highest number of new members — 19, and received a plaque from the Association,

presented by Mike Milligan, membership chairman for the active guard. Maj. Vern R. Ashbrook is the battalion administrative officer.

The Troop Command Aviation Unit, in a campaign headed by Maj. Ronald K. Varner, added 15 members. The 45th Support Center, in an effort led by Sgt. Maj. Theodore Jung, took in 12 members.

You May Order 45th Division Memorabilia From Our Museum

Would you like memorabilia of the 45th Infantry Division — ball caps, pens, decals, etc.

You may learn of items for sale and

may purchase them by mail by writing the 45th Infantry Division Museum Gift Shop, 2145 NE 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111.

45th Infantry Division Association
3501 Military Circle NE
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

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