

# THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 18

July 2011

## Heraldic Times



(Coat of Arms)



(Insignia)

### Shield:

Gules, a conventionalized castle of Ehrenbreitstein with ramp or on mount proper, bedruised by a bendlet argent bearing two ribbons of the field and azure with seventeen mullets of the last. A sinister canton bendy of eight ermine and of the field.

### Crest:

On a wreath of the colors, or and gules, a mount argent garnished vert, bearing a linden leaf proper charged with a fleur-de-lis argent.

### Motto:

In Time of Peace Prepare for War.

### Symbolism:

The field of the shield is red, the artillery color. The principal charge is the castle of Ehrenbreitstein bedruised by a bendlet carrying the American colors and seventeen stars, to signify the occupation of the castle by the 17th Field Artillery. The canton alludes to the arms of the 8th Field Artillery from which men were transferred to organize the 17th Field Artillery. The crest commemorates the two most noteworthy battle incidents. The White Mountain is for Blanc Mont. The leaf is taken from Verte Feuille Farm, on of the positions occupied by the regiment in the Soissons offensive; the linden leaf was chosen as being very common in that region. The fleur-de-lis is from the arms of Soissons.

### DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is the shield of the coat of arms.

### President's Comments:

By Thomas R. Kurtz

217-732-4357

kurtz\_t@comcast.net

Welcome home to the soldiers of the 1st Battalion back to Fort Sill from their tour in Afghanistan. This was the battalion's first deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The entire battalion or their separate batteries, since 2003, have made three prior deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The association has donated \$1,000 to the battalion's Family Return Group for their use as they see fit.

It's only a couple of months to the association's annual reunion in Gettysburg. A reunion reminder is part of this newsletter. If you haven't made plans or reservations to attend, now is the time to do so. I know there are those who have thought about attending one of the reunions, but have put it off for a variety of reasons. I encourage those who have put off attending to think about it again, aging and time doesn't stand still. To those Vietnam veterans, it has been a little over 40 years ago that war ended and it's time to bond again with your buddies that served with you or with those veterans that have shared that common experience.

I hope all veterans of the regiment that can attend will, looking forward to another record turnout at this year's reunion. In addition, to touring Gettysburg and its battlefield, close by for those who are interested are: (within two hours travel time) the Pennsylvania Amish Country; Hershey, Pennsylvania; Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; and Washington D. C. So there are plenty of sites to visit with your family member and buddies. On to Gettysburg in September!

I would like to thank all members of the scholarship committee for their work on this year's grants; Scholarship Chairman, Jack M. Stroud; Voting members; George (GW) W. Atkinson, Donald L. Brooks, Larry Hightower, Michael G. Klingman and Daniel L. Lazenberry. This is the last year that Jack Stroud will serve as the scholarship chairman, many thanks to Jack for taking on this job over

the past few years. Again, this year the association has awarded three scholarship grants for a total of \$3,500. Since 2004, the association has awarded a total of 20 scholarship grants for a total of \$21,500 to the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the veterans and active duty soldiers who have served or who are now serving with the regiment. The number and amounts for each scholarship grant for 2012 will be announced after the reunion.

The association is still interested in receiving photographs, individual stories and information about the regiment from World War I to the present day. If any veteran or family member who has pictures or information about the 17th Field Artillery Regiment that you would like to share, please send them to the association secretary/historian. If you would like your photographs to be placed on the web site, email them to the webmaster with the information about each photograph (names, locations, dates, etc.) If you have a story or memory about your tour with the regiment that you would like to be published in a future issues of "The Castle", forward the article (with pictures if possible) either to the association president or secretary.

If you have served with any of the battalions of the regiment, during any time period, then you can be added to the association's veteran roster. (This includes the 17th Field Artillery Group (Motorized); 17th, 630th, and 537th Field Artillery Battalions; the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery.) For more information or details contact any association officer.

For those veterans already listed on the veterans roster please update your contact information if it has changed (mailing address, telephone number, Email address). Changes are to be sent to the secretary. This will help the association in research time, re-mailing cost, and help other 17th veterans or former buddies who may want to contact you.

**The 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Associations  
2011 Scholarship winners**

**First Place Scholarship winner for \$1,500.00**



**Courtney M. Heydt from Mason, Ohio**

**Granddaughter of Richard H. Heydt**

Who served with: Headquarters Battery  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery and was Battery Commander of  
Alpha Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery 1968 - 1969

**Second Place Scholarship winner for \$1,000.00**

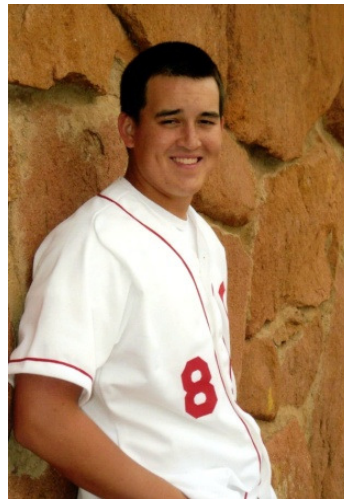


**Amber R. Hart from Grove, Oklahoma**

**Granddaughter of Norman L. Barton**

Who served with: Service Battery,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Howitzer Battalion 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery 1961 - 1962

**Third Place Scholarship winner for \$1,000.00**



**Grant A. Vaden from Lawton, Oklahoma**

**Grandson of Rodivico L. Guerrero**

Who served with: Charlie Battery,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Howitzer Battalion 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery 1963 - 1966

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER: By Richard Smith, Chaplain,**  
[rsmith3024@nc.rr.com](mailto:rsmith3024@nc.rr.com)

Our Gettysburg reunion is fast approaching us! These months, since the last newsletter, have brought upon us a lot of sickness and death. I'm dedicating this month's column to those who are dealing with this. I'd like to share a personal story with you.

Fifteen years ago this month I was in a car accident on duty that changed my life. I lost 70% use of my right foot and ankle from tendon surgery and a muscular, neurological disease that set in. I also went through a divorce during this time. Talk about an all time low feeling in life and that's not to mention my career of almost 19 years as a cop was gone!

I had to find and make my Faith in the Almighty stronger. Although my foot is still the same I look back and realize that God has watched over me. I haven't gone hungry. I've kept a roof over my head, have a good church family and realize this accident made my Faith stronger than ever before!

Joshua 1:9 states, "*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you where ever you go.*"

Please take a moment and say a prayer, send a card, or call these members and their families and let them know they aren't forgotten. 1) Lonnie English-health issues 2) Charles Garner is recovering from a stroke 3) A devoted member, Paul Raymond passed away due to cancer 4) Paul Shepard lost his daughter Julianna 5) Daniel Lazenberry underwent by-pass surgery and his wife Carol suffered a stroke about the same time. 6) LM Thomas Ross's wife Louise passed away 7) George Schaeffer's son Dane died unexpectedly.

I hope that I haven't omitted anyone. Please also continue to pray for our troops overseas and on active duty.

Now on a positive note, your chaplain is awaiting his first grandchild due this December!

Hope to see you all in Gettysburg.  
God Bless and may God continue to Bless America.

**A Few Words From The Treasurer**

Association's funds as of 7/1/11

Scholarship Fund: \$10,165.68  
General Fund: \$4,268.48  
Total in Bank: \$14,434.16

Scholarships given out this year, \$3,500  
\$1,000 donated to 1/17th FA for their Homecoming.

Rich Siebe  
Treasurer

**17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Life Members**  
**(New)**

The following named 17th Artillery veterans have become Life Members of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association, since the January 2011 newsletter.

*Correction to Life member # 124: Should read, Doyle Watters, Command Sergeant Major, 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 1987-1990.*

129. James (Jim) M. Shermesky, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1966-1967.

130. John P. Clingan, Battery A and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1963-1965.

131. Bruno A. Kalkowski Jr, Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, 1952.

132. Colonel Jeffrey B. Carra, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, 1982-1983

The following named 17th Artillery Veterans have paid their 2011 annual dues.

Dennis Keesling  
Ronald Skirvin  
\*Charles E. Morrison Jr.  
Michael Squadrille  
Gary Steen  
Lloyd Hayes  
James Wisneski  
Robert F. Jonas  
Stephen Rumnock  
Tom Spahr  
Charles H. McConnell  
Charles Lankford  
John (Jack) Lanphear  
John DeTreville  
Lawrence Lupus  
Buddy L. Armstrong  
Terry L. Earnst  
William Pieczynski  
Marvin Rogers  
James Deno  
Heinz Schiemann  
Jerry Lucker  
Walter V. Cropper III  
Martin W. Cotler

Ronald Mason  
Paul Raymond  
Carl Trammell  
Roger Nadeau  
Norman Barton  
David Zell  
Eugene Retka  
Mark Anderson  
James Widener  
Samuel J. Elliott  
Charles E. Miller  
Toby Swanson  
Derek Campbell  
Richard Hoffman  
Edwin Ahonen  
\*Deborah Colgan  
Ralph W. Melcher  
James E. Will  
Wallace Jones  
Tom Jones  
Robert Colchin  
Francis Chester  
John McCarthy Jr.

\* Associate Member

**Additions to Veterans Roster:**

The following named veterans have been added to the association veteran's roster since January 8, 2011

Marvin Brown, Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (S4/NBCS), 1997 & SVC 2/17, 2004-2006 (Ammo Section)

Martin W. Cotler, Battery A, 17th Field Artillery  
 Battalion, November 1948-September 1949  
 Richard (Dick) C. Hoffman, Battery C, 2nd Howitzer  
 Battalion, 17th Artillery, June 1966-June 1967  
 Danny (Dan) L. Reeves, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 17th  
 Artillery, 1969-1970.  
 William M. Pieczynski, Service Battery, 2nd Battalion,  
 17th Artillery 1968-1969  
 Henry (Hank) L. Traver, Battery B, 1st Howitzer  
 Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1958-1960

**Notification of Deaths:**

The association has been informed of the deaths of the following 17th Field Artillery Regiment veterans: "Our condolences to their family members".

- \*Bruce Bregoff, Battery Recorder, B 2-17, 1967-1968.
- \* SFC (Ret) Newton Lewis Walden, 101 years old, who served with the 17th Field Artillery Battalion during the Korean War.
- \*Paul M. Raymond, Maintenance Section, C-2-17, 1968-1969.

**Brigadier General Robert Henry Dunlap (USMC)  
 (1879-1931)**



Colonel Robert H. Dunlap, wearing the Distinguished Shoulder Insignia of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2d Division (US,) A.E.F., on his left shoulder. (Picture from Naval Historical Center, Photo #: NH 49776)

Above is a picture of Brigadier General Robert Henry Dunlap, who during World War I commanded the 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2d Division (US), A. E. F., from October 31, 1918 to January 19, 1919. Colonel Dunlap served as the Regimental Commander of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment during the Meuse-Argonne Campaign (1-11 November 1918) and the subsequently advancement to and the occupation of the Coblenz bridgehead section of the Rhine River, Colonel Dunlap was awarded a citation certificate by the Commander-in-Chief, A.E.F., the French Fourragere and the Navy Cross for his service during World War I.

Brigadier Dunlap was born in Washington D.C. on December 22, 1879 and was appointed a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps on August 8, 1898, he served in the Spanish-American War; in the Philippine-American War; in China, in the early 1900s, including the Battle of Tientsin of the Boxer Rebellion; and in Mexico during the U.S. occupation of Vera Cruz 1914. In 1928 he served in Nicaragua and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Medal of Merit of Nicaragua. Brigadier General Dunlap sacrificed his life in attempting to rescue a woman trapped in a landslide in France, May 19, 1931. The USS *Dunlap* (DD-384) commissioned on June 12, 1937, was named for him. His widow Katherine Wood Dunlap (1884-1970), christened the ship.

**Reprint of an article from VI Corps Artillery  
 Newsletter, Vol.1-No.2, Munich, Germany, June 28,  
 1945.**

**17th Field Hammered Nazis with 150,000 Rds in Seven Campaigns.**

**Lt/Col Charles Haley Commands Veteran 17th Field.**

Lt/Col Charles L. Haley III, of Florence, Ala. is commander of the veteran 17th Field Artillery Battalion. A graduate of the United States Military Academy. Col Haley came overseas in August 1942 and has seen service in England, Africa, Sicily, Italy, France , Germany, and Austria .Col Haley assumed command of the 17th Field in September 1944 , after assignments to several sister units. He has the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained at Anzio and the Bronze Star Medal for action in France.

**17th Field**

The 155mm howitzers of the veteran 17th Field Artillery Battalion began blasting shells against the enemy in North Africa – and continued through Sicily, Italy, France, Germany, and Austria – to expend better than 150.000 rounds in seven campaigns as their contribution in bringing the Nazi hordes in final defeat.

One of the oldest units to see action with VI Corps Artillery, the 17th FA Battalion (then 1st Battalion, 17th FA Regiment) began preparations for World War II with training in the Louisiana maneuvers of 1940-1941 and South Carolina maneuvers of 1942. It was while in South Carolina that the battalion was ordered to Fort Bragg, N.C., to prepare for shipment overseas.

Proceeding from Fort Bragg to Indian Town Gap, Pa. and then to New York, POE, the 17th was loaded aboard ships and sailed August 6, 1942, for Liverpool, England, landing August 17.

After an intensive training period at Perham Downs, the battalion again embarked aboard ships and landed December 16, 1942 at Oran, North Africa after sailing from Liverpool.

Although elements of the battalion occupied several defensive positions in Algeria, it was first committed to

action in support of the 1st Infantry Division near Gafsa, Tunisia. It fired on its first enemy target March 17, 1943.

### **That Battle Experience**

Supporting such Divisions as the 34th, 9th and 1st, the 17th pounded the enemy in battles about El Guettar and Mateur. However, the most strenuous and never-wrecking experience of the battalion in North Africa campaign was on March 23, 1943 at El Guttar.

At 0600 hours that morning the 10th German Panzer Division attacked the immediate front of the battalion position supported by numerous planes which bombed and strafed the area constantly. Enemy Infantry and vehicles had fought their way within 1000 yards of the battalion positions. Two Division Artillery units had to abandon their positions being overrun by enemy forces.

Throughout the day the enemy made three attacks; however, each was successfully repulsed. The regular gun crews had almost reached the point of exhaustion due to the steady rate of fire during the day. At times the range was at such minimums that the cannoneers were using charges which "would just poop the rounds over on the other side of the hill."

All available personnel were utilized in aiding the gun crews to service the piece. Cooks, clerks, and mechanics, were taking their turn at cannoneering.

Many times the ammunition supply was critically low, and each time a truck from the overworked ammunition train pulled into position, the morale of the cannoneers was greatly improved.

Later, G2 reports were received that the 10th Panzer Division was withdrawn with heavy damage and casualties. The battalion was commended by the commanding general of the 1st Division for its excellent support given to in repulsing the enemy threat to engulf a vital sector of the front.

Relieved May 10, 1943, the battalion was at rest when the Tunisian campaign ended on the Cape Honi Peninsula three days later.

### **Lands in Sicily**

After rear adjustment: rest and more training the 17th Battalion sailed for Gela, Sicily, and landed there July 14. Committed to action July 21 near Villarosa, it supported the 45th and 3rd Divisions, in their rapid push across the island. Its toughest fighting centered around San Silfano.

Fighting across the straits Messina on enemy targets was commended by Major General Oliver Leese, then commander of the British XXX Corps, for its support of his troops during the invasion of Italy September 3.

Leaving Sicily for Italy, the battalion landed near Salerno September 23 and entered action October 10. It pushed up the peninsula across the Volturne River and entered 1944 fighting below Cassino, spending the bitter winter pounding the strongly defended Gustav Line.

When Allied forces plunged through the Gustav Line on May 11, the 17th was in general support of the French Expeditionary Corps (C.E.F.) and began firing an extended

counter-battery preparation at 2300 hours for the French "Jump-off".

Following the preparation fires, the battalion continued to fire heavy counter-battery, harassing, and interdiction missions. Its fire was very effective as evidenced by the very light shelling of friendly installations by enemy artillery.

On May 13 the offensive was a complete success, indicated by the capture of Valleinnla, Coreno, San Andrea, and with patrols in San Apollinate and San Ambtaglo. In the three-day period the 17th expended 7947 rounds of ammunition. Steady and rapid advances soon carried the Fifth Army on through the Hitler Line and into Rome and northern Italy.

Relieved from the Italy fighting on July 23, the battalion was re-organized and trained for duty in coming southern France campaign. However the battalion did not land in France until September 9, D+26. It trekked the 300 miles from St. Tropez to La Chappelleniles Luxeull to catch up with the fighting.

### **First Shell in Germany**

The 17th fought on through the bitter winter battle of the Vosges Mountains and across the Alsattlan plains to the German border. The battalion shell to fall on German soil was fired December 14, 1944.

The 17th occupied its first position on German soil on March 20, 1945, near Hirschlhal, in support of the 42nd Infantry Division. After 550-days of actual combat the battalion had reached a goal – the invasion of the homeland of its stubborn enemy.

From the positions near Salmbach, France the battalion fired 2137 round of ammunition on the Siegfied Line. On March 25, the 17th passed through the Siegfried Line at Hinfeld, Germany, to positions along the Rhine River.

Crossing the Rhine at Mannheim on March 31, they participated in rapid drive across Germany and on April 30 in position in Austria.

When the order was received May 5, 1945 to "cease all firing" the 17th Field Artillery Battalion was in position near Imst, Austria.

### **For the Record**

The total rounds of ammunition expended; by the 17th Field Artillery in seven campaigns was 150,014.

8,500 -----Tunisia

4,142 -----Italy

1,369-----Messina Straits

89, 177-----Italy

46,835-----France & Germany

The battalion had supported or reinforced the fires of these 14 American Divisions: 1st, 34th, 9th, 45th, 3rd, 44th, 79th, 103rd, 42nd, 79th, 36th, 63rd Infantry Divisions, and the 10th and 14th Armored Divisions.

Five French Divisions: 2nd DIM, 4th DMM, 1st DMI, 3rd DMI and the 2nd DMI, also 5th Canadian Armored Division and New Zealand Infantry Division.



Other than VI Corps the 17th has served under XXX British Corps, the 1st Canadian Corps, II American Corps and XV American Corps.

It had been attached to eight field artillery groups: 405th, 173rd, 208th, 35th, 46th, 421st, and the 6th.

**MORE WW II PICTURES, BATTERY C, 17th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**

Pictures are from Judy Ramirez, granddaughter of PFC David Madrid Jr., who served with Battery C during World War II.



*Chow Line.*



*2 1/2 ton Truck Broken Down.*



*Cooking Out*



*Battery's First Sergeant at Work.*



*Gun Position*



*Unknown Soldier of Battery C.*



*Unknown Soldier of Battery C*



*Unknown Soldier of Battery C*



*Unknown Members of a Battery C gun crew,  
PFC David Madrid second row, third from the right, with  
carbine*



*First name was Phillip, Best Friend of PFC Madrid*

The following is a reprint of an article from February 23, 1971 issue of the "Artillery Review", the newspaper of the First Field Forces Artillery Vietnam.

**BUSY SUPPORT ROLE**

By: SP5 Stan Lovelady, 2/17th Arty IO

*BAN ME THUOT* – "Shoot, Move, Communicate" is the slogan used often in Field Artillery and Bravo and Charlie Batteries of 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery (The Persuaders) turned the words into action recently when they participated in numerous "hip shoots" in the Ban Me Thuot and Dalat areas last month.

On January 16, at a position northwest of Buon Ho, Charlie Battery set up its howitzers in support of the 23d ARVN Division. Receiving reports of Viet Cong activity

in the area from an ARVN Regiment, the weapons participated in a fire mission which resulted in Viet Cong casualties.

Nearly a week later, Charlie Battery moved out with four 105mm howitzers to a position Southeast of Ban Me Thuot. Moving with the artillery platoon were one ARVN Scout Platoon, ARVN armored cars and Dusters from 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery. After firing at numerous targets for the day, the platoon headed back for Fire Base Aquarius in Ban Me Thuot.

The following day, Charlie Battery was on the move again, this time to the Southwest of Ban Me Thuot. Their mission was in support of the 23d ARVN Division. The Persuaders of B Battery in Dalat moved out on four different support missions between the 24th and 28th of January. Each was a one-day operation which saw, B

Battery working closely with South Vietnamese units. With the aid of South Vietnamese, the Persuaders did shoot, move and communicate, with a high degree of accuracy and professionalism.



**SGT Michael Burke's 6th Gun Section, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery In Hip Shoot Position. (M102, 105mm Howitzer)**  
(Picture courtesy of Mike Burke)



**Distinguished Unit Citation**

The Distinguished Unit Citation was established by Executive Order 9075, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 26, 1942, retroactive to December 7, 1941, as amended by Executive Order 10694, signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on January 10, 1957. Its

official designation was changed to the President Unit Citation on November 3, 1966.



(Army)



(Navy)



(Coast Guard)

**Presidential Unit Citation**

The Presidential Unit Citation has been in effect since December 7, 1941. The Presidential Unit Citation may be awarded to units of the Armed Forces and cobelligerent nations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy occurring on or after December 7, 1941. The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant the award of a Distinguished Service Cross.



**Citation for 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Operation Desert Storm, Reference DA GO 1994-27**

Copy of the citation from the U.S. Army Center for Military History. The battalion was attached to the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment during the cited period.

For extraordinary heroism in action against the Iraqi Army during the period 23 February 1991 to 26 February 1991 the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, with its attached, operational control, and direct support units □ the Dragoon Battle Group□ attacked into Southern Iraq, in the lead of VII Corps with such audacity that the Dragoon Battle Group quickly overwhelmed superior enemy forces, demoralizing them, and taking hundreds of enemy prisoners. On 26 February, during the battle of 73 Easting, the 2d Dragoon Battle Group established contact with the Tawakalna Division Iraqi Republican Guards Corps, and decisively defeated their advance elements, as well as elements of an Iraqi armored units, effectively fixing this superior enemy force so that Corps could maneuver against and destroy them. Throughout this 96-hour period, the 2d Dragoons Battle Group displayed an intrepidity in combat that clearly set them apart from other combat units in the VII Corps. Its actions reflect the greatest credit upon the soldiers of the Battle Group and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the American military service.

□ Indicates name does not necessarily reflect unit official designation.



## 17th Field Artillery Gear

(25% of all donations for association's gear are placed in the scholarship fund.)

The caps have the 17th Artillery Crest embroidered on it. The Cap is black and has an adjustable strap.



Caps are available for a donation of \$20.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.



Jackets are available for a donation of \$35.00 for size SM, Med, LG & XL; \$37.00 for size XXL and \$39.00 for size XXXL; plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.



Polo shirt donations are: Small, Medium, Large and X Large - \$33.00 □ 2X Large - \$35.00 □ 3X Large \$36.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

To order contact: Jack Stroud 2461 Meadow Ridge Drive Wheelersburg, Ohio 45694 (740) 574-1260 email - [jack.stroud@roadrunner.com](mailto:jack.stroud@roadrunner.com)

## Receive "The Castle" by email:

To help defray the rising cost of postage and printing of the association's newsletter. Sign up to receive the "The Castle" by email. Your computer will need the "Microsoft Word" program.

To receive the electronic newsletter, notify the association's secretary: Jack Picciolo at: [purrfive@comcast.net](mailto:purrfive@comcast.net) with your current email address and receive the newsletter first.

We will continue to mail the newsletter to anyone who does not have Internet access or a program to open Microsoft Word program

## Association Officers 2011

\*Thomas R. Kurtz -----President  
\*Richard J. Flowers-----1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
\*Charles M. Garner-----2d Vice President  
John (Jack) Picciolo -----Secretary  
Richard (Rich) Siebe -----Treasurer  
Jackie (Jack) M. Stroud ----Past President  
Richard Smith-----Chaplain  
John (Jack) Picciolo -----Historian  
Jackie (Jack) M. Stroud- ----Quartermaster  
Edward (Ed) Hitchner -----Webmaster

\*Indicates offices up for election during the annual general membership meeting at the 2011 reunion. If any member would like to run for election to one of the elective offices, contact the Association President, Tom Kurtz, at 217-732-4357 or Kurtz\_t@comcast.net

The Castle newsletter is published in the interest of the members and veterans of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association and has been approved by the board of directors.

/s/Thomas R. Kurtz  
Thomas R. Kurtz  
Association President



## 17th Artillery Regiment Association 2011 Reunion Reminder

This is just a reminder that the 2011 reunion of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association will be held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania from Wednesday, September 21, 2011 to Saturday, September 24, 2011. If you have yet to make plans on attending or made your motel reservations, now is the time to do so.

Location of the reunion will be at the Days Inn Gettysburg, 865 York Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Motel reservations can be made by calling **1-717-334-0030**. Room rates are \$89.00 per day plus tax (6% PA and 3% county tax). Room rates are good two days prior and two days after the reunion. When making your motel reservations insure that you tell them you are with the **17th ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION** to receive the cited room rates. Room reservations must be made by *August 21, 2011* to receive the cited room rates. Reservations made after August 21, 2011 will be accepted on a space and rate available basis only. (Motel sign in time is 4 PM and sign out time is 11 AM) The motel offers a complimentary deluxe continental breakfast. Parking is free. If you make a room reservation and have to cancel it, the cancellation must be made prior to 4 PM the day before the date of arrival, to avoid being charge for one (1) night's room and tax.

Send in your association registration slip and fee to the association treasurer; to arrive, **NLT August 31, 2011**. The association fee of \$35.00 per individual will cover the annual banquet and the stocking of the hospitality room with drinks and snacks.

So plan on attending and bring your spouse, family members and friends to the association's annual reunion. Tour the town of Gettysburg, the battlefield, and the surrounding area. Bring your photo albums, snapshots, and slides to share with everyone. If you have 35mm slides or 8mm film, you have to furnish your own projector. If your pictures are on a CD or USB drive, the association has a digital projector and computer that will be available to show them. In order to raise funds for association's general and scholarship fund bring an item for the auction to be held during the annual banquet on Saturday, September 24, 2011.

### Itinerary:

(For those who arrive early the hospitality room will be open the afternoon of Tuesday, September 20, 2011.)

**Wednesday, September 21, 2011** – Hospitality room opens at 8 AM. Veterans, spouses, family members and friends arrive and sign into the motel and the hospitality room. In the hospitality room, sign the guest book and pick up your name tags. At 8 PM in the hospitality room there will be a meet-and-greet to introduce your, spouse, family members and friends. There will plenty of time to renew old friendships and even make some new ones. Visit the quartermaster prior and get your gear items to be outfitted for the occasion.

**Thursday, September 22** – Hospitality room opens at 8 AM. The day is set aside for tours of Gettysburg, the battlefield and surrounding area. For more information on Gettysburg and the surrounding area visit the Gettysburg Visitor Bureau web site at: [www.gettysburg.travel/visitor](http://www.gettysburg.travel/visitor).

**Friday, September 24, 2011**- Hospitality room opens at 8 AM. The day is set aside for tours of Gettysburg, the battlefield and surrounding area. Friday evening at 8 PM is time for the group to show their pictures/slides/movies.

**Saturday, September 24, 2011** – 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM- Annual General Membership meeting will be held in the hospitality room. (At the meeting there will also be an election for new officers (President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President, all offices are for two year terms)

Noon (12:00) Annual banquet will start (Casual dress). During the banquet the association will hold a live auction. Please bring an item for the auction (All proceeds from the auction will be placed either in the general of scholarship fund.)

**POC:** Thomas Kurtz, Phone (217) 732-4357 or email: [Kurtz\\_t@comcast.net](mailto:Kurtz_t@comcast.net)

17th ARTILLERY REGISTRATION SLIP  
2011 Reunion- September 21-24, 2011  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Please use the Registration Slip below

The association's registration fee will cover the banquet meal and for providing the drinks and snacks in the hospitality room.  
Please make your check or money order payable to: *17th Artillery Regiment Association.*

Mail to the association's treasurer:      Rich Siebe  
3060 64<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95820

CUT OR TEAR AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING TO OUR TREASURER.  
(With your check or money order to arrive NLT *August 31, 2011*)

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Battery: \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Served (From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_)

Name (s) of Spouse, Relatives, and friends attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name tags will be printed from the names submitted)

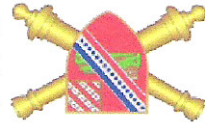
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Registration fee: \$35.00 per person -X-number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ = total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Jack Picciolo  
1122 South Lincoln Street  
Lockport, IL 60441-3654  
Secretary  
17th Artillery  
Regiment Association



*A self-propelled, 8 inch howitzer, M110, from the 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (USAR) fires during a training exercise in the 1970's at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Picture is courtesy of Francis Chester who served with HHB 4/17 from 1971-1977.*

**17th Artillery Regiment Association Newsletter  
"The Castle"**