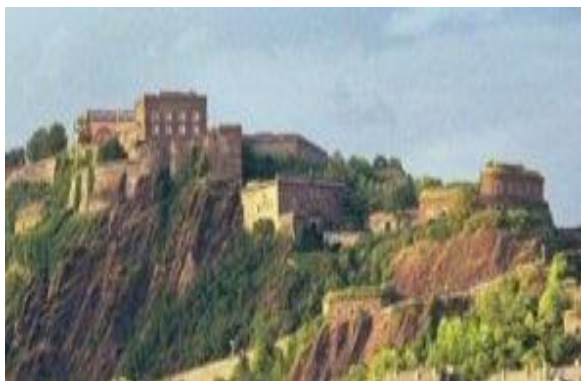


THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



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Issue 26

July 2015

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 James Sanders

Looking back on our reunion in September 2014 at Asheville, NC, it seems clear that it was one of our more successful reunions. First, we had 86 paid attendees, of whom 13 received their Life Membership plaques. Second, Asheville was a great place to hold our function. Spending two days on the Blue Ridge Parkway, with its spectacular scenery, was wonderful. Even though we were a little early, we did see some fall color. To please the ladies and some of the men, shopping in both Asheville and surrounding areas like Black Mountain was excellent. Moose Café was our caterer. They provided an excellent welcoming reception and one of our best-ever banquets. Fun was had by all at the auction that benefits our scholarship fund.

The 2015 reunion promises to be just as successful. We will meet from October 28 to 31 in St. Augustine, Florida, the oldest city in America. Ponce de Leon thought the Fountain of Youth was located there. So, if you are feeling older, come and drink the water. St. Augustine offers fun and entertainment, as does the State of Florida. Consider adding a trip to Orlando and/or the Space Center. One of my favorite restaurants in the Titusville area is Dixie Crossroads, famous for its down-home cooking specializing in shrimp and other seafood.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in October 2015 at Holiday Inn on Ponce de Leon Boulevard in St. Augustine. May many blessings come to you in the meantime.

This reunion at St Augustine is election time; I encourage some of you to get involved to lead this association forward.

**From the commander of 2/17FA
FT Lewis, Washington**

Veterans of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment, your colors still fly proudly. The last remaining battalion from the regiment, 2-17 FA, continues to build upon your legacy. As our motto states, "In Time of Peace...Prepare for War." And the Soldiers of the 17th FAR are doing just that.

Recently, over the course of 11 days of training at Joint Base Lewis McCord (8-19 JUN 2015), the battalion organized its training into two focus areas - battery and battalion led training. During the battery training window, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie firing batteries shot, moved, and communicated their units. Delta battery (Forward Observation Teams) rucked up and called in the steel rain. The Battalion then took over and led training, focusing on command and control and the delivery of fires. The battalion conducted time on target, coordinated illumination, immediate suppression, immediate smoke and battery and battalion mass fire missions.

Other highlights included the distribution of 6396 MREs, 1550 gallons of water, and 5500 gallons of fuel. The maintainers in Fox Battery (Field Service) maintained the battalions equipment at 100%. No small feat. The battalion met all training objectives.

The Steel Battalion fired more than 500 fire missions totaling 1867 rounds out of the M777 (155mm) Howitzers over this short field exercise. Joint Base Lewis McCord has not heard the guns fire at this volume in some time.

The battalion will modernize various combat platforms before going back to the field in late summer.

A new 17th FA Regimental Room is in the works here at our HQ. We hope to create a meeting place for our Redlegs where they can see the great deeds of our past, and talk of the future.

Our best regards.....STEEL!

**TIM MUNGIE
LTC, FA
COMMANDER
2-17 FA, 2D DIVARTY**

Note to all Reunion Attendees
Concealed Carried Weapons

All law-abiding citizens have a right to carry concealed weapons providing they meet all the requirements. They must be properly trained and have a permit or license to carry. However there are places that a concealed carry is not allowed.

During our past reunions starting at Pigeon Forge and each reunion thereafter, some members and wives expressed a concern to some of the board members that there were individuals in attendance carrying concealed weapons. This has definitely become a problem. Being that alcohol is available at the reunions in the hospitality room and during the banquet; they felt this was not a good mix and may be a cause of problems in the future.

If any member and/or their guest feel the need to carry a concealed weapon at the association reunions or functions, **DO NOT!** Please leave it in your room safe or locked in your vehicle.

For the Association member's safety, the board members have voted unanimously to ban all concealed and open carry weapons at any 17th Artillery Association activities. It is officially in the BY-LAWS. A copy is filed with the Internal Revenue Service as required of our 501- (C) (19) exemption. Reporting this change to the IRS is a requirement.

2015 Scholarship Grants:
Gilbert A. Bernabe, Chairman: Scholarship Committee

2015 Scholarships:

To date, the Association has awarded 34 scholarship grants for a total of \$43,920.00 to the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the veterans and active duty soldiers who have served or those currently serving in the regiment.

In May 2015, the 17th Artillery Regiment Association awarded college scholarships to four very deserving students who are grandchildren of 17th Artillery veterans. The four scholarships totaled \$6,955.00. Each scholarship winner received a monetary award, a letter of Congratulations, and a framed 17th Artillery Regiment Association Certificate of Achievement.

**17th Artillery Regiment Association Awards College
Scholarship to William Mason High School Graduate**

The first place winner was Kendall Heydt. Kendall is a 2014 graduate of William Mason High School in Mason, Ohio; and she currently attends Cedarville University. She is majoring in Communications Studies. In high school her Grade Point Average (GPA) was 3.78 and in college her GPA is a 3.9625. Throughout high school, she worked in several fast food restaurants and cafes, as well as, being a cheerleader for her high school. She also volunteered to work in many public service organizations, such as Ronald McDonald House, at her church serving dinners to Senior Citizens, and assisted as an Aid to disabled students in classrooms. For her tremendous leadership and participation, she was recognized with a Leadership Award in 2012 and a Most Spirit Award in 2013 for high school cheerleading.

Kendall's counselor describes her in the following text: "Kendall is a capable student with a particular responsive spirit.... In addition to her work as a student, Kendall also plays on the university tennis team, so she has had to learn to make effective use of her time. Even though she is carrying a heavy load, she has never asked for extra time on a project, but instead she has managed her schedule well, demonstrating excellent self-discipline.... I am confident that she will be a real credit to her future employer, as well as a blessing to her family and community."

For her outstanding accomplishment, she received a scholarship check worth \$3455.00. Her connection to the 17th Artillery is through her Grandfather, Richard Heydt, who served in A Battery, 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery Regiment in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969.



Caption: Kendall Heydt receives a 17th Artillery Scholarship check and a Certificate of Achievement from her Grandfather, Richard Heydt, who represented the 17th Artillery Association at the May 2d Award Ceremony. Also in the picture are Women’s Tennis Team Chaplin, Dr. Rebecca Kuhn and Cedarville University professor and Women’s Tennis Coach, Dr. Delyte Morris.

17th Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarship to Newaygo High School Graduate

The second place winner was Shyanne Jones who will graduate from Newaygo High School this year. With a Grade Point Average of 4.39, she is clearly one of the top students in her graduating class. Shyanne has made the most of her four years in high school, since she worked part-time, played basketball, soccer, volleyball, and ran cross-country, as well as being the Vice-President of the Student Council and National Honor Society. She received Athlete of the Month Awards in both basketball and soccer; and was selected as the Most Improved Runner in cross-country. She also served as a volunteer for Red Cross Blood Drives and was a Girls Youth basketball coach.

One of her teachers and coach offers the following high praise of her: ‘as a student Shyanne does excellent work. Shyanne excels in all she does, and it is my judgment she will succeed in whatever she puts her efforts into.... Desire and excellent work habits separate her from others as an athlete. Shyanne has been a leader on teams that I have coached as well as a front-runner in the classroom. As a coach I have profound respect for the way that she competes and demands perfection from not only herself but also others around her. These qualities are extremely important in athletics, but also show what kind of an individual Shyanne proves to be.’

For her outstanding accomplishments, Shyanne Jones was honored at her high school’s Edward T. Grodus Honors Banquet and received a scholarship check worth \$1,500.00. Her connection to the 17th Artillery is through her Grandfather, James Yore, who served in B Battery, 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery Regiment in Vietnam from September 1967 to April 1969.

A BIG Field 17th ARTILLERY THANKS to the scholarship committee for its work on this year’s scholarship grants. The Scholarship Committee members are:

Scholarship Chairman, Gil Bernabe; Voting members; William Dahlin, Mike Klingeman, and John Melasecca, Jr.



Caption: Shyanne Jones receives a 17th Artillery Scholarship check and a Certificate of Achievement from her Grandfather James Yore, who represented the 17th Artillery Association at the Newaygo High School Edward T. Grodus Honors Banquet.

17th Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarships to Forestburg High School Graduate

The third place winner was Virginia Cody who graduated from Forestburg High School this year. With a Grade Point Average of 3.99, she is the top student in her graduating class, and is the Valedictorian.

In addition to her outstanding academic achievements, Virginia has been very active in school athletics, competing in several Varsity sports: volleyball, basketball, golf and track. She garnered All-District honors in volleyball and was Honorable Mention in basketball. She performed in Texas UIL One Act Plays and was selected as the best actress in the district; thus, demonstrating what a well-rounded student-athlete she is. She also showed her academic prowess in the UIL Academic Competition and earned All District Honors in her academic specialty.

Her counselor says the following of her: “Ginger...has shown consistent academic integrity and commitment. She is motivated to become self-reliant and has developed the maturity to achieve her goals.”

For her outstanding accomplishments, Virginia Cody received a scholarship check worth \$1,000.00. Her connection to the 17th Artillery is through her Grandfather, Jerry Cody, who served as a combat medic in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and B Battery, 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery Regiment in Vietnam from November 1967 to November 1969.



Caption: Virginia Cody receives a 17th Artillery Scholarship check and a Certificate of Achievement from her Grandfather, Jerry Cody who represented the 17th Artillery Association at the Forestburg High School Award Ceremony.

17th Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarship to San Marcos High School Graduate

The fourth place winner was Daeryen Mason who will graduate from San Marcos High School this year. She is graduating as one of the top students in her class with a Grade Point Average of 3.75.

Daeryen has been very active in school and community activities. She was elected Vice President of her Junior Class in Currituck County High in Barco, NC. As a class officer, she was responsible for organizing several fundraisers, a successful homecoming celebration and a memorable Senior Picnic. For four years she was a student leader of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, in charge of organizing meetings, planning group events, and leading messages to share the Bible through sports. As an athlete she ran Cross Country and Track for four years. In her junior year she received the Coaches Award in Track.

Her counselor says the following about her: "She is a dedicated student, and her grades have been consistently exemplary. She always shows great initiative and diligence; she is able to develop intelligent plans and implement them successfully.... Because of her drive to succeed, proven abilities, and impressive academic achievements, Daeryen...will continue to impress us in her future." For her outstanding accomplishments, she received a scholarship check worth \$1,000.00. Her connection to the 17th Artillery is through her Grandfather, Ronald Mason, who served in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery Regiment at Fort Sill, OK, and in Vietnam from 1963 through 1965.



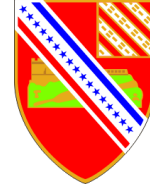
Caption: Daeryen Mason receives a 17th Artillery Scholarship check and a Certificate of Achievement from her father, Michael Mason, who represented the 17th Artillery Association at the San Marcos High School Award Ceremony.



17TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSN COIN



LIFE MEMBER COIN



PERSUADERS

DEPLOYMENT TO VIETNAM:

2015 is the 50th Anniversary of the deployment of the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery from Fort Sill, Oklahoma to An Khe, South Vietnam

-Departure--

The battalion's TOE equipment, including its howitzers and wheeled vehicles, were shipped from Beaumont, Texas on 1 August 1965. On 14 August the Fort Sill installation bade farewell to the 2d Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery in a special ceremony held at 2000 hours. The main body of the battalion departed later that night by troop train becoming the first battalion size unit to deploy to South Vietnam from Fort Sill. The port advance party departed in the early morning hours of 15 August, by bus, to Oklahoma City's Will Rogers Airport. From there, the advance party traveled via two jet airplanes to Oakland, California, arriving shortly after daybreak.

Since LTC Harry O. Amos, the 2/17th's Battalion Commander, had been appointed Commander of Troops aboard the United States Naval Ship (U.S.N.S.) General William. E. Gordon for the voyage to Vietnam; it fell to some 200 men of the PERSAUDERS to compose the voyage staff. It was a job for all concerned, but preparations were completed, and the Gordon sailed from Oakland on 17 August 1965 with nearly 4000 troops in thirty-five separate units aboard.

During the 17-day voyage, the 2/17th reenlisted 3 of its members-SSG Karl F. Vaughan, SFC Bobby J. Smith, and MSG Juan E. Cordero. The battalion also conducted classes on board in communications, fire direction, and general environmental conditions soon to be encountered in Vietnam. A special ceremony was also held for the burial at sea of a yellow "Safety Officer's" steel pot, which had been left over from the 2d LT's days at Fort Sill.



What else was there to do, but watch the ocean? (Photo Jack Picciolo)



Lifeboat, there were lifeboat drills held. (Photo Jack Picciolo)



August 1965- U.S.N.S. Gordon, somewhere in the Pacific Ocean or the South China Sea, en route to South Vietnam. (Photos from Jack Picciolo)



United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV)

-Arrival-

Originally, the battalion was scheduled to be the last unit to disembark the USNS Gordon in Saigon, after a stop in Quin Nhon, but orders were changed en route and the battalion would be the first unit to debark in Quin Nhon. The USNS Gordon anchored in Quin Nhon Harbor on the evening of September 3, 1965. The battalion, on September 5, 1965, disembarked from the USNS Gordon by LST to the beach at Quin Nhon. After a lunch of C-rations, the battalion was transported 50 miles inland, by truck, along Highway 19 and through Deo Mang Pass (a.k.a. An Khe Pass) to an old French airstrip located just outside of An Khe. Security for the convoy was provided by units of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which had secured Highway 19 from Quin Nhon to An Khe for the arrival of the 1st Air Cavalry Division and attached units.



Awaiting transportation to go inland to An Khe (Photo Jack Picciolo)



(September 7, 1965) Command Post of Battery C, An Khe Airstrip. SFC (E6) Randy Hall, 1st Howitzer Section Chief, standing next to the battery guidon. (Photo from Jack Picciolo)



South Vietnam policeman checking out the soldiers on the beach. Battalion initially was armed with the M14 rifle, later to be replaced by the M16 (Photo from Jack Picciolo)

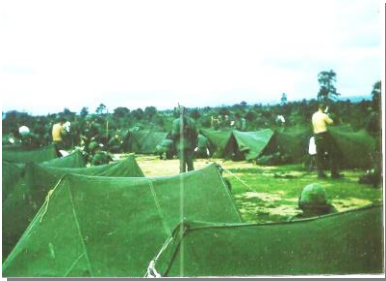


September 5, 1965 Battalion personnel land on the beach at Quin Nhon, South Vietnam. (By the LST shown in the background after being unloaded) (Photos from Jack Picciolo)



1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)

Upon arrival at the old French airstrip, at An Khe, the battalion provided additional perimeter security at the airstrip and furnished work details to help clear the new base camp for the 1st Air Cavalry Division under construction. The battalion was assigned to the United States Army Republic of Vietnam and attached to the 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery.



(September 6, 1965) Members of Battery C the first morning, at the north the end of the old French airstrip at An Khe (Photo from Thomas Kurtz)



(September 6, 1965) A C-22 (USAF) taking off from the An Khe Airstrip (Photo from Thomas Kurtz)

Six days after landing on the beach at Quin Nhon, the PERSUADERS had received its TO&E equipment, and howitzers, and were ready for action. On September 11, 1965 at 2140 hours, from Battery B, LTC Harry O. Amos, Battalion Commander, pulled the lanyard and fired the first round in Vietnam for the battalion, and the 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery, beginning another chapter in the history of the famed 17th Artillery.

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 2015 newsletter.

169. Michael (Mike) J. Hennessy, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1967-1968

170. David P. Hull, Battery A, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, United States Army Republic of Vietnam and 1st Field Forces Vietnam, 1966-1967.

The following named 17th Artillery veterans have paid their 2015 annual dues.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Philip I. Smith | Stephen J. Rumnock |
| James L. Wisneski | James Kasaback |
| Norman L. Barton | Ronald D. Mason |
| Leroy Lida Jr | Martin W. Cotler |
| James Deno | Stephen N. Hammer |
| Ronald J. Makinson | William D. Curtis |
| Roger D. Wolfen (Also paid 2014 dues) | |
| Ronnie Sumner | Francis Chester |
| Buddy L. Armstrong | Heinz A. Schiemann |
| Robert D. Leitch | Walter V. Cropper III |

The following named 17th Artillery veteran has paid his 2016 annual dues.

James L. Wisneski



*Distinctive Shoulder Insignia
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, World War I*

CHRONOLOGY OF “D” BATTERY, (A. E F.)

The chronology of Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Division (Regular) American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.), was taken from Battery’s D, 1930 Christmas Program, which was provided to the association by Karen Meury (Granddaughter of CWO Lonnie Hoyt Jackson, who served with Battery D and Service Battery, 17th Field Artillery Regiment 1927-1943). Battery D has the distinction of being the only separate U. S. Battery to be awarded the Croix de Guerre during World War I.

1917

Dec 27 - Landed at port of Brest

1918

- Jan 3 - Detrained at Camp du Valdahon
- 5 - Received guns, 155 Howitzers, and began training
- 22 - Fired first shot in practice shooting. During practice Battery fired 1593 rounds.
- Mar 18 – Having completed instructions, departed for front, entrained at Besancon.
- 19 – Detrained at Lemmes
- 20 – Arrived at Camp du Chanois, 4—A. M. back of front.
- 23 - Firing Battery moved into positions south of Woimbey, near the Meuse
- 25 – Fired first round in actual combat, in adjusting on Trenches De Chasse. The first round fired by the third piece No. 887
- Apr 1 – Fired first important problem Easter Sunday, in wire-cutting and barrage problem.

8 – Battery cited by Col. Marieux Commanding Artillery of 52nd French Division as follows: The Commanding Officer, 17th Field Artillery “During the three days which have passed. Battery D, commanded by Capt. Shea, has suffered with the greatest calmness and bravery some very violent shelling. It has never the less, accomplished without weakening the many missions which have been entrusted to it. I beg to convey to Capt. Shea and his valiant cannoneers my complete satisfaction.”

18 – Firing Battery moved to the east of Ranziers for special mission.

May 11 – Relieved by 18th Battery, 169th R A. I. French and withdrew to Genicourt, joining Esehion. Battery fired 3,796 rounds on this front.

13 – Marched to Thillombois, 15 kilometers, joining other batteries of the 2nd Battalion.

14 – Marched to Rumont, 18 kilometers

15 – Marched to Cheminon-le-Ville, 47 kilometers and went into billets.

19 – Marched to Revigny and entrained, 11 kilometers

20 – Detrained at Meru. 1---P. M., and marched to Laconville, 17 kilometers bivouacked

21 – Marched to Chambros and went into rest billets beginning a period of intense training, preparatory to joining the division for open warfare operations on the front, training continued until May 31.

June 1 – Entrained at Chaumont, after hiking from Chambos, 15 kilometers.

1 – Debarked at Ormay, and began march toward the front.

2 – Bivouacked near Cochered.

4 – Firing Battery into position near Paris farm. Chateau Thierry sector.

6 – First firing: Adjustment with aeroplanes and 200 round concentrations.

8 – Marched position forward 2 ½ kilometers into field along left side Paris-Metz highway.

12 – Moved into position directly across road to right, into woods.

13 – Took part in heavy concentration on Bois de Belleau and in subsequent operations by the Second Division before Chateau Thierry. D Battery took an important part and underwent heavy shelling continually. The Battery fired 8,765 rounds. Casualties: Killed Pvt. James H. Hurd, Florida, Ohio; Private Dennis Butler, Stillwater, Okla.; Pvt. Victor Geisert, Chicago, Ill; Pvt. Joe S. Copeland, Arkansas; Wounded-Capt. Geo. D. Shea, Augusta, Georgia; 1st Lieutenant John AE. Hartigan, St. Paul, Minn.; SGT. Frank Paladia, St. Louis, Mo.; Cpl. James E. Robert, Missouri; Cpl. Harry J. Callentino, Waterloo, Iowa; Cpl. Joseph Small, St. Louis, Mo.; Pvt. Lucas M. Parra, California; Pvt. James J. Bloomenthal, Harrisburg, PA.; Riley J. Presser, Covington, Ky.; Pvt. Clyde Penn, Birney, Montana; Pvt. Peter Milligaling, St. Joseph, Missouri; Pvt. L. C. Kent, California.

July 7 – Relieved by 103rd F.A., 26th Division, and withdrew to reserve position 10 kilometers back of the lines. Remain in reserve until July 11.

12 – In General Orders No. 14 Headquarters 2d Division, the following citation was announced.

BATTERY D, 17th FIELD ARTILLERY:

“During the recent operations against the enemy this battery has distinguished itself by its coolness, courage and

determination. In the face of several shelling’s and numerous casualties the morale of this Battery has been excellent. Officers and men having shown a devotion to duty is exceptional, and in the recent operation at the Bois de Belleau their accuracy and volume of fire was commendable”.

15 – Marched to woods near Betz and bivouacked for night

17 – Firing Battery moved into position in woods north of Villers-Cotterets, opening fire at 5:35 a. m. in the big counteroffensive drive instituted by the Allies.

18 – Moved forward to new position near Greenleaf Farm.

19 – Battery was bombed by enemy airplanes at 3--- a. m. Private Charles Hickman, Medical Corps.

South Dakota was killed. The following were wounded: Private Frank J. Fenci, Chicago, Ill.; Private Arthur Gravenstein, Grandy Center, Iowa; Private Edward E. Barrett, Homestead, PA.; Private Francis Smith, Indianapolis.

21 – Rejoined echelon in woods north of Villers-Cotterets.

22 – Moved forward 15 kilometers in gulch west of Villers-Helon.

23 – Fired guns of a captured German battery with effective results on Parey-Tigny.

25 – Relieved and withdrew firing battery to echelon position north of Villers-Cotterets. The battery fired 2,662 rounds on this front.

27 – Marched in direction of Oissery, bivouacking for the night along road.

28 – Arrived Oissery and bivouacked in field.

31 – Marched to Plessis-Belleville, 8 kilometers and entrained.

Aug 1 – Detrained at Bayon, 9 --- p. m., and hiked to Moselle, 22 kilometers.

2 – Into rest billets at Messein.

7 – Marched via Nancy to Frouard, 25 kilometers and bivouacked.

8 – Moved into woods north of Pompey, 5 kilometers and remained in camp until Aug. 21. During the stay here a working detail from the firing battery began preparation of a contemplated battery position near Ville-au-Val. The four guns were sent to the M. O. R. S. for a thorough overhauling.

21 – March into woods west of Champaign-ukilles, bivouacked.

22 – Continued march to woods south of Merreville and went into camp, beginning course of intensive training lasting until Sept.3.

Sept 3 – Moved out of camp at midnight, marching the remainder of the night, and bivouacked at daylight in heavy woods near Nancy.

4 – Moved out of camp at 9: --- p.m.

5 – Arrived daylight: at camp south of Avrienville.

9 – Moved forward 8:-- P. M. to camp in woods east of Manonville.

10 – Firing battery went into position north of Limey.

12 – Participated with firing programs in attack on Thiaccourt when St. Mihiel Salient was cut off by allied attack. Moved into position north of Limey in morning and in afternoon advanced again to position near Vieville.

15 – Volunteer gun crew from D battery went forward to fire German 6 inch Naval Rifle in captured

position near front line. It was later learned that the crew fired into Metz. Members of the volunteer crew: Sgt. Raymond F. Chapman, Sgt. Lewis H. Williams, Cpl. John A. Panosh, Cpl. Dan Culbertson, Cpl. Gayle J. Coleman, Pvt. Percy Smith, Pvt. Edward Shannon. Cpl Gordon Bartlett and Cpl. Claude C. Wilhelm with another volunteer crew manned two German 105 Rifles at another advanced position. Cpl. Bartlett and Wilhelm went to reconnoiter for other German guns the same day and were never returned. Cpl Bartlett was reported to have died in Evacuation Hospital No. 1 from serious wounds. No trace of Cpl. Wilhelm was found.

17 – Relieved and firing battery withdrew to Escheion near Manonville. At this front the following men were wounded: Pvt. Edward Leonard, New York; Cpl Dallas W. Lewter, Okla. The battery fired 1,115 rounds on this front.

19 – Marched toward Pagny-ur-Meuse; bivouacked north of that town for the night.

20 – Into rest barracks in Pagny-ur-Meuse.

27 – Marched in Vaucouleurs and entrained.

28 – Arrive Chalon 6:--- a. m. marched to St. Marie, bivouacked.

29 – Marched to camp south of Sulppes

Oct 1 – Left camp 9:--- p.m., marched to position north of Sulppes.

2 – Moved guns north 5 kilometers into positions south of Somme-Py.

3 – Firing battery moved 5 kilometers position in Somme-Py.

6 – Advanced 1 kilometer to position north of Somme-Py.

12 – Advance to position 2 kilometer north of St. Etienne

13 – Advance 25 kilometers to position north of Pauvres

19 – Withdrew at 2:--- a. m. to Machault, and pulled back to camp in woods south of Machault, same afternoon.

21 – Firing battery back in position, in valley east of Colommes.

27 – Participated with firing programs in attack on Attieny. Relieved same night and began march east. The wounded: Private Morgan E. Reed, Des Moines, Iowa; Pvt. Remy Vervaert, Chicago, Ill. The battery fired 3,061 rounds on this front.

28 – Arrived Auberge 6:--- p. m. and bivouacked

29 – Marched 30 kilometers to Exermont and firing battery went in position east edge of town.

Nov 1 – Fired barrage in the last American drive to Meuse

1 – Advanced 12 kilometers to new position at Landresville.

3 – Advanced 10 kilometers to position south of Nouard

4 – Advanced 10 kilometers to position north of Bois de Dames

8 – Advanced 5 Kilometers to position at La Forge Farm

10 – Advance 5 kilometers to position in village at Beaumont. Fired last shots of the war in concentration on Stenay.

11 – The battery was heavily shelled at 7:--- a. m. the morning of the armistice became effective. Sgt. Stuart B. Watts, Cpl. Gayle Coleman and Cpl. Dan Culbertson were wounded. Battery fired 802 rounds in this campaign. The Battery fired during the war 22, 096 rounds.

17 – Began march to Germany. Bivouacked north of Stenay for the night, 17 kilometers

18 – March to Hannoncourt, Belgium. Bivouacked in old prison camp.

20 – Marched via Virton to Chatilion, Belgium, 22 kilometers, Billeted

21 – Marched to Schweich, Luxemburg, 28 kilometers, Billeted

22 – Marched to Buschdorf, Luxemburg, 11 kilometers, Billeted

23 – Marched to Beringen, Luxemburg, 21 kilometers, Billeted

Dec 1 – Crossed into Germany at Wallemier and marched to Obersgegen, 37 kilometers, Billeted

2 – Marched to Biersdorf, 34 kilometers, Billeted

3 – Marched to Schonecken, 22 kilometers, Billeted

6 – Marched to Lessingen, 22 kilometers, Bivouacked.

7 – Marched to Hohenfels, 18 kilometers, Billeted.

8 – Marched to Briescheld, 30 kilometers, Bivouacked.

9 – Marched to Ahrweiler, 37 kilometers, Billeted.

13 – Marched to Namedy, 27 kilometers, Billeted.

14 – Marched to Engers, 20 kilometers, Billeted.

16 – Marched to Bendorf, 2 kilometers, and went into billets in a section of the town assigned to the 17th

Field Artillery: the destination of this Regiment as a unit of the Army of Occupation.

Arrived U. S. from Germany, August 1, 1919

2nd Division at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, August 15, 1919

Fort Bragg, N. C. January 1, 1921

Battery D in Vietnam

By: Dick Sugg S3 and XO, July 66 – June 67. (Life member).

I would like to add to the information above, about Battery D of '66-'67. The 1st Air Cav DCG, BG "Monk" Meyer spotted four 155s in outdoor storage at Na Trang, and asked if the 1st Cav could have them. The answer was yes, just come and get them. Being the only FA battalion with trucks, the 2/17th towed them back to An Khe and formed the battery. We also were the only battalion with no FOs, but like the crews and FDC for Battery D, we formed FO teams out of our hide for each of the 105 batteries, headed by NCOs. One of those FOs saw so much action that he was awarded five Purple Hearts; after that he was recalled to duty at HQ in An Khe. As Bn XO I was our only aerial FO, conducting registrations, flying night "mortar patrol," and adjusting fires from An Khe. I adjusted fire by our 155s at a jungle target north of An Khe; a target hit resulted in a secondary explosion that I had to describe to the Div Arty Commander. Battery D was so popular with the supported infantry, that the four gun battery expended more ammunition daily than any of our six gun 105 batteries. We did have one tragedy. As you know, the last rounds fired in LZ preps are smoke rounds to signal that landing is safe from more fires. Check Fire came after one of the 155s had loaded a smoke round that was stuck in the tube. To prevent a "cookoff" the crew removed the propellant bags and started to ram the smoke projectile out. Unfortunately, they had only the small bell rammer for 105s that actually hit the fuse instead of the ojive. The big mistake was leaving the breach open; a crew member was looking into the tube when the fuse went off, killing him when the base plate struck him. Battery

D was at the famous LZ Bird attack following the Christmas 66 Truce where 105 "nails" projectiles were first fired at the attacking enemy. During that fire fight a 155 HE "cookoff" round exploded, severely wounding the battery Commander.

June 14, 2015

WANTED: Photographs from Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm

The association is looking for photographs from both Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, for all three battalions (1st, 2nd and 3rd) of the Regiment that served during this time period. If you are a veteran, of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment, that served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and have any photographs, that you would like to share with the association, please forward them to Thomas Kurtz: by email at Kurtz_t@comcast.net or by mail at: 703 South College Street, Lincoln, IL 62656. Please include, if possible, a date, unit, description, location and individual's names for each picture. Pictures will be added to the association's historical picture files. All pictures sent by mail will be returned once they are scanned.



L-R, Maj Anderson, LTC Norris, Maj Dick Sugg



LOOKING FOR VIETNAM CASUALTIES PHOTOGRAPHS:

Photographs of the following members of the 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery, who were killed or died in Vietnam, are still 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, hometowns of record, date of birth, and batteries they were assigned to.

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

MSG Robert Joseph Gritte, Miford, MA; 11/25/1929; HHB

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 L. Simmons, Pine Bluff, AR; 03/18/1948; Btry C

PFC Thomas Peter Visker, Warden, WA; 03/22/1947; Btry C

Treasurer's Report

By: Bruce Latour

As of this report we have nineteen who have paid their membership for 2015. There are 170 Life Members to date. Only two have joined as a Life Member this year and the paid membership is behind the previous years that I have been treasurer. The reunion in St. Augustine is fast approaching. We currently have eight members registered to attend. If you plan to attend, and I hope each of you will, please have your registration to me as early as possible. I generally leave early for the reunion to incorporate other activities on my trip. By getting your registration in early everything will be processed prior to your arrival.

Our current bank balance (Quicken) is \$13,382.91. The Scholarship Fund has \$10,915.18 in it. This leaves our General Fund with \$2,467.73.

Bruce Latour, Treasurer

latourb@att.net



L-R 1LT Morris Boyd & CPT George Williams C/2/17/FA at LZ George 1968



1SG Bobby West, B/2/17/FA 1969 having a weapons inspection

Greetings on this hot and humid summer's day! I couldn't help but remind myself where I was 40 years ago June 17th. I was 18 years old and beginning my Basic Combat Inf. Training, after six months of prior Reserve status, at Ft. Polk, LA. (This was also known as "Little Viet Nam" as most of you know.) Ft. Sill was surely a welcome sight in August! I think of going into the military gives a lot of us a 'spiritual awakening' as well as a mental one too. 18 years in law enforcement added to both of these as well. You don't meet to many atheists in either field it seems but both come with challenges. In the military we learn we can usually accomplish most goals with a little 'elbow grease' and Faith. This usually stays with us throughout life.

I thought of several topics to write about in this edition but instead I'm going to give you a few things to put on your refrigerator with all those other little magnets up there. These, editor-permitting formatting, are things that I've had since 1999. I want to share a few with you and hope that you will read them and let it be a part of your daily routine as well as looking them up in the Bible for more info.

Please continue to keep the following members and their families in your thoughts and prayers: Norman Jones-skin cancer surgery; Buddy Armstrong (Korean war) surgical procedure; Mike Burke-arteries surgery; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kinton (WW II) nursing home; and Tom Kurtz-family sickness. In closing I hope you'll remember phone calls, emails, cards, and visits go a long way for someone who is sick or homebound. On a brighter side, I became a new grandfather this month of another grandson of almost 9lbs. Now get your scissors and start cutting.

God Bless,

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

For the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: "It's impossible."

God says: ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE (LUKE 18:27)

You say: "I can't do it"

God says: "YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS." (PHILLIPIANS 4:13)

You say: "I can't forgive myself."

God says: "I FORGIVE YOU." (1 JOHN 1:9 & ROMANS 8:1)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated."

God says: "CAST ALL YOUR CARES ON ME." (1 PETER 5:7)

You say: "Nobody really loves me."

God says: "I LOVE YOU." (JOHN 3:16 & JOHN 13:34)

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 "Microsoft Word".

To receive the electronic newsletter, notify the association's secretary: Jack Picciolo at: purrsfive@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 2015

- James Sanders-----President
- Jerry Cody-----1st Vice President
- Gary Griffin-----2nd Vice President
- John (Jack) Picciolo -----Secretary
- H. Bruce Latour-----Treasurer
- Norman Jones-----Past President
- Richard Smith-----Chaplain
- John (Jack) Picciolo -----Historian
- Richard Flowers-----Quartermaster
- Edward (Ed) Hitchner -----Webmaster
- Gilbert Bernabe-----2015 Scholarship Chairman

The Office up for election is president. Election will be held at the General Membership Meeting in October 2015.

This Newsletter has been approved by the board of directors.

James Sanders
Association President
C/2/17/FA 1968
www.17thartilleryregiment.org

17th Artillery Regiment Association's Seventeenth Annual Reunion

ST Augustine, FL. October 28-30, 2015

2015 REUNION REGISTRATION

COME ONE, COME ALL

The 2014 reunion of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association will be held at St Augustine, Florida from Wednesday, October 28 to Friday, October 30, 2015 with check out on Saturday 31 October 2015. The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn, 1302 N Ponce De Leon Blvd, St Augustine, FL 32084. Reservations can be made by calling **1-(800)-569-8008 to reserve a room under the 17th Artillery Regiment Association. A Credit Card will be required.** Room rates are \$87.00 per night plus tax. Room rates are from October 26 - 30, 2015. These rates are for rooms with 2 queen beds, upgrades are available at a different rate. Reservations must be made by September 26, 2015 to receive the cited room rates. Reservations made after September 26, 2015 will be accepted on a space and rate available basis only. Sign in time is 4 PM and sign out time is by 11 AM. The Hotel will include a full hot breakfast per room night. Parking is free. If you make a room reservation and have to cancel, the cancellation must be made prior to 3:00 PM on October 23, 2015 to avoid being charged. The website for the Hotel is: www.staugustinehi.com

Please come and bring your spouse, family members and friends to tour St Augustine. 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 have 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. 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 October 15, 2015. If by chance you miss the dead line you may pay the fee when arriving at the reunion.

Tentative Itinerary: For those who arrive early the hospitality room will be open 8:AM Monday October 26, thru Saturday October 31, 2015 at which time it will close at 1100 am. **Tours are the individuals responsibility!!!**
Sightseeing train shuttles will pick up at the front door of the hotel.

Wed, Oct 28, 2015 – Hospitality room opens at 8 AM. 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 home. At 6-8:00 PM there will be a meet and greet in the hotel.

Thurs., Oct 29, 2015 – Hospitality room opens at 8:AM. Tour in and around St Augustine. There will not be a Cook out this year. It is not allowed at this hotel or any that I have checked in St Augustine that will accommodate our group. We are trying to find a local that we can use for a cook out.

Fri, Oct 30, 2015 – Hospitality room opens at 8:AM, General membership meeting will be held at 9:AM. The Auction/banquet will start at 1:PM and end by 4:PM. After the banquet, continue touring the sites in and around Asheville.

Sat, Oct 31, 2015 - check out by 11 AM

POC:

Norman R. Jones
(512) 571-8972
AnKhe2nd17FA68rj@aol.com

17th Artillery Regiment Association's Registration Slip
2015 Reunion- October 28-30, 2015

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 October 15, 2015)**

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: \$50.00 per person - X- Number Attending _____ = \$ _____
(number in your party)

Please donate toward the hospitality room.----- \$ _____

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 2015 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: 2015 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

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



September 2009, Southern Afghanistan, Forward Operating Base (FOB) Wolverine, the 2nd Section, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 5th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division fires another round from their M777A2, 155mm towed howitzer

17th Artillery Regiment Association Newsletter
“The CASTLE”