

THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 22

July 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

Reunions

Eighteen years ago, I decided to find a good friend of mine (John C. Keaten), whom I served with in Vietnam. Along the way with my search I found a lot of others that I knew and a lot that I didn't. These weren't guys that I knew from let's say, 10 or 15 years ago. The friendships went very far back. In one instance, it involved one friend from the year 1959 (Charles Garner). Most all here were caught up in Vietnam.

"If you're alive and reading this, how does it feel to be among the last one-third of all the U. S. Vets who served in Vietnam?" Like a ritual salute, this question has passed from one veteran website to another in the past 18 months, accompanied by a drumbeat of numbers: 711,000 Vietnam veterans died between 1995 and 2000, or 142,000 deaths every year, 390 every day; no more than 850,000 Vietnam veterans remain out of 2.7 million, meaning at least 1.8 million have fallen to the swift scythe of the Grim Reaper; and "only the few" will still be around by 2015. "We died in 'Nam," reckoned one of my friends, "just haven't fallen over yet." This same thing is happening to the Korean War Veterans. Our 2nd World War veterans have almost gone.

Reunions and Dinner with each get-together was an incredible, life-affirming experience. It is time to make contact with all that you served with before it's too late. Lets plan to attend in San Antonio, TX. Yes, we spent hours "catching up" with each other's lives. There were

marriages, divorces, business successes and some failures, and we talked about the many ups and downs that occur in any life. But what struck me about these get-togethers, after a half hour of kicking around the past and filling in the blanks of many years apart, we found ourselves in the *moment together*, just like when being with each other was an everyday occurrence. Nothing was strained or forced. We slipped into the comfortable ease of just enjoying our time together. All have said we were glad to have found each other. You too will be glad you attended a reunion. If you're lucky, a good friend is a true friend, always.

I have also found a lot of my troops from the 3/17/FA. They are on our roster; some of them have committed to attend. 3/17/FA we look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

Scholarship Grants:

Norman R Jones, Association President

I thank all members of the scholarship committee for their work on this year's grants; Scholarship Chairman, Richard A. Smith; Voting members; Larry Lovejoy, Leonard Spencer, Larry Hightower. This year the association has awarded four scholarship grants for a total of \$6,000. Since 2004, the association has awarded a total of 27 scholarship grants for a total of \$31,000 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. The number and amounts for each scholarship grant for 2014 will be announced after our general membership meeting on September 26, 2013.

This years winners are:

Our first place scholarship winner for \$2,000.00 is Cameron Snelbaker from York Haven, PA. Granddaughter of William Beers William served with B/SVC/2/17/FA in Vietnam from Dec 1967-Mar 1969



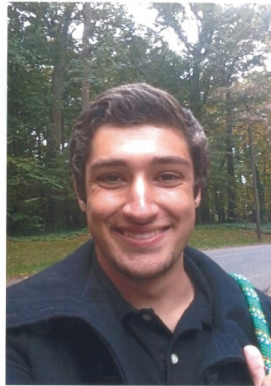
Cameron Snelbaker

Our second place scholarship winner \$ 1,500.00 is Kristen Heydt from Mason, OH. granddaughter of Dick Heydt, Dick served with HQ/A/2/17/FA in Vietnam from Aug 1968-Aug 1969



Kristen Heydt

Our third place scholarship winner for 1,500.00 is David Miller from Charlotte, NC Grandson of Larry Miller, Larry served with C/2/17/FA from 1967-68



David Miller

Our forth place scholarship winner for \$1,000.00 is Meredith Stroud from Hasbrouck Heights, NJ Granddaughter of Jackie Stroud Jackie served with HHB/2/17/FA from Jun 1960-Apr 1971



Meredith Stroud

Scholarship Grants since 2004:

Since 2004 the association has awarded twenty-seven scholarship grants, to the children, grandchildren of 17th Field Artillery Regiment veterans and active duty soldiers.

World War II veterans – One Grandson
Cold War veterans – One Son; Four Granddaughters
Korean War veterans – Three Grandsons
Vietnam War veterans – One Son; Three Daughters; Two Grandson; Eight Granddaughters
Operation Desert Storm veterans – One Daughter
Active duty members – One Son; Two Daughters

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Diagnosis: HEART PROBLEM

Greetings to everyone! Several weeks ago I met a man that was doing some work on my car. After the work was done we talked for a few minutes about our lives and our families.

He told me that he had a 30 year old son with a heart problem. Immediately, I did what most would do, I offered my condolences and asked if it could be repaired.

He told me that it could be. He would have to change his ways and seek God. He then informed me that *physically* his son's heart was fine. He needed to let God run his life and not him.

This stranger's words stuck with me. The apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:22-23, "*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*" Isn't it time we all gave ourselves a "heart check-up?"

Please continue to remember our members and their families in your prayers. Phone calls and cards can go a long way in troubled times! (Addresses, emails, and phone numbers are in the roster online at our web site.)

Please keep these members in your hearts and prayers: Paul Fusco had stomach surgery and has family sickness; Doug Runice's brother passed away; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kinton (W.W.II veteran) are in assisted living homes after his surgery and her paralyzed from a fall; Ronald L. Skirvin passed away (D/C Btry 2nd Bn 67-68); Lonnie English is battling ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); Michael Jedwabny (HHB 7/17th 1967) passed away; Tom Kurtz has family sickness; Larry "Doc" Miller is under Hospice's care now. Again, I can't express how much it would mean to these individuals to receive a card, phone call or email from those who served or know them from the reunions.

God Bless to all and especially our troops serving our nation.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Smith- Chaplain -17th Artillery Regiment Association
rsmith3024@nc.rr.com

BATTERY "D" OF THE 17th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT from 1917-1968

By: Thomas R. Kurtz, Past President

WORLD WAR I

When the regiment was organized in June 1917, at Camp Sparta, Wisconsin and deployed to France, Battery D along with Battery C formed the 2nd Battalion of the regiment. From the time that the regiment fought in World War I with the American Expeditionary Forces, Battery D has the distinction as the only separate U. S. artillery battery to be awarded the Croix de Guerre. The Croix de Guerre was awarded for Battery D its actions in the month of July 1918 during the great Soissons offensive. The battery's citation from French Orders follows:

General Headquarters of the armies of the North and the North-east Staff, Personnel Bureau (decorations) – Order No. 10,804 "D" (Extract)

With the approval of the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in France the Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies of the North and of the North-east with an Order of the Army Corps. Battery "D" 17th Field Artillery United States Army

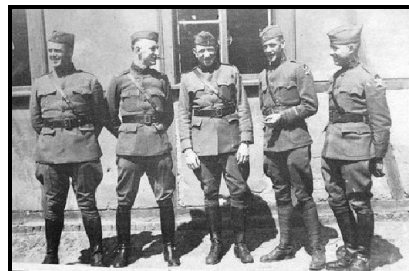
During the operations of July 1918, distinguished by its coolness, courage, and determination during heavy shelling and numerous casualties the morale of the battery was excellent and men showed exceptional devotion to duty, the accuracy and volume of the fire was commendable.

General Headquarters, October 28, 1918

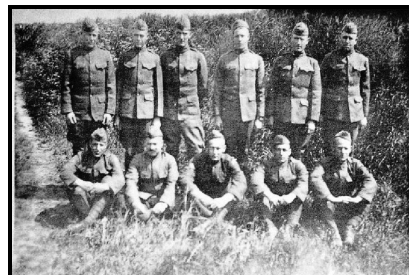
Sign PETAINE

The General, Commander-in-Chief

The French Croix de Guerre w/gilt star awarded to Battery D was placed on the guidon by Major General John A. Lejeune commanding the second division, at a presentation exercise at Bendorf on the Rhine, Germany December 30, 1918.



WW I, Officers of Battery D, 17th Field Artillery Regiment (Picture post card)



WW I, Sergeants of Battery D, 17th Field Artillery Regiment (Picture post card)

WORLD WAR II

At the start of World War II, the 2nd Battalion firing batteries consisted of Battery D, Battery E and Battery F. On February 14, 1943 at Faid Pass, Tunisia the second battalion was overrun by elements of the 21st Panzer Division. This resulted in the loss of all of the battalion's 18 howitzers, all of its vehicles and half of its soldiers killed, wounded, missing or taken as prisoners of war. What remained of the battalion was re-equipped and temporary supplied 105mm towed howitzers and was placed back in action. One year later on February 14, 1944, in Italy the 2nd Battalion was re-designated as the 630th Field Artillery Battalion and Battery D was re-designated as Battery A, 630th Field Artillery Battalion and was equipped with 8-inch towed howitzers, tracker drawn.

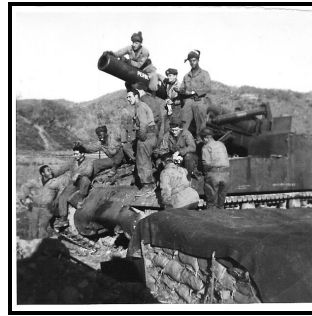
KOREAN WAR

On October 10, 1950 orders were received by the 17th Field Artillery Battalion authorizing the organization of the 1st Provisional Artillery Battery, a 155mm gun unit attached to the battalion. Organization of the battery popularly called Battery D was begun at once. But by the end of the month the provisional battery was disbanded without ever having become operational.

The 17th Field Artillery Battalion received two 8-inch self-propelled howitzers as replacement howitzers when the losses of their towed howitzers were not available. The two SP's initially were placed in Battery A. When the towed 8-inch howitzers were replaced, Battery A kept the two self-propelled howitzers, making it for a while a six gun battery. In mid-January 1952 when heavy firepower was needed in the 45th Infantry Division sector the two self-propelled howitzers were formed in to a platoon under the control of the 189th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Infantry Division. This self-propelled howitzer platoon, in February 1952, was expanded into a provisional Battery D, using equipment and personnel drawn from within the battalion. On July 12, 1952 Battery D became non-operational and its equipment, kits and personnel redistributed to the other batteries of the battalion. One self-propelled was placed in Battery A, while the second self-propelled was placed in Battery C.



One of the two 8-inch self-propelled howitzers of the 17th Field Artillery Battalion in action (photo by Bruno Kallowski Jr. Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, 1952)



Another of the 8-inch self-propeller howitzer of the 17th Field Artillery Battalion with its crew during the Korean War (Location and date unknown, photo by Charles R. Lankford, Battery C, 17th Field Artillery Battalion 1951-1952)

VIETNAM WAR

During the Vietnam War, in 1966, once again a provisional firing battery was organized within the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery. On November 6, 1966 steps were taken to form a four gun 155mm towed howitzer provisional battery, named Battery D. The battery personnel were taken from the different batteries from within the battalion and airmobile training was conducted and completed on January 2, 1967. Battery D was used to reinforce the fires of the artillery battalions of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) throughout its tactical area of operations. Battery D was discontinued on February 9, 1968; most of its personnel and the four 155mm towed howitzers were placed in Battery C. Battery C then placed five of its 105mm howitzers in administrative storage at Camp Radcliff, An Khe, South Vietnam. This transfer of equipment and personnel ended the record and the history of a Battery D serving with the regiment.



One of Battery D's 155mm howitzers on its way to Vinh Thanh Valley Fire Base (1967) (John DeTreville photo)



A 155mm howitzer from Battery D firing from its Vinh Thanh Valley firebase January 1968 (photo from the January 1968 issue of 1st Field Forces Vietnam magazine TYPHOON, photo by SP4 T.H. Decker)

Only time, circumstances and the future will dictate when and where there will be another need to form a Battery D to serve with the 17th Field Artillery Regiment.

Chief Warrant Officer Lonnie H. Jackson



The above picture is of Lonnie Hoyt Jackson, who served with Battery D and Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 13th Field Artillery Brigade, 1927-1943. Chief Warrant Officer Lonnie H. Jackson died of hepatitis in the hospital at Palermo, Sicily on October 24, 1943. The above picture and the picture on the newsletter cover of Battery D, taken in 1929, were provided to the association by Karen Meury, Lonnie H. Jackson's granddaughter. In addition, Karen Meury provided the Christmas Programs for Battery D for the years 1929, 1930, 1934, 1936, 1938 and the Thanksgiving Programs for 1934 and 1940; and the 1941 Thanksgiving Program for Service Battery. Many thanks to Karen for all of the information and pictures she provide and for becoming an associate member of the association. Karen's father, Lonnie H. Jackson Jr., the son of Lonnie H. Jackson Sr. also signed up as an associate life member.

BATTERY "D" MARKER AT FORT SILL

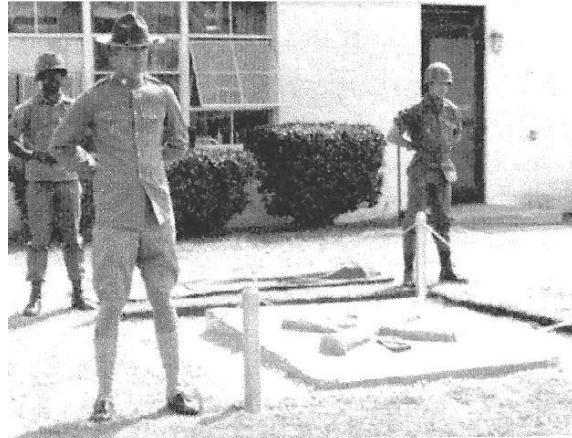


The marker measured five feet by six feet by 10 inches, weighing two tons.

The Battery "D", 17th Field Artillery marker located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma was moved from Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1974.

In late 1973, when LTC Herbert J. Hedrick was walking in a pine grove near his quarters at Fort Bragg he stumbled over a very large piece of formed concrete. After he cleared away the brush and sand he saw the markings of Battery D, 17th Field Artillery on the slab and then he contacted LTC Henry Taylor, who recently had commanded the 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery about the marker. Through the efforts of LTC Herbert Herbert, LTC Henry Taylor, LTC George Krausz (then the current commander of the 1st Battalion at Fort Sill), the 82nd Airborne Division, and the U.S. Air Force the marker was moved to its new home at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

At a battalion formation in front of the battalion's headquarters on April 17, 1974 a dedication ceremony was held with the unveiling of the marker and Battery "D" was returned as an Honorary Firing Battery in the 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery.



1-17th FA dedicates marker.

(Photo from the Field Artillery Journal, July – August 1974)

The marker was poured originally at Fort Bragg to note the return of Battery D, 17th Field Artillery from Europe at the end of World War I. The 17th Field Artillery Regiment moved from Camp Travis, Texas to Camp Bragg, North Carolina in January 1921.

References:

1. Field Artillery Journal: January-February 1974, Article "17th Insignia Found"
2. Field Artillery Journal: July-August 1974, Article "Old Marker Dedicated 1-17 FA Ceremony"

Additions to the Veteran's Roster

The following named 17th Artillery veterans and associate members have been added to the association's veteran roster, since the January 2013 newsletter.

- *John F. Anderson, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, (1967-1968)
- *Edward E. Dingman, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1967-1968
- *John T. Ensminger, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1968-1969
- *John R. Francis, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 17th Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division (South Korea), Crew Chief-105mm towed howitzer section and Imjin Scout, Feb 28, 1968-May 7, 1969
- *Lonnie H. Jackson Jr.(LMA4), Son of CWO Lonnie H. Jackson Sr., Battery D and Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 13th Field Artillery Brigade (Fort Bragg, North Carolina and World War II), 1927-1943
- *Darwin L. McGladdery, Service Battery and Battery B, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Eight Army (Korean War), 1948-1951
- *Karen J. Meury (AM), Granddaughter of CWO Lonnie H. Jackson Sr. Battery D and Service Battery, 2nd Battalion,

17th Field Artillery Regiment, 13th Field Artillery Brigade , Fort Bragg, North Carolina and World War II, 1927-1943

*William (Bill) G. Montague, Battery D and Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, Gun Sections 1 and 3; and Battery Fire Direction Center, 1967-1968

*Homer F. Nabors, Battery A, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, United States Army Republic of Vietnam and 1st Field Forces Vietnam, (1966-1967)

*Edward E. Purvis, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1968-1969

(LMA4) Associate Life Member Four

(AM) Associate Member

Notification of Deaths:

The association has been informed of the deaths of the following 17th Artillery Regiment veterans.

*Ronald L. Skirvin who died on February 24, 2013, Ronald served with Battery D and Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1967-1968

*Michael J. Jedwabay who died May 14, 2013, Michael served with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1967



17th Artillery Regiment Association Life Members (New)

The following named 17th Artillery veterans or their relatives have become a Life Members or Associate Life Members of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association, since the January 2013 newsletter.

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

146 David L. Zell, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, 41st Artillery Group (Fort Sill) and United States Army Republic of Vietnam, Survey Section, 1964-1965.

147 *Lonnie H. Jackson Jr. (LMA4), Son of CWO Lonnie H. Jackson Sr., Battery D and Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 13th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina and World War II, 1927-1943.

148 Darwin L. McGladdery, Service Battery and Battery B, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Eighth Army (Korean War), 1948-1951

149 Gail E. Fasse, Battery B, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, Eighth Army (Korean War), Battery Fire Direction Center, May 1951-June 1952

150 Edwin J. Ahonen, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1969-1971

151 William (Bill) G. Montague, Battery D and Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1967-1968

152 Edward E. Dingman, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1967-1968

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

Amos R (Ray) Comeaux

Dale G. Borrer

James A. Kasaback

James F. Deno

Robert E. Bethel

Jerry W. Luker

Alvin Popp

Stephen Romnock

Marvin Rogers

David A. Keenan

Heinz A. Schiemann

Donald Arceneaux

Buddy L. Armstrong

*Charles E. Morrison Jr.

Norman L. Barton

John R. DeTreville

Vincent E. Falter

Gerald E. Irwin

Roger C. Nadeau

Roger Wolfin

*Karen J. Meury

Terry L. Earnst

Wallace E. Jones

Raymond A. Eyanson

Walter V. Cropper III

* Indicates associate members

LOOKING FOR VIETNAM CASUALTIES

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

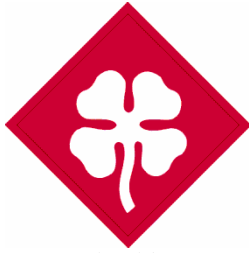
WO2 Kermit Leslie Matthews, Pittsburgh, PA; 05/18/1938; HHB

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



The 4th Army Distinctive Shoulder Insignia was worn by the battalion personnel in 1963 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

PRELUDE TO VIETNAM:

Count down to the 50th Anniversary of the deployment of the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery from Fort Sill, Oklahoma to An Khe, South Vietnam

(Taken from "The History of the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, The Persuaders" a document from the Technical Library, USAAMS, Snow Hall, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, dated 1967)

-1963-

On 15 February 1963, Battery A was re-designated Battery A, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 42d Artillery and departed Fort Sill for assignment to the newly formed 11th Air Assault Division at Fort Benning, Georgia. By 6 June 1963, Battery A had been reconstituted and resumed its role in the battalion mission.

In May 1963, the 34th Brigade Commander, Colonel Kenney, again visited the 2/17th Artillery to award the Brigade Maintenance Trophy. CWO Hoffman again accepted the award.

On 13 July 1963, Major William P. Skidmore assumed command of the Battalion. He was promoted to LTC on 10 October 1963. No changes of mission were made.

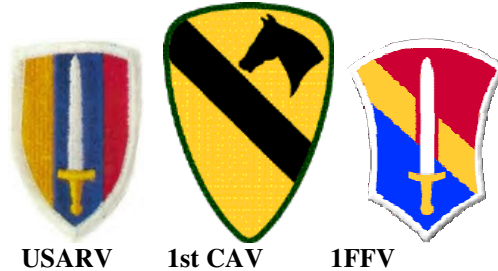
Two C-124 Globemaster aircraft arrived at Fort Sill from Doverport, Delaware on 3 September 1963 for the battalion's use on a two-day Air Mobility Training exercise.

On 26 October the battalion entered its annual Army training program. On 14 November, Battery C took its annual test, followed by Battery A on 19 November and Battery B on 21 November. All three batteries scored

"Satisfactory." Efforts were then directed toward preparation for Battalion test ATT 6-155, which was taken on 18-19 December. While the overall rating for the test was "satisfactory", the battalion was the first unit at Fort Sill taking the test to receive a rating of "excellent" in Fire direction procedures.

The 2/17th Artillery was again awarded the 34th Brigade Maintenance Award for December 1963, for attaining the highest ratings in the Brigade in all areas of maintenance. The receipt of this award was noteworthy because the battalion undergoing its ATT and drove many miles, road and cross-country, during adverse weather conditions. COL William M. Hughes, 34th Brigade Commander presented the award to acting SGT Major Eugene Zuraski at a battalion formation.

In all its missions, the battalion overcame the deleterious effect of excessive personal turbulence. The turnover of personnel for the year 1963 was 240% Officers and 195% enlisted. In calendar year 1963, the 2/17th Artillery logged 178,794 vehicles miles, fired 62, 228 rounds of ammunition and preformed 455 School Troop Requirements. Of these, 402 were rated Superior or Excellent



2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery - Assignments during the Vietnam War 1965-1971

(In 1961 found the battalion attached to 214th Artillery Group at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. On October 23, 1961, during the cold war crisis over Berlin, the battalion was detached from the 214th Artillery Group and attached to the 169th Artillery Group, a National Guard unit from Colorado which was activated and sent to Fort Sill. On July 18, 1962, the 169th Artillery Group was inactivated and the battalion was once again attached back to 214th Artillery Group. On July 8, 1964 the battalion was detached from the 214th Artillery Group and attached to the 41st Artillery Group.)

* On August 14, 1965 the main body of the battalion departed Fort Sill by train to its port of debarkation at Oakland California.

*The 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, a General Support 105mm towed howitzer, M101A1, was assigned to United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV) and attached to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) upon arrival in South Vietnam, September 5, 1965.

*On January 2, 1967, the battalion was reassigned to 1st Field Forces Vietnam (1FFV) and attached to 1st Cavalry Division (AM).

*On October 15, 1967 the battalion was released from attachment to the 1st Cavalry Division (AM) and attached to 1st Field Forces Vietnam with further attachment to 41st Artillery Group and assigned the tactical mission of reinforcing the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery.

*On April 1, 1968 the battalion was re-designated the 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery.

*On April 15, 1969 the battalion was attached to the 52nd Artillery Group.

* On January 13, 1970 Battery A was placed under operational control of 1st Field Forces Vietnam Artillery and moved to Na Trang.

*On January 22, 1970 the Battalion (-) was attached to the Provisional Artillery Group.

*On November 20, 1970 Battery A was released back to battalion control and remained at Na Trang

*Stand Down of the battalion took place at Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam with Battery A on March 25, 1971; Battery

B on April 1, 1971; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Service Battery and Battery C on April 4, 1971

(Note) The 2nd Battalion was officially deactivated on April 26, 1971 at Fort Lewis Washington. When the 7th Battalion, 17th Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division was deactivated on September 13, 1972 in Korea, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery on the same date was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division and activated in Korea.

Reunion Pictures 2012 (Branson, MO)



James Sanders C/2/17/FA 1968



L-R- Jerry Cody & Bill Beers



Ladies at Branson 2012



Ronald Lewis A/3/17/FA 1968



L-R Jack Picciolo, Rich Siebe, Peter Coffin



Leonard Spencer C/2/17/FA 1968



Charles Garner C/2/17/FA 1965-66



L-R Bill Dahlin, Danny Reeves, Jerry Cody

Treasurers Report

By: Bruce Latour

This year is “flying by.” It’s summer in Texas and the heat will soon be upon us. I have been in this position now for eight months and have learned a lot. Also, I have made a few changes. One of those the Life Members will see this year will be the password change letter that comes each December. We have 152 Life Members now. Rather than using the USPS to mail these letters to members, I will use the same format and send them as an email attachment. Last year I mailed 140 letters at a cost of \$0.60 each. So, it is more important that you keep your email information up to date. Those Life Members without an email address will continue to get their notification via the US Mail.

We will soon meet in San Antonio for our next reunion. There are already several of you registered to attend, thank you. Even though we are half way through this year it is still a great time to join as a life member. You will not have to write another membership check!!

We awarded an additional \$6,000 in scholarships this past spring. Our grand total for scholarships is now \$31,000. As of this writing we have \$14,800.35 in the bank of that \$9886.68 is in the scholarship fund and \$4913.67 is in the general fund.

See you in San Antonio!
 Bruce Latour
 Treasurer

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) 571-8972

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 2014 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 2014 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: 2014 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:

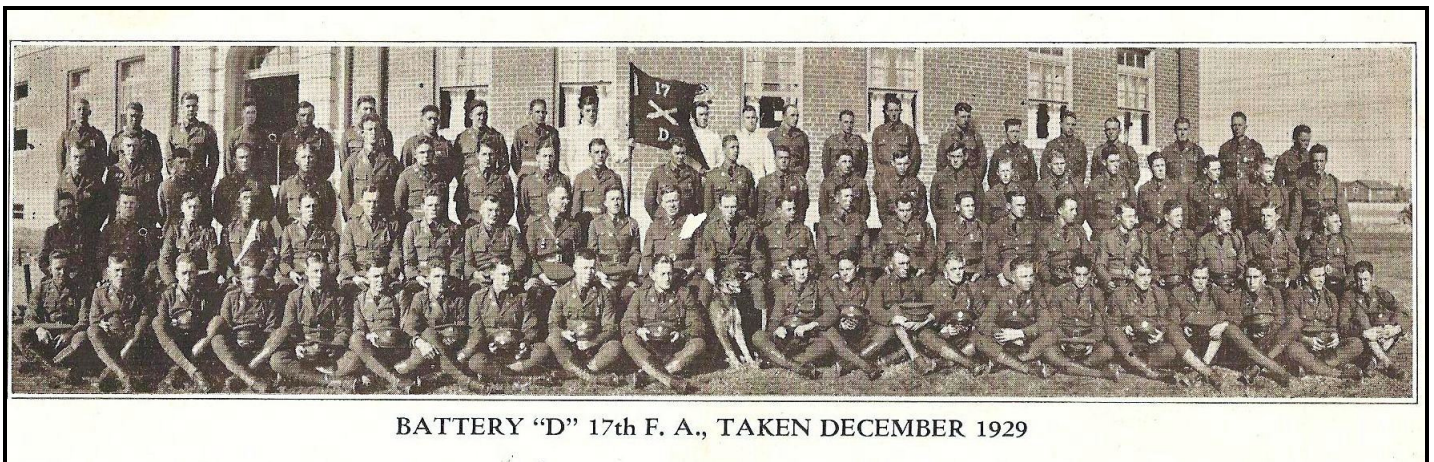
- 17th Field Artillery/Battalion/Group/Regiment (Prior to 1958)
- 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 - Present)
- 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 - 2008) (2010 -Present)
- 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 - 1995) (2007-2010)
- 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 - 1995)
- 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.

Battery or Batteries:

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

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



BATTERY "D" 17th F. A., TAKEN DECEMBER 1929

Picture of Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 13th Field Artillery Brigade taken at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Battery Commander: Captain Oliver F. Marston, First Sergeant: James F. Conway. Picture was taken from Battery D's 1929 Christmas Program. The program and picture were provided to the association by Karen Meury, granddaughter of Lonnie H. Jackson who was serving with Battery D in 1929.

17th Artillery Regiment Association Newsletter "The CASTLE"