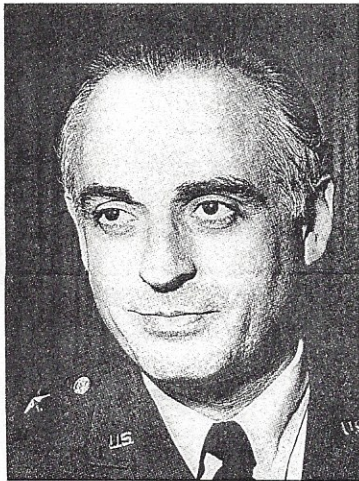


45th Division News

July, 1993

Published in support of the 45th Division Association and 45th Division Museum.

REUNION BANQUET SPEAKER



Major General Fred Daugherty, former Commanding General of the 45th Infantry Division, will be the principal speaker at the Saturday night banquet during the reunion 19-22 August, 1993.

MG Daugherty is a native Oklahoman, born in Oklahoma City, graduated from Central High School in Oklahoma City, Cumberland University, 1932-1934, LL.B Degree, 1933, Oklahoma City University, 1934-1935 and Oklahoma University, 1936-1937. He was admitted to the Oklahoma State Bar in 1937 and was in General Practice from 1937 to 1940; a member of the firm of Ames, Ames and Daugherty, 1946-

1950; a member of the firm of Ames, Daugherty, Bynum and Black 1952-1955. Appointed State District Judge, 1955, and served until 1961. Appointed United States District Judge, 1961, Chief Judge Western District, 1972, and Senior Judge, 1982 to date.

He enlisted in Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, as a private in May, 1934, and was mobilized with the 45th Division in September, 1940, as a 1st Lieutenant. Shortly after returning from completion of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, the Commanding General, Third US Army, requested the transfer of Daugherty to his command, and despite the objections of Daugherty and MG William S. Key, CG, 45th Infantry Division, the transfer was made in December, 1941.

He later served with the Sixth US Army in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre from March, 1943, to December, 1945. Upon reorganization of the 45th Division in 1946, he was assigned as Commanding Officer, 179th Infantry Regiment, and called to active duty in that capacity in September, 1950. He commanded the 179th Infantry Regiment at Camp Polk, LA, Hokkaido, Japan and in combat in Korea from December 1951 to July 1952. He was promoted to Brigadier General of the Line and served as Assistant Division Commander from September, 1952 until September, 1960. He was promoted to Major General of the Line and served as Commanding General, 45th Infantry Division from September, 1960, until retirement on 20 November, 1964.

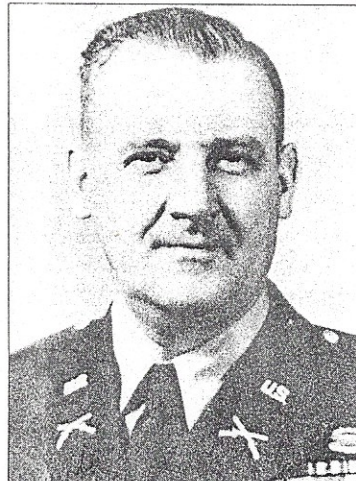
He participated in the following campaigns during World War II and the Korean War: Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, South Philippines, Leyte, Luzon, 2nd Korean Winter and Korean Spring-Summer, 1951. Military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit w/2 OLC, Bronze Star with OLC, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal with OLC and NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal.

Daugherty is a member of the following Service, Civic and Fraternal Organizations: Kiwanis Club, American National Red Cross, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, United Fund of Greater Oklahoma City, Community Council of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Council on Alcoholism, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Men's Dinner Club, Oklahoma Heritage Association, Guthrie Scottish Rite, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Delta Phi.

MG Daugherty was the first Chairman of the 45th Infantry Division Museum Board of Directors, and served from 1974 to 1984, and has served as Chairman Emeritus from 1984 to date. He was the prime mover in organizing and directing the formation and construction of the museum and continues to serve a major role in improving the status of the museum exhibits.

The subject of his address will be "CITIZEN SOLDIERS" and that identifies about 99 percent of all "Thunderbirds".

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS



Preston J.C. Murphy

Preston J.C. Murphy was born in Slocan City, British Columbia, Canada December 5, 1901. He attended High School in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada and Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Prior to induction of the 45th Infantry Division in September 1940, Preston owned and operated a clothing store in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Murphy enlisted in Company H, 157 Infantry, Colorado National Guard in 1921. He was commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant in 1925 and served as a unit

commander in the 157th Infantry during the period 1925 to 1939. Preston was promoted to Major in 1939 and assigned to Headquarters 45th Infantry Division as Assistant G-3. He was inducted with the Division 16 September 1940 and assigned as Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment in December 1940. During stateside training of the 45th Division he served in this capacity and as Executive Officer of the 157th Infantry under the command of Colonel Charles Ankcorn.

Prior to the Sicilian Invasion Murphy was reassigned as Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry. He continued to serve in this capacity throughout the Sicilian campaign and the Italian campaign until just prior to the Anzio Invasion. Murphys battalion was the only battalion size unit of the 45th Division to enter Messina, Sicily with General Patton prior to the arrival of the British Army and participated in the welcoming committee for Field Marshal Montgomery.

He was assigned as Executive Officer, 179th Infantry just prior to the Anzio campaign. He served as Commanding Officer for a short time at Anzio, between the time Colonel William O. Darby left for the United States and Colonel H. A. Meyer was assigned. He continued to serve as Executive Officer of the 179th Infantry until Colonel Meyer was wounded in October 1944 at which time he was assigned as Commanding Officer and promoted to Colonel. He served in this assignment until wounded in the battle for Nurnberg, Germany in April 1945. He returned to the regiment in Munich, Germany. Following his return to the United States at the conclusion of the war he served at Camp Roberts, CA until April 1946 when he was assigned to Headquarters Mediterranean Theatre of Operations. He returned to the US in August 1947 and was released from active duty.

He received a commission in the Regular Army in November 1947 and served in several assignments including Chief of the Infantry Branch, HQ Army Field Forces, Fort Monroe, VA. In December 1950, at the request of MG James C. Styrone, he was assigned to the 45th Infantry Division at Camp Polk, LA and served as Chief-of-Staff at Camp Polk and through training in Hokkaido, Japan. When the Division was alerted for Korea, he was assigned as CO, 279th Infantry Regiment. In September 1952 he was assigned as Chief of Military History, Far East Command, Tokyo, Japan. He returned to the USA in July 1954 and was assigned as Senior Army Advisor to the Texas Army National Guard, Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas.

(THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS cont'd on page 2)

"REUNION FORMS INSIDE"

(THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS cont'd from page 1)

Colonel Murphy retired 28 February 1957 and accepted employment with the Texas Army National Guard Armory Board as Contract Agent from April 1957 to August 1977.

Awards and decorations include Silver Star w/OLC, Legion of Merit w/OLC, Bronze Star Medal w/OLC, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge (2 awards) and French Croix de Guerre with Gold Star.

Colonel Preston J. C. Murphy died in 1983. He is survived by his wife Corinne of Austin, TX.

DACHAU: NIGHTMARE REVISITED

By Louis Scott

Have you ever wondered what people have in mind or what they expect to gain when they pull some stupid stunt? It is especially galling when the stunts they pull could possibly falsify history for a long, long time.

Well, it seems that some people have pulled some pretty stupid and sneaky stunts in recent months with regard to the liberation just before the end of European hostilities in 1945 of the infamous Dachau Concentration Camp. It is a matter of recorded history that elements of the 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Felix Sparks (now BG retired), liberated this camp on April 29, 1945. Now, suddenly, almost 50 years after the fact, all sorts of people are coming out of the woodwork and claiming that their units liberated Dachau. So far at least three organizations have taken up this chant. Doesn't it make you wonder where these people have been all these years, and why they suddenly have come up with the amazing revelation that they were the ones who liberated Dachau?

The 42nd Infantry Division

First of all is the claim of the 42nd Infantry Division. The 42nd "Rainbow" Division had an outstanding record in World War I that accorded the outfit with mind-boggling publicity. But, in World War II, their entrance into combat was almost an afterthought. After World War I, the 42nd was disbanded and not reactivated until July 14, 1943. Part of the division departed for Europe in early December, 1944, where it was designated Task Force Linden (commanded by the assistant division commander); it was sent into combat and decisively beaten by the Germans around Hatten, Germany on January 9, 1945. Russell F. Weighley in Eisenhower's Lieutenants wrote that when the U.S. VI Corps commander ordered the 79th Division to "clean out a segment of area around Strasbourg," the 79th CG committed Task Force Linden to the job. Weigley further stated, "...notwithstanding its World War I fame as the Rainbow Division, the 42nd had suffered training difficulties this time around and would not have been given a share of the front without additional training except for the emergency." The 79th Division CG had to phone the VI Corps commander and tell him "that with the 42nd's 'state of training, organization, and operation,' the fight around Gambsheim was developing badly."

The 42nd Infantry Division as a whole finally got into combat on February 14, 1945. The division is credited with 78 days of combat, although much of that time was spent in reserve. In that 78 days their casualties totaled 553 killed and over 2200 wounded, 85 of whom died of wounds. The official U.S. Army record does give them credit for assisting the 3rd and 45th Division to take Nurnburg, the cradle of Nazism, a city that ended up being a pile of rubble. On April 28, 1945, they followed in the wake of the 20th Armored Division toward Munich

and passed through the city on April 30, 1945. Now, remember, Dachau was officially liberated on April 29, 1945...and that Munich is some distance south of Dachau.

In all fairness to the men of the 42nd, some historical account of the liberation of Dachau do give them credit for being there. If you read BG Sparks's concise narrative about the true facts of the liberation of Dachau in his Monograph 14 for the 45th Division Museum, "Dachau and Its Liberation," he does give credit to a small party of the 42nd Division being present shortly after Dachau was seized. Further on you will see how unmilitary and disorganized these few members of the 42nd were that day. What they did was not very complimentary of the 42nd.

However, members of the 42nd Infantry Division were so intent on gaining credit for Dachau that they convinced a Colonel Robert Sholly, Chief of the Histories Division, U.S. Army Center of Military History agency of Headquarters Department of the Army, that liberation of Dachau should rightly belong to the 42nd Division. Not only did he give them full credit, but he went one step further and completely erased the 45th Division from the official history as the liberator of Dachau. When this gross error was called to his attention, Colonel Sholly firmly and adamantly refused to reinstate the 45th as the proper and rightful liberator in the Army history.

Wait, now, it gets worse...if possible. The U.S. Army Center of Military History has decided to be magnanimous and allow the 45th Division credit for liberating Dachau, without taking into account that the 42nd was undeniably the first on the scene, suffering the brunt of the horrible conditions in the camp, subduing the SS guards, and occupying the place as ordered by higher command. Specifically, the orders were "...post an airtight guard and allow no one to enter or leave." That was exactly what LTC Sparks did that fateful day.

Let me briefly recount the true version of what happened on that eventful day of April 29, 1945. Then I will tell you the comedic and pathetic aspects that occurred...a story that should make the former members of the 42nd, those who are so adamant about their role in gaining credit for Dachau, cringe in their boots and feel shame for what happened. In fact, they should apologize not only to BG Sparks, but to the entire Thunderbird Division and to the U.S. Army, for the actions pulled by members of their division that really were a disgrace to the division's fine name.

The camp was first entered at about 1430 by Company I, 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry, reinforced by a machine gun section from Company M of the same regiment, about 200 men total. LTC Felix Sparks was commander of the 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, and accompanied Company I into the camp. They entered along a spur railway which led into the camp and avoided the main gate because it was believed to be the most heavily guarded. Progress was slow because of the need to search every building. After about an hour and after having had to kill some German guards, the entrance to the prison enclosure was reached. The men of the 45th immediately surrounded the prison enclosure and took over the various guard towers.

After a terrible ordeal of over an hour, the situation seemed to be under control and the camp appeared to be calming down. Suddenly three jeeps from the 42nd Infantry Division appeared with BG Henry Linden, assistant division commander, in the lead jeep. Gen Linden informed LTC Sparks that he was there to permit a lady reporter, Marguerite Higgins, to interview the prisoners. LTC Sparks informed Ms Higgins that he could not allow her to enter the camp. She defied him and did, indeed, start to open the gates. Two of the 45th soldiers