

# THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 17

January 2011

## Heraldic Times



(Coat of Arms)



(Insignia)

(Coat of Arms)

### Shield:

Gules, a conventionalized castle of Ehrenbreitstein with ramp or on mount proper, debriused by a bendlet argent bearing two ribbons of the field and azure with seventeen mullets of the last. A sinister canton bendy of eight ermine and of the field.

### Crest:

On a wreath of the colors, or and gules, a mount argent garnished vert, bearing a linden leaf proper charged with a fleur-de-lis argent.

### Motto:

In Time of Peace Prepare for War.

### Symbolism:

The field of the shield is red, the artillery color. The principal charge is the castle of Ehrenbreitstein bedriused by a bendlet carrying the American colors and seventeen stars, to signify the occupation of the castle by the 17th Field Artillery. The canton alludes to the arms of the 8th Field Artillery from which men were transferred to organize the 17th Field Artillery. The crest commemorates the two most noteworthy battle incidents. The White Mountain is for Blanc Mont. The leaf is taken from Verte Feuille Farm, one of the positions occupied by the regiment in the Soissons offensive; the linden leaf was chosen as being very common in that region. The fleur-de-lis is from the arms of Soissons.

### DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is the shield of the coat of arms.

## **President's Comments:**

By Thomas R. Kurtz  
217-732-4357  
kurtz\_t@comcast.net

The 1st Battalion is still serving in Afghanistan and I know all are praying for the soldiers of the battalion to have a safe return to Fort Sill this summer. This is the first deployment of the battalion to Afghanistan. The entire battalion or their separate batteries have made three prior deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since 2003.

On September 9, 2010 the 3rd Battalion was reflagged as the 2nd Battalion, which resulted in the deactivation of the 3rd Battalion and the reactivation of the 2nd Battalion. The 2nd Battalion is under the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division station at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Washington.

Thanks to all of the veterans, spouses, family members and friends who attended the 2010 reunion. The reunion attendance has been the best, so far. Some veterans could only stop by for a day and I was glad to see everyone. There were plenty of great shows to see, stores to shop in, numerous restaurants and fast food establishments, great views of the Smokey Mountains, and close by Dollywood. Everyone just had to put up with the all of the road construction and bumper to bumper traffic on the main drag through Pigeon Forge, some learned to use the side street which were less congested. Many thanks for the hard works done by Norman Jones and Richard Flowers for the cookouts on Thursday and Friday evenings a job well done. Our guest speaker this year was Command Sergeant Major Carlos Esmurria, who at that time was the Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Washington. Carlos has asked me to pass on to all veterans who attended the reunion that he was delighted and honored to share the same room with such quality redlegs. I hope everyone who attended the 2010 reunion had a great time.

The additional campaign phases and associated dates established for the ICM are:

- Iraqi Surge – January 10, 2007 to December 31, 2008.
- Iraqi Sovereignty – January 1, 2009 through a date to be determined. (TBD)

The campaigns identified for the ICM are:

- Liberation of Iraq – March 19, 2003 to May 1, 2003.
- Transition of Iraq – May 2, 2003 to June 28, 2004
- Iraqi Governance – June 29, 2004 to December 15, 2005
- National Resolution – December 16, 2005 to January 9, 2007.
- Iraqi Surge – January 10, 2007 to December 31, 2008
- Iraqi Sovereignty – January 1, 2009 to a date to be determined.

On September 1, 2010, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) was renamed Operation New Dawn (OND) as the mission in Iraq became one of advisor, assistance, training and equipment role.

### 3-17 FA Veteran Plays for 5th SBCT Homecoming.

Tom Spahr, who served with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 17th Artillery at Merrell Barracks in Nurnberg, Germany 1971-1972, is a member of the “BackfireBand” which had the honor of playing for the homecoming of the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McCord (JBLM), Washington, July 2010. Tom’s old unit the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was part of the brigade that deployed back to JBLM from Afghanistan. Ron McGinnis is the only other member of the band, who is a veteran. Ron served in an engineer battalion in Vietnam 1967-1968.

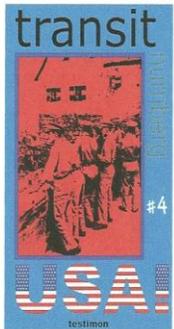


BackfireBand playing at the 5th SBCT homecoming:  
(L-R) Ron McGinnis, Rod Givens, Tom Spahr, Jim Albrecht



Band receiving a plaque from LT Aldebert Concepcion.  
(L-R) Ron McGinnis, Lesa Givens, Rod Givens, Tom Spahr, LT Concepcion, Jim Albrecht.

Tom also wanted to inform former veterans that served in and around Nuremberg, Germany from 1945-1995 about a book titled “Transit Nürnberg #4 USA!” it may be of interest to those who served with the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery at Merrell Barracks. Tom wrote Chapter 5 of the book. The publisher (Gerhard Jochem) email address is: [info@testimon.de](mailto:info@testimon.de)



**Book transit nürnberg #4: USA!**

300 pages, bilingual English & German, hardcover with many (color) illustrations, ISBN 978-3-00-031503-9.

Merrell Barracks, emigration, IMT, Atlanta: Catchwords for the relations between Nuremberg and the U.S. *transit nürnberg #4* contains the contributions of people who are enticed by their own experience or their professional knowledge to write about these subjects.

The price is 28 EUR & postage. No advance payment, just send a written order with your postal address and you will receive *transit nürnberg #4: USA!* You only have to pay on receipt of the book. From the USA payment without international money transfer fees is feasible by a cheque for the \$-EUR equivalent at the time of the issuing.

**Contents:**

- ↳ Gerhard Jochem: Introduction by the editor
- ↳ Gerhard Jochem: The American presence in Nuremberg 1945 to 1995
- ↳ Raymond M. Weinstein: Nuremberg 1959 - 1960 remembered: an American soldier in postwar Germany
- ↳ Herbert R. (Jake) Jacobson: An experience for a lifetime: A G.I.'s Nuremberg 1959 - 1961
- ↳ Rick A. Gray: The Army said Germany, and to Germany I went. In Nuremberg and Bindlach, December 1962 - June 1965
- ↳ Tom Spahr: I hear that song and it all comes back: 1971/72 with the 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment in Nuremberg and Grafenwöhr
- ↳ Susanne Rieger: American traces
- ↳ Leopold Katz: My Nurembergs
- ↳ Verena Müller-Rohde: The Americans are coming! The Nurembergers' experience of the occupying forces
- ↳ Frank W.: Is it you who built the snowman? Frank W. searches for his father
- ↳ Harald T. Leder: Two people who changed their world: The story of an exceptional German-American relationship
- ↳ Ruth White: My America
- ↳ Ernest Lorch: The best country in which to live and succeed
- ↳ Lisa Lowe Stauffer: Atlanta
- ↳ Appendix: abbreviations, literature & sources

**Contact:** testimon publishers, P.O.B. 11 91 45, 90101 Nuremberg, Germany, email: [info\[at\]testimon.de](mailto:info[at]testimon.de)