

THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 13

January 2009

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: Jackie M. Stroud

What an experience this year's reunion was. I am glad to say that it was a success thanks to the efforts of our membership supporters. The hotel had us playing musical meeting rooms at the beginning because of remodeling but was very gracious and accommodating to our needs from the start. They provided us a large room in which we held our hospitality and banquet functions, and they filled our refreshment tubs with ice and kept bringing ice whenever we asked for more. I would also like to thank all of the attendees who were responsible for making this year another successful reunion for our organization.

The 17th Artillery Regimental Association joined the wreath laying ceremony at the Vietnam War Wall this year. Jim Sanders and Mike Burke joined me in placing our wreath at the base of the Wall. We were not the last group this year, but we were positioned almost directly in the center of the Wall. It was a great moment for me personally and the speakers really drove home the idea that WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. We made the CSPAN TV program--we could not ask for anything better.

The scholarship program is now set to be completed as it was last year. I have already had requests come in for the application, and I have a new voting board to depend on which will do the selecting from our applicants this year. They are: Richard Flowers, Rod Gurrero, Alan (Ray) Kaufman, James (Jim) Sanders, and Donald Brooks. I thank them for volunteering to do this task this coming year. I will continue to keep up the high standards that the previous presidents of the association have set for me to follow.

There were a number of familiar faces missing this year, but with the way things are today, that is to be expected. Some of those not there just had some joint replacements and others with important family things to attend to, and

we send out hopes and prayers that you're all better in the future and can join us healthy again next year at Fort Sill. We will be looking for you.

We had two very important positions to fill at the reunion this year. The terms for the secretary and treasurer were up for renewal. Jack Picciolo was re-elected to the position of secretary/historian, and Rich Siebe was re-elected to the position of treasurer. Richard Smith will fill the vacant position of chaplain for the 17th Artillery Regimental Association. It was an easy choice. Richard has a background of such work and will officially fill that position for us.

We now can start looking forward to our next big reunion in 2009. We will be returning to the roots of where the 17th Artillery Regimental Association was established back in 1999. This all took place at Fort Sill Oklahoma and will be our 11th annual reunion and our 10th anniversary. This reunion will give us all a chance to select a brand new president for the association. It will be the beginning to our next ten years as a great organization.

All of the information for our big tenth anniversary reunion will be forthcoming on the website. Ed has it up and running like a top. Hope to see all of you at Fort Sill next year.



Freedom Team Salute Commendation Package:

The Freedom Team Salute Program is sponsored by the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff. One part of the program is to recognize the service of discharged veterans of the United States Army. The association has previously submitted 133 names of 17th Artillery discharged veterans to receive the Freedom Team Salute Commendation Package. The package consists of a certificate of appreciation and a letter signed by the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff to each veteran plus a US Army pin. If you are a discharged veteran listed on the association's veterans roster and would like to have your name submitted to receive the commendation package, contact the association's 1st Vice President NLT February 20, 2009. The information needed is your rank at discharge and verification of your slow mail address. Please notify me at the following addresses or call.

Thomas R. Kurtz,
703 South College Street,
Lincoln, IL 62656

Phone: (217) 732-4357 or by email at Kurtz.T@msn.com

(Note: In 2006 all retired army personnel automatically received the commendation package. For complete details

on the entire Freedom Team Salute program, go to FreedomTeamSalute.com.)

2008 Reunion Attendees

GW & Kathy Adkisson – AR
Donald & Sharon Brooks w/
Daughter Beth Parks & Grandson Lucas Parks - OH
Harold (Buck) & Bonnie Brown - MD
Mike & Tonja Burke- CA
Anthony & Barbara Casselli - PA
Peter Coffin – CA
Ed & Nancy Hitchner - PA
Charles Garner – SC
Rhonda Grimmer - ND
Rod Guerrero –OK-w/Granddaughter
Vera Guerrero and her fiancé
Alex Sanchez - VA
Gene & Carol Johnson – NY
Mike & Sheila Klingeman – MO
Alan Kaufman - NY
Thomas Kurtz – IL
Annie McCowan - ND
Candice McCowan - ND
Kara McCowan - ND
Mark & Candace McCowan w/
Daughters- Audrey, Kathy & Kalan - NC
Robert Pasquill - SC
Jack Picciolo – IL
Paul Raymond – MA
Gene & Sharon Retka – MN
Charles Riley - NC
David & Suzanne Rush - NY
Joe Russo – MA
Jim & Jean Sanders – OK
Trisha Scott – ND
Richard Shrout - MD
Richard Smith - NC
Rich Siebe – CA
Jack & Molly Stroud – OH
Thomas Ward - MD
William & Cindy Wright – MO

Ten (10) Reunions Down, Many More To Come.

Rich Siebe

Treasurer

I've been lucky that I have been able to attend all ten of our reunions since we founded the association in 1999. Over the last nine years, I've renewed old friendships, made lots of new friends, and had the opportunity to travel to places I've never been to before.

I added a couple of days to my stay in Washington D. C. in November so that I could visit some places that were only names, having spent almost my entire life on the West Coast, to me. I spent a day at Harper's Ferry, WV, the site of John Brown's Rebellion just prior to the Civil War.



After lunch at the Secret Seven Tavern, I visited the Antietam National Battlefield in nearby Maryland. It is the site of the deadliest single day of fighting during the Civil War.



I spent the next day touring the Smithsonian and the National Archives. It was really a treat to view the documents that this country was founded on.

The reunion, itself, was a huge success. The dinner cruise was fun but would have been better if I had not led the Klingeman's astray and made a two block walk to the ship into a six block journey.

On Veterans Day, we took the Metro into DC to attend the ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and place a wreath at the Wall for those of the 17th Artillery.



Mike, Jack, and Jim did a great job representing the association while the rest of us watched from the gallery.



The general meeting and the banquet went off without a hitch, hosted capably by our President, Jack Stroud. During the general meeting, we agreed to donate \$1000 to the 1/17th FA homecoming and \$200 to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. We added to the scholarship and general funds during the auction and 50/50. I would like to thank all of you who participated at the reunion and donated during the year.

Last, but not least, as the year ends, we have \$8,855.67 in the scholarship fund and \$2,911.50 in the general fund for a total of \$11,767.17 in our bank account.

See you in Lawton, OK. in November for our Tenth Anniversary Reunion.

Life Membership Coins



(FRONT)

(BACK)

17th Artillery Regiment Association Life Members (New)

The following named 17th Artillery veterans have become Life Members of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association, since the July 2008 newsletter.

090 Rodovico (Rod) L. Guerrero was assigned to Battery C, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (1965-1966)



Jackie Stroud presents Life Membership to Rod Guerrero

Annual Membership Dues (2009)

The following have paid their 2009 Membership Dues.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Dennis Keesling | Edwin Ahonen |
| Paul Raymond | Charles Garner |
| Alan Kaufman | Robert Pasquill |
| Michael Klingeman | Jerry Cody |
| Mark Anderson | James Deno |
| Eugene Retka | Charles Landford |
| William Selis | James Kasaback |
| Albert Ryan | Leroy Lida |
| Matthew Halloran | Alvin Popp |
| Terry Earnst | Michael Squadrille |
| Gary Steen | Jackie Stroud |
| Walter Etringer | |

Treasurer's Report (2009)

General Fund: \$2911.50
 Scholarship Fund: \$8855.67

Rich Siebe
 Treasurer
 17th Artillery Regiment Association



Private George L. Fisher

Above is Private Specialist 6th Class George Little Fisher (SN 6385429) as he poses in his guard uniform. Private Fisher enlistment on May 10, 1936 and served with Battery C, 17th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina until his discharge on May 10, 1937. George Fisher served his second enlistment from August 19, 1941 to August 2, 1945 with the 158th Infantry Regiment. (Picture and his service data are courtesy of his granddaughter Ashley Fisher)

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 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

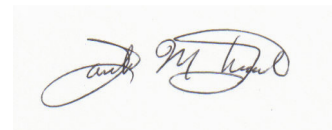
Association Officers 2009

- Jackie (Jack) M. Stroud -----President*
- Thomas R. Kurtz-----1st Vice President *
- Mike Burke-----2d Vice President *
- John (Jack) Picciolo -----Secretary
- Richard (Rich) Siebe -----Treasurer
- Thomas R. Kurtz -----Past President
- Richard Smith-----Chaplain
- John (Jack) Picciolo -----Historian
- Jackie (Jack) Stroud- -----Quartermaster
- Edward (Ed) Hitchner -----Webmaster

*Offices up for election at the General

Membership Meeting during the 2009 Reunion.

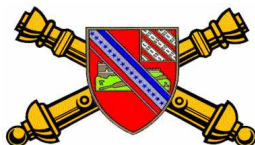
The 17th Artillery Regiment Association Board of Directors approved this newsletter, Castle # 13.



Jackie M. Stroud

Association President

17th ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



2009 ANNUAL REUNION

The 2009 Annual Reunion will be held at the Executive Inn in Lawton, Oklahoma located at 3134 NW Cache Road, Lawton, OK 73505, on November 9, 2009, through November 13, 2009. If you are planning on staying at the motel, reservations can be made by calling 1-580-353-1682. Room rates are \$64.99 per night plus tax. These rates are good for November 9-13. When making your motel reservation for this rate, be sure to tell them you are with the 17th Artillery Reunion. Reservations must be made by October 13, 2009. The room rate includes free breakfast daily. There is also plenty of free parking.

Bring your photo albums, snapshots, movies and slides to share with everyone. If you have slides or 8mm movies, you will have to furnish your own projector. There is plenty of time to get reacquainted with old comrades or even make some new ones. We would love to see your spouses, family members and friends in attendance too.

As most of you know that at our banquet each year we have an opportunity to hold an auction to keep our administrative and scholarship funds active. This year we request that every veteran attending bring a new item (or one in mint condition) for the auction during the annual banquet. All proceeds from the auction will be placed either in the general or scholarship fund. I ask each of you who are planning to attend our 10th Anniversary Reunion think about this and bring with you something for the auction.

Association "gear" items will again be available in the hospitality room. You can get them there or be an early bird and order them now. Items can be ordered thru the association president who is also your quartermaster.

Please use the attached sheet to register for the reunion. There is an always a registration fee of \$ 35.00 per person to cover the cost of the annual banquet and the refreshments for the hospitality room. Please plan on attending; let's make this the biggest reunion to date. We have new officers to vote for this year, so come make your choice known.

ITINERARY:

This is a very TENTATIVE itinerary a more in-depth announcement will be forth coming in my next reminder before the reunion.

Nov 9, 2009 - Veterans, spouses, family and friends check in. Please sign in at the hospitality room and pick up your nametags. Spend the remainder of the day touring on your own the numerous sites in and around Lawton / Fort Sill area, or spend time in the hospitality room. There will be a cook out in the evening at the Executive Inn Hotel. The following will be served (Drinks, Hamburgers, Hotdogs & Texas made Sausage)

Nov 10, 2009 - Tour on Fort Sill (Times will be announced in next newsletter)

- 1.Fort Sill Command Brief (Snow Hall)
- 2.Fort Sill Welcome w/Q&A Period (Chief of Staff or representative)
- 3.Visit 17th Artillery Regiment Room (Rm 25) 10 minutes
- 4.Visit with the 17th Artillery Battalion, Static display or live fire.
- 5.Lunch at Guns and Rockets Cafe w/17th Commander, staff and troops
- 6.Field Artillery Half Section Demonstration
- 7.Fort Sill Museum Tour
- 8.Cannon Walk

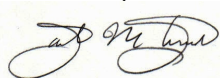
Nov 11, 2009 - Veterans Day ceremonies. (Ft Sill and Local ceremonies will be posted in the hospitality room)

Nov 12, 2009 - Association Annual General Membership (TIME TBD)

Annual Membership Banquet (TIME TBD.)

Please plan on attending this one, its our tenth anniversary of the Association; I'm hoping to See everyone there. If you have any questions about the reunion, please contact any association officer or me. If you are unable to attend and would like to leave a message to your fellow veterans, please mail or email them to me.

Sincerely;



Jackie M. Stroud
Association President
2461 meadow Ridge Dr
Wheelersburg, OH 45694
(740) 574-1260
Jack.Stroud@roadrunner.com

17th ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

REUNION # 11 - 2009

NOVEMBER 9-13

PLEASE USE THE REGISTRATION SLIP BELOW

Registration fee will cover the annual association banquet, also refreshments in the hospitality room. **Please make check or money order payable to:**

17th Artillery Regiment Association

Mail to the association treasurer at the following address:

MAIL TO: **RICH SIEBE**
5513 WHITFIELD WAY
CARMICHAEL, CA 95608-3038

CUT OR TEAR AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING TO OUR TREASURER
(with your check or money order)

NAME _____
(Please Print)

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

Name (s) of Spouse, Relatives, and Friends attending _____

Note: Nametags will be printed from the names submitted

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Registration Fee: \$35.00 per person-X-number attending _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

**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 2009 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: Rich Siebe (*Association Treasurer*) 5513 Whitfield Way, Carmichael, CA 95608-3038. Upon receipt of your
 2009 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: *2009 Membership Dues is \$20.00 (January – December) (Annual dues \$20.00 per year)*

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 – Present) _____

____ 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 1996) & (2007-Present) _____

____ 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1995) _____

____ 5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1996) _____

____ 6th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1996) _____

____ 7th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1960 – 1996) _____

____ 8th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1967 – 1996) _____

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: I do not have a DD Form 214 yet.

*Rich Siebe:
 5513 Whitfield Way
 Carmichael, CA 95608-3038
 Email address is: R47S89SP@aol.com*