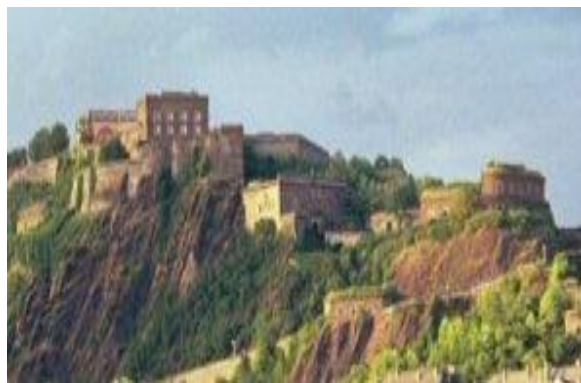


THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 21

January 2013

Heraldic Times



(Coat of Arms)



(Insignia)

Shield:

Gules, a conventionalized castle of Ehrenbreitstein with ramp or on mount proper, debruised 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 Comments:

By: Norman R. Jones

AnKhe2nd17FA68rj@aol.com

2012 is gone, it was a year that passed by pretty fast. The Branson Reunion was a tremendous success other than a few things going wrong with the resort planning. Some of us had to wait a long time for our room (several hours). I'm sorry about that. I'm looking forward to our next reunion in San Antonio. It will be at the same hotel as in 2007. Their service and facilities are outstanding.

It is approximately nine months until the association's annual reunion in San Antonio, TX. It will be held from September 25-27 at the Holiday Inn (Market Place) with our check out on the 28th. 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, but have put it off for various reasons. I encourage those of you who have put off attending to think about it again. Aging and time doesn't stand still. It's time to bond again with your buddies that served with you or with those veterans that have shared that common experience. Lets make this a record turnout. There is plenty to see and do for all age groups, so load up your loved ones, children, grand children, friends and significant others and head to San Antonio, TX. It is beautiful.

2013 Scholarship Grants:

Norman R Jones, Association President

The association's general membership has voted to authorize four scholarship grants for 2013, one grant for two thousand dollars (\$2,000), two grants for one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) and one grant for one thousand Dollars (1,000).

As of this date the Association has awarded 23 scholarship grants for a total of \$25,000 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.

Request for a scholarship application packet can be made to: Richard Smith, 604 24th Street, Butner, NC 27509-2134, or telephone (919) 575-0213, or by email at: rsmith3024@nc.rr.com

To be eligible, for the 17th Artillery Regiment Association Grants, the applicant must be a child, grandchild or great-grandchild, of a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent that has served with or who is presently serving with any units of the 17th Artillery: Active, National Guard or Reserve Units. Those parents, grandparents or great-grandparents that have served or who are now serving with the regiment must have served or be currently serving under honorable conditions. If the parent, grandparent or great-grandparent received a discharge, under less than honorable conditions, then the applicant is not eligible. The terms child, grandchild and great-grandchild used above applies to both biological and legally adopted children. Foster children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are not eligible.

If the applicant has been previously awarded a scholarship grant from the 17th Artillery Regiment Association, then that applicant is not eligible to apply for another scholarship grant. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior (Class of 2012) or a freshman, sophomore, or a junior attending any college, vocational school or technician school. Scholarship grants will be awarded in all areas of study. Scholarship applications with all supporting documents must be returned to: **Richard Smith, 604 24th Street, Butner, NC 27509-2134, by U.S. Mail, no later than April 15, 2013. No application sent by email or Fax will be accepted.**

2012 Scholarship Selection Committee:

Chairman: Richard Smith

Voting Members: Larry Lovejoy, Larry Hightower and Leonard Spencer

LTC Kolin V. Bernardoni

Commander, 2nd Bn, 17th Field Artillery

To: Veterans of the 17th Field Artillery Regimental Association:

2-17 FA arrived in late April this year (2012) and took responsibility for enabling Afghan Security Forces and Afghan governance entities in Shah Wali Kot, Mya Neshin and Khakrez districts of Kandahar Province

of southern Afghanistan. If any of you have been to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, we are operating in similar terrain here. We have quite a different mission than the last time most of the Soldiers were here - this time we are a "battlespace owner" and essentially serve as a maneuver force headquarters, but we still have responsibility for managing firing platoons. It is a diverse and challenging mission in difficult terrain.

Most of the Battalion is stationed in Shah Wali Kot, at places like FOB Frontenac, COP (Combat Outpost) Little Blue and FOB Pacemaker. Most of the Battalion is not conducting a true artillery mission and is serving as "Redleg Riflemen". We do however, have four artillery platoons positioned throughout RC-S (Regional Command South) providing artillery fires in support of maneuver forces. As of the date of this email, we've fired nearly 1,000 artillery rounds. Up until mid-September, we had forces positioned at the Mya Neshin District Center in the Mya Neshin district. One of our Firing Batteries is supporting the Special Operations Forces Village Stability Platforms in Khakrez district as well as supporting a Security Force Assistance Team at the Khakrez District Center. Also during our time thus far, we have conducted 5 air assault operations with our Afghan partners into contested territory against a determined and well-equipped enemy. We partner with our Afghan Army and Police partners at every opportunity in order to enable their security operations. They are actually in the lead providing security for the people of Afghanistan, and we provide those capabilities that they currently lack.

We are also fortunate to have numerous attachments to the Task Force, including a Cavalry Troop, an Engineer (Sapper) Platoon, and a Stryker Infantry Platoon. These attachments have assisted us tremendously in establishing security with our Afghan partners and allowing governance and economic activity to flourish in these rural areas to the north of Kandahar City.

The tyranny of distance does not allow me to get out to see 2-17 FA Soldiers as much as I'd like, but I can attest to the great work they do on a daily basis. Everywhere I go and interact with peers either at the Brigade level or at the Division level, to a man (and woman) they all say how "Task Force Steel is kicking ass". Regardless of mission, the Officers, Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Steel Battalion tackle every task with professionalism, vigor and pride. Although we are an economy of force mission (we are not the main effort of the Brigade), we have accomplished a tremendous amount with the limited resources we've been provided. It seems with every turn, we are the first Battalion to do something for the Brigade, epitomizing the motto "Steel Strykes First".

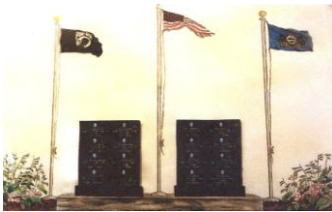
We are scheduled to redeploy to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in early 2013. I look forward to joining all of you at the next reunion and sharing the tales of our success here in Afghanistan. I can't tell you how proud it makes me to serve the Soldiers of this great Battalion, and I truly appreciate what the Association does for the 17th Field Artillery and the children of its veterans. Capturing what this unit does and has done for the Nation for the last 100 years, and ensuring the American people know the sacrifices of Soldiers past and present who served in the 17th Field Artillery Regiment is important - that you do it well and continue to serve.

LTC Kolin V. Bernardoni
"Steel 6"

Two Donations were made to different Organizations this year

(1) A donation of \$200 was made to the Vietnam veterans of America chapter 791 in PA toward their Vietnam memorial.

THANK YOU



Thank you for your generous donation to our memorial fund. Your donation will help in our efforts to honor the community members who gave their lives in Vietnam.

*Thanks!
Melborah C. Priest, Co-Chairman
VVA Chapter 791
Memorial Fund*

(2) A donation of \$545. was made to the BCRC (Breast Cancer Recovery Center) Their reply is below.

December 4, 2012

P.O. Box 300040
Austin, TX 78703
www.bcrc.org
512-544-0900

Dear Bruce,

Thank you for your contribution of \$545 in honor of Vallory Jones. An acknowledgement of your generosity has been sent to her. Every gift has a tremendous impact on our ability to serve breast cancer patients, survivors, families, and friends **right here in our community**. BCRC relies solely on private donations and applies \$.84 of every dollar to provide one-on-one navigation to more than **2,600** women each year as they encounter and overcome the obstacles associated with the devastating diagnosis of breast cancer.

As the region's main provider of patient navigation by professionally-trained breast cancer survivors, we offer practical guidance and help our clients replace fear, anxiety and doubt with information, options and hope. With offices in five area hospitals, BCRC is a valuable resource to physicians and oncologists. At no cost to our clients, BCRC is here to make sure no one goes through breast cancer alone.

We realize in this economic climate, everyone must make careful choices. Your choice to support BCRC means that together this year we can:

- Provide **7,500** hours of Certified Patient Navigation to clients, 30% of which are minority, underserved, and under/insured.
- Provide more than **250** free mammograms
- Conduct **12** monthly support groups including: Newly Diagnosed, Survivor IV League (stage IV metastatic disease), Pink Ribbon Cowgirls (women ages 20-40), and Lotus Forum (women 20-40, with stage IV metastatic Disease).
- Team **50** clients with trained As Sister volunteers to help with light housekeeping, meal preparation, picking up prescriptions, etc. during treatment.
- Conduct education and outreach (including bilingual) about prevention, access to free or low-cost screening mammograms and BCRC services to **7,500** annually.

Generous donations such as yours help us continue to make a difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer.

Ray Anne Evans
Executive Director

Treasurer's Report

The reunion in Branson was just a couple of months ago and was a great success. At that time, it was my pleasure to take over the treasurer's position formerly held by Rich

Siebe. Much thanks goes to Rich for being so well organized. He had everything ready to make the transition a smooth process. Also, Rich has been a tremendous asset by answering my questions since the reunion. Because Norman Jones and I live twenty miles apart he has been a great help also by answering questions and transferring our equipment.

It's time for those of you who have not renewed your membership for 2013 to do so. Keep in mind that the Life Membership option is an excellent way to write one check and avoid the need to renew each year.

Many thanks go to all of you who have given so generously over the years to the scholarship fund. You all know who you are. To date, we have given a total of \$25,000 in scholarships.

As of December 31, 2012, we have \$6,225.02 in the general fund and \$15,279.93 in the scholarship fund, for a total of \$21,504.95 in the association's bank account.

Bruce Latour

Treasurer

December 28, 2012

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BORN TO DIE

I hope everyone had a great holiday season as well as enjoying ourselves at Branson! Once again another year has passed us by. We've watched ourselves get older, along with our family, we move a little slower, and even saw another reunion go by.

I noticed the title of this article on a church marquee over Christmas. The message stayed on my mind. God sent us His Son Jesus to be born and to die for us. BUT His death was to be able to give us an everlasting life! I think about all the miracles He did while on this earth and all those He helped. Have I helped anywhere close to what He did? NO and I still have a long way to go to ever catch up with Him even if I live to be 200.

My sister in-law's mother passed away Christmas eve along with one of my favorite actors and a brave WW II hero, Charles Durning. I think back about these two people who had a lot in common with their lives. One was a mother who raised over half a dozen children and all have done well in life. They were brought up in a Christian home. Their large family speaks for itself as to the accomplishments of good parenting. Charles Durning was a Ranger in WW II and was captured. He was one of the 100 American soldiers captured at Malmedy, Belgium. Durning was one of the few that lived at the massacre where 86 were murdered. His testimony after the war was used to convict SS officer Joaquin Peiper. Durning

went on to a long career as an actor entertaining others. He was also a very vocal spokesman for veterans benefits.

The point here is that we all are born to die and will have to answer for our lives. John 5:28-29 reads: "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out- those who have done good will live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

A sympathy card was mailed to the family of 1st Lt. Sean Jacobs (KIA-Afghanistan). Please keep the following in your prayers: Donald Brooks-heart attack; Penny Schaefer (wife of George) nursing home; George Schaefer-blood clot on his brain; Annette Jones (wife to Norman) cyst on adrenal gland on top of the kidney; Larry "Doc" Miller; George Adkisson; and my step-father Capt. Russ Bray (Ret. USMC)-heart attack and paralysis from stroke currently in nursing home.

God Bless and may God continue to Bless America!

Richard A. Smith- chaplain (rsmith3024@nc.rr.com)

In Memorial



In honor and memory of those soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division who have given their lives during "Operation Enduring Freedom".



First Lieutenant Sean Robert Jacobs, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, KIA July 26, 2012



Staff Sergeant John E. Hansen, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, KIA July 26, 2012 (Posthumous promoted as indicated)

Poem

A Regiment's Reunion

By: Doyle Watters

A planned event with handshakes, hugs and tears.
For some a first, for others a familiar gathering.
Mother nature and time had truly conspired.
Midlife was exposed by gray and memory loss.
Yesterdays came alive in laughter and sorrow.
Special bonds unbeknown by most were shared.

Speakers, auctions, shows times and museums.
Took a backseat to conversation and the past.
A raised right hand had sealed a solemn oath.
While instilling a sense of pride and self worth.
Dog face soldier labels and describes all as one.
Creating individual bonds, stronger than life.

A powerful, moving patriotic feeling deep within.
Felt as they rallied around, with heads bowed.
An elderly gentleman spoke, here's what he said.
America's army is an indomitable spirit, with values.
To lose the will to fight unthinkable, and cowardly.
The discipline of those who serve, is its strength.

He talked about an unconditional love seldom seen.
Serving one's country the greatest honor of mankind.
A soldier's existence is about hardship and sacrifice.
It's freedom's worth at all cost, for which we serve.
While it's the soldier whoknows the color of war's price.
And that freedom somehow is synonymous with death.

The event ends with handshakes, hugs and tears.
Hotel rooms empty, vehicles loaded, long trips ahead.
Conversations brief, minds somber as reality seeps in.
Departures are an indication time waits for no one.
Life is of the now and the inevitable is in its passing.
Yet, just beyond the horizon another reunion await.

2nd Vice President Comments:

By: Gary Griffin

THE UNHEARD THIRD

The 1st Battalion and 2d Battalion of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment have the distinct honor of being on the Army's active unit list longer than the other battalions of the "Persuaders" regiment. The 1/17th has been serving continuously since 1958 and with the exception of being briefly inactive from 2008-2010, the 2/17th FA, has also been on the roles since that same year. A review of the 17th Field Artillery Regimental Association member's list reflects that fact as most of the membership is drawn from those two great battalions. But, there are others!

As the 17th FA Association Historian has so well documented, there are many battalions of the regiment that have served on active or reserve duty with great distinction; as many as eight and among them the 3d Battalion, 17th Field Artillery. Obviously as the next numbered battalion of the regiment, it had seen long periods of active service. But, at last fall's regimental reunion in Branson, MO, CSM Watters and I, veterans of the 3/17th FA, discovered that not much was known of that great battalion which we referred to at the reunion as "The Unheard Third."

I've had the great honor of serving with the 7th, 2d and 3d FA battalions of the 17th FA Regiment and obviously with that record made the regiment my unit of affiliation. I wore its crest—one of the Army's most striking--over my right uniform pocket with great pride. Especially while serving in three other "less decorated" regiments and quite frankly one who's crests was just plain wrong (Blue!). Not wanting to offend, that unit will remain unnamed. After all, there are members of the Association that have different affiliations—you know who you are! But, of those 17th FA battalions I served with the 3/17th FA, the "Unheard Third" is closest to my heart for a lot of reasons.

Having been an OCS officer and a prior service NCO who did not get his college education until a year before coming up for consideration for promotion to major, I was surprised when I was selected to command a battalion as a brand new major (P). So surprised I had to pull my retirement papers!! Before being "slated" meaning told what battalion I would command and where, I was told by a friend at DA to look at who I am affiliated with and he hoped I liked German beer. So, I scurried to find out what the 17th had in USAREUR. This was before there was an internet let alone Google so this took a little time. To my dismay, there was only one 17th FA Regiment battalion and it was not due a change of commanders. So I concluded my friend at Field Artillery Branch of then MILPERCEN was either uninformed or dyslexic—clearly a problem in his position!

Once the "slate" was announced, I was notified that I would be assuming command of the 2d Battalion, 28th Field Artillery (155SP, M109A2), 210th FA Brigade at Bleidorn Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany. In that same phone call I was told that during my tenure in command I would be

responsible for “modernizing” the battalion, transitioning it from three six gun firing batteries to three eight gun firing batteries each with two four gun platoons. Additionally, I would be responsible for the unit’s being re-designated the 3d Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment. The army finally got it right! Regimental affiliation meant something!

In November, 1987, I assumed command as a young looking LTC with a newly assigned young looking Command Sergeant Major—Doyle Watters, another proud member of our Association. We considered ourselves the luckiest command team in the Army. We were being reflagged into a great regiment and even better we had our own post and our higher headquarters was well over an hour drive away and obviously, no email during that era. In essence we were on our own. I know there’s not a single member in our Association that would not appreciate and envy us being away from the “flagpole” whether it on a fire base, compound, fort or kaserne. Even better, new equipment was on the way—HUMVEEs, HEMMTs, FAASVs and new guns.

We were also re-designated at the same time as a sister battalion of the regiment, the 5th Battalion, 17th FA an 8” M110A2 battalion also of the 210th FA Brigade, stationed at Herzo Base (we referred to it as Bozo Base!). Again, not to offend those members of the Association that served on 8” howitzers, we considered the 5/17th a competitor and derisively referred to them as a M110 “Towed” Battalion as the M110’s maintenance reputation was just not as good as the M109’s. In fact, we considered an 8” tube raised high with engine grill doors open while parked aside a tank trail at Grafenwohr as the “International Symbol of Howitzer in Distress”



3/17 FA “Hip Shoot” at Grafenwohr, 1989

The challenges the “Unheard Third” faced were great. But they were not only met but surpassed. In less than six months the battalion increased its troop strength by 20%, completed its 3X8 transition and under the General Defense Plan (GDP) for Germany, picked up OPCON, three eight gun howitzer batteries of the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment making the 3/17 FA not only the largest field artillery battalion under the GDP in the VII Corps Artillery but entire USAREUR.

During the period the battalion underwent a 3X8 certification ARTEP, IG and TPI while winning 13 of 15 categories of the VII Corps Artillery, Artillery Stakes. We contested the 14th! Less than a year later, the battalion, carrying its 17th FA

Regimental Colors, deployed to Desert Storm where it earned a Valorous Unit Award as part of the 2d ACR Dragoon Battle Group for extraordinary heroism in action against the Iraqi Army during the period of 23 February 1991 to 26 February 1991 in support of the campaign’s largest battle, The Battle of 73 Easting. CSM Watters and I would like to think we played some role in its success in combat.

But, that’s another story that needs to be told and I will leave it to other 3/17 FA veterans to tell. Ultimately, the 3/17th was deactivated at Fort Sill in 1995. I had the sad honor of witnessing the ceremony. But, I was highly pleased when the battalion was reactivated in 2007 as a M777 howitzer battalion to supporting the 5th Stryker BCT of the 2d Infantry Division at Fort Lewis. CSM Watters and I visited the battalion shortly before its deployment to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom and both of us were pleased to see a battalion as great as “ours”. We spent a day with the battalion and an evening with the leadership. All that can be said of that great experience is that some things never change. The “new” 3/17th FA was a great unit!



COL (R) Gary Griffin and CSM (R) Doyle Watters visiting the 3/17 FA at Fort Lewis

So it seems that the “Unheard Third” has always been there ready for recall during periods of crisis and war. And, like the other battalions of the regiment, served honorably, heroically and with great distinction. The 3/17th FA deactivated in 2010. But, as with Desert Storm, I will let its story be told by its veterans—some of which are members of our great association. The flag has been passed!



M777s in Afghanistan

Additions to the Veteran's Roster

The following named 17th Artillery veterans have been added to the association's veteran roster.

*Daniel Durocher, Battery D and Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, (1967-1968)

*Ronald D. Evans, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 210th Artillery Group, (April 1968 to October 1969).

*Jack M. Frizzell, Battery B and Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam (May 1967-June 1968)

*Mike Hennessy, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, Fire Direction Center, (1967-1968)

*Kenneth J. Maples, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, (1968-1969).

*Alan M. McIlvain, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, Fire Direction Center, (1967-1968)

*Dennis C. McWatters, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, Battalion Fire Direction Center, (1968-1969)

*Donald L. Schaeve Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Service Battery, 2nd Battalion 17th Field Artillery, 212th Field Artillery Brigade (1989-1992).

*William M. Simpson, Battery A, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, Eighth Army, (1952-1953).

*W. Tom Ward, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, (1969-1970).



17th Artillery Regiment Association Life Members (New)

The following named 17th Artillery veterans has become a Life Members of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association, since the July 2012 newsletter.

*140 Francisco F. Garcia II, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, Battalion Fire Direction Center (1967-1968).

*141 Gary B. Griffin, Battery C. 7th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, (1972); Battery Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, (1973); Battalion Commander, 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 210th Field Artillery Brigade (1987-1989).

*142 Larry L. Rice, Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 210th Artillery Group (1968)

*143 James E. Will, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 212th Artillery Group, Wheel Vehicle Mechanic (1960-1962)

*144 Jack M. Frizzell, Battery B and Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam (1967-1968)

The following named 17th Artillery veterans have paid their 2012 annual dues since the July 2012 newsletter.

Toby Swanson
Dale Borrer
Dennis Henderson

Steve Rumnock
William (Bill) Simpson

The following named 17th Artillery veterans have paid their 2013 annual dues.

Amos R (Ray) Comeaux *Charles E. Morrison Jr.
Dale G. Borrer James A. Kaselback

* Associate Member



(Obverse)



(Reverse)

Vietnam Service Medal

Vietnam War Commemoration:

For more information on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War activities, locations and dates of events in your area go to the following web site:

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com>



LOOKING FOR VIETNAM CASULITIES PHOTOGRAPHS:

On November 28, 2012 the ground breaking ceremony for the Vietnam Veterans Education Center was held. One of the goals of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center is to have pictures of all who died in Vietnam and that are listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D .C.. The following is a list of men assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery whose pictures are needed. If anyone has a picture of those listed below, please furnish them to the association president, web master or historian. Listed are the ranks, names, home towns of record, date of birth, and battery they were assigned to.

- PFC Larry Wayne Barrett** Redkey, IN; 09/16/1947; Btry C
- WO1 Peter Claus Behrens**, Newburg, MO; 11/28/1944; HHB
- PFC William Cutshaw**, Greeneville, TN; 04/19/1946; Btry B
- SP4 Fred Richard Glover**, Bartow, FL; 07/09/1946; Btry C
- SP4 Gilbert De La Pena**, Pinedale, CA; 07/04/1942; Btry C
- MSG Robert Joseph Gritte**, Miford, MA; 11/25/1929; HHB
- PFC Michael Ayr Lowery**, San Francisco, CA; 03/25/1946; Btry D
- SGT Francis Bernard Madden Jr.**, Newark, NJ; 06/25/1932; HHB
- WO2 Kermit Leslie Matthews**, Pittsburgh, PA; 05/18/1938; HHB
- SP4 Danny Joe Richardson**, Covington, OH; 03/26/1948; Btry C
- CPL Edgar Lee Simmons**, Pine Bluff, AR; 03/18/1946; Btry C
- PFC Thomas Peter Visker**, Warden, WA; 03/22/1947; Btry C
- SP4 Kem L. Wallace**, El Paso, TX; 09/28/1947; HHB



Ronald Lewis A/17/FA 1968



Leonard Spencer C/2/17/FA 1965



James Sanders C/2/17/FA 1968

Reunion Pictures 2012 (Branson, MO)



L-R- Jerry Cody & Bill Beers



Ladies at Branson 2012



L-R Jack Picciolo, Rich Siebe, Peter Coffin



Charles Garner



L-R Bill Dahlin, Danny Reeves, Jerry Cody

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 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 2012

Norman R. Jones-----President *
 Jerry Cody-----1st Vice President
 Gary Griffin-----2nd Vice President
 John (Jack) Picciolo -----Secretary
 H. Bruce Latour _____Treasurer
 Thomas Kurtz-----Past President
 Richard Smith-----Chaplain
 John (Jack) Picciolo -----Historian
 Jackie (Jack) M. Stroud- ----Quartermaster
 Edward (Ed) Hitchner -----Webmaster
 Richard Smith-----2013 Scholarship Chairman

*Offices up for election at the 2013 reunion to be held in September.

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.

Norman R. Jones
Association President

17th Artillery Regiment Association's Fifteenth Annual Reunion

San Antonio, Texas September 25-27, 2013

2013 REUNION REGISTRATION

The 2013 reunion of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association will be held at San Antonio, Texas from Wednesday, September 24 to Friday, 27, 2013 with check out on Saturday 28 September 2013. The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown Market Square, 318 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78204. Reservation can be made by calling **1-(210)-225-3211 during regular business hours and ask for Laura Pena. Tell them you are with the 17th Artillery Regiment Association.** Room rates are \$83.00 per day plus tax (8.25% tax). Room rates are good two days prior to the reunion and two days after. These rates are for rooms with 2 queen beds, upgrades are available at a different rate. Reservations must be made by August 26, 2013 to receive the cited room rates. Reservations made after August 26, 2013 will be accepted on a space and rate available basis only. Sign in time is 3 PM and sign out time is by 12 noon. The Hotel will include breakfast per room night. Parking is free. If you make a room reservation and have to cancel, the cancellation must be made prior to 4:00 PM the day before date of your arrival to avoid being charged for one (1) night's room and tax. The website for the Hotel is: <http://holiday-inn-san-antonio.pacificahost.com/>

Please come and bring your spouse, family members and friends to tour San Antonio. We would like for all to bring their photo albums, snapshots and slides to share with everyone. If you have 35mm slides or 8mm film you will have to furnish your own projector. If you have your pictures on a CD or USB drive the association has a digital projector and computer that will be available to show them.

There will be plenty of time to get reacquainted with old brothers in arms and friends that you may have served with or you may even make some new friends. The association's quartermaster will have the gear items at the reunion. Please bring an item to auction off, for the auction that is held with the banquet. The money raised from association's auction will be placed in the general and scholarship fund. So now is the time to make your plans to attend and make your Hotel reservation. Please send in your registration slip and fee. **The registration will cover the Welcome Reception and the Banquet meal.** Please send the registration slip and fee to the treasurer, to arrive no later than September 20, 2013.

Tentative Itinerary: (For those who arrive early the hospitality room will be open (8:AM Tuesday September 24, 2013.)

Wed, Sep 25, 2013 – Veterans, family and friends arrive and sign into the Hotel. Then check into the hospitality room, sign the guest book, pick up your nametags, then visit your friendly quartermaster and purchase your association gear. We have plenty of gear, it will make the quartermaster's job easier in that he will not have to cart it all back to Ohio. At 7:00 PM there will be a meet and greet in the Oak Room.

Thur, Sep 26, 2013 –Hospitality room opens at 8:AM. Tour in and around San Antonio. Cook out will be at 5 PM.
(for those wishing to attend)

Fri, Sep 27, 2013 – Hospitality room opens at 8:AM, General membership meeting will be held at 9:AM. The auction/banquet will start at 3:PM. After the banquet, continue touring the sites in and around San Antonio.

Sat, Sep 28, 2013 - check out by 12 noon

POC:

Norman R. Jones

(512) 705-8891

AnKhe2nd17FA68rj@aol.com

**17th Artillery Regiment Association's Registration Slip
2013 Reunion- September 25-27, 2013**

Please use the Registration Slip below

The association's registration fee will cover the welcome reception and banquet. Please make your check or money order payable to: *17th Artillery Regiment Association.*

Mail to the association's treasurer: Bruce Latour
4509 Mountain Path Dr
Austin, TX 78759-7214

**CUT OR TEAR AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING TO OUR TREASURER.
(With your check or money order to arrive NLT September 20, 2013)**

NAME:

(Please Print)

Battery: _____ **Battalion** _____ **Dates Served (From** _____ **to** _____ **)**

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

(Nametags will be printed from the names submitted)

Address:

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Registration fee: \$35.00 per person - X- Number Attending _____ **= \$** _____
(number in your party)

Please donate toward the hospitality room and cook out . _____ **\$** _____

Total \$ _____

**We need a head count of those wishing to attend the cookout so that we do not buy food that will be wasted.
Please indicate the number attending** _____.

To become a member, life member or to renew your membership with the

17th Artillery Regiment Association

Please disregard if you are already a member for the year 2013 or a life member.

Complete the form below, and mail it with your check or money order (Payable to 17th Artillery Regiment Association). Mail to: Bruce Latour (Association Treasurer) 4509 Mountain Path Dr, Austin, TX 78759-7214. Upon receipt of your 2013 dues or renewal, a membership card will be mailed to you. Life members will be mailed their numbered 17th Artillery Regiment Association Life Membership Coin. Members will be given the USER ID and PASSWORD to access the on-line veteran's roster located on the association's web site. (www.17thartilleryregiment.org). User ID and Password will be sent to you by U. S. Mail. User ID and Password are changed January 1 of each year.

Join or renew now: 2013 Membership Dues is \$20.00 (January - December).

Life membership fees: Through age 30---\$245.00 31-40---\$235.00 41-50---\$215.00
51-60---\$195.00 61-70---\$165.00 71-80---\$125.00 81 plus---\$85.00

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ FAX or Email: _____

I served with the 17th Artillery From (yr): _____ to (yr): _____

Please check those that apply:

Battery or Batteries:

- 17th Field Artillery/Battalion/Group/Regiment (Prior to 1958) _____
- 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 - Present) _____
- 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 - 2008) (2010 -Present) _____
- 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 - 1995) (2007-2010) _____
- 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 - 1995) _____
- 5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 - 1995) _____
- 6th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 - 1995) _____
- 7th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1960 - 1972) _____
- 8th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1967 - 1971) _____
- ACTIVE DUTY: If you are on active duty check here.

NOTE: Please enclose a copy of your DD Form 214 with your application (Mail a COPY , do not send the original). If you have previously mailed a copy of your DD Form 214 to the association, there is no need to send another copy). ACTIVE DUTY may not have a DD Form 214 yet.

Bruce Latour
4509 Mountain Path Dr
Austin, TX 78759-7214
512-345-2705
latourb@att.net