

THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 14

July 2009

Heraldic Times



(Coat of Arms)



(Insignia)

Shield:

Gules, a conventionalized castle of Ehrenbreitstein with ramp or on mount proper, debriused 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 bedriused 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

This year we are headed to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for our 11th reunion. We will all be together again sitting around and swapping stories and talking about all the new stuff that has happened to us in the past year. I am looking forward to this year's reunion, not because it is when a new association president will be selected, but because it is also our 10th Anniversary Reunion. It's been ten years since our organization was formed there at Fort Sill. This is the one we should all make a special effort to attend just because it is something for us to really celebrate.

Norm Jones is planning and getting some wonderful things set up for us again this year. I have talked with the new commander and we may be able to get a "Live Fire" demonstration. It's not final as of yet, but that would be a big plus for us this year. The location for the reunion has been identified and rooms have been set-aside for us, and plans are being made to make your stay at the reunion a pleasant one.

This year's scholarship voting committee members were Richard Flowers, Charles M. Gardener, Alan (Ray) Kaufman, James (Jim) Sanders, and Donald L. Brooks. There were a great number of application requests this year, and there were many returned to me to be judged. I have placed an article announcing our winners in the newsletter, and this will also be posted on our website for everyone to see. I am truly blessed to have such dedication from all of our association members, and thank you voting committee members for your support and involvement.

The sign-up information for this years reunion is in this newsletter, and I hope to see you all at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

2009 Scholarship Grants

By: Jackie M. Stroud

During the association's annual general membership meeting held at the 2008 reunion, three scholarship grants for 2009 were voted on and authorized; one grant for one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1500) and two grants for one thousand dollars (\$1000) each.

There were fourteen requests for scholarship application packets received and eight applicants returned a completed packet.

Each returned application was reviewed independently by the voting members of the committee and awarded points based on their best judgment using the information contained in the packet.

Once each voting member scoring form was returned to me, I established an Order of Merit List (OML) based on totaling the points awarded by all voting members. The 2009 voting committee members consisted of volunteers from our last reunion:

- Richard Flowers
- Charles M. Garner
- Alan (Ray) Kaufman
- James (Jim) Sanders
- Donald L. Brooks

The 2009 winners of the association scholarship grants in order of merit:



Nicole E. Vaden
Graduated from
Cache High School
Lawton, Oklahoma
With a 3.8 GPA

\$1,500.00

Nicole is the
granddaughter of:
Rodivico L.
Guerrero
He served with
Battery C
2/17th Artillery
Vietnam 1963 -
1966



Courtney M.
Borg
Graduated from
Hohenfels High
School
CMR 414
APO AE 09173
With a 3.73 GPA

\$1,000.00

Courtney is the
daughter of:
Col Michael D.
Borg
He served with
1/17th FAR as Bn
Commander in
Iraq/ Fort Sill
2005 - 2006.



Bonny E.
Van
Dongeren
Currently
attending
Augusta
State
University
Augusta,
Georgia
30904

\$1,000.00

Bonny is the granddaughter of:
Robert G. Pasquill
He served in the 17th Field Artillery in Korea

Congratulations to our Scholarship winners this year, and a big thank you to our committee who went through all of the applications and diligently scored each and every one of them. The scoring was amazingly close and I was glad I didn't have to vote to break any ties in the selection. It's great to see we have such intelligent young ones who are aggressively seeking to get to the next level in their life thru education.

Again Congratulation.

**Jack Stroud
President
17th Artillery Regimental Association**

Sergeant Charles L. Stoddard, Battery B, 17th Field Artillery Regiment

***Information on SGT Stoddard and pictures are courtesy of his brother David Stoddard.**

Sergeant Stoddard was assigned to regiment on March 20, 1941, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as the Motor Sergeant for Battery B. Sergeant Stoddard served with the regiment through North Africa and after a year of combat due to a two month period of sickness, he was sent to the hospital. Upon his return to the regiment in March 1944, a replacement had been received in his place. Sergeant Stoddard was then sent to a replacement depot, in Italy, where he was further assigned to the 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division and remained there until the end of the war.



Sergeant Stoddard poses with one of the regiments 155mm Towed (Schneider) Howitzers (1941)

Truck 2 1/2 Ton – Battery B, 17th Field Artillery Regiment (1941)



Truck Park – 17th Field Artillery Regiment (1941)

*It should be noted that the French built stubby box-trail Schneider 155mm Howitzers was the same howitzer used by the regiment during World War I and arrived from Camp Travis, Texas to Camp Bragg, North Carolina in 1921. The World War I – vintage Schneider after some modification was used by the regiment during the first years in World War II, although the 2nd Battalion (Batteries D, E, & F) lost all of their Schneider Howitzers, on February 24, 1943, after being attacked by the 10th Panzer Division at Faïd Pass, Tunisia.

A Note From The Treasurer

BY: Rich Siebe

Ten years ago this November the 17th, the Artillery Regiment Association was formed in Lawton, Oklahoma. Since our 1st reunion, we have had nine more and are rapidly approaching our 10th Anniversary Reunion, again, in Lawton.

I have been privileged and honored to have been able to attend all ten reunions so far and will be attending this year's gathering as well. Each reunion has been a unique experience: my first visit to Ft. Sill since 1968, my first visit to Washington DC and my first visit to San Antonio. I've taken my Harley to two reunions, driven to several others and flown to a few also. It's been a great experience--I've made new friends, renewed old friendships and managed to see a good bit of the country along the way. I hope that, you, the 17th Artillery veterans, will make this year's reunion the biggest yet.

This year we gave another \$3,500 in scholarships and have now given a total of \$14,500 since we began the scholarship program. Currently we have:

\$5,832.67 in the scholarship fund
\$4,059.14 in the general fund
for a total of \$9,891.81 in the bank.



Your Association Members hard at work. Peter Coffin, Molly Stroud, Jack Stroud, and Rich Siebe

Chaplain's Corner

What's said in a blessing?

I've met a lot of you through reunions and have made some very close friends from other eras and parts of the country. I feel a chaplain should be close to the membership and they also should be able to have a close relationship with him. Some of you are probably asking if I am a minister? No. Am I a man of faith? YES. I served as chaplain of one of my local American Legion Posts from 1999-2000 and was president of the 17th in 2006. I was fortunate not to have to go overseas for my country, but trust me, after almost 19 years as a law enforcement officer who worked in various fields, I too have seen and felt death, suffered injuries and seen innocent people die. I guess I say like I heard in the service, "I never met an atheist in battle." I consider it to be a very high honor to be appointed by Jack Stroud for this position, and my phone number and email address will be below if you need to contact me. I'd like to wish Robert (Bob) Kenton (WWII) a speedy recovery for his surgeries. This is one great member who always has a smile to share with us.

Have you ever thought about how you said the blessing at EVERY meal, no exceptions, when you were a child? Now can you ask yourself, "Do I ever notice anyone in a restaurant saying grace?" Maybe it was a habit that we used to do but don't do anymore because we feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, don't want to bow our heads in public, or just plain forget to do it. Most of us do believe in a hereafter, but if you believe in a hereafter, then you also must believe that we have to prepare ourselves for it. I've yet to meet someone on this earth that has been here forever. None of us are an exception to the rule. In Mark 8:38, Jesus speaks to a crowd. He tells them, "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." Do we want to be ashamed of our actions on that day of all days? Maybe I do need to say the blessing before I eat and just maybe do a little re-evaluation of my own life and things, huh?

Peace to you all,

Richard Smith (A Btry 4th/17th 1974-77)
(919) 575-0213 rsmith3024@nc.rr.com

SALUTING:

Just in case you haven't heard already, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 authorizes veterans, retirees and active duty soldiers not in uniform to render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the National Anthem, and during the raising, lowering or passing of the National Flag.

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 January 2009 newsletter.

- 091 Thomas (Tom) P. Ross, Battery C, Commander Service Battery and S1, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, (1962-1965)
- 092 Birdeye L. Middleton, Battery D, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, (1966)
- 093 Rickie B. Simpkins, Battery C, 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery, (1969-1970)
- 094 Robert E. Lax Sr, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery, (1970-1971)
- 095 CSM Philip J. Brunwald, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Active Duty)
- 096 Larry Hightower, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery, (1968-1969)

Annual Membership Dues (2009)

The following have paid their 2009 Membership Dues since January newsletter.

Luker, Jerry *	Guardo, Victor
Tanner, George	Robinson, Victor Sr.
Lupus, Lawrence	Gillespie, David
Gerhardt, Stephen	Simonet, Marcel
Brooks, Donald	Sugg, Richard
Rowell, Dave	Arceneaux, Donald
Swanson, Toby	Bass, Robert
Runice, Raymond (Doug)	Comeaux, Ray
Brace, Douglas	Keenan, David *
Pulsifer, Robert	Armstrong, Buddy
Trudeau, Michael	Collier, Curtis
Rogers, Marvin	Barton, Norman
Roger Nadeau	Heinz Schiemann
Ron Skirvin	Ralph Melcher
Robert Laback	Bill Schott
Phillip Hruska	

17th Artillery Regiment Association

By: Norman R. Jones

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.

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 requests it.

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 at the 2009 Reunion.

The 17th Artillery Regiment Association Board of Directors approved this newsletter, Castle # 14.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie M. Stroud".

Jackie M. Stroud

Association President

It was 1995 when I started searching for one of my Vietnam buddies. The search proved unfruitful, but I found other 2/17th veterans via the Internet. I traveled to DC in 1998 to be with some of the veterans that I found. Arthur Jennings was the only veteran who showed up. I told my wife that we would go back to Texas and continue our search, and we did.. Toward the latter part of 1998, I had found about 40 through the Internet. I contacted all of them and set up a reunion. To my surprise, there were 19 in attendance at Lawton, Oklahoma, on November 9-11, 1999. There were a couple of veterans who were involved with other associations. With their guidance and suggestions, we all united and decided to become the 17th Artillery Regiment Association. The first couple of years it was very difficult, but we held together through thick and thin. One of the biggest problems was raising funds to finance our mailings, but we have overcome the financial problems and have learned to raise money. I'm sure that you all have read the newsletters and have seen our progress over the years. We continue to find our veterans of all eras. I finally did locate my good buddy and friend, John C. Keaten, in 2006. The association is alive and doing well. Thanks to the following veterans for helping me get the association started. (see picture below)

We hope that you will join us for our 10th anniversary reunion and make it our biggest gathering yet.

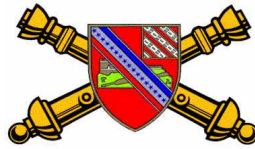
The picture below is of the veterans that started the 17th Artillery Regiment Association on November 10, 1999



Front Row Left to Right Thomas Vernor, Terry Wallace, Neal Fouts, Albert Ryan, Rodivico Guerrero, Avery Hall, James Kersey

Back Row Left to Right Norman R. Jones, Paul Fusco, Donnie Hays, Richard Siebe, Webster Cole, Jack Picciolo

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 made in my hand out at 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 (by CPT Smoke) 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 during check in at hotel)

- 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

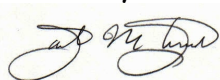
Nov 11, 2009 - Veterans Day ceremonies. (Ft Sill and Local ceremonies will be posted in the hospitality room)

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