

THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 29

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17th field artillery regiment



*100 years of
Service-valor-sacrifice
The regiment has a
Long and decorated history
Dating back to World War I
Constituted July 1, 1916
Organized June 6, 1917*

By Thomas R. Kurtz

-SERVICE-

On June 6, 2017, the 17th Field Artillery Regiment will turn 100 years old. It all began, in 1916, when the Congress of the United States enacted the National Defense Act. This act reorganized the land forces of the United States, which included the authorized force structure expansion in the number of Regular Army field

artillery regiments, by splitting up four of the six existing regiments and filling the vacancies with recruits to expand the number of active field artillery regiments to nine. Thus, on July 1, 1916 the 17th Field Artillery Regiment was only constituted.

On May 11, 1917, the Secretary of War issued the order directing that the 17th Field Artillery Regiment be organized. The actual organization of the regiment was not implemented until May 15, 1917. One month after the declaration of war on Germany. On June 1, 1917, selected cadres from the 1st Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas were transferred to Camp Robinson, at Sparta, Wisconsin to form the nucleus of the new regiment.

The 17th Field Artillery Regiment was officially organized on June 6, 1917 and entered in the rolls of the United States Army. The units of the regiment have since been involved in the major conflicts of the United States Army: World War I, World War II, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Over the past 100 years, the regiment has gone through a number of reorganizations, re-designations, activations, and inactivation's. The Regiment today is only represented by the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, 7th Infantry Division stationed at Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington.

Holding to the regiment's motto; "In Time of Peace Prepare for War", during the past one-hundred years, soldiers of the regiment, who have served in peace trained for war. In times of war, soldiers of the regiment have proven their dedication, courage, valor, and many have made the ultimate sacrificed.

As the regiment starts its next 100 years, soldiers currently serving and future regimental soldiers will continue adding their chapters to the history and legacy of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment.

-VALOR-
Decorations

World War I:

***French Croix de Guerre with Palm, for AISNE-MARNE**

(17th Field Artillery, cited WD GO 11, 1924)

***French Croix de Guerre with Palm, for MEUSE-ARGONNE**

(17th Field Artillery, cited WD GO 11, 1924)

***French Croix de Guerre, Fourragere**

(17th Field Artillery, cited WD GO 11, 1924)

***French Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star, for SOISSONS**

(Battery D, 17th Field Artillery, cited WD GO 11, 1924)

World War II

***French Croix de Guerre with Palm, for VOSGES**

(630th Field Artillery Battalion, cited DA GO 43, 1950)

***French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, for ROME-ARNO**

(Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Group, 17th Field Artillery Battalion and 933d Field Artillery Battalion, cited DA GO 43, 1950)

***French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, for ROME-ARNO**

(630th Field Artillery Battalion, cited DA GO 43, 1950)

Korean War

***Presidential Unit Citation, for HONGCHON**

(Battery B, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, cited DA GO 72, 1951)

***Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), for WONJU-HWACHON**

(Battery C, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, cited DA GO 38, 1957)

***Navy Unit Commendation, for PAMMUNJON**

(Battery C, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, cited DA GO 38, 1957)

***Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, for KOREA 1950-1952**

(17th Field Artillery Battalion, cited DA GO 41, 1955)

Vietnam War

***Presidential Unit Citation, for PLEIKU PROVINCE**

(2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, cited DA GO 40, 1967)

***Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, for VIETNAM 1965-1971**

(2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, cited DA GO 54, 1971)

Southwest Asia

***Valorous Unit Award, for IRAQ 1991**

(3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, cited DA GO 1994-27 and DA GO 1997-14)

War on Terrorism:

Iraq: (Operations Iraqi Freedom)

***Valorous Unit Award, for IRAQ 2003-2004**

(1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, cited DA GO 2009- 08, and DA GO 2010- 16)

***Meritorious Unit Commendation, for IRAQ 2005-2006**

(Battery A, Battery B, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, cited DA GO 2013-23)

***Meritorious Unit Commendation, for IRAQ 2006-2008**

(Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Battery A, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, cited DA GO, 2010-24)

Afghanistan: (Operation Enduring Freedom)

***Valorous Unit Award, for KANDAHAR PROVINCE 2012-2013**

(2d Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, cited DA GO 2014-58)

***Meritorious Unit Commendation, for AFGHANISTAN 2010**

(Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Battery A, Battery B, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, cited DA GO 2013-65)

-Campaign participation credits-

World War I

- *Aisne
- *Aisne-Marne
- *St. Mihiel
- *Meuse-Argonne
- *Lorraine 1918
- *Ile De France 1918

World War II

- *Tunisia
- *Sicily (with arrowhead)
- *Naples-Foggia
- *Roma-Arno
- *Rhineland
- *Ardennes-Alsace
- *Central Europe

Korean War

- *UN Defensive
- *UN Offensive
- *CCF Spring Intervention
- *First UN Counteroffensive
- *CCF Spring Offensive
- *UN Summer-Fall Offensive
- *Second Korean Winter
- *Korean, Summer-Fall 1952
- *Third Korean Winter
- *Korean, Summer 1953

Vietnam War

- *Defense
- *Counteroffensive
- *Counteroffensive, Phase II
- *Counteroffensive, Phase III
- *Tet Counteroffensive
- *Counteroffensive, Phase IV
- *Counteroffensive, Phase V
- *Counteroffensive, Phase VI
- *Tet 69 Counteroffensive
- *Summer-Fall 1969
- *Winter-Spring 1970
- *Sanctuary Counteroffensive
- *Counteroffensive, Phase VII

Southwest Asia

- *Defense of Saudi Arabia
- *Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

War on Terrorism

- *Iraq – TBD
- *Afghanistan - TBD

-SACRIFICE-

“Remembering those soldiers of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment who gave all”

WORD WAR I

17th field artillery regiment

Rank/Name/Date of Death

- *Private Fred Ewald -January 12, 1918
- *Bugler Fay F. Chrisman -February 1, 1918
- *Clerk John McGinnis -February 6, 1918
- *Private First Class John H. Howell -March 12, 1918
- *Private First Class Walter Stelmaszek -June 11, 1918
- *Private First Class William Burns -June 18, 1918
- *Private James H. Hurd -June 20, 1918
- *Private Dennis Butler -June 23, 1918
- *Private First Class Victor J. Geisert -June 23, 1918
- *Private Joseph S. Copeland -June 30, 1918
- *Corporal Walter J. Behrens -July 6, 1918
- *Private First Class Fritz Hornke -July 12, 1918
- *Private Lowell C. Hein -July 20, 1918
- *Private First Class Jack C. Hickman -July 20, 1918
- *Private First Class Charles W. Mason -July 20, 1918
- *Corporal Albert L. Strunk -July 20, 1918
- *Private Alvy A. Caya -July 22, 1918
- *Private Frank P. Lillis -July 22, 1918
- *Bugler Francis L. Johnson -July 25, 1918
- * Private Robert B. Taylor -September 11, 1918
- *Corporal Claude C. Wiheim -September 15, 1918
- *Corporal Gordon Barlett -September 17, 1918
- *Private First Class Cornelius R. Westfall -October 4, 1918
- *Sergeant Chester G. Umpheneur -October 6, 1918
- *Private First Class Roy W. Halm -October 7, 1918
- *Private First Class Harris R. Snyder -October 7, 1918
- *Second Lieutenant Roy L. Bauer -October 8, 1918
- *Private First Class Lester W. Oster -October 9, 1918
- *Private Wilford W. Anderson -October 28, 1918
- *Corporal Carl A. Jenson -November 10, 1918
- *Band Corporal Hugh W. Chandler -June 25, 1919

WORLD WAR II

*17th field artillery regiment-
17th field artillery battalion +
630th field artillery battalion ^*

- *Sergeant Furman A. Boone -MIA-February 14, 1943-
- *Staff Sergeant Marvin W. King -February 14, 1943-

*Private First Class Paul J. LeBlanc -MIA-February 14, 1943-
 *Sergeant Claus H. Mangles -MIA-February 14, 1943-
 *Corporal Edward Roeben -MIA-February 14, 1943-
 *Private First Class Harold Goldie -February 15, 1943-
 *Private Robert D. Newson -February 15, 1943-
 *Private Henry Q. Harbort -MIA-February 16, 1943-
 *Corporal George P. Zilinski -MIA-February 19, 1943-
 *Private First Class Denny T. Meeker -February 20, 1943-
 *Private First Class James R. Phillips -March 21, 1943-
 *First Lieutenant Richard W. Kelly -June 25, 1943-
 *Corporal Norman J. Morgan -October 12, 1943-
 *Chief Warrant Officer Lonnie H. Jackson -October 24, 1943-
 *Private William H. McElfresh -October 30, 1943-
 *Private First Class Jesse W. Slagle -November 10, 1943-
 *Private Edward Castel -November 18, 1943-
 *Private First Class Pete Coletta -January 23, 1944-
 *Private First Class John J. Ghiggeri-February 22, 1944^
 *Corporal Edwin M. Majeski -March 9, 1944+
 *Private Joseph G. Ash -April 6, 1944^
 *Private Anthony J. Kolacinski -April 23, 1944+
 *Sergeant Walter Olson -May 23, 1944^
 *Private First Class Frank R. Buzzell -December 6, 1944^
 *Corporal Eric Guthman -December 10, 1944+
 *Private John H. Horridge - (DOD Unk POW-Captured December 26, 1944) ^
 *Tech Fifth Class George B. Magee -March 21, 1945^
 *Tech Fifth Class Homer J. Adsitt -May 7, 1945^
 *Tech Fifth Class Woodrow O. Corson -MIA-May 13, 1945^
 *Private First Class Eldon D. Evans -MIA-May 13, 1945^
 *Sergeant Sherwood J. Palmer -May 17, 1946^

Korean War

17th field artillery battalion

*Private Floyd Thompson -November 10, 1950
 *Captain Richard Blew - (DOD Unk POW-Captured-MIA- Oct 21, 1951)
 *Private Carlos M. Hernandez -January 18, 1952
 *Private First Class Richard F. Dodmead -June 15, 1952
 *Private First Class Mike M. Garza -June 15, 1952
 *Private First Class Donald B. Perrin -June 15, 1952
 *Private First Class Frederick W. Lankford -July 19, 1952
 *Private First Class Allen R. Dale -November 18, 1952
 *Corporal Henry L. Chambers -December 8, 1952
 *Private Charles H. Evans -January 16, 1953
 *Private Fred Hamlin -February 8, 1953

*Captain Harold E. Van Lehn -May 24, 1953

VIETNAM WAR

*2ND howitzer battalion, 17TH artillery-
 2ND BATTALION, 17TH ARTILLERY+*

*Private First Class William Cutshaw -January 17, 1966-
 *Private First Class Hiram D. Strickland -February 1, 1966-
 *Second Lieutenant Gilbert B. Bush -May 8, 1966-
 *Private First Class Billy R. Foster -June 15, 1966-
 *First Lieutenant James P. Schueller -June 17, 1966-
 *Private First Class Michael A. Lowery -February 5, 1967
 *Master Sergeant Robert J. Gritte -March 4, 1967-
 *Private First Class David W. Lauritsen -April 8, 1967-
 *Specialist Fourth Class Joseph W. Cruz -August 13, 1967-
 *Corporal Jimmy G. Mayfield -August 13, 1967-
 *Private First Class Larry W. Barrett -April 3, 1968+
 *Staff Sergeant Felipe Camarillo -April 3, 1968+
 *Specialist Fourth Class Robert L. Caswell -April 3, 1968+
 *Specialist Fourth Class Gilbert De La Pena -April 3, 1968+
 *Specialist Fourth Class Fred R. Glover -April 3, 1968+
 *Private First Class Ralph C. McGowan -April 3, 1968+
 *Specialist Fourth Class Danny J. Richardson -April 3, 1968+
 *Corporal Edgar L. Simmons -April 3, 1968+
 *Private First Class Thomas P. Visker -April 3, 1968+
 *Private First Class Elbert B. Walker -April 3, 1968+
 *First Lieutenant John T. Wilkinson -April 3, 1968+
 *Private First Class Clifford A. Draper -August 23, 1968+
 *Corporal Stephen A. Jordan -August 25, 1968+
 *Warrant Officer 1 Francis D. Alivento -May 8, 1969+
 *Specialist Fifth Class Donald L. Brightman -June 15, 1969+
 *Sergeant Valeriano D. Contreras -June 15, 1969+
 *Sergeant Francis B. Madden -June 15, 1969+
 *Specialist Fourth Class Kem L. Wallace -July 17, 1969+
 *Sergeant Richard J. Parnell -July 21, 1969+
 *Specialist Fourth Class Nickoaus C. Zozula -November 2, 1969+
 *Sergeant Robert A. De Die -November 24, 1969+
 *Staff Sergeant Robert R. Brown -December 1, 1969+
 *Captain George B. Colgan III -December 1, 1969+
 *Warrant Officer 1 Peter C. Behrens -December 4, 1970+
 *Captain James R. Heimbold -December 4, 1970+
 *Command Sergeant Major Andrew Machristie - December 4, 1970+

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
1ST BATTALION, 17TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT-
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment+

- *Specialist Stephen E. Wyatt -October 13, 2003-
- *Captain Eric L. Aliton -September 24, 2004+
- *Private First Class Jeungjin Na Kim -October 6, 2004+
- *Specialist Bradley S. Beard -October 14, 2004+
- *Specialist Christopher A. Merville -October 17, 2004+
- *Sergeant Marurice K. Fortune -October 20, 2004+
- *Specialist Francisco G. Martinez -Mach 20, 2005+
- *Private First Class Stephen P. Downing II -October 28, 2004+
- *Sergeant Angelo L. Lozada Jr. -April 16, 2005+
- *Specialist Randy L. Stevens -April 16, 2005+
- *Sergeant Tomaine K. Toy Sr. -April 16, 2005+
- *Specialist Louis E. Niedermeier -June 1, 2005+
- *Sergeant First Class Neil A. Prince -June 11, 2005+
- *Specialist Anthony D. Kinslow -June 13, 2005+
- *Sergeant Larry R. Kuhns Jr.-June 13, 2005+
- *Sergeant John M. Sullivan -December 30, 2006+
- *Private First Class Brett A. Walton -April 9, 2007+
- *Specialist Brian L. Holden -April 9, 2007+
- *Sergeant Ismael G. Solorio Jr.-April 9, 2007+
- *Sergeant Eric A. Lill-July 6, 2007+
- *Specialist Christopher D. Kube -July 14, 2007+

Operation enduring freedom
2nd battalion, 17th field artillery regiment

- *Staff Sergeant John E. Hanson -July 26, 2012
- *First Lieutenant Sean R. Jacobs -July 26, 2012

World War I Casualties

Second Lieutenant Roy L. Bauer

Died: October 8, 1918 (KIA)
 Entered the service from: Atlanta, Georgia
 Buried: Plot E Row 20 Grave 16
 Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagna, France
 Awarded: Croix de Guerre

Private Wilford W. Anderson - Battery A

Died: October 28, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
 Entered service from: Logan, Utah
 Buried at Logan City Cemetery, Cache County, Logan, Utah

Corporal Gordon Bartlett – Battery D

Died: September 17, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
 Home Town: Peachdale, Rhode Island
 Died of wounds in Evacuation Hospital No. 1
 Buried: Plot D Row 28 Grave 21
 St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France

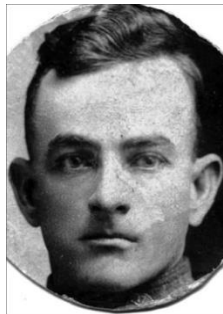
Corporal Walter J. Behrens – Battery F

Died: July 6, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
 Home Town: Lafayette, Indiana; Born May 7, 1893
 Son of Henry and Rose Behrens
 Buried at the village cemetery at Laferte, France



Private First Class William Burns – Battery A

Died: June 18, 1918 (KIA)
 Entered service from: New York
 Buried: Plot A Row 12 Grave 9
 Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleua, France
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7279 Wade-Burns, 560 North Delaware Avenue, Lindenhurst, New York 11757-3411 is in part named for PFC William Burns



Private Dennis Butler – Battery D

Home Town: Stillwater, Oklahoma (Brother, Ross; Sister, Myrtle (Albert))
 Died: June 23, 1918 (KIA)
 Date of Birth: 1895
 Was killed-in-action when Battery D came under heavy shelling from enemy artillery fire.
 Entered Service from Adair County, Oklahoma
 Enlisted at Tulsa, Oklahoma, December 1917
 Buried: Stilwell Cemetery, Stillwell County, Stilwell, Oklahoma

Private Alvy A. Caya – Battery F

Died: July 22, 1918 (KIA)
 Entered service from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin
 Buried at Saint Gabriel Cemetery, Crawford County, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

Band Corporal Hugh W. Chandler – Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Regiment

Died: June 25, 1919 – Non-Battle Death (NBD) Died of empyema (Age 23)
Entered Service from Wisconsin
Buried: Plot A Row 28 Grave 7
Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Tardenois, France

Bugler Fay F. Chrisman – 17th Field Artillery Regiment
Home Town: St Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Died: February 1, 1918, Non-Battle Death (NBD), Died of disease
Entered Service from Missouri
Buried: Plot C Row 10 Grave 39
Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Rogagne, France



Private Joseph (Joe) S. Copeland – Battery D
Died: June 30, 1918 (KIA)
Home Town: Dardanelle, Arkansas
Was killed-in-action when Battery D came under heavy enemy artillery fire.
Entered service from Arkansas
Buried: Plot A Row 10 Grave 42
Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, France

Private Fred Ebald – 17th Field Artillery Regiment
Died: January 12, 1918 (Unknown Cause)
Entered Service from Ohio
Buried: Plot A Row 10 Grave 37
Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Rogagne, France

Private First Class Victoe J. Geisert – Battery D
Died: June 23, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
Entered service from Chicago, Illinois
Was killed-in-action when Battery D came under heavy enemy artillery fire.
Buried: Plot A Row 8 Grave 32
Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, France

Private First Class Roy W. Halm – Battery D
Died: October 7, 1918 (KIA)

Private Lowell C. Hein – Battery C
Died: July 20, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)

Private First Class Jack C. Hickman – Medical Detachment
Died: July 20, 1918 (KIA)
Was killed-in-action when enemy airplanes bombed Battery D.
Entered service from South Dakota

Buried: Plot B Row 3 Grave 45
Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, France

Private First Class Fritz Hornke – Battery F
Died: July 12, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
Home Town: Rice Lake Wisconsin
Entered service from Wisconsin
Buried: Plot A Row 12 Grave 17
Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, France

Private First Class John H. Howell – 17th Field Artillery Regiment
Died: March 12, 1918 (Unknown Cause)
Entered Service from New York
Buried: Plot A Row 16 Grave 13
St Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France

Private James Howard H. Hurd – Battery D (SN#132312)
Died: June 20, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW) from heavy enemy artillery fire on Battery D
Born at Florida, Ohio – 1894
Entered service from Michigan
Enlisted August 28, 1917 at Columbus Barracks, Ohio August 28 1917
Served in Supply Company 17th Field Artillery until October 23, 1917, then transferred to Battery D
Father: Henry Hurd, Napoleon, Ohio
Buried: Plot A Row 03 Grave 64
Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, France

Corporal Carl A. Jensen - Headquarters Battery
Died: November 10, 1918 (KIA)

Burglar Francis L. Johnson – Battery F
Died: July 25, 1918 (KIA)
Entered service from Massachusetts
Parents Charles and Betty Johnson
Buried at Old Swedish Cemetery, Worcester County, Worcester, Wisconsin

Private Frank P. Lillis – Battery C
Died: July 22, 1918, severely wounded and Died of Wounds (DOW) age 19 (approximately)
Entered service from Chicago, Illinois
Enlisted September 1917
Son of Mrs. Mary Lillis, Chicago, Illinois
Buried at Calvary Cemetery, Cook County, Illinois

Private Charles W. Mason – Battery C
Died: July 20, 1918 (KIA)
Entered service from Lancaster County, Nebraska
Buried: Plot: Section 18 Site 4594
Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington County, Virginia

Clerk John McGinnis - 17th Field Artillery Regiment
Died: February 6, 1918 (Unknown Cause)
Entered Service from Minnesota
Buried: Plot C Row 36 Grave 7
Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France

Private First Class Lester W. Oster – Battery B

Died: October 9, 1918 (KIA)
Entered Service from Rochester, New York
Enlisted on June 26, 1917
Buried at South Division, Holy Sepulcher Cemetery,
Rochester, New York

Private First Class Harris R. Snyder – Battery C

Died: October 7, 1918 (KIA)
Entered service from Pennsylvania
Home Town: Muncy, Pennsylvania
Buried: Plot B Row 20 Grave 31
Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France

Private First Class Walter Stelmaszek – Battery F

Died: June 11, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
Entered service from Chicago, Illinois

Corporal Albert L. Strunk – Battery C

Died: July 20, 1918 Non-Battle Death (NBD) Died of Disease
Entered service from Scott County, Tennessee
Parents: Alexander and Martha Ann (Taylor) Strunk
Buried at Tateville Baptist Cemetery, Pulaski County,
Kentucky

Private Robert B. Taylor - Battery B

Died: September 11, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
Entered service from New York

Sergeant Chester G. Umpheneur – Battery C

Died: October 6, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
Entered service from Kansas
Buried: Plot G Row 05 Grave 02
Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France

Private First Class Cornelius R. Westfall – Battery A

Died: October 4, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
Entered service from Wyoma, West Virginia
Buried: Plot G Row 29 grave 40
Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagna, France

Corporal Claude C. Wilhelm – Battery D

Died: September 15, 1918, Died of Wounds (DOW)
On one of the volunteer gun crews that went forward close to
enemy lines to fire captured German artillery pieces, Cpl.
Wilhelm and Cpl. Bartlett went to reconnoiter for more
German artillery pieces to fire. Cpl. Bartlett died of wounds in
hospital No. 1 and Cpl. Wilhelm was never seen or heard of
again. (From Chronology of Battery D)
Born: Windom, Kansas
Entered service from McPherson, Kansas
Buried: Plot B Row 5 Grave 8
St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Thanks Be To God

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year.
Spending time with family and friends is usually a wonderful

thing. The celebration of our Savior's birth gives us something
to celebrate all year! Christmas is also a time that catches a lot
of us thinking about Christmas past. I'm no exception.

This was my first Christmas without any living parents or
step-mother. At first I was saddened, and yes I still miss them.
I have to stop and think about they're not suffering. There's no
pain, grief, or problems from this world. I think about
something my grandfather told me years ago. "Son you have
to GET right, to LIVE right, so you can DIE right." Our minds
can't really fathom the meaning of eternity after death.
Through God and His Son Jesus Christ we have that ability to
have an eternity in His kingdom.

*"The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from
that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please
the Spirit will reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:8 NIV) As Jesus
says", My sheep listen to my voice: I know them, and they
follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never
perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John
10:27-28.* Years later I think my grandfather gave me words to
live by.

I'd like to ask you to keep the following members and
their families in your thoughts and prayers: James Will (sinus
surgery); Melanie Klingemann (ankle surgery from fall); Paul
Shepherd (knee surgery); Dave Rowell (lost home due to
flooding in LA); Paul Fusco (heart surgery) Charles Riley
(gall bladder); Tom Kurtz (health problems and caregiver);
Norm & Annette Jones (health problems) Also remember
Charles Garner (health problems)

I only have one death that I have been notified of and
that is MSgt. Gerald Brown. Please remember cards, calls, and
emails go a long way! Hope to see you all in Charleston!

God Bless,
Richard A. Smith – Chaplain
rsmith3024@nc.rr.com

My Experiences with 2/17th Artillery

Written by: Richard Siebe

I joined the Army on June 30, 1965. I was in college
at the time and found that I liked chasing women and drinking
beer more than I liked going to class, so I figured I had better
find some direction in my life. I went through Basic and AIT
(Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic) at Fort Ord, Ca. I had orders for
Jump School at Fort Benning, but went to Ft. Knox for Track
Vehicle Mechanic School instead. Upon graduation, I once
again had orders to go to Jump School, but since my Company
Commander convinced me to apply for OCS, I was delayed
again.

I ended up at Ft. Sill attending Artillery and Missile
OCS. After graduating, I spent 8 months at Ft. Polk in a basic
training Company. In June 1967, I received orders for the 1st
Cav Division with a 2-week side trip to Panama for Jungle
School. The most important lesson I learned in Panama was
that no matter how comfortable and how good they looked,

Corcoran Jump boots are not made for a wet environment. My first pair lasted 8 days, and my 2nd pair just barely made it through the rest of the course.

In August 1967, I arrived at Camp Radcliff with the 1st Cav Division and after a brief indoctrination and training, was assigned to 2/17th Artillery. At that time, 2/17th was attached to the 1st Cav Division, and we consisted of 4 firing batteries (A, B, C, & D), Hqs, and Svc Battery. A, B & C Batteries were 105 Towed and D consisted of (4) 155's towed. The 3-105 Batteries rotated between Camp Radcliff, LZ Schueller, and the 1st Cav's AO, while D battery spent most of its time at Vinh Tanh, also known as Happy Valley, between An Khe and Quin Nhon. I was assigned to C Battery but ended up working as a Liaison Officer, working with the 1st Cav units that were at Camp Radcliff. Since I was a new guy, it was decided I should go on an overnight air assault with 1/7th Cav to see what was going on in the area. Fortunately, only 1 shot was fired in the 2 days we were out. After a lot of walking, I definitely slept well when we got back.

A month or so later I was given the task of firing some defensive targets for the An Khe jail. MACV had plotted the targets, so all I had to do was observe where they were and see if they were in the correct location and not in town. After a short social interlude with the Jail's Commandant, we fired the first 5 targets with no problems using smoke rounds. The sixth round, however, landed right in the middle of Sin City (those of you who spent any time at Camp Radcliff know what I'm talking about). I have never seen so many GI's move so fast out of the gates of Sin City in my life. Generally high explosive rounds followed a smoke round. At that time smoke rounds marked the targets.

A short time later, the 1/5th Cav rotated back to Camp Radcliff and their Artillery Liaison Officer went on R&R so I got plenty of flying time in the command and control chopper prepping air assaults and going anywhere the CO of the 1/5th went for 2 weeks. In November 1967, we were attached to the 41st Artillery Group and I started flying with the Air Force Forward Air Controllers to teach them how to call in fire missions if they happened to catch a NVA Battalion in the open (every FO's dream). While I was flying with them, we had no such luck. We did fire a lot of registrations for D battery though.

In January 1968, I was assigned to B/2/17 as the FDO. We were at Camp Radcliff at the time, and then shortly after, we moved to LZ Schueller. Until that time, A, B, and C batteries moved about every 30 days. Once we got to LZ Schueller, we found out that we would be there quite a while so we began making LZ Schueller a more permanent fire base. The first time we were mortared by the VC, one of my people woke me up and I went out to take a look. The mortar flashes that I saw were right on line with the infantry mortar location. Since the infantry had put a couple of rounds inside our perimeter the night before, I told him to not worry about it. In the morning I found out how wrong I was, a VC round had landed about 2' from the entrance to the FDC.

Normally LZ Schueller would get mortared once a month, but on April 10, 1968 (1 week after C battery had been overrun near Quin Nhon on April 3, 1968); an engineer unit was ambushed west of LZ Schueller. A short time later, A/3/6 Artillery near the Mang Yang Pass, was mortared, and then while we (B/2/17) were firing in support of A/3/6 we started to get mortared. The two things that I remember most about that day are Steve Jordan going to the mess hall to get me some lunch, and just as he came out, we started getting mortared so he dodged the incoming mortar rounds to bring me a plate of spaghetti that I never had a chance to eat. He reminded me constantly that he had sacrificed so much to bring me that plate. At the same time our latrine/ shower with an immersion heater was also hit and burned to the ground. I hate cold showers. In May 1968, I became XO of Bravo. Then in July, I went back to Battalion as an Asst. S3 until my tour was over.

The last week of August 1968 was the worst time I had while I was in Vietnam. I was trying to gear myself into becoming a civilian and going home, but there was still a war going on, and I had to identify the bodies of Cliff Draper, killed during a mortar attack on LZ Schueller, and Steve Jordan, killed while TDY as an FO with the 1/50 Mechanized Infantry. I almost got into a fight with the graves registration person after I said, "Yes, that is Steve Jordan", and he asked me how I identified him. He was just doing his job, but it still hurt to lose someone you knew. Two days later, I was on my way home and my military career was over.

An interesting side note was that while I was in college in 1964, I read a book titled Street Without Joy, by Bernard Fall, about the French in Vietnam in the 50's. It is a great book, and it is ironic that French Mobile Group 100 was ambushed and nearly wiped out in 1954 within 2 kilometers of where I was assigned to B/2/17th Artillery at LZ Schuller in the year of 1968.

Richard Siebe - Treasurer

Note: This article was originally published in the March 6, 2001 "The Castle" Newsletter. Current Association President, Gil Bernabe, ran across the article and thought it would be good to remind our members of the many "exciting things" that our soldiers did in Vietnam. Rich Siebe set the Gold Standard for service and dedication when he served as the Association's Treasurer for 13 years.



President's View from The Observation Post

By Gil Bernabe

In 2017 the 17th Artillery will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of its activation and entering onto the rolls of the United States Army. This Newsletter contains several very interesting reports and stories about its artillerymen and its history. The Newsletter also pays homage to the many 17th Artillery soldiers who gave all they had in the service of our Nation. Since 1917, the 17th Artillery has fought in every conflict that the United States has been engaged in. We congratulate Tom Kurtz and Jack Stroud for putting together all these historical facts on our 17th Artillery fellow-soldiers.

The remainder of this President's Report will include my personal comments on why I volunteered to sign on as the Association's President, remarks on the past and future reunions, and increasing our membership.

At the 2016 General Membership meeting, I gladly stepped up to become the next 17th Artillery Regiment Association President. I thought I was at the point where I knew more about the Association, how it does its business, and ready to make a contribution. But the financial problems that we had at Colorado Springs was a real education not just for me but for all members concerned with the financial status of the Association. Thanks to the persistent work of Norm Jones and Bruce Latour, we reduced our bill to \$5,000.00 from a much large total. We learned many fine points about reading contracts. We paid dearly for our mistake in Colorado Springs. In the future, we will be smarter about what we sign up for.

Now – to my goals for the future. I value the friendship of our comrades in arms and their wives because when we get together at the Reunions, it is a wonderful time to talk about our many shared experiences with the 17th Artillery and in other Army situations. Some stories are funny and a lot are sad. We especially share an abundance of information about the inner workings of the Veterans Administration and how to overcome bureaucratic roadblocks. Over the course of many conversations, some of us realized that we might have PTSD (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder). Often times our wives knew something was wrong with us, that we were different and we did not realize that the stranger in the relationship was PTSD. For me the Association has much value as an opportunity to perform good deeds – such as: Veterans working for Veterans.” Dan Reeves, our new Treasurer also has begun implementing his energetic plans to make the Association financially solvent. Dan – we are behind you. It is great for us 17th Artillery veterans to keep up our friendships and to still be a part of the 17th Artillery.

Colorado Springs was a great place to have our 2016 Reunion, with many neat things to do and to see. But the 2017 Reunion in Charleston, SC will be even better. The Reunion begins on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, and the HQs will be at the Fairfield Inn & Suites next to a Tanger Outlets and plenty of restaurants in North Charleston. We will be a short drive to all that Charleston has to offer tourists: tour of historic Charleston, boat cruises through Charleston Bay, Charleston dinner cruises on the bay, and tours of Fort Sumter. More information will be available later in this Newsletter and through my monthly emails to you. So, plan NOW to make your hotel reservations and take advantage of the \$125.00 per night rate. After August 25, the room rates will be on a Space-available basis. You will probably get a room but maybe not at the 17th Artillery rate. Reserve your hotel room early. And register early for the Reunion with Dan Reeves, our Treasurer.

Over the next nine months Dan Reeves and I will contact many of our members to involve you in our Membership Campaign. Our aim is to find young Artillery soldiers to join the Association. Keep the Association active.

In Charleston, we will celebrate properly the 17th Artillery 100 years of Service and have one of our best 17th Artillery Association Reunions. See you in Charleston, SC in September 2017.

17th Artillery Regiment Association's Nineteenth Annual Reunion

North Charleston, SC

September 26 - 30, 2017

2017 REUNION INFORMATION

The 2017 Annual Reunion will be held in North Charleston, South Carolina from Tuesday, September 26 to Friday, September 29, 2017. Check out on Saturday 30, 2017. **Reunion Headquarters** will be at the **Fairfield Inn & Suites, 4841 Tanger Outlet Blvd, North Charleston, SC.**

Hotel reservations can be made by calling **1 - 843 - 300 - 3100 to reserve a room under the 17th Artillery Regiment Association. A Credit Card will be required.** Room rates are \$125.00 per night plus tax. Room rates are from September 25 - 30, 2017.

Link for reservations: [Book your group rate for 17th Artillery Regiment Association.](#) (Right click, Open hyperlink)

The hotel rates are for a room with 2 queen beds or 1 king bed and a sofa bed. Reservations must be made by August 25, 2017, to receive the 17th Artillery room rate of \$125.00. **Reservations made after August 25, 2017 will be accepted on a space and rate available basis only.** Check-in time is 3:00 PM and sign out time is 12:00 Noon. The hotel provides a complimentary daily breakfast; free high speed internet, and free parking. If you make a room reservation and have to cancel, the cancellation must be made prior to 3:00 PM on September 23, 2017, to avoid being charged. The hotel website is: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chscs-fairfield-inn-and-suites-charleston-airport-convention-center/>.

The Reunion Registration Fee of \$50.00 per person will cover Hospitality Room refreshments, Tuesday evening cook-out and the Banquet meal. Please send the registration slip and fee to the Association Treasurer, to arrive no later than September 11, 2017. If you miss the dead line, call Dan Reeves and coordinate with him to pay your fee at the reunion.

Please come and bring your spouse, family members and friends to tour Charleston, SC. Bring your 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 and you may make some new friends. The Association's Quartermaster- Rich flowers - will have the gear items available. **Don't Forget The Auction! Please bring an item to auction off at the banquet.** The money raised from Association's auction will be placed in the general and scholarship funds. Now is the time to make your plans to attend and make your Hotel reservation. Please send in your registration slip and fee.

**17th Artillery Regiment Association's
Registration Form
2017 Reunion- September 26 to 30, 2017**

Please fill out the Registration Form below

The Reunion's registration fee will cover the Tuesday evening's cookout, Hospitality Room refreshments, and banquet.

Please make your check or money order payable to: [17th Artillery Regiment Association.](#)

Mail to the association's treasurer: **Dan Reeves**
5235 Laguna Court
Byron, CA 94505

CUT OR TEAR AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING TO OUR TREASURER.
(With your check or money order to arrive **NLT September 11, 2017**)

Cut/tear here -----

NAME: _____
(Please Print)

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

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

(Name tags 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 2017 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: Danny Reeves (*Association Treasurer*) 5235 Laguna Court, Byron, CA 94503. Upon receipt of your 2017 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 PASSWORD to access the on-line veteran's roster located on the association's web site. (www.17thartilleryregiment.org). The Password will be sent to you by U. S. Mail or email. The Password is changed January 1 of each year.

Join or renew now: 2016 Membership Dues is \$30.00 (January – December) (Annual dues \$30.00 per year)

Life membership fees: Through age 30---\$270.00 31-40---\$260.00 41-50---\$240.00 51-60---\$220.00
 61-70---\$190.00 71-80---\$150.00 81 plus---\$110.00

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:

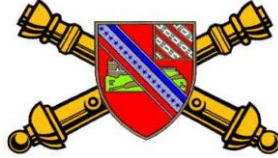
- 17th Field Artillery/Battalion/Group/Regiment (Prior to 1958) _____
- 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 2013) _____
- 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 2008) (2010 - Present) _____
- 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 1995) (2007-2010) _____
- 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1996) _____
- 5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1996) _____
- 6th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1963) _____
- 7th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1960 – 1972) _____
- 8th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1967 – 1971) _____

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: If you are on active duty check here. You may not have a DD Form 214 yet.

Danny (Dan) L. Reeves
 5235 Laguna Court
 Byron, CA 94505

17th Artillery Regiment Association



2017 Reunion - Schedule of Events

The 2017 Annual Reunion is scheduled for North Charleston, South Carolina, from Tuesday, September 26, 2017 to Friday, September 29, 2017. Checkout is Saturday, September 30.

Help us make the 2017 Reunion very successful. Make plans to attend. Get your hotel reservation completed. Fill out your 17th Artillery Reunion Registration Form and mail it to Dan Reeves. Early registration will assist the Treasurer to know who and how many members will attend.

The schedule of events at the Reunion site follows:

- Monday – September 25, 2017: **Association Officers Arrive.** 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm: Board of Officers Annual Meeting, Prepare 2017 Financial Report to membership, and Reunion planning meeting.
Supper with wives at 6:00 pm – Golden Corral; excellent opportunity to check out the banquet site.
- Tuesday – September 26, 2017: 10:00 am – 10:00 pm Hospitality Room opens
Members Arrive - Meet and Greet – sign in – Hospitality Room
Sightseeing and tours – in Charleston Area
Cookout – Pool Patio – 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Wednesday – September 27, 2017 8:00 am – 10:00 pm Hospitality Room open
Shopping and sightseeing – in Charleston Area
Tour of Citadel – 11:00 am to 2:00 pm – lunch at school café
- Thursday – September 28, 2017 8:00 am – 10:00 pm Hospitality Room open
Shopping and Sightseeing - in Charleston Area
Boat Cruise – Lunch or Supper
- Friday – September 29, 2017 8:00 am – 10:00 pm Hospitality Room open
10:00 – 11:00 – General Membership Meeting – at Hotel
11:30: Deploy to Golden Corral for Banquet & Auction
12:00 to 4:00 pm – Banquet and Auction – at Golden Corral
Guest Speaker and Citadel Cadets
4:10 – Group Pictures – Battery Pictures
- Saturday – September 30, 2017 Check out and head for home – or stay and relax

*Danny (Dan) L. Reeves
Byron, CA 94503
Email address is: dreeves@cdedrill.com*



2017 Information for 17th Artillery Regiment Association Scholarships

17th Artillery Regiment Scholarship Program: Dr. Gilbert A. Bernabe, Chairman, Scholarship Committee

2017 Scholarships: The 17th Artillery Association general membership has approved two (2) scholarships for 2017. The following scholarships have been authorized:

- First Place \$1,500.00
- Second Place - \$1,000.00

To date, the Association has awarded 38 scholarship grants for a total of \$49,420.00 to the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the veterans and active duty soldiers who have served or those currently serving in the regiment.

Request for Scholarship Application Packet:

Individuals may request a scholarship application packet from: Dr. Gilbert A. Bernabe, 2916 Sedalia Trail, Sherman, TX 75092; or via telephone: (903) 786 – 6304; or email: Gilbernabe29@aol.com. When leaving a phone message, please provide your name and phone number. **Please note – this is a NEW address with the same phone number.**

Eligibility:

To be eligible, for a 17th Artillery Association Grant, the applicant must be a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild, of a parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent who has served with or who is presently serving in the 17th Artillery Regiment.

Those parents, grandparents or great-grandparents who have served or who are now serving with the regiment must have served or be currently serving under honorable conditions. If the parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent received a discharge, under less than honorable conditions, then the applicant is not eligible.

The terms child, grandchild, and great-grandchild used above applies to both biological and legally adopted children. **Foster children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are not eligible.**

If the applicant has been previously awarded a scholarship grant from the 17th Artillery Association, then, that applicant is not eligible to apply for another scholarship grant. **Applicant must be a graduating high school senior (Class of 2017) or a freshman, sophomore, or a junior attending any college, vocational school or technician school.** Scholarship grants will be awarded in all areas of study.

Scholarship applications with all supporting documents must be returned by U.S. mail no later than **March 15, 2017** to: **Dr. Gilbert A. Bernabe**, 2916 Sedalia Trail, Sherman, TX 75092.

Applications sent by email or fax will not be accepted.

2017 Scholarship Selection Committee:

Chairman: Gilbert A. Bernabe—

Voting Members: Bill Dahlin, Mike Klingemann, John Melacesca, Jerry Cody, and Harry Fetsick.

I Finally Cried

By Robert M Pulsifer

I joined the U.S. Army because of boredom, restlessness, and curiosity. I enjoyed being in the service traveling from one place to another. I went from my home in Massachusetts to Georgia, from Georgia to Arizona, from Arizona to Germany, and from Germany to Vietnam.

When I realized that this was it and I was finally leaving for a few years with the possibility of never returning or returning maimed, I almost cried.

When I took my bus ride from home to the Army induction center alone, and looked out the back window of the bus and saw my family getting smaller and smaller as they Waved goodbye, I almost cried.

When I got to boot camp, and heard the drill sergeants cussing and yelling at us and had my long hair shaved off, I almost cried.

When I graduated from boot camp and saluted the American flag as we march by to the sounds of “Oh beautiful for spacious skies”, I almost cried.

When I was sent to Arizona’s military signal school for advanced training in Morse code and radios in a place far away from home, I almost cried.

When I finished school and got orders for Germany, a strange place far away in a country that was different from ours, where I would be a stranger, I almost cried.

When I finished my tour of duty in Germany and received orders to pack and leave a peaceful base and a country of friendly people for a place of turmoil and brutal slaughter, I almost cried.

When my plane landed at Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam, and I disembarked and felt the blistering heat radiating from the sand and heard sounds of bombs and fighting in the distance, I almost cried.

When I saw the Vietnamese people having their homes and families torn apart from the constant battering of Vietcong and U.S. soldiers, I almost cried.

When I heard my friend cry because he received a Dear John letter from his girlfriend and I had my first firefight and saw a bullet exit the back of my comrade’s head, I almost cried.

When I returned home to a cold and different America with no debriefing or grand parade, I almost cried.

When I couldn’t understand the feelings of rage, embarrassment, despair and emptiness, like a ball player losing the World Series, I almost cried.

When I went to the Veterans Administration hospital for treatment, full of questions about these feelings and was rudely treated by the staff, mostly World War II vets who didn’t consider the Vietnam conflict a real war, I almost cried.

When I saw the Vietnamese people welcomed to this country with open arms by our government and helped with housing, employment, and relocation unlike so many returning U.S male and female soldiers, I almost cried.

When my dad died a year after my return and I didn’t have a chance to discuss the war and let my emotions flow, I almost cried.

When I saw homeless Vietnam vets, many of whom took their own lives because they felt they didn’t fit and didn’t get the help in time to cope, from a government that neglected them and wanted to sweep the whole ordeal under the rug and forget about it, I almost cried.

When my children came into the world and I held them in the delivery room, I realized that they had what Vietnam couldn’t give. I realized they were born free. That’s when I cried and cried.

Note: Robert M. Pulsifer modestly says he is just another vet. Robert served with the Communication Section in HHB, 2nd Battalion and 17th Artillery in 1970 – 1971. He currently resides in Wotcester, MA

Big guns of the 17th commanded respect

by Roy Parker Jr.
Fayetteville newspaper

A recent Military History column had the wrong information about the 17th Field Artillery Battalion, saying the unit didn't serve in the Korean War. Boy did it.

This is the story of that service.

On Sunday, June 25, 1950, most soldiers of the 17th Field were on weekend pass from their duties as the "school troops" at the Field Artillery Center at Fort Sill, Okla.

By the time they returned to their barracks that night, President Harry Truman had received word that troops of the People's Republic of (North) Korea were invading the Republic of (South) Korea, and had ordered U.S. assistance to the South Koreans.

Sixty days later, on Aug. 25, 1950, an advance party of 17th Field Artillery Battalion soldiers landed at Pusan, South Korea, the first heavy artillerymen to join the growing United Nations military force that had been arriving since July 2.

Service in Korea would be the third overseas combat tour for the 17th in 32 years. Formed as a regiment in 1917 to fight in France in World War I, it was the major unit on post at Fort Bragg from 1921 until World War II, when it went overseas in 1942 to participate in campaigns in Africa, Italy, France, and Germany.

By the time the cannoneers of the 17th debarked at Pusan on that August day 45 years ago, U.S., and South Korean forces had been driven into a 60-mile perimeter ringing the port on the southeast coast of the Korean peninsula.

But with United Nations forces growing every day, Gen. Douglas MacArthur was already planning an "end run" around the North Korean invaders with an amphibious invasion at Inchon, 240 miles away on the west coast.

The understrength 17th Field Artillery, armed with eight-inch howitzers, was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division near Taegu in the Pusan Perimeter. A contingent of 200 men of the South Korean army were assigned to the battalion as gunners, wiremen, and machine-gunners. Because the supply of big-gun ammunition was so short, only one of the battalion's three four-gun batteries could be used initially.

THE FIRST ROUND FIRED

On Sept. 14, 1950, as the U.S. invasion force approached Inchon, the first round of heavy artillery fired in the Korean War belched from a gun of Company C of the 17th, which was figuring the range to a North Korean position. An hour later, the battery fired its first counter-battery mission, knocking out two enemy artillery pieces.

For the next three years, until the armistice that ended the war, batteries of the 17th ranged all over the Korean battlefronts, firing over 200,000 rounds of eight-inch shells in support of the United Nations Command.

Within a month of the first mission, batteries of the 17th had blazed away from behind the positions of every division of the Eighth Army as it broke out of the Pusan Perimeter, pushed through South Korea, and invaded North Korea.

By mid-November, 1950, batteries were gathered together in support of the 2nd Infantry Division at Kunu, only 70 miles from the border of Red China on the Chongchon River.

It was there, on Nov. 26, that Red Chinese forces smashed into United Nations troops, inflicting heavy casualties and sending them reeling back toward South Korea.

As the 2nd Division retreated, the 17th first fired at the enemy at a three-mile range, a usual big-gun distance. Within a single night, the range shortened to less than a half-mile.

That morning, Nov. 30, 1950, the big guns joined the battered column retreating along a single road jammed with destroyed vehicles and sprinkled with dead and wounded soldiers.

PROTECTING THEIR GUNS

The gunners fought as infantrymen to beat off enemy attacks and keep their weapons on the move.

A historian described the scene:

“The 17th began moving at about 2 p.m. All its many vehicles were crowded with a miscellany of hitchhikers. About two miles down the road, the column ran into Communist machine-gun fire, aimed from both flanks. The column halted; most of the artillerymen and hitchhikers dismounted to find cover and return fire. Soon the men remounted the vehicles, and the column proceeded onward, stopped again and again by wrecked vehicles in the road and enemy machine guns.”

The column rolled on through the night. One gun was lost when it toppled into a gorge while the column inched along a detour bypassing a destroyed bridge.

The next day, the battalion reached the safety of British army lines more than 20 miles south of Kunu. One soldier in the unit was dead and 16 had been wounded.

HEROISM RECOGNIZED

For its fight, its commander, Lt. Col. Elmer H. Harrison, was awarded the Legion of Merit medal, and one Silver Star and 20 Bronze Star medals were awarded to individual soldiers.

For another week, the batteries of the battalion would fire and retire as United Nations forces fell back all the way to the South Korean capital at Seoul.

One gun was destroyed in an ammunition dump blast; another was destroyed by its crew to prevent capture on the retreat.

On Jan. 3, 1951, the battered battalion -- down to six guns -- was ordered into reserve and shipped back to Pusan to reorganize and refit. It had been in continuous action since the previous September.

In February, the batteries of the battalion returned to the front to missions all across the United Nations line. By October, the batteries were firing their maximum rate, a total of 17,000 rounds for the month.

As late as June 15, 1952, when it was a fixture in the line that would eventually mark the armistice ending the war, the battalion suffered its bloodiest casualties when three were killed and five wounded by a direct enemy hit on an ammunition pit.

By then, batteries of the battalion had been decorated with Unit Citations, and its story had been told in the Army newspaper, Stars and Stripes.

‘THE PERSUADERS’

It had a new nickname “the Persuaders,” chosen during a contest among battalion personnel.

Among the many new soldiers who reported to the 17th were Sgt. E.I. Smith, who had served with it at Fort Sill and arrived in Korea in October 1951.

He won a battlefield commission in December, 1952, after long service as a forward observer and air observer. After service in Vietnam, he retired in 1966 and now lives in Fayetteville.

John C. Jensen of Sanford was a draftee from Massachusetts who served 11 months in the 17th during 1951 and 1952. After returning home as the longest-serving heavy artillery unit in the Korean War, the 17th was made an Army Reserve unit in 1959, with batteries in Raleigh, Durham, and Rocky Mount.

Earlier this year, gunners of the battalion's eight-inch batteries fired their last practice rounds together on a Fort Bragg artillery range, where the old 17th had fired in the 1920s.

This summer, the unit will be deactivated.

17th Artillery Regiment Association Life Membership Coin Holders

| <u>Coin Number:</u> | <u>Name of Coin Holder:</u> | <u>Life Member as of:</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 001 | Harold & Erma M. Brown Sr. | June 3, 2000 |
| 002 | Thomas Vernor (Deceased) | January 9, 2001 |
| 003 | Harold (Buck) M. Brown Jr. | June 6, 2001 |
| 004 | Nolan Putman (Deceased) | September 9, 2001 |
| 005 | Thomas R. Kurtz | November 20, 2001 |
| 006 | Richard (Rich) Siebe | January 1, 2002 |
| 007 | James H. Drennan | February 23, 2002 |
| 008 | John J. Korsun JR. (Deceased) | April 8, 2002 |
| 009 | Paul J. Barton | April 24, 2002 |
| 010 | Leslie B. Scott (Deceased) | April 29, 2002 |
| 011 | Robert R. Brooks II | May 7, 2002 |
| 012 | James Moore (Deceased) | May 21, 2002 |
| 013 | Edward (Ed) T. Hitchner | May 22, 2002 |
| 014 | Thomas (Mike) M. Turner (Deceased) | June 24, 2002 |
| 015 | Paul Fusco | August 2, 2002 |
| 016 | Norman (Richard) R. Jones | August 4, 2002 |
| 017 | Gary L. Bress | October 4, 2002 |
| 018 | John C. Melasecca Jr. | November 15, 2002 |
| 019 | Frank Zitzman | November 19, 2002 |
| 020 | Bobby (Bob) A. West | January 8, 2003 |
| 021 | Peter Coffin | January 17, 2003 |
| 022 | Jerome L. Fritsche II (Deceased) | February 22, 2003 |
| 023 | Walter (Jack) J. Larson (Deceased) | February 26, 2003 |
| 024 | John (Jack) J. Picciolo | March 24, 2003 |
| 025 | William J. Wright | April 4, 2003 |
| 026 | C. Alex Brassert | June 4, 2003 |
| 027 | Dietrich W. Neckien (Deceased) | April 27, 2003 |
| 028 | Michael W. Mason | October 9, 2003 |
| 029 | Michael (Mike) Burke | October 10, 2003 |
| 030 | Eugene Johnson | November 14, 2003 |
| 031 | Francis (Fran) C. Rash | November 28, 2003 |
| 032 | Delmar D. Beard | December 2, 2003 |
| 033 | Charles E. Morrison | December 14, 2003 |
| 034 | Robert Gary Kohl | December 20, 2003 |
| 035 | Michael Dages | January 15, 2004 |
| 036 | Lonnie O. English (Deceased) | January 21, 2004 |
| 037 | Webster Cole | March 15, 2004 |
| 038 | Leonard T. Elzie | March 22, 2004 |
| 039 | Richard P. Carmody | April 29, 2004 |
| 040 | Jerry E. Pifer | May 15, 2004 |
| 041 | Louis J. Mazzarella | May 17, 2004 |
| 042 | Richard J. Flowers | May 22, 2004 |
| 043 | James M. Sherrill | July 20, 2004 |
| 044 | Wallace L. Bates | September 1, 2004 |
| 045 | Richard A. Smith | September 14, 2004 |
| 046 | George A. Schaefer | October 30, 2004 |
| 047 | Charles Riley | November 5, 2004 |
| 048 | Pete Schwarz | November 13, 2004 |
| 049 | Robert M. Kinton | November 13, 2004 |
| 050 | Robert L. Plata | November 13, 2004 |
| 051 | Gilbert A. Bernabe | November 13, 2004 |
| 052 | George Winton | November 19, 2004 |
| 053 | Harry O. Amos | January 4, 2005 |
| 054 | Stephen J. Lowery | January 14, 2005 |
| 055 | Gerald F. Brown (Deceased) | January 28, 2005 |
| 056 | Larry E. Miller (Deceased) | February 7, 2005 |
| 057 | Raymond P. (DAK) Lais (Deceased) | March 26, 2005 |
| 058 | Larry J. Davis | May 7, 2005 |
| 059 | Leon Mc Kenzie Sr. | June 4, 2005 |
| 060 | Leonard S. Spencer | July 29, 2005 |
| 061 | Terry L. Wallace | August 9, 2005 |
| 062 | Lyndle E. Claus | August 25, 2005 |
| 063 | James R. (Dick) Graves (Deceased) | September 16, 2005 |
| 064 | Daniel L. Lazenberry | September 24, 2005 |
| 065 | Robert L. Hallahan | October 26, 2005 |
| 066 | Bruce Latour | January 12, 2006 |
| 067 | Wiley A. Jarrell | January 30, 2006 |
| 068 | James H. Sanders | February 9, 2006 |
| 069 | Raymond C. Gomez | February 28, 2006 |
| 070 | Charles G. Ross | April 5, 2006 |
| 071 | Neal P. Fouts | April 12, 2006 |
| 072 | David S. Bickler | June 24, 2006 |
| 073 | George W. Adkisson (Deceased) | August 7, 2006 |
| 074 | Henry E. Griffendorf Jr. | August 17, 2006 |
| 075 | Thomas C. Bast | September 21, 2006 |
| 076 | Ketrick T. Mc Millin | December 3, 2006 |
| 077 | John Ryan | December 16, 2006 |
| 078 | James T. Caudill | February 7, 2007 |
| 079 | David W. Gogel | April 8, 2007 |
| 080 | Stephen J. Audett | June 26, 2007 |
| 081 | Ronald W. Terry | September 10, 2007 |
| 082 | Thomas W. Remley | November 18, 2007 |
| 083 | Hollis B. Cahoon | December 7, 2007 |
| 084 | Raymond J. Heuring | December 9, 2007 |
| 085 | Paul M. Moser | January 17, 2008 |
| 086 | Avery Hall | January 23, 2008 |
| 087 | John J. Luxenburger Jr. (Deceased) | January 24, 2008 |
| 088 | David P. Rush | February 21, 2008 |
| 089 | Francis J. Roberts | April 14, 2008 |
| 090 | Rod L. Guerrero (Deceased) | July 7, 2008 |
| 091 | Thomas P. Ross | January 30, 2009 |
| 092 | Birdeye L. Middleton | February 7, 2009 |
| 093 | Rickie B. Simpkins | February 15, 2009 |
| 094 | Robert E. Lax | March 2, 2009 |
| 095 | Phillip J. Brunwald | March 25, 2009 |
| 096 | Larry Hightower | April 11, 2009 |
| 097 | Albert (Bert) Ryan | August 9, 2009 |
| 098 | Roy E. Korkalo | August 15, 2009 |
| 099 | William P. Dahlin | October 19, 2009 |
| 100 | Jackie Stroud | September 30, 2009 |
| 101 | Donald L. Brooks | November 9, 2009 |
| 102 | Jerry (Doc) Cody | November 9, 2009 |
| 103 | Michael Klingeman | November 11, 2009 |
| 104 | Charles Gamer | November 11, 2009 |
| 105 | Larry R. Werkheiser | December 18, 2009 |
| 106 | William K. Beers Jr. | December 18, 2009 |
| 107 | Dennis C. Smith | January 4, 2010 |
| 108 | James M. Caiella | January 4, 2010 |
| 109 | Paul V. Shepherd Sr. | January 11, 2010 |
| 110 | Leonard A. Eason | February 13, 2010 |
| 111 | Jeffrey S. Wilcox | April 26, 2010 |
| 112 | Holice Barton Jr. (Deceased) | April 26, 2010 |
| 113 | Robert H. Giselbach | August 9, 2010 |
| 114 | William A. Selis | August 9, 2010 |
| 115 | Ronald B. Hood | August 16, 2010 |
| 116 | Jon M. Johnson | August 31, 2010 |
| 117 | Todd R. Wasmund | November 12, 2009 |
| 118 | Cecil P. LeGrand | September 9, 2010 |
| 119 | Stephen D. Gerhardt | October 1, 2010 |
| 120 | Larry W. Lovejoy | October 27, 2010 |
| 121 | Buford Caffee | October 30, 2010 |
| 122 | Carlos E. Esmurria | October 30, 2010 |
| 123 | Richard Heydt | October 30, 2010 |
| 124 | Doyle Watters | November 27, 2010 |
| 125 | Richard H. Sugg | November 27, 2010 |

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| 126 | Harrell (Lyn) Hartman | December 7, 2010 |
| 127 | Marcel L. Simonet | January 3, 2011 |
| 128 | Richard (Dick) Stanton | January 3, 2011 |
| 129 | James M. Shernesky | January 10, 2011 |
| 130 | John P. Clingan | February 13, 2011 |
| 131 | Bruno A. Kalkowski | June 8, 2011 |
| 132 | Jeffrey Carra | June 29, 2011 |
| 133 | Dave Rowell | October 18, 2011 |
| 134 | Gary M. Steen | December 17, 2011 |
| 135 | Lawrence Moren Jr. | January 9, 2012 |
| 136 | Curtis A. Collier | March 12, 2012 |
| 137 | Mark P Krieger | May 18, 2012 |
| 138 | Raul A. Garibay | June 18, 2012 |
| 139 | Ralph W. Melcher | June 18, 2012 |
| 140 | Francisco F. Garcia II | July 28, 2012 |
| 141 | Gary B. Griffin | September 19, 2012 |
| 142 | Larry L. Rice | September 26, 2012 |
| 143 | James E. Will | October 25, 2012 |
| 144 | Jack M Frizzell | December 1, 2012 |
| 145 | Alan M. McIlvain | January 1, 2013 |
| 146 | David L. Zell | February 1, 2013 |
| 147 | Lonnie H. Jackson Jr. | February 7, 2013 |
| 148 | Darwin L. McGladdery | February 12, 2013 |
| 149 | Gail E. Fasse | February 14, 2013 |
| 150 | Edwin J. Ahonen | February 19, 2013 |
| 151 | William G. Montague | March 25, 2013 |
| 152 | Edward E. Dingman | May 20, 2013 |
| 153 | Daniel Reeves | July 16, 2013 |
| 154 | James T. Yore | September 28, 2013 |
| 155 | Michael H. Murphy | September 28, 2013 |
| 156 | Richard C. Hoffman | January 24, 2014 |
| 157 | William M. Simpson | January 27, 2014 |
| 158 | Charles H. Seidman | February 8, 2014 |
| 159 | Terry L. Earnst | February 8, 2014 |
| 160 | Robert E. Highlands | May 12, 2014 |
| 161 | Barry L. Matthews | June 24, 2014 |
| 162 | Milton R. Holloway | July 10, 2014 |
| 163 | James E. Kendall | July 10, 2014 |
| 164 | Tom M. Jones | July 11, 2014 |
| 165 | Mick D. Shanklin | August 16, 2014 |
| 166 | Thornton W. Purvis | August 28, 2014 |
| 167 | Ronda A. Henderson | September 26, 2014 |
| 168 | John B. Bagley | November 28, 2014 |
| 169 | Michael J. Hennessy | January 20, 2015 |
| 170 | David P. Hull | February 2, 2015 |
| 171 | Walter H. Ramsey | July 24, 2015 |
| 172 | Henry J. Dudek | August 1, 2015 |
| 173 | Donald L. Strong | August 21, 2015 |
| 174 | Harry Fetsick | October 24, 2015 |
| 175 | Willie H. Gates | October 30, 2015 |
| 176 | Kolin V. Bernardoni | November 12, 2015 |
| 177 | | |

17 deceased



LOOKING FOR VIETNAM CAUSALITIES 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. The association is down to the last four that we have no pictures. Listed are the ranks, names, home towns of record, date of birth, and batteries they were assigned to.

MSG Robert Joseph Gritte, Milford, MA; 11/25/1929; HHB
SGT Francis Bernard Madden Jr., Newark, NJ; 06/25/1932; HHB
SP4 Danny Joe Richardson, Covington, OH; 03/26/1948; Btry C
CPL Edgar L. Simmons, Pine Bluff, AR; 03/18/1948; Btry C

Association Officers 2017

Gil Bernabe-----President
Jerry (Doc) W Cody-----1st Vice President
Paul V Shephard Jr-----2d Vice President
Jack (TOJ) Stroud-----Secretary
Dan Reeves -----Treasurer
James Sanders-----Past President
Richard Smith-----Chaplain
John (Jack) Picciolo ----Historian
Richard Flowers-----Quartermaster
Edward (Ed) Hitchner-Webmaster
Gil Bernabe-----Scholarship Chairman

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 This NewsLetter has been approved by the board of directors

Gil Bernabe
 Association President
www.17thartilleryregiment.or

Receive "The Castle" By Email

To help defray the rising cost of postage and printing of the association's NewsLetter, please sign up to receive the "The Castle" by Email.

To receive the electronic NewsLetter, notify the association's secretary: Jack Stroud at: jack.stroud@roadrunner.com with **your current and correct Email address** and receive the NewsLetter much faster.

We will continue to mail the NewsLetter to anyone who does not have an internet connection.

You must be a **PAID UP MEMBER** to receive the NewsLetter.

Jackie M. Stroud
2461 Meadow Ridge Drive
Wheelersburg, OH 45694-9073



**ORGANIZED ON JUNE 6, 1917, THE 17th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT,
WILL TURN ONE-HUNDRED YEARS OLD ON JUNE, 6 2017.**

ONE-HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE, VALOR, AND SACRIFICE.



IN TIME OF PEACE PREPARE FOR WAR

**17th Artillery Regiment Association Newsletter
“The CASTLE”**