

# VALOR OF ORION

Volume IV

January 2023

## 1917 - 1919

*Dickebush Sector*

*Mount Kemmel*

*Vierstraat Ridge*

*East Poperinghe Line*

*Hindenburg Line*

*LaSelle River St. Souplet*

*Meuse-Argonne St. Mihiel*



## 1940- 1945

*Makin*

*Majuro*

*Eniwetok*

*Saipan*

*Okinawa*

## 2001 - Present

*Noble Eagle*

*Iraqi Freedom*

*Enduring Freedom,*

*(Afghanistan)*

## Distinguished Service Cross



## 108th Infantry Regiment



*The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Army (or in the Air Force, before 1960), distinguishes themselves by extraordinary heroism not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor; while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing/foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The act or acts of heroism must have been so notable and have involved risk of life so extraordinary as to set the individual apart from their comrades.*

The 108th Infantry regiment amassed a total of 48 Distinguished Service Crosses between the two World Wars. The vast majority were from World War One, most likely due to the fact that the Silver Star medal had not been in existence at that time (created by Congress in 1932). Each battalion seems to have been awarded roughly the same amount. As we saw with the 107th Infantry the vast majority of all DSCs were earned for actions on 29 September, 1918. During WWII, the 108th served in the Pacific, but under the command of the 40th ID from California. They received the arrowhead insignia for their amphibious operation in the Philippines.

**THE ORION  
GALLIVANTER**

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 27TH  
DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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All communications pertaining to the Gallivanter, membership dues, and contributions should be sent to the 27th Division Association ATTN: Secretary/Editor at the address above or

[27thDivisionAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:27thDivisionAssociation@gmail.com)

**HONORARY COMMANDERS**

Sgt. Arthur J. Coakley

**Officers**

Commander—Roberta Comerford

1st Vice - Robert Romano

2nd Vice - Vince Memole

3rd Vice— Vacant

Treasurer - Paul Hernandez

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Editor—Paul Hujer

Judge Advocate - Hon. Bruce Fein

Chaplain—Alexander Knowles

Historian—Geoffrey Milligan

Past National CDR's

Sr. Past Paul Hernandez

Jr. Past Gary Yapple

From the Editor,

Last year I inaugurated a new document series with the “Orion In Memoriam” publications, volumes I through VI. This year, I have focused on the acts of valor by members of the 27th Division in the two World Wars. This series will consist of volumes for each of the infantry regiments and then the remaining units.

I will be posting these documents on the website in the newly created “Hall of Valor” subpage (<https://27thdivisionassociation.com/history-of-the-27th/hall-of-valor/>) which is part of the “History of the 27th” main page (<https://27thdivisionassociation.com/history-of-the-27th/>). The Hall of Valor already hosts the citations of all the Medal of Honor recipients of the 27th from both World Wars.

I will also try to document as many of the Silver Star recipients as possible, but I have yet to explore that project fully. As I note on the cover page, the Silver Star medal was created by Congress well after the First World War and in World War Two this medal was awarded in lieu of a Distinguished Service Cross in many instances.

I hope that you the reader get a sense of history as you review these citations and become familiar with the place names and dates. They certainly helped me put the major actions of the 27th into the context of each war. I have also discovered that the gravesites of several of these personnel are within a short driving distance from my home in Western New York. I plan to visit them when I can.

Sincerely,

*Paul E. Hujer*

Editor

# VALOR ROLL

BEINLICH, HARRY F.	HERRICK, LESTER	SANDBURG, CHARLES A.
BENTLEY, RICHARD E. (P)	KING, DELANCY	SHERET, JAMES A. (P)
BILITSKI, JOHN N. F.	KRAFT, WILLIAM E. (P)	SHIPMAN, HAROLD L.
BROWN, SAMUEL A., JR.	KRAUSE, WILLIAM H.	SILVERBERG, MORRIS
CARDINALE, JOSEPH J.	LA FORD, RUSSELL E.	SMITH, MARTIN M.
CASE, ARCHIE B.	LAUTENSLAGER, EARL W. (P)	STANTON, CHARLES, JR.
CELLAR, CHESTER M.	MILLER, HARRY W.	SYNOTT, PATRICK
CLARK, JAMES PAUL (P)	MORSE, DANIEL A. (AKA: DANIEL MOSKOWITZ)	VAN DYNE, JOHN A.
CRANDALL, DEWITT H.	NAGOWSKI, ALOIGY	VIDA, FRANK J.
CROSS, JAMES	NORTON, HENRY M.	VIGILETTRE, MICHAEL (P)
DAVIS, FRED C.	PERCY, WILLIAM J.	WARD, JOHN C.
DENNIS, ERWIN A.	PIERCE, EDWARD P. (P)	WARD, MAHLON C.
DUNCAN, EDWARD A.	RANDALL, SAMUEL J.	WARD, WILLIAM H., JR. (P)
FORSTER, HAROLD R.	REED, RAYMOND E.	WHITNEY, LE ROY F.
GAFFEY, LUKE (1st)	ROOS, JAMES J. (P)	WILLIAMSON, WILLIAM H.
GAFFEY, LUKE (2d)	SAGER, GAIL H. (P)	
HEIM, CARL A.		

## WORLD WAR ONE

### BEINLICH, HARRY F.

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company L, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 15, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Harry F. Beinlich, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 15, 1918. Accompanied by an officer and three other soldiers, Corporal Beinlich made a reconnaissance of the River La Selle, the journey being made under constant and heavy machine-gun fire. To secure the desired information it was necessary to wade the stream for the entire distance.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Elmira, NY



*Somme American Cemetery and Memorial*

### BENTLEY, RICHARD ELLSWORTH (P)

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company L, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 15, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Richard E. Bentley, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 15, 1918. Accompanied by an officer and three other soldiers, Cor-

poral Bentley made a reconnaissance of the River La Selle, the journey being made under constant and heavy machine-gun fire. To secure the desired information it was necessary to wade the stream for the entire distance. *[This Soldier was later killed on 17 October, 1918.]*

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Horseheads, NY

### BILITSKI, JOHN N. F.

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company A, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to John N. F. Bilitski, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line, Sergeant Bilitski, although twice wounded, refused to leave the field, but remained with his platoon, exhibiting magnificent courage and bravery, until he was wounded a third time. His devotion to duty set a splendid example to the men of his company.

General Orders No. 26, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

### BROWN, SAMUEL A., JR.

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army

108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Samuel A. Brown, Jr., Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

(Continued from page 4)

Advancing with his platoon through heavy fog and dense smoke and in the face of terrific fire which inflicted heavy casualties on his forces, Lieutenant Brown reached the wire in front of the main Hindenburg line, and, after reconnoitering for gaps, assaulted the position and effected a foothold. Having been reinforced by another platoon, he organized a small force, and by bombing and trench fighting captured over a hundred prisoners. Repeated attacks throughout the day were repelled by his small force. He also succeeded in taking four field pieces, a large number of machine guns, antitank rifles, and other military property, at the same time keeping in subjection the prisoners he had taken.

General Orders No. 21, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Jamestown, NY

## **CASE, ARCHIE B.**

Private, U.S. Army

Sanitary Detachment, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Archie B. Case, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line Private Case repeatedly left shelter and went forward into the open, under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, and succeeded in bandaging and carrying back to our lines many wounded soldiers.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Rochester, NY

## **CELLAR, CHESTER M.**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company A, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Chester M. Cellar, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in

action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. After the other members of his automatic rifle squad had been killed or wounded in an assault against an enemy machine-gun nest, Corporal Cellar operated his gun alone, holding the fire of the machine gun until reinforcements arrived and put it out of action. His great courage and gallantry set an inspiring example to all his comrades.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Rochester, NY



*Somme American Cemetery and Memorial*

## **CLARK, JAMES PAUL (P)**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company F, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to James Paul Clark, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Corporal Clark displayed unusual courage and leadership in taking command of his company after all the officers had been killed and leading it into effective combat.

General Orders No. 15, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Medina, NY

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# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

*(Continued from page 5)*

## **CRANDALL, DEWITT H.**

Private, U.S. Army

Medical Detachment, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Dewitt H. Crandall, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line, Private Crandall, although he had been twice wounded, courageously treated the wounded, inspiring the combat troops by his example until wounded a third time.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Canisteo, NY

## **CROSS, JAMES**

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army

108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 15, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to James Cross, Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 15, 1918. Accompanied by four soldiers, Lieutenant Cross made a reconnaissance of the River La Salle, the journey being under constant heavy machine-gun fire. To secure the desired information it was necessary to wade the stream for the entire distance. On the following evening, Lieutenant Cross taped the line from which his regiment would launch their attack; and, in the battle that followed, he was severely wounded.

General Orders 74, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Helenwood, TN

## **DAVIS, FRED C.**

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Company H, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29 - 30, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Fred C. Davis, First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29 - 30, 1918. Lieutenant Davis successfully held a trench several hundred yards in advance of the Hindenburg line, under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, with a detachment which he had organized with men from different organizations. The following morning, he led his detachment still farther, cleaning up about 500 yards of enemy trenches.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Madrid, IA

## **DENNIS, ERWIN A.**

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army

108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 17, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Erwin A. Dennis, Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 17, 1918. Second Lieutenant Dennis led a small patrol against an enemy machine-gun nest, which he successfully captured. He discovered a large enemy nest, and for three hours held a position against it until reinforced by a Vickers machine-gun. This aid forced the enemy to surrender; the capture consisted of eight officers, 145 men, three large Maxim guns, seven light machine guns, and three antitank guns.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Auburn, NY

## **DUNCAN, EDWARD A.**

First Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company A, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

*(Continued from page 6)*

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Edward A. Duncan, First Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line First Sergeant Duncan displayed great gallantry and courage by going forward under heavy shell and machine-gun and bandaging the wounded and bringing them back to our lines. Throughout the engagement he exhibited a fearless disregard of the enemy's fire and performed valuable service by organizing new squads when his company was suffering heavy casualties as a result of shell and machine-gun fire.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

## **FORSTER, HAROLD R.**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company C, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Harold R. Forster, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line, when the advance of his company was held up by an enemy machine-gun nest, Corporal Forster crawled forward to a small shell hole, killed four of the German machine gunners with a Lewis gun and put their gun out of action, thereby permitting the advance to continue. In accomplishing this courageous act, he was seriously wounded.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Clyde, NY

## **GAFFEY, LUKE**

(First Award)

Private, U.S. Army

Company F, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 28, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Luke Gaffey, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 28, 1918. Private Gaffey displayed rare courage in leaving shelter and going into an open field under heavy shell and machine-gun fire and rescuing wounded soldiers of another regiment.

General Orders No. 133, W.D., 1919

Home Town: New York, NY

Other Award: Distinguished Service Cross w/OLC (WWI)

## **GAFFEY, LUKE**

(Second Award)

Private, U.S. Army

Company F, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Luke Gaffey, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. When all the other members of his squad had been killed or wounded, Private Gaffey picked up an automatic rifle and advanced alone against an enemy position.

General Orders No. 133, W.D., 1919

Home Town: New York, NY

Other Award: Distinguished Service Cross (WWI)

## **HEIM, CARL A.**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company L, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 28 - 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Carl A. Heim, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 28 - 29, 1918.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

(Continued from page 7)

During the operations against the Hindenburg line, Sergeant Heim displayed great gallantry and leadership in reorganizing and assuming command of his company and leading it into effective combat after all the officers had been killed or wounded.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Elmira, NY

## **HERRICK, LESTER**

Private, U.S. Army

Company C, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Lester Herrick, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918.

During the operations against the Hindenburg line Private Herrick exhibited great courage and bravery by advancing alone against two enemy machine-gun positions, putting both of them out of action. In accomplishing this he was seriously wounded.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Rockwell Springs, NY

## **KING, DELANCY**

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Delancy King, First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Lieutenant King was wounded early in the engagement but he continued to lead his men until he received a second wound. His gallantry under shell and machine-gun fire and his disregard for his own safety furnished a splendid example to all ranks.

General Orders No. 15, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY



*Somme American Cemetery and Memorial*

## **KRAFT, WILLIAM E. (P)**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company M, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to William E. Kraft, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918.

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# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

*(Continued from page 8)*

In the attack on the Hindenburg line, after all the officers of his company became casualties, Sergeant Kraft too command and led his company in the attack through machine-gun and artillery fire. Shortly after returning from a personal reconnaissance of the enemy machine-gun position, he again took up the advance, and was leading the attack when killed by an enemy sniper. The heroism displayed by this noncommissioned officer was an important factor in the success of the attack of his company.

General Orders No. No. 46, W.D., 1920

Home Town: Weehawken, NJ

## **KRAUSE, WILLIAM H.**

First Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company C, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to William H. Krause, First Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. First Sergeant Krause displayed great gallantry during the operations against the Hindenburg line. A smoke barrage was put down by the enemy between his company and the company on the left. The company commander having been wounded, Sergeant Krause sent a soldier to establish liaison with the company on the left. When this soldier was severely wounded and unable to accomplish his mission, Sergeant Krause went himself and succeeded in reaching the company. While returning to his own company, Sergeant Krause met a party of Germans attempting to break through the gap between the two companies. In a personal encounter he killed a German officer and forced the rest of the party to withdraw.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Syracuse, NY

## **LA FORD, RUSSELL E.**

Private, U.S. Army

Company K, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Russell E. La Ford, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line Private La Ford left shelter and went out into the open under heavy shell and machine-gun fire and succeeded in bandaging and carrying back to our lines a wounded officer.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: North Tonawanda, NY



**SERGEANT E. W. LAUTENSLAGER.**

## **LAUTENSLAGER, EARL W. (P)**

Private, U.S. Army

Company B, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Earl W. Lautenslager, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

*(Continued from page 9)*

During the operations against the Hindenburg line, when his company was held up by an enemy machine-gun nest, he volunteered to cross an open field in front of his company in order to ascertain the exact location of the enemy's position. While engaged in this enterprise he was killed by a bursting shell. His heroic self-sacrifice was a splendid example to the men of his company.

General Orders No. 16, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Genesee, NY

## **MILLER, HARRY W.**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Machine-Gun Company, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Harry W. Miller, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line he concealed the fact that he was wounded from his officers and continued to advance with his company during the entire day. He displayed exceptional bravery and gallantry, setting a fine example to all.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

## **MORSE, DANIEL A. (AKA: DANIEL MOSKOWITZ)**

Private, U.S. Army

Company F, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 28, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Daniel Moskowitz, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 28, 1918. Private Moskowitz exhibited exceptional bravery by leaving shelter and going out into an open field under heavy machine-gun and shell fire to rescue wounded sol-

diers.

General Orders No. No. 139, W.D., 1918

Home Town: New York, NY

## **NAGOWSKI, ALOIGY**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company H, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Aloigy Nagowski, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Corporal Nagowski left shelter, went forward under intense machine-gun fire and carried a wounded officer to a place of safety. In accomplishing this mission, he was severely wounded.

General Orders No. No. 139, W.D., 1918

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

## **NORTON, HENRY M.**

Private, U.S. Army

Medical Detachment, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Henry M. Norton, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Private Norton, on his own initiative, went forward twice in advance of the front line, bringing in wounded under heavy shell and machine-gun fire.

General Orders No. 23, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Olean, NY

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# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

(Continued from page 10)

## **PERCY, WILLIAM J.**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company E, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

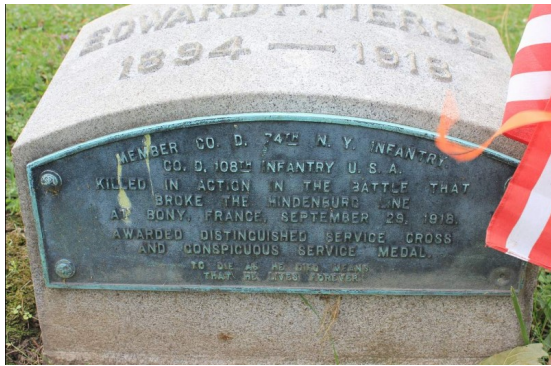
Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to William J. Percy, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. After having been wounded in the face and legs, Sergeant Percy led a patrol, under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, against an enemy machine-gun nest and succeeded in capturing one gun and 15 prisoners.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Niagara Falls, NY



*Forest Lawn*

## **PIERCE, EDWARD P. (P)**

Private First Class, U.S. Army

Company D, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Edward P. Pierce, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Private Pierce left shelter, went into an open field under heavy machine-gun and shell fire, and dragged a wounded soldier to safety. This courageous soldier was killed while advancing with his company later in the action.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

## **RANDALL, SAMUEL J.**

Private, U.S. Army

Company L, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 15, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Samuel J. Randall, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 15, 1918. Accompanied by an officer and three other soldiers, he made a reconnaissance of the River La Selle, the journey being made under constant heavy machine-gun fire. To secure the desired information it was necessary to wade the stream for the entire distance.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Penn Yan, NY

## **REED, RAYMOND E.**

Private First Class, U.S. Army

Company F, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Raymond E. Reed, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. With great courage Private First Class Reed went through heavy machine-gun and shell fire to the rescue of two wounded soldiers, whom he carried to our lines after dressing their injuries.

General Orders No. No. 143, W.D., 1918

Home Town: Medina, NY

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# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

(Continued from page 11)



First Lieutenant JAMES J. ROOS



*Somme American Cemetery and Memorial*

## **ROOS, JAMES JACOB (P)**

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 17, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to James J. Roos, First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary her-

oism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 17, 1918. During the fording of the La Selle River, Lieutenant Roos made personal reconnaissance's of the territory, under terrific machine-gun fire, before leading his men in attack. Advancing to a farm which was strongly fortified by the enemy, he scattered his men about the buildings from which a deadly fire was pouring, and, advancing alone into the building, captured nearly 200 Germans at the point of his pistol. He was killed in attack the following morning.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

## **SAGER, GAIL HAMILTON (P)**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company D, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Gail H. Sager, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Upon being wounded in the hand, Corporal Sager bandaged the wound himself and immediately returned to the firing line. He then picked up an automatic rifle, and, advancing alone toward machine-gun nests which were holding up his company, was killed after proceeding only a short distance.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

## **SANDBURG, CHARLES A.**

Captain, U.S. Army

Company E, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 17, 1918

(Continued on page 13)

# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

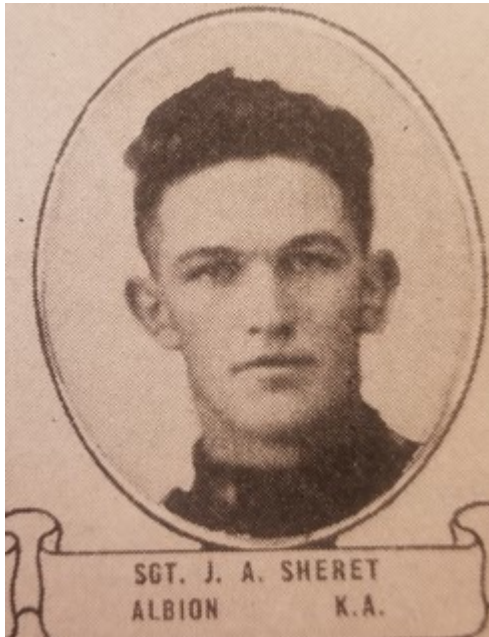
(Continued from page 12)

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Charles A. Sandburg, Captain, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 17, 1918. After having been wounded, Captain Sandburg continued to advance with his command until ordered to leave the field by his regimental commander.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Jamestown, NY



**SHERET, JAMES A. (P)**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company F, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to James A. Sheret, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronsoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line on September 29, Sergeant Sheret displayed exceptional bravery in several single-handed attacks on enemy positions. After rushing two hostile posts and killing the occupants with his revolver, Sergeant Sheret attacked four of the enemy in a machine-gun position, killing one of them before he was himself surrounded and killed by the other three.

General Orders No. 32, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Albion, NY

**SHIPMAN, HAROLD L.**

Private, U.S. Army

Company B, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Harold L. Shipman, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronsoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line Private Shipman, a Lewis gunner, exhibited great courage and dash when a party of about 40 German prisoners, seeing their guards killed by German snipers while going to the rear, seized rifles and opened fire on the Americans. Private Shipman rushed forward with his Lewis gun and put the entire group out of action. During the engagement he also silenced three enemy machine-gun positions.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

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# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

*(Continued from page 13)*

## **SILVERBERG, MORRIS**

Private, U.S. Army

Company G, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division,  
A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Morris Silverberg, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Private Silverberg, a stretcher bearer displayed extreme courage by repeatedly leaving shelter and advancing over an area swept by machine-gun and shell fire to rescue wounded comrades. Hearing that his company commander had been wounded, he voluntarily went forward alone, and upon finding that his officer had been killed brought back his body.

General Orders No. 21, W.D., 1919

Home Town: New York, NY

## **SMITH, MARTIN M.**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company G, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division,  
A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29 - 30, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Martin M. Smith, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29 - 30, 1918. Sergeant Smith exhibited exceptional gallantry and ability in leadership when after being severely shell shocked, he continued to direct the steady advance of his platoon under intense machine-gun and shell fire, with utter disregard for his personal safety. He continued with his platoon until the morning of September 13, when he collapsed as the result of shell shock and was evacuated to the rear.

General Orders No. 21, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Batavia, NY

## **STANTON, CHARLES, JR.**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company L, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division,  
A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 15, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Charles Stanton, Jr., Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 15, 1918. Accompanied by an officer and three other soldiers, Corporal Stanton made a reconnaissance of the River La Selle, the journey being made under constant and heavy machine-gun fire. To secure the desired information it was necessary to wade the stream for the entire distance.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Elmira, NY

## **SYNOTT, PATRICK**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company F, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division,  
A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 28, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Patrick Synott, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 28, 1918. Corporal Synott displayed exceptional bravery in leaving shelter and going forward under heavy shell and machine-gun fire and bringing back several wounded soldiers.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: New York, NY

## **VAN DYNE, JOHN A.**

Private, U.S. Army

Company B, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division,  
A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

*(Continued from page 14)*

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to John A. Van Dyne, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Private Van Dyne, a runner, displayed notable courage in carrying messages through heavy artillery and machine gun fire.

General Orders 98, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Geneva, NY

## **VIDA, FRANK J.**

First Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company G, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29 - 30, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Frank J. Vida, First Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29 - 30, 1918. After all his company officers had been killed or wounded First Sergeant Vida took command, despite the fact that he, too, had been wounded. He succeeded in capturing part of the Hindenburg line and holding it against several strong counterattacks, remaining with his company and refusing to go to the rear for medical treatment until it was relieved.

General Orders No. 44, W.D., 1919

Home Town: New York, NY

## **VIGILETTRE, MICHAEL (P)**

Private, U.S. Army

Company G, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Michael Vigilette, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Private Vigilette voluntarily exposed himself to bring in wounded soldiers belonging to another organization. Throughout the engagement under constant rifle and ma-

chine-gun fire, he courageously treated the wounded, inspiring the combat troops by his example, until killed by a bursting shell.

General Orders No. 21, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Rochester, NY

## **WARD, JOHN C.**

First Lieutenant (Chaplain), U.S. Army

108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to John C. Ward, First Lieutenant (Chaplain), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line Chaplain Ward voluntarily and at great risk to himself went forward under heavy shell and machine-gun fire to care for the wounded and to search for the dead. Twice he was ordered off the field of battle by officers, being told each time that it was sure death to remain. During the entire time his regiment was engaged he remained on the field under fire, displaying a fine example of bravery and courage which was an inspiration to all.

General Orders No. 20, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

## **WARD, MAHLON C.**

Private, U.S. Army

Company F, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 28, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Mahlon C. Ward, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 28, 1918. During the operations against the enemy lines east of Ronssoy Private Ward went out under heavy shell and machine-gun fire and succeeded in bandaging and bringing back to our line wounded soldiers.

*(Continued on page 16)*

# Preserving our Legacy, Teaching our History, & Honoring the Fallen

(Continued from page 15)

General Orders No. No. 139, W.D., 1918

Home Town: Medina, NY



*Somme American Cemetery and Memorial*

## **WARD, WILLIAM HENRY, JR. (P)**

First Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company M, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to William H. Ward, Jr., First Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Although severely wounded, Sergeant Ward assumed command of his company, after the company commander had become a casualty, displaying great gallantry and bravery in leading them into action. While endeavoring to locate enemy machine-gun nests, he was killed.

General Orders No. 21, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Auburn, NY

## **WHITNEY, LE ROY F.**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company M, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 17, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Le Roy F. Whitney, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Souplet, France, October 17, 1918. Voluntarily carrying messages under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, Corporal Whitney displayed great bravery and gallantry. In one instance he completed the mission of a runner who had been wounded and returned with very important information as to where the barrage would fall.

General Orders No. 37, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Auburn, NY

## **WILLIAMSON, WILLIAM H.**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company M, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to William H. Williamson, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Sergeant Williamson, in charge of a combat patrol successfully accomplished his mission under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, after three-fourths of his patrol had been killed or wounded. In the same engagement, he successfully reorganized his company, after all the officers were killed or wounded, and led it in effective combat.

General Orders No. 44, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Auburn, NY

## **CARDINALE, JOSEPH J.**

Private 1st Class

Co K, 108th Infantry

(Continued on page 17)



## WORLD WAR TWO

*(Continued from page 16)*

### **CARDINALE, JOSEPH J.**

Private 1st Class

Co K, 108th Infantry

February 24, 1945

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Joseph J. Cardinale, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an

armed enemy while serving with Company K, 108th Infantry Regiment, in action against enemy forces on 24 February 1945. Private First Class Cardinale's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Pacific, General Orders No. 78 (1946)

# QUARTERMASTER ITEMS

2018 Reunion Badge/Coin set: we have some badge/coin sets remaining- the badge is a very special item in the traditions of the 27th Association and you'll want to get one before they are gone! [Available here on eBay](#).



**Life members, lapel pins.** Available at all meetings and the Reunion. See the Secretary for yours! These are free of charge with your life



membership. Roughly half dollar sized.

Association coffee mugs for sale at our events. Cost is \$15



**27th Association Tie bars.** Available at meetings and Reunion from the Secretary. Cost is \$13.



## CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS!

If you have a story or photo(s) that you want to submit to the Gallivanter here are our publication guidelines.

1. Must relate to the 27th Infantry or Armored Brigade/Division, or the 27th Division Association.
2. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, typographical errors, and length. When time permits we will send you an advance copy of what your material will look like.
3. Items may not appear in the very next Gallivanter published after you submitted. We will try to notify you in advance of when it will be published!
4. Lastly, all content should be something that serves to inform our readership about the training, combat service, and dedication of our Soldiers.
5. Send to [27thDivisionAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:27thDivisionAssociation@gmail.com). Subject line should read "For Gallivanter". Thank you.



### 27<sup>th</sup> Division Association



#### New Membership/ Membership Renewal Application (\$15)

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Last) (First) (MI)

Rank /Title \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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(House Number and Street) (City) (Zone) (State) (Zip)

Current Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Served \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ or Check if Member At Large ----- \_\_\_\_\_

*Make remittance (\$15.00) Payable to: 27<sup>th</sup> Division Association Inc.*

*Mail To: 27<sup>th</sup> Division Association Inc., Attn: Secretary,*

*63 Argonne Drive Kenmore, NY 14217-2429*