

The ORION GALLIVANTER

1917 - 1919

Dickebush Sector
Mount Kemmel
Vierstraat Ridge
East Poperignhe Line
Hindenburg Line
LaSelle River St. Souplet
Meuse-Argonne St. Mihiel



1940- 1945

Makin
Majuro
Eniwetok
Saipan
Okinawa

2001- Present

*Enduring Freedom,
Afghanistan*
Iraqi Freedom
Noble Eagle

“How it Happened” Part II: Camp Wadsworth

Editor's Note: This is a continuation of a multi-part story taken from a WWI era journal...

After spending two weeks in the uniform here at home having a real pleasant time [after returning from the Mexican Border- ed.] we were finally mustered out of service on March 27th, 1917, having spent 10 ½ months in the service of Uncle Sam. We enjoyed a little less than four months as civilians and on July 15th, 1917 Troop H was again called into service for overseas duty to get the Kaiser on the run. It was also rumored we were to go to France immediately. Read on and you will find out about that early trip to France. We entrained at the Circle Street yards, horses and all, on August 13, 1917 for Brooklyn, N.Y. Capt. Alson Shantz did me the honor of making me Corporal, thus releasing me from peeling potatoes, washing pots and pans, and doing the menial labor of a private. That is the only advantage of being a Corporal. You get out of a lot of hard work.

October 9, 1917 we were again loaded on trains and headed for Spartanburg, S.C. After a two day trip



CPT J. Alson Shantz
From Shantz family archive

we arrived at Camp Wadsworth where we were destined to stay for many months. Oct. 14th the Cavalry was abolished, our horses were taken away from us and we were made sad. We were labeled machine gunners and incorporated into the 106th Machine Gun Battalion, Troop H being split up between companies A and B. We did not like the idea in the least, but what can a fellow

do in such a case in the army? Orders are orders. We were good soldiers although dissatisfied and decided to make the best of it. We held a funeral for the Cavalry and settled down to learn machine gunnery. Two days after losing our horses we were very much startled and pleased to see all our former horses come trotting back over to our camp. They had broken out of the remount depot and come back to us. Talk about friendship and horse sense. The straw that broke the camel's back was handed to us on November 18th

when our yellow cavalry hat cords were taken away from us and we were handed blue ones. This discouraged us again and some of us began looking for places to transfer to. My old Bunkie, Art Beale, was Lieut. in Co. D. of the 102nd Ammunition Train so I put in for

(Continued on page 3)

THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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VOL XLVIII July 2010 NO. 114

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Commander's Message

There is a phrase something like "one step forward, two steps back". As we go past the halfway mark for 2010 I feel very much that way. I had high hopes for what I wanted to get accomplished this year as Commander and as I look back I don't see as much done as I would like.

Life member cards are on track, the Re-Union is set up, we have done some small recruiting events, but somehow the list just doesn't seem to be getting smaller. With this in mind I would like to make an appeal to those members who are recently retired who may be looking for a small project to take on. I can think of a number of things that could use a dedicated person to look after in order to reap benefits for the Association (recruiting, writing to prospective patrons for the Gallivanter, etc.)

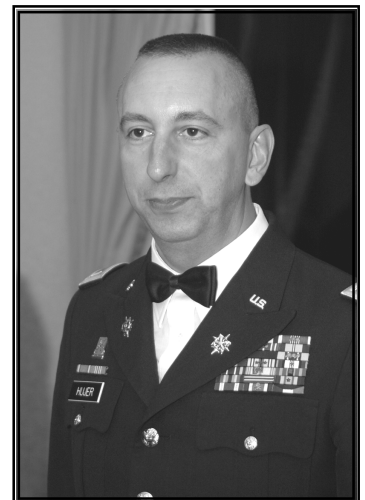
Most of the current National Board are working on orders as active duty Soldiers and believe it or not, there doesn't seem to be enough time in the day to get to Association work. So, if you think you might be interested in committing some of your time please contact me at the address or email listed to the left in the Gallivanter.

For those of you who don't know me well, I am an avid reader. Recently I have come across some book specifically related to the 27th. LTC Leigh Trowbridge's son was kind enough to donate copies of his father's memoir, *Operation Leap Frog*, concerning his experiences as a young artillery officer in the Pacific with the 27th. Louis Coppola donated a copy of his pamphlet, *My Dog Winnfield*, a story about the dog he managed to sneak with him aboard ship and into the Pacific during WWII. Louis was with the 102nd QM Company. I would also mention that our guest speaker at the Reunion is the author of a very good book about the 27th in WWI while they served in the British sector with the 30th of North Carolina.

Finally, within our rank is an author who is trying to break through with his book *Welcome to Afghanistan, send more ammo*. Captain Ben Tupper served with the 2-108th Infantry, but saw his time in Afghanistan with an Embedded Training Team working side by side with the Afghan Army. Some of you may have seen his book at last years reunion. I am hoping to have copies of most of those I mentioned available for sale at the Reunion this year. If anyone knows of more books written by or about the 27th, please drop me a note.

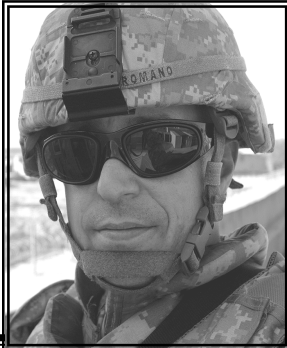
In closing I want to mention that your Reunion information should be coming to you as both a special flyer and in this edition of the Gallivanter. Please respond in a timely manner with your reservation information so that I can keep the hotel staff informed. I think it will be a very special time and a long time coming for our Western New York members who haven't had one here since the early 1970s.

Orion!



Editor's Corner

Hello 27th Veterans! As we settle into and enjoy the summer, we're just a short few weeks away from the reunion. Take a look at the enclosed reservation sheet and you'll see that we have a full schedule in store for our time in Buffalo. We should all take a minute or two over the next few weeks and talk to fellow veterans about the reunion dinner and gently remind them to either keep their association membership active or to finally become a member. Together we can all continue to grow the organization and continue the history that is the honorable, 27th. Orion!



Mailing Addresses:

27th DIV ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

- Unit & Personal Remembrances
 - 80 Plus Club to the Editor
 - Historical stories
 - Reunion Notices
 - Mailbag items
 - Taps
 - New Membership application
 - **Membership Dues—\$15.00**
 - Memorial Fund Donations
 - Gallivanter Donations
 - Change of address

(The Post Office does not tell us you have changed address, you must let us know.)

Mail to this address:

27th Division Association

Attn: Secretary

Paul Hujer

P.O. Box 2522

Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

Email: paul.hujer@us.army.mil

Make checks payable to:
The 27th Division Association, Inc.



(Continued from page 1)

transfer to that outfit. This came through Dec. 23, 1917 and bag and baggage I went to my new home. Shortly after Art. was made Captain, transferred to the 102nd Supply Train and there I was, stranded all by myself in Co. D away from all the boys from home. We had our drills of squads east and west, also skirmish line, going over the top and so forth. We did our 24-48 and 72 hour periods in the real, sure enough trenches that we had at camp Wadsworth even to the mud and rats and real cold weather. The Officers came around with white bands on their hats and they were the enemy. Oh boy, how we loved to wait in the dark until they were almost upon us and then supposedly shoot and stand up and advise them they were dead or taken prisoner.

Of course, our work in the ammunition train was to carry the ammunition to the artillery positions, but I guess that Jack O'Ryan wanted us to be as versatile as possible as with constant practice we became very proficient with pick and shovel on the new roads being

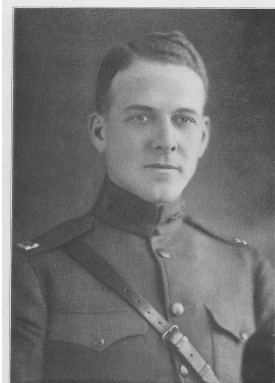
built around camp. March 15, 1918, I was favored with a 12 day furlough to go home which believe me I did as fast as a train could take me. It was a great dozen days but coming back and getting a view of those miles and miles of tents again and you have no idea how long you are going to hear that bugle blow you to bed at night, and blow you up in the

A.M. April 2, 1918 I was sent to a motor school studying internal combustion engines.

After a 15 day course I was graduated as assistant instructor on gas engines, certificate and all signed by general John F. O'Ryan and about 9 other high officials of the 27th Div. and was advised that I

would be called upon later. I am still waiting to be called upon. I was again made Corporal, having lost my former rank by transferring. May 19, 1918 we packed up and entrained for Newport News on our way to what we at that time called Sunny France, after spending 8 months at Camp Wadsworth learning how to fight the Hun.

Next issue: Part 3, Onward to Brest



CPT Arthur W. Beale

MAILBAG

— TAPS —

Ret. Major Robert E. Fox Jr., 89, of Scotch Plains, NJ, died on Wednesday, June 9, 2010. A funeral was held on Saturday June 12th in Scotch Plains.



Born in New York City, Robert grew up in the South Bronx and settled in Scotch Plains in 1950.

Mr. Fox served with the United States Army from 1940-1945 during World War II. He was a former chief of the 1st Gun Section of Delta Battery, 105th Field Artillery, 27th Infantry Division.

He continued his service after the war serving 40 years until he retired as Major in 1980.

He was pre-deceased by his first wife, Rita Conroy Fox and daughter Katherine. He is survived by his wife, Henrietta, sons Robert and John, daughter Maureen Trucke and three grandchildren.

Major Fox was the National Commander from 1990—1991 and also the Chaplin for the 27th Division Association.

May the Road Rise up to meet you...

May the Wind be always at your back...

May the Sun shine warm upon your face

May the rains fall soft upon your fields.

*Until We meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his had.*

Mr. Anatole Babykin
Apalachin, NY

Mr. Edwin Mays
Waco, TX

Mr. Robert Urban
Binghamton, NY

Mr. Jack B. Howey
Nichols, NY

Mr. John A. Munka
Akron, OH

Gallivanter Fund

\$15.00 Palmer Larson

\$10.00 Stanley Kaplan

\$10.00 Mary Slattery

\$5.00 Palmer L Larson

\$15.00 Arthur Watt

\$25.00 Archie Mathews

\$10.00 Mary Slattery

— Memorial Fund—

\$10.00 Eugene Markiewicz

\$10.00 Celestina Perry
In Memory of Nick Cavallaro

\$25.00 Mary Slattery
In Memory of Ned Slattery

\$25.00 Myra Pfeiffer
In Memory of
Dr. Edwin J. Mays

\$25.00 Mary Slattery
In Memory of Ned Slattery



The Annual 27th Division Association Reunion

SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2010

Adam's Mark Hotel
120 Church Street
Buffalo, NY 14202



FOR TOTAL PACKAGE RESERVATIONS

Total Package Includes:

- Lodging Friday & Saturday night
Dinner Friday, All meals Saturday & Breakfast Sunday
- \$315 for a single (includes room, all meals & gratuities for one person)
- \$436 for a double (includes room, all meals & gratuities for two people)

Schedule of Events:

- Friday: Check in with Association Staff at 4pm, followed by "Blinger" at 6pm.
- Saturday: Breakfast, Armory tour, memorial service followed by Commander's Luncheon. General Meeting in the afternoon. Dinner Saturday evening (Baked Halibut, Prime Rib, or Chicken Wellington), with open bar before dinner, Guest Speaker, Officer induction, then Hospitality Room until ???

Room and Meal Payments: Make checks payable to the 27th Division Association. Room reservations will be made by Committee, 27th Division Association as per the RSVP card received below. The Division Association will handle payment due to the Adam's Mark Hotel. A special registration table will be set up by the hosting Reunion Committee. For Registration, meal tickets and program package.

Total Package Reservation Card

Please print and complete all appropriate information and return this card with a check payable to "The 27th Division Association".
Mail to: Paul Hujer, 63 Argonne Drive, Kenmore, NY 14217-2429

ACCOMODATIONS INFORMATION

27th Division Association National Reunion 17-19 September 2010

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

Number of Rooms: _____ Number of Persons: _____ Number of Nights: _____

Deluxe Double smoking non-smoking

Deluxe King Smoking non-smoking

Handicap Double smoking non-smoking

Handicap King Smoking non-smoking

RSVP Must be received No Later Than September 1, 2010

The Annual 27th Division Association Reunion

SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2010

Adam's Mark Hotel
120 Church Street
Buffalo, NY 14202



FOR MEALS ONLY RESERVATIONS

Meal Package Only Prices:

- Friday Night Blinger: \$33/Person
- Saturday Morning B-Fast: \$11/Person
- Commander's Luncheon: \$28/Person
- Banquet Dinner: \$43/Person
- Sunday Morning B-Fast: \$11/Person

Indicate Required Meals by number of People in each box below.

Schedule of Events:

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Meals Only Card

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MEAL INFORMATION

27th Division Association National Reunion 17-19 September 2010

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

- Friday Blinger \$33 each
 Saturday B-Fast \$11 each
 Cdr's Luncheon \$28 each
 Reunion Dinner \$43 each
 Sunday B-Fast \$11 each

RSVP Must be received No Later Than September 1, 2010

- History Corner -

A look at documents, memorabilia and collections that help tell the story of the 27th Division

Reunion Badges

In the early years of the Division Association, special badges would be made for each reunion. This was in the tradition of the WWI veteran's fathers and grandfathers who issued each other ornate badges for Civil War and Spanish-American War reunions. 27th D.A. reunions were held roughly every other year. As the Association grew dramatically with the addition of WWII veterans in the 1940's, a need to hold annual reunions developed, and the large number of attendees were issued ribbons instead of badges. The early badges above are primarily from the BG Olmstead grouping (Milligan collection).



he returned to the NYNG in order to retire from New York State. He passed away in 1941.

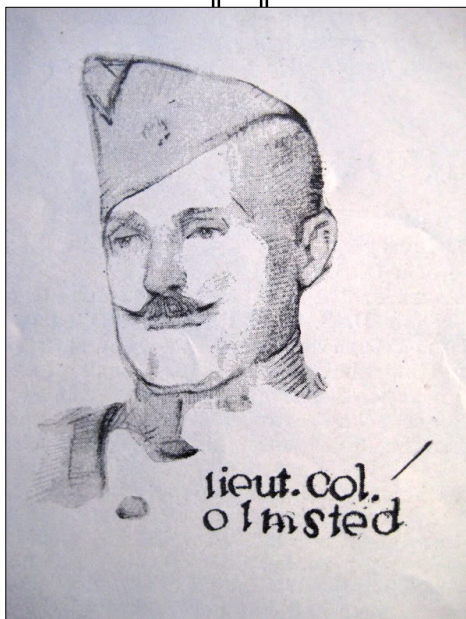
27th Division Archives

Many thanks to **Catherine Shimer**, who sent in a stack of Gallivanter's belonging to her late husband, **1SG (ret) Robert Shimer**, who passed away April 18th, 2009.

The 27th Division Archives are coming together nicely. At this point about 400 items, mostly newspaper clippings and letters, have been archived and entered into the Archive database. These items can be linked to over 750 Soldiers of the 27th from 1916 to 2010. My goal is to have the several thousand items in the Archives placed in preservation, entered into the database, and digitally scanned and available online. This will make the history of the 27th, OUR history, viewable and usable to everyone, and not in boxes in a closet!

BG Edward "Ned" Olmstead

A Guardsman in various states since 1898, BG Olmstead was a captain in 1912 when he was made aide to the commander of the New York Army National Guard, MG John F. O'Ryan. In 1916, as MG O'Ryan's Assistant Chief of Staff, MAJ Olmstead moved with NY's 6th Division to the Mexican Border. He kept this position when the 6th became the 27th and was sent to France. As a LTC, he was the division G-1 and Assistant Chief of Staff. After the war, he remained in the Guard and was one of the staunchest supporters of the 27th Division Association. In 1924 he became the Chief of Staff for the 44th Division (NJNG), staying with the 44th until reaching BG, when



several thousand items in the Archives placed in preservation, entered into the database, and digitally scanned and available online. This will make the history of the 27th, OUR history, viewable and usable to everyone, and not in boxes in a closet!

You can help. Even though we have thousands of items, the Archives only present part of the picture. If you have old clippings or notice new ones about the 27th in your local paper, and you can part with them, send them in. I can't do it all myself!

Geoffrey Milligan,
Historian

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51-60 \$150 ___ 61-70 \$120 ___ 71-80 \$90 ___ 81 & up \$60 ___

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