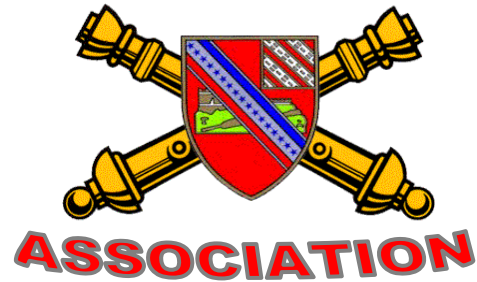


# THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



17<sup>th</sup> ARTILLERY REGIMENT



Issue 34

Jul 2020



NOTE TO 17<sup>TH</sup> ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (ARA) MEMBERS

FROM: 17<sup>TH</sup> ARA BOARD OF OFFICERS

SUBJECT: Postponing the 2020 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Reunion – Gettysburg

**During the month of May, the 17<sup>th</sup> ARA Board of Officers discussed the perils of COVID-19 and how to safely hold a September 2020 reunion. After much discussion, we voted unanimously to postpone the 2020 reunion until next September 2021.**

The Board's conclusion was that there are just too many COVID-19 factors working against us Patriots: age - many medical issues - travel to Gettysburg through virus infected areas – the logistics of trying to have a social reunion with masks on and six feet apart. Some of those factors are listed below.

**Age:** the loyal members who would attend are well into the virus-susceptible age. Most of us are just not young anymore!

**Medical issues:** most, if not all, of us have some serious medical issue(s) that would make us a target for the Chinese virus.

**Travel:** travel to Gettysburg through virus infected areas would be a real challenge and our members would not enjoy travelling and being VERY CONCERNED while travelling.

**Logistics:** Try having a good time in Gettysburg – while wearing a mask, trying to socialize with our friends – without a handshake, no hugs, having a conversation while six feet apart; eating spaced out – and occasionally stopping to go wash your hands and sing a song for 20 seconds.

With all those factors in mind and no safe solution on the horizon (read: vaccine) – we decided to play it safe and postpone the 2020 reunion.

And that is only a short list of the challenges with the First Wave. In the future – we will be dealing with the Second Wave. Will sure be glad to get back to “normal” – whatever that is.

In the next few weeks, the Board will develop an business email asking for your vote on the scholarship program for next year. We will also bring you up to date on the important issues that the Association has been doing since Lawton. Stay healthy!

Gil Bernabe – President, 17<sup>th</sup> ARA



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LUCIELLE WINTON**

"We all send our best wishes to Lucille Winton who was 99 years young on July 1. Lucille accompanied us to Lawton and Fort Sill in September 2019. No one would have guessed her age as she kept up with us youngsters. In previous years Lucille and her husband COLONEL GEORGE P. WINTON, JR. spent many wonderful years at Fort Sill with the Field Artillery. Happy Birthday from all of us. God bless and keep you safe." G



**Have a Very Happy Birthday - From all of 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery**

# Congratulations to Brigadier General Todd Wasmund

BG Todd Wasmund was formerly the Commander of the 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment at both Fort Sill, Oklahoma and in Afghanistan, 2009-2011. He is now serving as the first US Exchange Officer with the French Army as Deputy Commanding General for Operations (DCG-O) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> French Division in Marseille. BG Wasmund reports that “This division is a fantastic unit with a decorated history and tough, dedicated soldiers and leaders. In 2021 the 3<sup>rd</sup> French Division will participate in an exercise with the US Army.

Below are photos of BG Wasmund when he was welcomed into the 3<sup>rd</sup> French Division in Marseille.

When I mentioned to BG Wasmund that I was writing an article on his promotion and new assignment, he replied, “It’s a great honor to have you share my info with these great Redlegs.”



\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Congratulations on your success! Live long and be safe!**

## 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarship to Liberty High School Student

In April 2020, the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association awarded college scholarships to three very deserving students, who included two granddaughters and one grandson. The three scholarships totaled \$6,000.00. Each scholarship winner received a monetary award, a Congratulations Letter, and a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Certificate of Achievement. Each year the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association awards scholarship grants to children and grandchildren of veterans and current active duty soldiers who have served with this proud regiment. Applicants must meet the Association's eligibility requirements and are evaluated on academic achievement, community service, extra-curricular activities at school, an essay on a different annual topic, and a faculty member's Letter of Recommendation.

The first-place 2020 winner is Zoe Dickson, a 2020 graduate of Liberty High School, in Frisco, TX. During her high school years, Zoe diligently applied herself to her academic course work, taking 28 courses, that were Gifted & Talented, Advanced Placement courses and Dual Credit Honors Course in college, and earning a 4.62 GPA.

A review of Zoe's high school activities demonstrates that Zoe was outstanding in all endeavors. In Girl Scouts, she achieved the Silver and Gold Awards. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award for girl scouts. As a member of her school's band and music program, playing several musical instruments, she proved, year after year, to be a very gifted musician, earning many top scores in Texas University Interscholastic League competitions. She was very involved in many community charities, dedicating her time to collecting used eye glasses, and volunteering to support many community events. She received the President's Volunteer Service Award for completing over 160 volunteer hours during her high school years.

Her high school counselor writes highly of Zoe, stating, "Zoe's greatest strength lies in her leadership abilities. Her peers see her working hard and want to emulate her positive attitude. Zoe took charge in group situations, and it is no surprise to me how much she has worked in leadership positions in her extracurricular activities. Between band leadership, NCL, and Girl Scouts, she has her hands full pouring her heart and energy into each of her endeavors."

For her outstanding accomplishments, Zoe Dickson was honored at her school's awards ceremony and received a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship Award of \$2,500.00. **This 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Scholarship was named in honor of Robert Farkas, a hero from C Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery, who served bravely in Vietnam.** Her connection to the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery is through her grandfather, Barry Matthews, who served in Vietnam, with the C Battery, 2d Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery in 1969 and 1970.

A proud grandfather and 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery veteran, Barry Matthews, presents his granddaughter, Zoe Dickson, with the 2020 First Place 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship.



## 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarship to Resurrection Christian Academy (Homeschool) Student

In April 2020, the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association awarded college scholarships to three very deserving students, who included two granddaughters and one grandson. The three scholarships totaled \$6,000.00. Each scholarship winner received a monetary award, a Congratulations Letter, and a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Certificate of Achievement. Each year the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association awards scholarship grants to children and grandchildren of veterans and current active duty soldiers who have served with this proud regiment. Applicants must meet the Association's eligibility requirements and are evaluated on academic achievement, community service, extra-curricular activities at school, an essay on a different annual topic, and a faculty member's Letter of Recommendation.

One of the winners is William Miller, a 2020 graduate of Resurrection Christian Academy, in Charlotte, NC. Throughout his high school years, William diligently applied himself to his academic course work, taking 16 Honors courses and one Dual Credit Honors Course in college, and maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

A review of William's high school activities reflects that he dedicated himself to supporting his school, church, and community. During the summer months, he worked as an Assistant to a Special Needs Student. He played four years of championship basketball on his school team that twice won the North Carolina Basketball State Championship and was the Runner-Up at the National Championship Tournament. As an outstanding player, he was selected to the All-Tournament Team at the Regional and State Tournament. In his Senior year, he found time to coach a Middle School basketball team. For the past three years, William taught himself to play the guitar; and currently, uses that musical talent to lead a youth group at church services. He volunteered his time to serve his church, working with the projection team and as a teaching assistant for a children's church group.

His high school thesis advisor writes that "If you need to get a job done effectively and efficiently, then look no further than William Miller....Growing up in a large family, Will has learned what it means to serve...I have witnessed him work with struggling students...A willingness to serve is a sign of great character. Will serves others because he knows it is the right thing to do."

For his outstanding accomplishments, William Miller was honored at his school's awards ceremony and received a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship Award of \$2,000.00. **This 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Scholarship was named in honor of Larry Lovejoy, who served bravely in Vietnam, while assigned to C Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery.** William's connection to the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery is through his grandfather, Larry E. Miller, who served heroically in Vietnam as a medic, with C Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery in 1967 and 1968.

17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship winner, William Miller, and his father, Billy Miller, display William's scholarship award.



## 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarship to Cocke County High School Student

In April 2020, the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association awarded college scholarships to three very deserving students, who included two granddaughters and one grandson. The three scholarships totaled \$6,000.00. Each scholarship winner received a monetary award, a Congratulations Letter, and a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Certificate of Achievement. Each year the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association awards scholarship grants to children and grandchildren of veterans and current active duty soldiers who have served with this proud regiment. Applicants must meet the Association's eligibility requirements and are evaluated on academic achievement, community service, extra-curricular activities at school, an essay on a different annual topic, and a faculty member's Letter of Recommendation.

One of the 2020 winners is Ruthie Calfee, a 2020 graduate of Cocke County High School, in Newport, TN. Throughout her four years of high school, Ruthie diligently applied herself to her academic course work, to include three Dual credit courses; and, earned a 3.35 GPA.

A review of her extra-curricular activities shows that she dedicated herself to supporting her school, church, and community. She played one year of girls' basketball on her school team and supported her community's youth basketball league as a score keeper. For three years Ruthie volunteered many hours supporting the annual Veteran's Day Program and worked tirelessly gathering can goods for her community's annual Can Food Drives. For four years she volunteered with the Appalachia Service Project, helping prepare meals and then cleaning up afterwards. She served at her church performing cafeteria duty there and also teaching Sunday School as an assistant. Her best time, however, was her involvement with the Future Farmers of America, where she earned several awards. She distinguished herself for selling the most fruit – two years in a row; earned the Green Hand Award; and, was recognized as the winner of the "Small Animal Science Award."

Her high school counselor writes that "I have found Ruthie Calfee "to be kind, conscientious, and steadfast...to be an extremely caring student – one that is well-liked by her peers...she is dependable and determined in a way that the average high school student is not."

For her outstanding accomplishments, Ruthie Calfee was honored at her high school's award ceremony and received a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship Award of \$1,500.00. **This 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association Scholarship is named in honor of the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association Family Members who have continually supported our veterans and the Association.** Her connection to the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery is through her grandfather, Buford Van Calfee, who served in Vietnam with the 2d Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery in 1969 and 1970.



A proud grandfather, Buford Calfee, and 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery veteran, presents his granddaughter, Ruthie Calfee with a 2020 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship.

## Current 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion – 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Command Team



**LTC Daniel J. Von Benken**

Lieutenant Colonel Danial J. Von Benken is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from Xavier University and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery in 2002.

He first attended the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, OK and was then assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, NC. LTC Von Benken served as a Fire Direction Officer for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne), 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment (FAR) and later deployed as a Fire Direction Officer with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Air Assault), 377<sup>th</sup> FAR in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. With 1-377<sup>th</sup>, he also served as a Battery Executive Officer and battalion S-1 where he deployed again in support of Iraqi Freedom. LTC Von Benken assumed command of C Battery, 1-377<sup>th</sup> in 2007 and commanded until 2009. During this time, 1-377<sup>th</sup> was reassigned to 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade at Joint Base Lewis McCord, WA.

Following command in 2010, LTC Von Benken attended the Field Artillery Captain's Career Course at Fort Sill, OK. Next, he was assigned to the U. S. Army Human Resources Command where he was a Captain's Assignment Officer for Field Artillery Branch. In 2012 He was selected to attend the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Following CGSC, LTC Von Benken was assigned to 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO. He initially served as the Brigade Fire Support Officer and Chief of Operations for the Brigade's deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan; and later assigned as the Operations Officer for 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> FAR. His final assignment at Fort Carson was as Executive officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 77<sup>th</sup> FAR. LTC Von Benken was then selected to attend the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) at Fort Leavenworth, KS, where he graduated in 2017. LTC Von Benken then served his SAMS utilization tour as the Chief of Plans for America's First Corps.

LTC Von Benken took command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment on February 19, 2019

LTC Von Benken has earned the Parachutist and Air Assault Badge. He has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Iraqi Campaign Medal and Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

LTC Von Benken is married to the former Nicole Wagner of Plymouth, WI. They have two children: Lillian (8) and Benjamin (6).

## Current 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion – 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Command Team



### Command Sergeant Major Buchko

Command Sergeant Major Buchko is a native of Ligonier, Pennsylvania. He entered the United States Army in May 1998 and completed Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and AIT at Fort Sill, Oklahoma as a Fire Support Specialist (13F).

CSM Buchko has served as a Radio Telephone Operator, Forward Observer, Company, Battalion, and Brigade Fire Support Sergeant, Observer Controller, SFAT Deputy Team Chief, First Sergeant, Senior Military Science Instructor, and Operations Sergeant Major.

CSM Buchko's assignments include: Headquarters and Alpha Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Fort Wainwright Alaska; Charlie Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 319<sup>th</sup> AFAR, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; HHC 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fire Support and Live Fire Divisions, JRTC, Fort Polk, Louisiana; Security Force Advisor Team 3, 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Fort Wainwright, Alaska; C Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 8<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Fort Wainwright Alaska; HHC 1st Battalion 37<sup>th</sup> FA, and HHC 3<sup>rd</sup> Stryker Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> INF, Joint Base Lewis McChord; Maverick ROTC BN, Minnesota State University; United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas; and the Operations Sergeant Major at the 4<sup>th</sup> Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. He is currently assigned as the 2-17 FA BN CSM in 2-2 SBCT.

CSM Buchko has completed all NCO professional development system courses which include the Warriors Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Senior Leaders Course, First Sergeants Course, and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy Class 67. CSM Buchko has also completed the Airborne Course, Jump Master Course, Air Assault Course, Cold Weather Leaders Course, ROTC Pre-Command Course, Military Advisor Academy, Fire Support Coordinator Course, and Basic Military Mountaineering. CSM Buchko has earned an Associated degree in Business Management and is currently studying Emergency and Disaster Management at AMU. His deployments include Operation Enduring Freedom (3), Operation Iraqi Freedom (2), and Operation Inherent Resolve (1).

His awards and decorations include the, Bronze Star Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (5), Army Commendation Medal (5), Army Achievement Medal (4), Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal (6), National Defense Service Medal (1), Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal (with arrow head), Global War on Terror Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon Numeral (5), Overseas Service Ribbon (3), Senior Parachutists Badge with combat jump device, Romanian Parachutist Badge, and Combat Action Badge.

CSM Buchko is married to his wife Amanda and they have three daughters, Natalie, Aubrey, and Ava.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion-17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Highlights for 2019-2020

Over the past year, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion “Steel”, 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment has executed several training exercises working towards increasing readiness and lethality across the formation. During the spring of 2019, our battalion conducted the first Steel Stryke Operation. The purpose of this operation was to focus our efforts on honing in on core competencies at the individual and collective level through rigorous and high tempo training. For three weeks, the battalion executed platoon, battery, and battalion level training and certifications culminating with the execution of live fire missions. This operation resulted in the qualification of three new Battery Commanders and all 18 sections across the Battalion in preparation for follow-on operations.

Upon completion of Operation Steel Stryke, Steel hit the ground running by preparing for our upcoming National Training Center (NTC) Rotation 20-01 for August through September 2019. Steel applied the lessons and experiences learned from the collective training executed early on in the year and successfully completed the training event by delivering accurate and timely fires against the enemy.

After a successful recovery from NTC 20-01, Steel kicked off 2020 by conducting Operation Steel Stryke II at Yakima Training Center in Central Washington. Steel overcame the challenges of the frigid winter weather and successfully executed platoon qualifications for two batteries, while the third battery prepared to support as OPFOR for 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team’s NTC rotation in March 2020.

Even during this time of unpredictability and hardship, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn-17 FA continues to execute valuable training in order to increase and maintain the readiness of the formation as we prepare for upcoming operations such as Pacific Pathways in the Philippines and Thailand.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## A SOLID ROCK FOR TROUBLED TIMES

Greetings to all in the name of Christ! I hope this article finds all well and in good spirits. Right now we’re all probably asking ourselves about what’s happening in the world, our country, and our government.

I know right now we have all been affected by either 1) The Corona virus 2) Civil and criminal unrest from riots and demonstrations 3) Political commercials saying how this candidate can do that and the other one can’t. 4) War in the Middle East. 5) Economic burdens due to the virus

Folks we are **ALL ONE** race, ‘the human race’ and a children of God! I had a Drill Sgt in basic training that said something most of us can relate to hearing then as well when it came to race. I had one African American and one white Drill Sgt. The first day we were informed by the senior DS, “I don’t care if you are white, black, yellow, red, or purple polka dot! There is one color here and that is OD green and each one of you bleed red blood like the trainee beside you!” (Explicit deleted)

Most of us haven’t witnessed all of the above-mentioned problems at once in our life but maybe this could be a wake of call to your Faith. In Matthew 24:6 “*You will hear of wars and rumors of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed.*” (NIV Study Bible)

I want to share a verse that my pastor shared a few months ago for these trying times. Romans 8:37-39.” During this time of instability, it is very important that we stand firm in our faith in Jesus Christ and believe the promises of God. **“In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else, (Nor Coronavirus) in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37- 39)** Remember - God’s promises are fulfilled and accomplished beyond time, space, and situations. Therefore, let us stand on God’s promises. I think he summed it up very well here.

I have been notified of the following deaths in our association: 1) Alfred Cole-the uncle of Webster Cole passed away Feb.5, 2020. 2) Evelyn Barton wife of member Norman Barton, Dec.9, 2019

I ask that you keep the following members and their families in your prayers: 1) Paul Fusco-knee replacement and heart bypass. 2) Bill Dahlin-heart & kidney problems 3) Gene Johnson- dialysis and kidney problems. Please also include their son-in-law James Ness who has been fight the Corona virus 4) Cecil LaGrande- breathing problems 5) Norm and Annette Jones-health problems 6) Tom Kurtz- care giver 7) On a personal note I’d like for you to remember my mother-in-law (Cathy’s mom) Annie Hunt ,who suffered a stroke a few months ago and is in declining health.

In closing I’d like to say a word of thanks to Bill Dahlin who arranged for me to get some pocket-sized New Testament Bibles for our shut-ins.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you hear of any member being distressed or passing. Remember, cards, calls, emails, and prayers go a long way!

God Bless,

[Richard--rsmith3024@nc.rr.com](mailto:Richard--rsmith3024@nc.rr.com) (919)995-2163  
Richard A. Smith-Chaplain 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association

## LIGHT TRUCK DRAWN 75MM TESTING BATTERY

By: Thomas R. Kurtz



*Signal Corps Photo – May 2, 1932-The Light Truck Drawn 75mm Battery passing the Washington Monument,, en-route from Holabird QM Depot, Batimore, Maryland to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. There were eleven 1 ½ tonFord Trucks. Four of the trucks were towing the M1897, 75mm Field Guns modified for high-speed travel. Five Ford Station Wagons were included in the convoy to be used for transporting officers and key battery personnel. All vehicles were recently acqiured from Ford for the purpose of this demonstration and testing of a high-speed light battery using commerical equipment.*

The Field Artillery Broad, then located at Fort Bragg, conducted a test from May 7, 1932 to March 1, 1933 to determine the capabilities and limitations of light trucks as prime movers and accompanying vehicles for a battery of light field artillery.

In 1932, Battery D, 17th Field Artillery Regiment was picked to be the testing battery for the light truck drawn 75mm battery. The motor vehicle equipment furnished were all 1932 series of Ford Trucks, which included five station wagons, six passenger type; five 1 1/2-ton trucks, 4 wheel, rear-wheel drive, with Warford auxiliary transmission; one 2 1/2-ton truck, 6-wheel drive, with Warford transmission; four 75mm gun M1897 M1E3, which were satisfactory for mobility, but had certain defects in firing that were corrected in later designs; one pick-up, Ford, ½-ton; one 1 1/2-ton truck, Chevrolet, 6-wheel, 4-wheel drive and one 1 1/2-ton Ford, 6 wheel, (middle axle) drive

Upon the receipt of the equipment the battery personnel received instructions for about one month on the operation and maintenance of the material. The initial period of training was followed by a second period approximately two months, in which, the battery utilized training in marches on roads of varying types, cross country movements, and in the reconnaissance and occupation of positions involved in excitation of various tactical missions. Also, during this period firing tests of experimental carriages were conducted.

The last test was to be held at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont during the month of January 1933, to determine the ability of the motor vehicle equipment to operate under winter conditions in a cold climate. Due to an outbreak of influenza within the personnel, of Battery D, there was an enforced stopover at Fort Meade, Maryland, on the road trip that started from Fort Bragg on January 3rd. Battery D, arrived at Fort Myer, Virginia on January 4th, meantime, they staged a demonstration for the Marines at Quantico, Virginia. The stopover provided an opportunity to test the equipment at both Fort Meade and Fort Humphreys' reservations. On January 10, Battery D again started their move to Fort Ethan Allen, by the way of Frankfort Arsenal, Pennsylvania, West Point and Watervliet Arsenal, New York.





*Signal Corps Photo 98218 – Light Truck Battery with Hipkins Track, the Hipkins traction device was developed by MR. O. F. Hipkins as means of increasing the traction of Ford and Chevrolet trucks on muddy roads and across country*



*Signal Corps Photo 98220 – Kitchen Truck for the light truck drawn battery*





*Signal Corps Photo 98213 – Wire Truck, Light Battery with RL139. The RL139 could fit on any truck of the light truck drawn battery.*

On the road trip to Fort Ethan Allen road conditions varied from solid ice, on steep winding roads, with other roads deeply rutted, and frozen hard with and without snow, to clay roads with surface made slippery by rain and thawing.

At Fort Ethan Allen, tactical problems of occupation of positions were presented to the battery to test the vehicles performance under different terrain and weather conditions from cross country movement over thawed subsoil to 10 inches of snow. The vehicles were tested under different terrain over ground broken by steep hills and ravines, very rocky trails crossed by streams. Vehicles were parked outside to simulate field conditions; running gear was allowed to remain covered with mud, on return from daily operation, to see the effects of freezing mud on the brake's mechanisms and other moving parts. Antifreeze solution was used in the cooling systems and winter grade lubricants in motors and chassis. Hood covers and blanket lined radiator with adjustable openings over the radiators were made for all vehicles.





*Soldiers of Battery D, at Fort Ethan Allen, New Hampshire for winter testing of the light battery, January 1933-*

Upon return of Battery D to Fort Bragg, Major General George Leach, Chief of the Militia Bureau who followed the test with interest after observing the battery at Washington D.C. en-route to Fort Ethan Allen arranged a demonstration at Fort Bragg about February 23, 1933. The demonstration was witnessed by nearby commanders of nearly all brigades and regiments of light artillery in the National Guard.

After the end of the test, conclusion and recommendations were made to the Field Artillery about the use of a truck drawn 75mm units in both the active units and National Guard. A detachment of Battery D was tasked to take the trucks and equipment overland to the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in March 1933. The detachment stopped at Fort Benning, Georgia where it was viewed by the officers of the Infantry School. Also, the Commanding General, Eighth Corps, had ordered the battery to San Antonio where many officers, in the vicinity, were able to observe two demonstrations there. From San Antonio, the detachment went to Fort Sill where, upon arrival, the equipment was turned over to Battery A, 1st Field Artillery Regiment.







17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association  
Life Membership Coin Holders (As of April 18, 2020)

<u>Coin Number:</u>	<u>Name of Coin</u>		
<u>Holder:</u>	<u>Life Member as of:</u>		
001 Harold M. Brown Sr. (Deceased)	June 3, 2000*	050 Robert L. Plata	November 13, 2004
002 Thomas Vernor (Deceased)	January 9, 2001	051 Gilbert A. Bernabe	November 13, 2004
003 Harold (Buck) M. Brown Jr.	June 6, 2001*	052 George Winton	November 19, 2004
004 Nolan Putman (Deceased)	September 9, 2001	053 Harry O. Amos (Deceased)	January 4, 2005
005 Thomas R. Kurtz	November 20, 2001	054 Stephen J. Lowery	January 14, 2005
006 Richard (Rich) Siebe	January 1, 2002	055 Gerald F. Brown (Deceased)	January 28, 2005
007 James H. Drennan	February 23, 2002	056 Larry E. Miller (Deceased)	February 7, 2005
008 John J. Korsun JR. (Deceased)	April 8, 2002	057 Raymond P. (DAK) Lais (Deceased)	March 26, 2005
009 Paul J. Barton	April 24, 2002	058 Larry J. Davis	May 7, 2005
010 Leslie B. Scott (Deceased)	April 29, 2002	059 Leon Mc Kenzie Sr.	June 4, 2005
011 Robert R. Brooks II	May 7, 2002	060 Leonard S. Spencer	July 29, 2005
012 James Moore (Deceased)	May 21, 2002	061 Terry L. Wallace	August 9, 2005
013 Edward (Ed) T. Hitchner	May 22, 2002	062 Lyndle E. Claus	August 25, 2005
014 Thomas M. Turner (Deceased)	June 24, 2002	063 James R. Graves (Deceased)	September 16, 2005
015 Paul Fusco	August 2, 2002	064 Daniel L. Lazenberry (Deceased)	September 24, 2005
016 Norman (Richard) R. Jones	August 4, 2002	065 Robert L. Hallahan	October 26, 2005
017 Gary L. Bress	October 4, 2002	066 Bruce Latour	January 12, 2006
018 John C. Melasecca Jr.	November 15, 2002	067 Wiley A. Jarrell	January 30, 2006
019 Frank Zitzman	November 19, 2002	068 James H. Sanders (Deceased)	February 9, 2006
020 Bobby (Bob) A. West	January 8, 2003	069 Raymond C. Gomez	February 28, 2006
021 Peter Coffin	January 17, 2003	070 Charles G. Ross	April 5, 2006
022 Jerome L. Fritsche II (Deceased)	February 22, 2003	071 Neal P. Fouts	April 12, 2006
023 Walter (Jack) J. Larson (Deceased)	February 26, 2003	072 David S. Bickler	June 24, 2006
024 John (Jack) J. Picciolo	March 24, 2003	073 George W. Adkisson (Deceased)	August 7, 2006
025 William J. Wright	April 4, 2003	074 Henry E. Griffendorf Jr.	August 17, 2006
026 C. Alex Brassert	June 4, 2003	075 Thomas C. Bast	September 21, 2006
027 Dietrich W. Neckien (Deceased)	April 27, 2003	076 Ketrick T. Mc Millin	December 3, 2006
028 Michael W. Mason	October 9, 2003	077 John Ryan	December 16, 2006
029 Michael (Mike) Burke	October 10, 2003	078 James T. Caudill	February 7, 2007
030 Eugene Johnson	November 14, 2003	079 David W. Gogel	April 8, 2007
031 Francis (Fran) C. Rash	November 28, 2003	080 Stephen J. Audett	June 26, 2007
032 Delmar D. Beard	December 2, 2003	081 Ronald W. Terry	September 10, 2007
033 Charles E. Morrison	December 14, 2003	082 Thomas W. Remley	November 18, 2007
034 Robert Gary Kohl	December 20, 2003	083 Hollis B. Cahoon	December 7, 2007
035 Michael Dages (Deceased)	January 15, 2004	084 Raymond J. Heuring	December 9, 2007
036 Lonnie O. English (Deceased)	January 21, 2004	085 Paul M. Moser	January 17, 2008
037 Webster Cole	March 15, 2004	086 Avery W. Hall	January 23, 2008
038 Leonard T. Elzie	March 22, 2004	087 John J. Luxenburger Jr. (Deceased)	January 24, 2008
039 Richard P. Carmody	April 29, 2004	088 David P. Rush	February 21, 2008
040 Jerry E. Pifer	May 15, 2004	089 Francis J. Roberts	April 14, 2008
041 Louis J. Mazzarella	May 17, 2004	090 Rod L. Guerrero (Deceased)	July 7, 2008
042 Richard J. Flowers	May 22, 2004	091 Thomas P. Ross	January 30, 2009
043 James M. Sherrill	July 20, 2004	092 Birdeye L. Middleton	February 7, 2009
044 Wallace L. Bates	September 1, 2004	093 Rickie B. Simpkins	February 15, 2009
045 Richard A. Smith	September 14, 2004	094 Robert E. Lax	March 2, 2009
046 George A. Schaefer (Deceased)	October 30, 2004	095 Philip J. Brunwald	March 25, 2009
047 Charles Riley (Deceased)	November 5, 2004	096 Larry Hightower	April 11, 2009
048 Pete Schwarz	November 13, 2004	097 Albert (Bert) Ryan	August 9, 2009
049 Robert M. Kinton (Deceased)	November 13, 2004	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	149 Gail E. Fasse	February 14, 2013
103 Michael Klingeman	November 11, 2009	150 Edwin J. Ahonen	February 19, 2013
104 Charles Garner (Deceased)	November 11, 2009	151 William G. Montague	March 25, 2013
105 Larry R. Werkheiser	December 18, 2009	152 Edward E. Dingman	May 20, 2013
106 William K. Beers Jr.	December 18, 2009	153 Daniel Reeves	July 16, 2013
107 Dennis C. Smith	January 4, 2010	154 James T. Yore	September 28, 2013
108 James M. Caiella	January 4, 2010	155 Michael H. Murphy	September 28, 2013
109 Paul V. Shepherd Sr.	January 11, 2010	156 Richard C. Hoffman	January 24, 2014
110 Leonard A. Eason	February 13, 2010	157 William M. Simpson	January 27, 2014
111 Jeffrey S. Wilcox	April 26, 2010	158 Charles H. Seidman	February 8, 2014
112 Holice Barton Jr. (Deceased)	April 26, 2010	159 Terry L. Earnst	February 8, 2014
113 Robert H. Giselbach	August 9, 2010	160 Robert E. Highlands	May 12, 2014
114 William A. Selis	August 9, 2010	161 Barry L. Matthews	June 24, 2014
115 Ronald B. Hood	August 16, 2010	162 Milton R. Holloway	July 10, 2014
116 Jon M. Johnson	August 31, 2010	163 James E. Kendall	July 10, 2014
117 Todd R. Wasmund	November 12, 2009	164 Tom M. Jones	July 11, 2014
118 Cecil P. LeGrand	September 9, 2010	165 Mick D. Shanklin	August 16, 2014
119 Stephen D. Gerhardt	October 1, 2010	166 Thornton W. Purvis	August 28, 2014
120 Larry W. Lovejoy	October 27, 2010	167 Ronda A. Henderson	September 26, 2014
121 Buford Calfee	October 30, 2010	168 John B. Bagley (Deceased)	November 28, 2014
122 Carlos E. Esmurria	October 30, 2010	169 Michael J. Hennessy	January 20, 2015
123 Richard Heydt	October 30, 2010	170 David P. Hull	February 2, 2015
124 Doyle Watters	November 27, 2010	171 Walter H. Ramsey	July 24, 2015
125 Richard H. Sugg	November 27, 2010	172 Henry J. Dudek	August 1, 2015
126 Harrell (Lyn) Hartman	December 7, 2010*	173 Donald L. Strong	August 21, 2015
127 Marcel L. Simonet	January 3, 2011	174 Harry Fetsick	October 23, 2015
128 Richard (Dick) Stanton (Deceased)	January 3, 2011	175 Willie H. Gates	October 29, 2015
129 James M. Shernesky	January 10, 2011	176 Kolin V. Bernardoni	November 12, 2015
130 John P. Clingan	February 13, 2011	177 Stephen J. Rumnock Jr. (Deceased)	May 3, 2016
131 Bruno A. Kalkowski (Deceased)	June 8, 2011	178 Ronald J. Makinson	January 6, 2017
132 Jeffrey Carra	June 29, 2011	179 Norman L. Barton	March 22, 2017
133 Dave Rowell	October 18, 2011	180 Jack L. Lambert	June 28, 2017
134 Gary M. Steen	December 17, 2011	181 Robert J. Brown	July 10, 2017
135 Lawrence Moren Jr.	January 9, 2012	182 Philip I. Smith	January 22, 2018
136 Curtis A. Collier	March 12, 2012	183 Elroy Thomas	March 1, 2018
137 Mark P Krieger	May 18, 2012	184 Jeffrey Bernabe	November 11, 2018 *
138 Raul A. Garibay	June 18, 2012	185 James D. Sosebee	March 4, 2019
139 Ralph W. Melcher	June 18, 2012	186 James L. Wisneski	March 4 2019
140 Francisco F. Garcia II	July 28, 2012	187 Roger (John) Ubaudi	March 26, 2019
141 Gary B. Griffin	September 19, 2012	188 Robert T. Farkas	March 26, 2019
142 Larry L. Rice	September 26, 2012	189 Doug (Raymond) Runice	July 19, 2019
143 James E. Will	October 25, 2012	190 Robert D. King	September 19, 2019
144 Jack M Frizzell	December 1, 2012	191 Jeffery D. McCausland	November 21, 2019
145 Alan M. McIlvain (Deceased)	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		

\*Associate Member 5

## Deceased 32

### Association Officers 2020

**Gil Bernabe-----President**  
**Dave Rowell-----1st Vice President**  
**William Beers-----2d Vice President**  
**Jack (TOJ) Stroud-----Secretary**  
**Dan Reeves -----Treasurer**  
**Richard Smith-----Chaplain**  
**John (Jack) Picciolo & Tom Kurtz-----Historian**  
**Richard & Phyllis Flowers-----Quartermaster**  
**Edward (Ed) Hitchner-----Webmaster**  
**Gil Bernabe-----Scholarship Chairman**

=====

=====

**This NewsLetter has been approved by the Board of Directors**

**Gil Bernabe**  
Association President  
**www/17thartilleryregiment.org**

=====

=====

**Receive "The Castle" By Email**

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

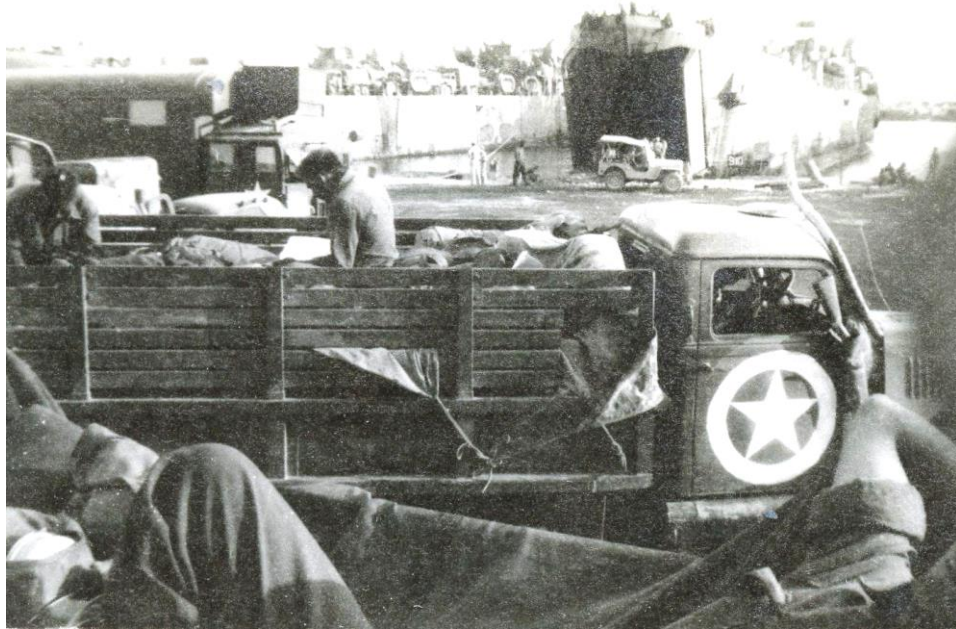
To receive the electronic NewsLetter, notify the association's secretary: Jack Stroud at: jack.stroud@roadrunner.com with **your current and correct Email addresses** and receive the NewsLetter much faster.

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

You must be a **PAID-UP @ Least 5 consecutive years** to receive the NewsLetter.



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



*Port of Tunis, Algeria, early July 1943, trucks and equipment from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 13th Field Artillery Brigade waiting to be loaded aboard LSTs-LCIs for the invasion of Sicily. Picture taken by Private Edward Zuparko, who served with Battery F, 2nd Battalion and Battery C, 1st Battalion 17th Field Artillery during World War II.*

*Picture donated to the association by his son Ned Zuparko*

## **17th ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

### **The Castle**