

# THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 30

July 2017

## President's View from the Observation Post

By Gil Bernabe

In less than three months, we will be meeting in Charleston, South Carolina for our 2017 Annual Reunion. I recently sent out a reminder to some of our more faithful members to make their hotel reservations early and to register with Dan Reeves, our Association Treasurer. We are making a concerted effort to encourage more of our Association members to attend this reunion and to make their plans early. Early is good for the planning committees because then we know who is attending and how many members and guests to plan for. Once you have reserved your hotel and registered with Dan, send me a note, and I will have the Charleston Chamber of Commerce send you an Official Charleston Visitor's Guide.

This July Castle Newsletter has a complete section of information on the 2017 Reunion. Remember August 25 is the deadline for taking advantage of the Association's reduced hotel rate at the Fairfield Inn and Suites. That special rate is \$125.00 per night. Get your hotel room reserved and then, register with Dan Reeves.

At the 2017 Annual Reunion you will see our new 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association Banners – one is wall size and the other is table size. We have pictures of the banner elsewhere in this July Castle Newsletter.

The newly designed baseball cap with a 100-year anniversary patch on it is ready to order. A picture of the new patch is located with the order form in this newsletter. Find the order form for your 100-Year Anniversary cap and send it to me with your \$25.00 check and we will order your cap and ship it to you.

Our lead story tells us how busy our new Treasurer has been raising funds to support the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association. Dan has raised more than \$7,000.00 from two very generous families – Shannon & Ann Creson and David & Thea Shupe. Dan's fund-raising backs his motto of "Veterans Helping Veterans." Kudos to Dan! Be sure to congratulate Dan when you see him at the reunion.

This Castle Newsletter also contains several of Tom Kurtz's regular features – historical notes that serve to review our 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery history. In this newsletter Tom shares with the reader "Regimental Milestones for 2017" – key dates in the history of the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery. He also provides a list of "WWII artillerymen who served bravely and gave all in support of the mission."

We have talked to members about raising funds for scholarships in memory of our fellow soldiers who were killed in Vietnam in 1968. Next year will be fifty years since some of them were killed. So, when you get a phone call and request to donate to these special scholarship, please be generous.

The 2017 Scholarship awards were presented to two very deserving high school graduates – Emma

Bernardoni and Abigail Guerrette. Be sure to read their stories in this newsletter. They both earned a 4.0 grade point average in their studies, participated in high school activities and greatly contributed to their communities. Also, in this newsletter, we printed each winner's essays on "Their Favorite Veteran." These essays provide a unique view into one's father and the other's grandfather's military service.

On May 5, 2017, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery changed commanders and Association President, Gil Bernabe, represented the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association. LTC Stephen Kaplachinski took over from LTC Timothy Mungie. In this newsletter, I report on the Change of Command Ceremony in print and with pictures. For me, it was very moving to be back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery. It was almost fifty years ago when I departed from the battalion in An Khe and headed back home to my new bride and a soldier's career and life.

Our Chaplin, Richard Smith, in Chaplain's Corner, provides us some excellent ideas for finding comfort in our life and to be thankful for all the good things that we have. When one of our comrades is sick or ill, let Richard know – so, he can send some words of cheer to them.

Roy Parker recaps life in 1921 with the 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. As it arrived in Fayetteville, NC. Parker reported that this was "the largest military force to come to town since Gen. William Tecumseth Sherman's 60,000 blues bellies marched through in 1865. Parker shares with us the construction of "Camp Bragg," and how a politically smart officer, Colonel A. J. Bowley, kept Camp Bragg operational. He also relates some important firsts for the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery: the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery "was among the first U. S. artillery outfits to go to France and that in the Korean War, the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery was "the first heavy artillery unit to arrive in Korea during the war.

Another interesting article is the story of Sgt John Bagley, a man of many talents and who is now in the biggest fight of his life – fighting cancer. John's story is not unique because many of our 17<sup>th</sup> Artillerymen were in school, or just starting out in their career, when Uncle Sam called their draft number. John, like many of our friends in the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery, answered and served; and then, returned home to do great things, while making their community and country great. I have to talk John into bringing his "million dollar" invention to the Charleston Reunion.

That's it for now. See you in Charleston!

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### **Dan Reeves Seeks Out Donors to Support Association**

By Gil Bernabe and Dan Reeves

Our Treasurer, Dan Reeves, has been busy seeking out donors to support the 17th Artillery Regiment Association and its many beneficial goals. The first audience that Dan approached was his business and industry colleagues all around California and in the United States. Dan's pitch highlighted the need for financial support for the 17th Artillery Regiment Association; so, the Association could continue its efforts of "Veterans Helping Veterans."

After hearing Dan's pitch, the first company to respond was Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, INC., in Antioch, CA. The company's leadership group, President, Shannon Creson & Ann Creson and Vice President, David Shupe & Thea Shupe, stepped up immediately with an incredible showing of financial support to the 17th Artillery Association. This company donated \$7,000.00 to the Association.

To show the Association's appreciation for their generosity and support Dan organized an afternoon reception with snacks and a toast of spirits with several of their office, shop and field employees. Representing the 17th Artillery Association, Dan presented bouquets of flowers and two appropriately engraved plaques showing DRILL TECH and "Diamond Sponsor" of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association. It was an exciting celebration for everyone in attendance.

The Shupe family, also, made a separate contribution to the Association. At their residence, Dan presented them with an appropriately engraved plaque to show the Association's gratitude for their kind support.

Dan points out that these two donations show there are incredible people who will show their support to our veterans if they are made aware of our Association and offered the opportunity to help. The Association will need some financial sponsors outside of the Association, if we want to meet our future goals. Association members should reach out to others to allow them to show veterans their support. No amount is too small or too large to allow them the opportunity to show support.



**Treasurer, Dan Reeves makes presentation to Association Diamond Sponsors Shannon and Ann Creson.**



**Picture of Engraved Plaque presented to Sponsors of the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association.**



## **REGIMENTAL MILESTONES for 2017**

By: Thomas R. Kurtz

**1917: (100 years ago),** \*May 11, 1917, the Secretary of War directed that the 17th Field Artillery Regiment be organized.

\*May 15, 1917, the organized of the new regiment is implemented at Camp Robinson, Sparta, Wisconsin.

\*June 1, 1917, with the transfer of officers and enlisted men from 1st Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas the nucleus of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment was formed.

\*June 6, 1917, the 17th Field Artillery Regiment is officially organized and entered on the Army's roles with Colonel Albert Jesse Bowley as the first regimental commander.

\*June 6, 1917, 17th Field Artillery Regiment Band organized as Band Headquarters Battery

\*September 21, 1917, the Regiment is assigned to the 2d Division (Regular).

\*December 5, 1917, the Regiment receives orders to move overseas.



**Dan Reeves presents Diamond Sponsor Plaque to David and Thea Shupe for their support.**

\*December 8, 1917, the Regiment departs Camp Robinson by train for Weehawken, New Jersey.

\*December 12, 1917, the Regiment arrives in New York where they are immediately placed on a large ferry and then boarded the USS Covington.

\*December 14, 1917, the USS Covington sails from New York Bay with several other transports escorted by the USS North Carolina.

\*December 27, 1917, the USS Covington arrived at the harbor in Brest, France.

\*December 31, 1917, the Regiment disembarked the USS Covington and marched to the local railroad station and boarded a train for Camp du Valdahon located in Northern France.

**1922: (95 years ago),** \*Home station of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Camp Bragg is changed to Fort Bragg, a permanent Army post.

**1932: (85 years ago)** \*Summer of 1932, Battery D 17th Field Artillery Regiment, traveled to Holabird Quartermaster Depot, Maryland and received the vehicles and guns of an experimental Ford battery in an endeavor to prove that a light commercial truck will or will not answer the Field Artillery requirement as a prime mover for the 75mm guns. In route from the depot to Fort Bragg, Battery D stopped in Washington D. C. for a demonstration. Once at Fort Bragg, Battery D was on the constant move during three months of the summer 1932, through deep sand, the swamps, and brush land of Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**1942: (75 years ago),** (World War II), \*March 1942, 17th Field Artillery Regiment moved from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Camp Blanding, Florida, under the 13th Field Artillery Brigade.

\*July 1942, the 17th Field Artillery Regiment was ordered to take part in the Carolina Maneuvers. Two weeks later the regiment was ordered back to Fort Bragg for final equipment and staging before going overseas. After one week at Fort Bragg the regiment moved by train to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. After three day's there the Regiment moved by train to New York on August 5, 1942 arriving at the Jersey City Docks the same day, and then boarded ferries for Pier #36 at the New York Docks.

\*Once at the New York Docks, the 17th Field Artillery Regiment boarded the HMS Orcades at 2000 hours; August 5, 1942, then sailed from New York Harbor at 0200 hours, August 6, 1942 for unknown destination.

\*August 17, 1942, the HMS Orcades arrived at her berth at Liverpool, England. Here the 17th Field Artillery Regiment boarded trains. Batteries loaded on

different trains which departed Liverpool at various hours.

\*August 18, 1942, after an overnight train ride, the Regiment arrives at the Royal Armored Corps Barracks at Perham Downs near Tidworth, England for an intensive training program.

\*November 22, 1942, 17th Field Artillery Regiment proceeded from Perham Downs for Liverpool, by train again, for an unknown destination.

\*November 26, 1942, 17th Field Artillery Regiment sailed from Liverpool with no more than two batteries per ship. One ship stopped at Gibraltar for repairs.

\*December 6, 1942, 17th Field Artillery Regiment lands at Mers el Kebir, near Oran, Algeria. Here the regiment went in bivouac.

**1947: (70 years ago),** \*February 5, 1947, Headquarters Battery, 630th Field Artillery Battalion is re-designated Headquarters Battery 537th Field Artillery Battalion; Battery A, 630th Field Artillery Battalion re-designated Battery A, 537th Field Artillery Battalion; Battery B, 630th Field Artillery Battalion is re-designated Battery B, 537th Field Artillery Battalion; .Battery C, 630th Field Artillery Battalion is re-designated Battery C, 537th Field Artillery Battalion

**1952: (65 years ago),** (Korean War), \*February 19, 1952, 17th Field Artillery Battalion formed a provisional battery, Battery D, with two 8 inch self-propelled howitzers, equipment and personnel from within the battalion.

\*July 13, 1952, Battery D, 17th Field Artillery Battalion becomes non-operational with kits, equipment, and personnel redistributed among the remaining batteries. One SP was assigned to Battery A, the other SP assigned to Battery C.

\*By the end of 1952 the 17th Field Artillery Battalion had fired 168,758 rounds,

**1957: (60 years ago),** \*February 12, 1957, Battery A (+), 537th Field Artillery Battalion travelled by road from Camp Carson, Colorado, to Fort Huachuca to provide troop support for electronic testing at the Army Electronic Proving Grounds. Battery returned to Camp Carson on June 15, 1957.

\*September 25, 1957, the 537th Field Artillery Battalion is reorganized with strength of 37 officers, 2 warrant officers and 537 enlisted.

**1962: (55 years ago),** \*July 18, 1962, the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma was attached back to the 214th Artillery Group after the 169th Artillery Group (NG) was inactivated.

\*During July and August 1962, the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery participated in training assaults



from LCT's and LST's at the Naval Amphibious Training Little Creek, Virginia.

\*December 1962, the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery underwent a STRAC Mobility Exercise at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

**1967: (50 years ago),** (Vietnam War), \*January 5, 1967, Battery B fires the 200,000th round for the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery in South Vietnam.

\*January 6, 1967, the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery is reassigned from United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV) to 1st Field Forces Vietnam (1FFV) with further attachment to the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (Airmobile).

\*January 22, 1976, Battery D, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery after completing air mobile training is deployed for the first time to support Operation Thayer II.

\*February 11, 1967, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery assumed control of all artillery in the An Khe area and the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (Airmobile) rear responsibilities.

\*April 1967, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery fired their 300,000th round in South Vietnam.

\*August 1, 1967, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 8th Battalion, 17th Artillery is activated at Fort Campbell, Kentucky (organic elements constituted April 18, 1967 and activated August 1, 1967).

\*October 15, 1967, the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery is released from attachment to the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (Airmobile) and attached to 1st Field Forces Vietnam with further attachment to 41st Artillery Group.

**1972: (45 years ago),** \*September 13, 1972, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery is assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division and activated in Korea.

\*September 13, 1972, the 7th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery is inactivated in Korea and relieved from assignment to the 2nd Infantry Division. (Battalion is reflagged 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery)

**1977: (40 years ago),** \*Fall of 1977, 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery participated in Exercise REFORGER 77.

**1982: (35 years ago),** \*1982, the 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (USAR) continued with their 12 weekends and two weeks of training to maintain their proficiency.

**1987: (30 years ago),** \*April 16, 1987, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery is inactivated in Korea and relieved of assignment to the 2nd Infantry Division.

**1992: (25 years ago),** \* In early January 1992, the 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery deployed to the NTC. The

battalion, configured as a GS unit, was assigned and carried out all four standard Field Artillery missions during one rotation – an NTC first.

\*January 1992, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery the month was filled with intensive field training exercises for battalion that culminated with the AEE.

\*April 10, 1992, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery started its initiation of Paladin training.

\*In September and October 1992, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery ended the training year with a 75th Field Artillery Brigade-level deployment to Germany for REFORGER 92.

\*1992, 5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment is moved from Germany to Fort Sill, Oklahoma and assigned to the 214th Field Artillery Brigade.

**1997: (20 years ago),** \*April 17, 2007 the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment was activated at Fort Lewis, Washington as an organic battalion of the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

**2007: (10 years ago),** \*(Operation Iraqi Freedom) January 2007, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment returns to Fort Sill, Oklahoma from Iraq.

\*April 17, 2007, the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment is activated at Fort Lewis, Washington and assigned to the 5th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

\* September 2007, 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery fields the M198, 155mm towed howitzers.

**2012: (5 years ago),** \*(Operation Enduring Freedom) 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment deploys from Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington to the Northern area of Kandahar, Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, as part of the International Security Forces Afghanistan (ISFA).



## World War II

### 17th Field Artillery Regiment

### 17th Field Artillery Battalion

**KIA (Killed in Action): DOW (Died of Wounds),  
M (Missing in Action): NBD (Non Battle Death)**

### HOMER J. ADSITT, Technician Fifth Class

Home: Silver Creek, Chautauqua County, New York

Son of: Arnold and Pearl Adsitt

Enlisted: July 3, 1942 at Fort Niagara, Youngstown, New York

Serial Number: 32252382

17th Field Artillery Battalion

Date of Death: (DOW) May 7, 1945 (Born 1907,  
Hanover, New York)  
Buried: Plot B, Row 29, Grave 43 Epinal American  
Cemetery, Epinal, France  
Awards: Silver Star, Purple Heart



**FURMAN A. BOONE, Sergeant**

Home: Fairfield, South Carolina  
Serial Number: 06928294  
Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery  
Regiment  
Missing in Action: (M) February 14, 1943  
Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American  
Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
Awards: Purple Heart

**EDWARD CASTEL, Private**

Home: New York, New York  
Enlisted: May 30, 1941 at New York City, New  
York  
Serial Number: 32089101  
Battery C, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery  
Regiment  
Date of Death: (KIA) November 18, 1943 (Born  
1913) Killed by heavy German artillery fire on  
Battery C. (Estimated to be of 105mm caliber).  
Buried: Plot 1, Row 13, Grave 63, Sicily-Rome  
American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy  
Awards: Purple Heart

**PETE COLETTA, Private First Class**

Home Town: Hudson, New Jersey  
Enlisted: June 10, 1942 at Newark, New Jersey  
Serial Number: 32307616  
Date of Death: (DOW) January 23, 1944 (Born  
1922)  
17th Field Artillery Battalion  
Buried: Plot G, Row 15, Grave 23, Sicily-Rome  
American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy  
Awards: Purple Heart

**HAROLD GOLDIE, Private First Class**

Home Town: Queens, New York  
Enlisted: July 7, 1941, Camp Upton, Yaphank,  
New York  
Serial Number: 32160098  
Date of Death: (DOW) February 15, 1943 (Born  
1918)  
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Buried: Plot H, Row 2, Grave 16, North Africa  
American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
Awards: Purple Heart

**ERIC GUTHMAN, Corporal**

Home Town, Cook County, Illinois  
Serial Number: 3630508  
Date of Death: (KIA) December 10, 1944  
17th Field Artillery Battalion  
Buried: Plot E, Row 6, Grave 68, Henri-Chapelle  
American Cemetery, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium  
Awards: Purple Heart

**HENRY Q. HARBORT, Private**

Home Town: South Carolina  
Serial Number: 06380600  
Missing in action: (M) February 16, 1943  
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American  
Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
Awards: Purple Heart



**LONNIE HOYT JACKSON, Chief Warrant Officer**

Home Town: Center Point, Alabama  
Serial Number: W2110197  
Date of Death: (DNB) October 24, 1943 of  
Hepatitis in Palermo, Sicily  
Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery  
Regiment (Started service with Battery D, 2nd  
Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 13th Field  
Artillery Brigade, Fort Bragg, NC in 1927).  
Buried: Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama

**RICHARD W. KELLY, First Lieutenant**

Home Town: Massachusetts

Serial Number: O-389206  
Date of Death: June 25, 1943 (DNB) Self-inflicted wound  
Battery B, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Buried: Plot F, Row 9, Grave 1, North African American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia

**MARVIN W. KING, Staff Sergeant**

Home Town: North Carolina  
Serial Number: 06968913  
Date of Death: (KIA) February 14, 1943  
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Buried: Plot B, Row 8, Grave 4, North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
Awards: Purple Heart

**ANTHONY J. KOLACINSKI, Private**

Home Town: Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania  
Serial Number: 33078891  
Date of Death: (DNB) April 23, 1945. Private Kolacinski was captured by the Germans at Faid Pass, on February 14, 1943 and held as a POW in Stalag 3B Furstenberg Brandenburg, Prussia (Also KDOS (USA) #1-5; ARB BTNS 225-255) 52-14 and was shot while attempting to escape.  
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Buried: Roman Catholic Polish Cemetery, Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania  
Awards: Purple Heart

**PAUL J. Le BLANC, Private First Class**

Home Town: Suffolk, Massachusetts  
Enlisted: February 20, 1941 at Boston, Massachusetts  
Serial Number: 31017032  
Missing in Action: (M) February 14, 1943 (Born 1919)  
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
Awards: Purple Heart

**EDWIN M. MAJESKI, Corporal**

Home Town: Anderson, South Carolina  
Enlisted: January 23, 1941, at Charlotte, South Carolina  
Serial Number: 14037579  
Date of Death: (KIA) March 9, 1944 (Born 1914)  
17th Field Artillery Battalion

Buried: Plot E, Row 15, Grave 18, Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy  
Awards: Purple Heart

**CLAUS H. MANGELS, Sergeant**

Home Town: Oxford, Oxford County, Maine  
Enlisted: February 19, 1941 at Portland, Maine  
Serial Number: 31000892  
Missing in Action, (FOD-Hostile) February 14, 1943 (Born 1916)  
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
Awards: Purple Heart



**WILLIAM H. McELFRESH, Private**

Home Town: Brooklyn, New York  
Enlisted: November 14, 1941 at CP Upton Yaphank, New York  
Serial Number: 32191251  
Date of Death: (KIA) October 30, 1943 (Killed near Caisso, Italy) (Born 1915)  
17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Buried: Plot J, 15736 Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, Suffolk County, New York

**DENNY T. MEEKER, Private First Class**

Home Town: Homes, Florida  
Enlisted: December 4, 1941 at Camp Blanding, Florida  
Serial Number: 34059537  
Date of Death: (KIA) February 20, 1943 (Born 1915)  
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
Buried: Plot E, Row 17, Grave 6, North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
Awards: Purple Heart



**NORMAN JOSEPH MORAN, Corporal**

Home town: Suffolk, Massachusetts  
 Parents: William (Willy) Moran and Alma Nee (Fillion) Moran  
 Enlisted: February 20, 1941 at Boston, Massachusetts  
 Serial Number: 31016957  
 Date of Death: (KIA) October 12, 1943 (Born August 4, 1919)  
 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
 Buried: Plot J, Row 1, Grave 38, Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy  
 Awards: Purple Heart

**ROBERT D. NEWSON, Private**

Home Town, North Carolina  
 Serial Number: 07006147  
 Date of Death: (KIA) February 15, 1943  
 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
 Buried: Plot D, Row 21, Grave 6, North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage Tunisia  
 Awards: Purple Heart



**JAMES R. PHILLIPS, Private First Class**

Home Town: Lancaster, South Carolina  
 Serial Number: 14037709  
 Date of Death: (KIA) March 21, 1943 - Killed while manning the .50cal machine gun firing at a German "Stukas" strafing his vehicle (Battery B supply truck) at El Guetter, Tunisia.  
 Battery B, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment

Buried: Plot E, Row 21, Grave 7, North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
 Awards: Silver Star, Purple Heart

**EDWARD ROEBEN, Corporal**

Home Town: Kings, New York  
 Enlisted: July 16, 1940 at Witchell, New York  
 Serial Number: 12006577  
 Missing in Action: (M) February 14, 1943 (Born 1917)  
 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
 Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia  
 Awards: Purple Heart

**JESSE W. SLAGLE, Private First Class**

Home Town: Buncombe, North Carolina  
 Serial Number: 06969234  
 Date of Death: (KIA) November 10, 1943 Stepped on a S-mine.  
 Battery A, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
 Buried: Plot G, Row 14, Grave 51, Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy  
 Awards: Purple Heart



**GEORGE P. ZILINSKI, Corporal**

Home Town: New Haven, Connecticut  
 Enlisted: February 19, 1941  
 Serial Number: 31020565  
 Missing in Action: (M) February 28, 1943 (Born 1913)  
 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
 Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia

Reprint of an article from the "Fayetteville Observer"; February 23, 1995

**For 75 years, 17th Field Artillery serves Bragg**

By: Roy Parker Jr.



The weather was chilly that Sunday in early January 1921

But hundreds of Fayetteville residents withstood the cold to cluster at the train depot and watch the arrival of the largest military force to come to town since Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's 60,000 blues bellies marched through in 1865.

The 17th Field Artillery Regiment had come to take up its home at the brand-new Army cantonment named Camp Bragg, 10 miles down the road from the town of a few thousand inhabitants.

The Fayetteville Observer described it.

"All day Sunday, starting at early morn, trains began to pour into the city loaded with soldiers and equipment."

"The detachments consist of six batteries, a headquarters company, a supply company, 17 officers, 753 enlisted men."

"The regiment is commanded by Maj. Charles Idle."

"It came from Camp Travis, San Antonio, Texas."

That scene on a Sunday 74 years ago began a kinship between the 17th Field Artillery and North Carolina that will end next year when a Reserve battalion of that number is deactivated. The unit has batteries in Raleigh, Rocky Mount and Durham.

Recently, the weekend soldiers of the batteries fired their 8-inch howitzers for the last time.

Appropriately, the swan-song barrage thundered out over the artillery firing range at Fort Bragg, where three-quarters of a century ago, gunners of the old 17th unlimbered their French-made 155 mm howitzers for the first time at their new home.

"The 1921 arrival of the 17th was, in the words of the Fayetteville Observers, central to "the general plan of Col. A. J. Bowley to make this the largest artillery camp in the United States, if not in the world."

That inestimable officer had commanded the 17th on the battlefields of France in World War I. He was now commanding Camp Bragg, which had been acquired late in the war as a major big-gun cantonment.

But postwar demobilization had reduced the Army to tiny establishment, and there were already other older artillery posts.

## CAMP CONSTRUCTION

The construction of "Camp Bragg" began in the late summer of 1916. The building program was in full swing when World War I ended with the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. The sprawling collection of wooden buildings could accommodate up to 16,000 soldiers

Over the next year and a half, a few hundred soldiers were scraped together as a garrison, the largest units being the 5th Field Artillery Regiment, which

arrived on Thanksgiving Day in 1920, a few "Flying Jenny" airplanes at the newly-named Pope Field.

Bowley, promoted to one-star general a few months after the 17th arrived, used political influence as well as command authority to keep the post open.

In May 1921, he grouped the units on the post into the 13th Artillery Brigade, with the 5th and 17th regiments as its core.

Three months later, the whole command was ordered to move to Fort Knox, Ky. Camp Bragg was to be closed.

## POWERS OF PERSUASION

But Bowley turned on all his persuasive powers, using political tricks as well as military arguments, to reverse the decision. Thanks to his perseverance, Camp Bragg would be a permanent post, named Fort Bragg.

For the next 20 years, most of a few thousand soldiers at Fort Bragg were artillerymen of the 13th Field Artillery Brigade, in the 5th, 16th and 17th Field Artillery Regiments.

In those peaceful days between the big wars, the 17th Field Artillery was known as much for the music of its regimental band as for its prowess with its guns.

For many years, the Sunday afternoon concert of the 17th FA band was a popular attraction on the post.

A typical program in the spring of 1937 led by bandleader Eugene J. Lacock opened with the "William Tell Overture" then worked its way through to "Tales from the Vienna Woods."

The concerts always ended with two rousers—the "Col. McCloskey March" (named for 1930s post commander), and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The modern Army lineage of the 17th Field Artillery began in June 1917; two months after the United States entered World War I, when Col. Bowley organized it from several National Guard units in Wisconsin.

## FIRST TO FRANCE

Under Bowley's command, the regiment was among the first U. S. artillery outfits to go to France, arriving in December 1917. There, it was equipped with the biggest mobile field gun of the time, the "Schneider 155 mm howitzer." It was attached to the U. S. 2nd Infantry Division.

The regiments' guns began combat firing in late 1918. They fired in six campaigns beginning with the Battle of Chateau Thierry. From then until the Armistice, the regiment was seldom out of the firing line.

Col. Warner McCabe, one of the wartime commanders of the 17th, like many others officers got to

return to the unit at Fort Bragg. In 1934, he was the regimental commanding officer,

By 1939, as war clouds gathered again in Europe, the 13th Brigade consisted of the 17th and 36th Field Artillery Regiment, which had been formed at Fort Bragg in late 1939. In January 1941, they were joined by the 178th regiment, a South Carolina National Guard unit called into federal service.

When the U.S. mobilized for World War II, the 13th Field Artillery Brigade was one of the few experienced multi-regiment commands in the Army. After Pearl Harbor, it was one of the first to go overseas; its combat service spanned the entire history of U. S. forces in the European Theater of Operations.

## COMBAT CAREER

The brigade opened its combat career in the North African Invasion in November 1942.

After that it was on to Sicily, Italy, Belgium, France and Germany.

The big tractor-drawn guns of the 17th were attached to corps and field army artillery forces.

During the war, artillery units underwent various reformations, and the 17th was split into two battalions, the 17th and the 630th.

Its headquarters was redesigned as the 17th Field Artillery Group and continued to control the battalions, as well as others.

At war's end the battalion and group were deactivated.

In 1950s, the 17th battalion was again called into service for the Korean War. It did not see action, however.

It became a Reserve unit in 1959 and began its 35-year association with Raleigh, Durham and Rocky Mount.

(Note: The unit the author was referring to as the last 17th Field Artillery unit to fire at Fort Bragg in 1995 was the 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (USAR) (8inch M110, SP). The 4th Battalion was activated 20 April 1959, inactivated in 1 June 1996.).

It should also be noted that the 17th Field Artillery

Battalion did serve in Korea during the Korean War. The 17th Field Artillery Battalion (8inch Howitzer, tractor drawn) deployed from Fort Sill, Oklahoma and arrived in Korea on 25 August 1950, the first heavy artillery unit to arrive in Korea during the war. The 17th Field Artillery Battalion was inactivated in Korea on 1 June 1958.

*Two M110's 8inch Howitzers with a M548 Ammunition Carrier from  
Battery A, 4th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (USAR) at  
Fort Bragg, North Carolina, during the 1970s. Picture is  
courtesy of Richard Smith who served with Battery*

## The Sergeant John Bagley Story

By Gil Bernabe

Many of our 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association members, like many other veterans, have led very interesting lives. In this article I will share with you the many contributions that John Bagley and his family have made to our Nation. John and I reconnected after so many years at the 2015 Annual Reunion in St Augustine, Florida. As 2015 rolled into 2016, John and I talked again; and this time he was traveling to Houston for some serious treatment to help him fight cancer. John and I talked and he shared with me: "I was diagnosed 2 years ago with tonsil cancer and pancreatic cancer. I have under gone 2 years of surgeries, radiation and chemo therapy at non VA hospitals, Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, GA, and Greenville Memorial, Greenville, S.C." Currently he is living in Greenville, SC, and is being treated at a Non VA hospital because it is more convenient from his residence in Greenville.

When John was drafted in November 1966, he was happily working for the Southern Railroad – wishing about all else that he could enjoy his young career with the railroad and miss the draft. No such luck for John. Once drafted, the U.S. Army provided John a free bus ride to Fort Benning, Georgia, "Home of the Infantry," and an Army Drill Sergeant proceeded to make a soldier out of him during Basic Training. After Fort Benning, John Bagley was one of the lucky soldiers who was chosen to be an artilleryman and off he went on more free transportation, this time to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for his Advanced Individual Training.

Now that John was a qualified artilleryman, he thought he would be deployed to Viet Nam. Not yet, John. The Army, instead, shipped him to Fort Meade, MD, where he was assigned to a regular Army Artillery unit. In that assignment, his unit trained for duty in Vietnam. However, the Army did not want John to get bored; so, after six months, he was re-assigned to Camp



Drum, NY. Those two assignments helped John become a well-trained Artilleryman; so that by the time he deployed to Vietnam and joined the 2d battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery, he was a seasoned, Specialist Fourth Class, ready to make his mark in Bravo Battery's Section Five.

John Bagley's tour of duty was almost normal. He was promoted to Section Gunner duties, three months after he arrived in Vietnam; and then, soon after was promoted to Sergeant and Section Chief. Days were spent firing artillery missions, performing maintenance on the Section 5 howitzer, all artillery equipment, and always being ready for a Viet Cong attack. Sergeant Bagley's biggest challenge came on August 23, 1968, when Bravo Battery came under mortar fire. Section 5 took a direct hit with a mortar round. That mortar round killed Cliff Draper and wounded Sergeant Bagley. Despite being wounded, Sergeant Bagley continued leading his Section 5 personnel in a counter-attack. For his wounds he received the Purple Heart and for his leadership under fire, he received a Bronze Star.

Sergeant Bagley returned to the United States in December 1968 and was Honorably Discharged. Now a civilian again, Mr. John Bagley returned to work for Southern Railway, based out of Atlanta, Ga. He continued his career at Southern Railway as they transitioned to Norfolk Southern Railway. John advanced through the positions of Conductor, Engineer to Road Foreman of Engines. As he moved up the ladder of success, his responsibilities included hiring employees, training them to be Railroad Engineers, and after completing their training, John continued to supervise the new hires and existing Engineers which totaled roughly 1800 engineers and 135 trains/daily for safety compliant operations. John retired from Norfolk Southern in 2000.

One of John's many professional accomplishments is that he developed a realigned train operation in Gainesville, Ga. This realignment saved Norfolk Southern roughly \$2 million dollars a year. For this improvement of production, John received Norfolk Southern's prestigious Quality Reward, one of 12 such awards per year.

Still too young to retire for good, John and his wife, Sharon, started Bagley Builders Inc. The company was primarily involved in home additions, remodeling existing structures, high-rise condominium build out and some commercial buildings.

In his spare time John began running for exercise. Running became a passion for him and led to his running and completing four New York City Marathons, 50 Half Marathons, and too many to count neighborhood fun runs. John was very successful in many of these races and placed first in his age group multiple times.

In the private sector John – the Inventor - received 13 patents on a runner's shoelace that never needed to be tied. It conformed the shoe to the runner's foot. Many runners have and still run with this shoelace. Because of his current health issues, John has stepped down from the daily activities with the company.

In my conversations with John, I asked him if he had been checked for PTSD. He answered, "Yes, I have been diagnosed with PTSD. PTSD was diagnosed after an onset of nightmares, inability to sleep and not wanting to interact with people."

A follow-on question was: "If the Veterans Administration was of any help to him?" John answered that "The VA has helped and I have witnessed over the past 2 years a progression of better MD care and caring." That is good to hear that John and many other Veterans are receiving good care from the VA.

John finished my interview with him by proudly noting that his oldest son enlisted in the Army and served in Saudi Arabia and Panama during the Persian Gulf War. He was discharged with an honorable discharge.

John – we know you are in the toughest fight of your life. Please know that all your friends and Association members are praying for you and wish you only the best. We thank you for your service to our nation!



<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery (STEEL) Holds Change of Command Ceremony at Joint Base Lewis McChord</b></p>
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On May 5, 2017, LTC Timothy R. Mungie turned over command of the 2d Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery to LTC Stephen Kaplachinski at Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA. Presiding over the ceremony was 2d Infantry Division Artillery Commander Colonel David S. Pierce.

LTC Mungie, the outgoing commander, earned his commission through ROTC at San Diego State and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, in June 1997. He had regular junior officer assignments and his combat deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom II (January 2004 – February 2005), Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 (July 2006 – October 2007) and Operation New Dawn (Dec 2010 – Jun 2011). LTC



Mungie commanded 2d Bn, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery (STEEL) from May 2015 to May 2017.

Prior to the official ceremony, the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Commanding General, Thomas S. James, presented LTC Mungie with the Meritorious Service Medal for his many achievements with the battalion. LTC Mungie also received the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's Order of the Bayonet Award. MG James presented Mrs. Yaolin Mungie with a Department of The Army Civilian Award for all her contribution to the battalion.

The new commander, LTC Stephen Kaplachinski, graduated from Marian University in Indianapolis, IN. and was commissioned in the Field Artillery branch. In his early years of military service, he had regular Field Artillery assignments at Fort Carson, Colorado; and his deployments include three combat deployments to Iraq. Before his assignment to the 2d Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery, he was assigned to the NATO Rapid Deployable Corp in Istanbul, Turkey and as the Senior Active Duty Advisor to the South Dakota National Guard in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association President, Gil Bernabe, and LTC Stephen Kaplachinski have coordinated a recruiting trip to the battalion in July. Gil will be accompanied on this recruiting trip with First Vice President, Jerry Cody, and Association Treasurer, Dan Reeves. They will brief on the Association, how to work with the Veterans Administration, and personal experience tips on how to handle PTSD. Their goal besides selling the benefits of joining the Association is to recruit new members for the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association. The trio will provide a report on the success of this recruiting mission at the 2017 Reunion in Charleston, SC.



7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Commander, MG Thomas S. James, presents the Order of the Bayonet to LTC Mungie



LTC Stephen Kaplachinski takes command of 2-17<sup>th</sup> Artillery



2d Infantry Division Artillery Commander, David S. Pierce present the Meritorious Service Medal to LTC Timothy Mungie



LTC Mungie bids farewell to the 2-17<sup>th</sup> Artillery





LTC Kaplachinski and staff



Passing unit colors to LTC Kaplachinski

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**17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarship to Walkersville High School Graduate**


Emma Bernardoni receives a \$1,500.00 scholarship from her father, Colonel Kolin Bernardoni, who previously was the Commander, 2d Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery.

In June 2017, the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association awarded college scholarships to two very deserving students who included a daughter and a grandchild of 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery veterans. The two scholarships totaled \$2,500.00. Each scholarship winner received a monetary award, a Letter of Congratulations, and a framed 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Certificate of Achievement.

The first-place winner is Emma Bernardoni, a 2017 graduate of Walkersville High School in Walkersville, MD. Throughout her four years of high school, she challenged herself by taking 17 Honors and Advanced Placement classes and maintained a 4.0 Grade Point Average. A review of her extra-curricular activities demonstrates that she was always a hard worker and well organized. She dedicated herself to achieving outstanding grades in all her courses; and she excelled in community service and sports. She competed on her school's soccer team all four years; earning a Varsity Letter each year; earned Scholar Athlete Awards; selected as MVP; and was also selected as Team Captain. Emma also ran Varsity Track for two years; again, earned Scholar Athlete Awards and a Varsity Letter; and made time to play on the Varsity Basketball Team. She was selected as a member of the National Honor Society for three years; and the Science National Honor Society for one year.

Her mathematics teacher offers this high praise of her: "Emma sets a good example for her peers, offering help or explanations during class. Yet, she is willing to actively listen and be open-minded to another student's solution. Each year, Emma has successfully balanced a rigorous academic schedule while being a member of the varsity soccer and basketball teams...Emma has been a part of the Unified Track team for the past 3 years, a sports program developed through Special Olympics. She works with students with special needs sharing with them the experience of being a member of a team and the joy of competing. Her maturity...natural leader...strength of character is why Emma will succeed...in college, but also in life."

For her outstanding accomplishments, Emma Bernardoni was honored at her high school's awards ceremony and received a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association Scholarship award of \$1,500.00. Her connection to the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery is through her father, Colonel Kolin V. Bernardoni, who served as Commander, 2d Battalion,

17<sup>th</sup> Artillery at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, and Afghanistan, from September 2010 to March 2013.

2d Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery, in Vietnam, from 1968 to 1969.

**“Talking with My Favorite Veteran and Lessons I learned in that Conversation”**  
**Essay by Emma Bernardoni for the 2017 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Scholarship Competition**

**Note from the Chairman, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Scholarship Committee:**

The essay that an applicant writes as part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery annual scholarship competition provides us a window into the insights and shared experiences that our veterans pass onto their children and grandchildren and how that family member and scholarship applicant takes in that very personal military experience. For these children, this insight is the first and sometimes a very lasting impression of what their veteran family member has experienced in the service of our Nation. I thought that this impression is so genuine that we want to share it with you in publishing this essay.

There are a lot of things that my favor veteran, my father Colonel Koln V. Bernardoni, has said and done that I can learn from. He is a tall, commanding figure, and when people see him, I believe they take notice. Most people can recognize him as a veteran even without seeing him in uniform. The neatly trimmed hair and straight posture are usually dead visual giveaways; but, I think there is more to him than just physical appearance. Nonetheless, the way he carries himself, you can see he is a leader.

The natural way that people gravitate towards him is impressive, and can be seen in the simplest of situations. Just in sitting down and having a conversation with him, he maintains eye contact throughout the entirety of the exchange, and makes a clear effort to engage. He answers questions honestly and thoughtfully. The way he talks to me makes me feel important. Learning from his example, I will try to employ this technique in my own conversations with friends.

He has undoubtedly faced serious hardships in his years of military service; yet, he has remained easygoing. He is a person who embraces the bad with the good; yet, he doesn't allow the bad to overtake him.

I've always known there is a lot to be learned from him. When discussing his career with him, the

passion he has for what he does always shines through. I do not intend to pursue a career in the military; but, his passion for his own job has encouraged me to find something I love to do and dedicate myself to it.

He is a man of innate loyalty to his soldiers and to his family. Through thick and thin, he is always there for our country. I find it impressive that he so easily balances his duties to country with dedication to his family. He works long hours and has been deployed three times during my childhood; but, I cannot recall a single event of mine that he didn't attend if he could. “Family first,” he says, but it is seen more in what he does than what he says. I learned from him the importance of the common phrase, “actions speak louder than words.”

There are hundreds of things I could learn from conversations with my father; but, I know the most important lesson I can learn is the value and cost of our freedom. I have seen firsthand the sacrifices he has had to make, and I can see the way it weighs on him as he talks about his soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms, allowing us the ability to live as we please. I have learned from my father not to take our freedom for granted.



Abigail Guerrette shows off her scholarship award for \$1,000.00. Her grandfather, James Schernesky, a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery veteran made the presentation to Ms. Guerrette.

**17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarship to Weedsport Jr & Senior High School Graduate**

In June 2017, the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association awarded college scholarships to two most deserving students who included a daughter and a grandchild of 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery veterans. The two scholarships totaled \$2,500.00. Each scholarship winner received a monetary award, a Letter of

Congratulations, and a framed 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Certificate of Achievement.

The second-place winner is Abigail Guerrette, a 2017 graduate of Weedsport High School in Weedsport, New York. Abigail is the epitome of a busy, well-organized, successful student. With a Grade Point Average of 4.0, she is clearly one of the top students in her graduating class. Abigail made the most of her four years in high school. She worked part-time and was involved in her school's extra-curricular activities: National Honor Society, High School Musicals and all-County chorus. Abigail also participated in her school's volleyball team, track and field team, and swim team. Her outstanding leadership talents earned her selection as team captain of the track and field team and the volleyball team.

Abigail's French teacher writes that "Abby is intrinsically driven, takes initiative in class, and asks very insightful questions....She has placed herself in a demanding program but maintains a good balance and makes time for extra-curricular activities...She also makes time to volunteer in and around our community, whether she is raising funds or singing for local charities, helping at her church and in our local Nursing Home, she takes great pride in her involvement and is very dedicated....Mature, independent and resourceful, Abby possesses all the necessary attributes to meet the challenges of college education.

For her outstanding accomplishments, Abigail Guerrette was honored at her high school's awards ceremony and received a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association Scholarship award of \$1,000.00. Her connection to the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery is through her Grandfather, James M. Shernesky, who served with C Battery,



**"Talking with My Favorite Veteran and Lessons I learned  
in that Conversation"**

**Essay by Abigail Guerrette for the 2017 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery  
Scholarship Competition**

**Note from the Chairman, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Scholarship  
Committee:**

The essay that an applicant writes as part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery annual scholarship competition provides us a window into the insights and shared experiences that our veterans pass onto their children and grandchildren and how that family member and scholarship applicant takes in that very personal military experience. For these children, this insight is the first and sometimes a very lasting impression of what their veteran family member has experienced in the service of our Nation. I thought that this impression is so genuine that we want to share it with you in publishing this essay.

James Michael Shernesky was born on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1948, in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. However, he grew up in Auburn, NY; and lived on Clark Street in Vince's Trailer Park. Jim attended Union Springs High School and after graduation attended Auburn Community College, where he was only enrolled in two classes before being drafted.

Everything changed in early April 1968, when young, nineteen-year-old Jim received a letter telling him he was selected for the draft to fight in the Vietnam War. Jim was inducted into the Army on April 17, 1968; and had to serve for two years. The Vietnam War had already been going on when Jim was drafted. My Grandfather said he was not afraid to serve during wartime. He believed he was doing the right thing for his country.

Soon after his induction, Jim was set to Fort Dix, NJ, for basic training. He spent two weeks there; and then, was sent to Fort Campbell, KY, for six more weeks. Basic Training was very strict and very hard. After basic training, Jim was chosen to train as an artilleryman with a Military Occupational Specialty of 13E20. Jim went to Fort Sill, OK, for this artillery training.

Jim's tour started the moment he walked off the airplane in Vietnam. From that day, he had to serve at least one year. The artillery unit that he was assigned to was the 2d Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery. This unit was organized into four firing batteries and a headquarters: Battery A, B, C, and D. Jim was assigned to gun section three (3) in C Battery. However, as part of his Orientation he had to go through a week of jungle training. After jungle training, Jim worked at Gun Section Three every day. Their hardest job was finding the enemy areas to hit. They were given coordinates and had to use complicated math problems to make sure they would hit the target miles away.

The gun section was protected with walls of sand bags that the men also had to fill and build every day. He, along with the other Section Three artillerymen, slept by their gun overnight. They slept right next to the gun to protect it from the enemy. Sometimes, they also slept on cots in a small building called a "hooch," which was not very comfortable and was covered with mosquito nets. A couple of months after working on the gun section, Jim was selected for a new job in the Fire Direction Center. That job was a lot easier but required the use of more math.



My Grandpa, Jim Shernesky, is a very brave man. After sitting down and listening to his near-death experiences and hardships while serving in Vietnam, it taught me many lessons and made me respect him more than I ever did before. He fought in the war to protect not only my freedom and safety, but our whole country's too. This is something I will forever be grateful for and continue to thank my grandfather for.

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## The Legend of Saint Barbara – The Patroness of Artillerymen



According to legend, Saint Barbara was the extremely beautiful daughter of a wealthy heathen named Dioscorus, who lived near Nicomedia in Asia Minor. Because of her singular beauty and fearful that she be demanded in marriage and taken away from him, he jealously shut her up in a tower to protect her from the outside world.

Shortly before embarking on a journey, he commissioned a sumptuous bathhouse to be built for her, approving the design before he departed. Barbara had heard of the teachings of Christ, and while her father was gone spent much time in contemplation. From the windows of her tower she looked out upon the surrounding countryside and marveled at the growing things; the trees, the animals and the people. She decided that all these must be part of a master plan, and that the idols of wood and stone worshipped by her parents must be condemned as false. Gradually she came to accept the Christian faith.

As her belief became firm, she directed that the builders redesign the bathhouse her father had planned, adding another window so that the three windows might symbolize the Holy Trinity.

When her father returned, he was enraged at the changes and infuriated when Barbara acknowledged that she was a Christian. He dragged her before the prefect of the province, who decreed that she be tortured and put to death by beheading. Dioscorus himself carried out the death sentence. On his way home, he was struck by lightning and his body consumed.

Saint Barbara lived and died about the year 300 A.D. She was venerated as early as the seventh century. The legend of the lightning bolt which struck down her persecutor caused her to be regarded as the patron saint in time of danger from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death.

When gunpowder made its appearance in the Western world, Saint Barbara was invoked for aid against accidents resulting from explosions—since some of the earlier artillery pieces often blew up instead of firing their projectile, Saint Barbara became the patroness of the artillerymen.

Saint Barbara is usually represented standing by a tower with three windows, carrying the palm of a martyr in her hand. Often, too, she holds a chalice and a sacramental wafer and sometimes cannon are displayed near her. In the present calendars, the feast of Saint Barbara falls on December 4th and is traditionally recognized by a formal Dining-In or military dinner, often involving presentation of the Order of Saint Barbara.

The Order of Saint Barbara is an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery. Both U.S. Marine and Army field artillery along with their military and civilian supporters are eligible for membership. The order is managed by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and two levels of recognition exist. The most distinguished level is the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara and those who are selected for this honor have achieved long-term, exceptional service to the field artillery surpassing even their brethren in the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. The order links field artillerymen of the past and present in a brotherhood of professionalism, selfless service and sacrifice symbolized by Saint Barbara.



### Order a 100 Year Anniversary Cap

If you purchased a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association cap a long time ago, you might be ready for a new cap. And, we have exactly what you need. Our new order of caps includes a mesh cap made for the summer months.

Gil Bernabe will be taking orders for your new 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association cap. The new cap will have the 100 Years Anniversary patch that is marked 1917 – 2017.



You may order a cotton twill or mesh cap. One cap is a six- panel cap - made of cotton twill. The mesh cap has 2 panels of cotton twill and 4 panels of mesh – at the back. The mesh cap breathes and keeps the wearer cool in the summer months.

All profits will go the scholarship fund. (Cut along dotted line)

### Order your new cap from Gil Bernabe. Mail this order form below to:

Gil Bernabe, 2916 Sedalia Trail, Sherman, TX 75092. Please make your check out to:  
**17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association – Amount: \$25.00.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

(Place an X at your choice)

1. Type cap – select one:

- a. 6 panel, all cotton twill material: \_\_\_\_\_ or
- b. 2 panels – cotton twill and 4 panel mesh (at back): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Color – select one:

- a. **Black** \_\_\_\_\_
- b. **Navy blue** \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: **\$25.00** per cap includes shipping: \_\_\_\_\_ X Number of caps = Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Please call if you have any questions – Gil: 903 – 786 – 6304; Email: [Gilbernabe29@aol.com](mailto:Gilbernabe29@aol.com)**

# 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

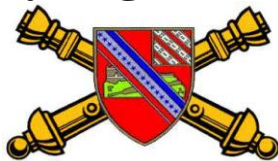
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee: \$50.00 per person - X- Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number in your party)

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

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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:   | <b><u>Association Officers Arrive.</u></b> 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm: Board of Officers Annual Meeting, Prepare 2017 Financial Report to membership, and Reunion planning meeting.<br>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<br><b><u>Members Arrive</u></b> - Meet and greet – sign in – Hospitality Room<br>Sightseeing and tours – in Charleston Area<br><b>Cookout – Pool Patio – 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm</b>   |
| Wednesday – September 27, 2017 | 8:00 am – 10:00 pm Hospitality Room open<br>Shopping and sightseeing – in Charleston Area<br><b>Tour of Citadel – 11:00 am to 2:00 pm – lunch at school café</b>   |
| Thursday – September 28, 2017  | 8:00 am – 10:00 pm Hospitality Room open<br>Shopping and Sightseeing - in Charleston Area<br><b>Boat Cruise – Lunch or Supper</b>  |
| Friday – September 29, 2017    | 8:00 am – 10:00 pm Hospitality Room open<br><b>10:00 – 11:00 – General Membership Meeting – at Hotel</b><br>11:30: Deploy to Golden Corral for Banquet & Auction<br><b>12:00 to 4:00 pm – Banquet and Auction – at Golden Corral</b><br><b>Guest Speaker and Citadel Cadets</b><br><b>4:10 – Group Pictures – Battery Pictures</b> |
| Saturday – September 30, 2017  | check out and head for home – or stay and relax  |

Danny (Dan) L. Reeves  
5235 Laguna Court  
Byron, CA 94503  
Email address is: [dreeves@cdedrill.com](mailto:dreeves@cdedrill.com)



**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](http://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:** 2017 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:**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Field Artillery/Battalion/Group/Regiment (Prior to 1958)      | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 2013)                  | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 2008) (2010 - Present) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 1995) (2007-2010)      | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1996)                  | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1996)                  | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1963)                  | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1960 – 1972)                  | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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    Email address: [dreeves@cdedrill.com](mailto:dreeves@cdedrill.com)**

**5235 Laguna Court**

**Byron, CA 94505**

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### Look Where You're Going

I hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to going back to Charleston!

My wife and I were in the grocery store a few weeks ago. I was pushing the cart in the produce section while she was picking out the produce. (Not Honeydew but Honey do!) I noticed a young woman walking and texting with her phone. She never bothered to look up. I moved my cart over to the side of the aisle and she still managed to almost walk into it without ever looking up. I was glad neither of us were on the road driving!

I had to stop and think how many times in life do we go and not realize where we're going or what we're doing. Do we take time daily to thank God for leading us this far in life, getting us through tough times, for our homes, families, that we have food to eat, or that we have an income? Most important is that we are thankful we have a Savior who is the Son of God! His name is Jesus Christ.

Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin. God saw to it that he was resurrected to become our savior who would watch over us and could grant us forgiveness of our sins. Our life on this earth is very short compared to the thought of eternity or "FOREVER!"

Jesus tells Martha, after her brother died, in John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Maybe it's time we all start watching where we're going.

I'd like you to keep the following members and their families in your thoughts and prayers: Norm & Annette Jones; Jack Stroud-eye surgery; Charles Garner-hospitalization and home care; John Bagley-sickness; Tom Kurtz-care giver and health problems. I have been notified of one death and that is Raymond E. Jackson. Remember cards, calls, emails, and prayers go a long way! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you learn of a distressed member or the passing of one. My email is below.

God Bless,

Richard

Richard A. Smith-Chaplain 17th Artillery Regiment Association

On June 8, 2017, Bill Beers and his wonderful wife, Cuma, organized a trip to the Vietnam Memorial, in Washington, D.C. to honor 13 Vietnam era Fallen Heroes from the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery. Bill and Cuma were accompanied by other members of his local Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter: Bud Wagner and his wife, Melinda, and Bill Stimely. Bill also took his Batmobile which he reverently calls: "Leo." Bud served with the 4th Infantry Division and Bud with the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division.

On the morning of June 8, the group piled into Bill's trusty Blazer and headed down to the Nation's capital. In three quick hours, they arrived at the Wall. For Bill, the purpose of the Wall was to honor our 11 fallen comrades from C Battery and 2 from B Battery. Bill reports that no words were spoken; but everyone shared a somber feeling that being at the Vietnam Memorial brings to you. Bill commented that "you had a feeling that you were being watched and it was a good feeling."

The park ranger was more than happy to help us make name etching of the 13 fallen soldiers. Bill and Cuma were overwhelmed by the diverse group of tourists who were also at the Wall. Many of them came up to Bill's group and wanted to take pictures with Bill, Bud and Bill. Bill Beers was astonished at the celebrity treatment that they received because "countless number of people wanted to shake hands with Bill and company and thank them for their service to America."

Bill story ends with this statement: "It made one proud to be an American veteran."



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





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



*Ready to fire, a 8-inch Towed Howitzer from Battery A, 17th Field Artillery Battalion in position at Mago-ri, South Korea. Picture is courtesy of CW2 (Ret) Richard Winn Sr., who served in the Maintenance Section of Battery A. (1952-1953)*

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