

# VALOR OF ORION

Volume VI

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

### Miscellaneous Units



*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.*

Valor certainly isn't confined to the infantry units. The following pages will detail uncommon valor exhibited by field artillery, machine gun battalions, engineers, and signal units. 16 medals from World War One, which saw the field artillery serving with the main body of the A.E.F., while the infantry served in Belgium under the British.

**THE ORION  
GALLIVANTER**

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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)

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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

BRINK, HERBERT M.

CAVANAUGH, JAMES A.

DE RUM, HOWARD P. (P)

DUPREE, GEORGE A.

EDWARDS, GEORGE H. (P)

FOX, MATHEW S.

KELLY, FRANCIS A.

LEE, ROBERT S.

MATTHEWS, GEORGE, JR.

MCCANN, KENNETH M.

NEALIS, JOHN J.

NETTE, WILLIAM B.

PLATT, ABNER H.

SHUGG, WILLIAM R.

SULLIVAN, RALPH B.

## WORLD WAR ONE

### **BRINK, HERBERT M.**

Mechanic, U.S. Army

Battery B, 104th Field Artillery, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 14, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Herbert M. Brink, Mechanic, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Montzeville, France, September 14, 1918. When a continuous bombardment had set fire to the camouflage covering of a large ammunition dump of 75-millimeter shells and exploded nine of the shells, Mechanic Brink, utterly disregarding his personal safety, left a sheltered position and ran to the dump, and with the aid of three other men extinguished the fire, not only saving the ammunition but also preventing the ascertainment of the exact location of the dump by the enemy.

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

Home Town: New York, NY



*Somme American Cemetery and Memorial*

### **CAVANAUGH, JAMES A.**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company B, 102d Engineers, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: August 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to James A. Cavanaugh, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Mount Kemmel, Belgium, August 29, 1918. After several runners sent back through a heavy barrage for reinforcements and ammunition had failed to return Corporal Cavanaugh, who was on duty with the Infantry, volunteered for this mission and successfully accomplished it.

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

Home Town: New York, NY

### **DE RUM, HOWARD P. (P)**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company C, 102d Field Signal Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

*(Continued on page 5)*

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

(Continued from page 4)

## Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Howard P. De Rum, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronsoy, France, September 29, 1918. Corporal De Rum accompanied the first attacking wave, stringing telephone lines under terrific enemy fire, even after being advised by the signal officer to seek shelter, courageously maintained communication until he was killed.

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

Home Town: Buffalo, NY

## **DUPREE, GEORGE A.**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Battery B, 104th Field Artillery, 27th Division, A.E.F.

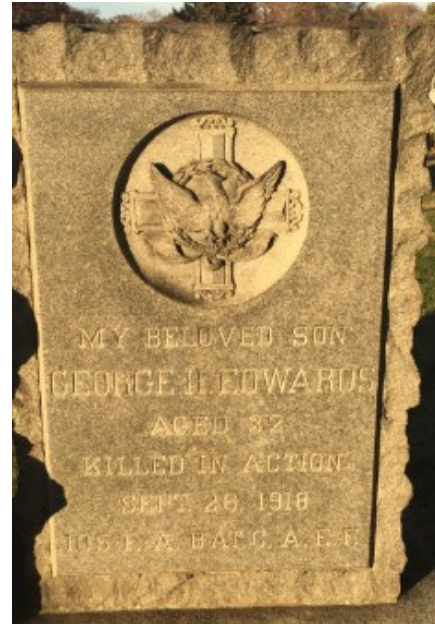
Date of Action: September 14, 1918

## Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to George A. Dupree, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Montzeville, France, September 14, 1918. When a continuous bombardment had set fire to the camouflage covering of a large ammunition dump of 75-millimeter shells and exploded nine of the shells, Corporal Dupree, utterly disregarding his personal safety, left a sheltered position and ran to the dump, and with the aid of three other men extinguished the fire, not only saving the ammunition but also preventing the ascertainment of the exact location of the dump by the enemy.

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

Home Town: New York, NY



*Saint John Cemetery and Mausoleum*

## **EDWARDS, GEORGE H. (P)**

Private First Class, U.S. Army

Battery C, 105th Field Artillery, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 26, 1918

## Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to George H. Edwards, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Forges, France, September 26, 1918. In the face of heavy machine-gun fire, at great personal risk, Private Edwards crawled out from a position of safety and rescued a wounded soldier who was lying exposed to the enemy fire. Private Edwards was killed later in the advance while charging a machine-gun nest.

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

Home Town: Brooklyn, NY

## **FOX, MATHEW S.**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Battery F, 104th Field Artillery, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: November 4, 1918

(Continued on page 6)

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

*(Continued from page 5)*

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Mathew S. Fox, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Consenvoye, France, November 4, 1918. While the battery position was being subjected to severe bombardment of gas and high explosive shells, Corporal Fox, in an effort to rescue two wounded comrades, extinguished a pile of burning camouflage which was used as a cover for the ammunition and fuses. While fighting the burning camouflage, the ammunition was exploded by another bursting shell.

General Orders No. 46, W.D., 1919

Home Town: York, NY

## **KELLY, FRANCIS A.**

First Lieutenant (Chaplain), U.S. Army

104th Machine-Gun Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 26 - 30 & October 13 - 20, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Francis A. Kelly, First Lieutenant (Chaplain), U.S. Army, for repeated acts of extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 26 - 30, 1918, and east of the Le-Selle River, France, October 13 - 20, 1918. During the operations of his regiment against the Hindenburg line and later east of the LeSelle River, Chaplain Kelly was constantly at the front, caring for the-wounded and supervising the burial of the dead, often under heavy shell and machine-gun fire. His fearless conduct afforded an inspiring example to the combat troops.

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

Home Town: Cohoes, NY

## **KUHN, RUPERT C.**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company D, 105th Machine-Gun Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 27, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Rupert C. Kuhn, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action northeast of Ronssoy, France, September 27, 1918. During the attack on the Hindenburg line Sergeant Kuhn, with utter disregard of his own personal danger, unhesitatingly left the shelter of the trenches and went forward under heavy enemy artillery and machine-gun fire and succeeded in rescuing two wounded comrades who were lying helpless in a forward machine-gun position, bringing them to a place of safety where they could receive first-aid treatment. His gallant conduct and devotion to his comrades greatly inspired the men of his battalion.

General Orders No. No. 2, W.D., 1932

Home Town: Castile, NY

## **LEE, ROBERT S.**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company C, 102d Field Signal Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Robert S. Lee, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. Sergeant Lee was a member of an advanced regimental signal party which went over the top with the third wave in the attack against the Hindenburg line. The officer in charge and three privates were wounded, and two sergeants, two corporals, and two runners were killed. Sergeant Lee, in the face of terrific shell and machine-gun fire, fearlessly and courageously strung telephone lines and patrolled same in such a manner as to ensure telephone communications with the battalion to which he was attached. His bravery and extreme devotion to duty was a splendid inspiration to all his comrades.

General Orders 74, W.D., 1919

Home Town: Albany, NY

## **MATTHEWS, GEORGE, JR.**

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army

105th Machine-Gun Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: October 18, 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 George Matthews, Jr., Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Arbre Guernon, France, October 18, 1918. After having been wounded in the head and suffering great pain, Lieutenant Matthews coolly and efficiently made dispositions for the security of his guns and safety of his men and the evacuation of the wounded. Later at a dressing station, though bleeding profusely, he refused surgical attention until other wounded men of his platoon had been cared for.

General Orders No. No. 28, W.D., 1921

Home Town: New York, NY

## **MCCANN, KENNETH M.**

Corporal, U.S. Army

Company C, 102d Field Signal Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: August 29 - 31, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Kenneth M. McCann, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Mount Kemmel, Belgium, August 29 - 31, 1918. Corporal McCann, a signalman, worked continuously for 72 hours without relief through repeated gas bombardments. When the forward lines were cut by shell fire, he personally directed the running of a new line under a heavy shell and machine-gun fire.

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

Home Town: New York, NY

## **NEALIS, JOHN J.**

Sergeant, U.S. Army

102d Field Signal Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to John J. Nealis, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. During the operations against the Hindenburg line he, while in charge of telephone communications between

battalion headquarters and forward positions, accompanied the advancing infantry forward, established his advance post, where one of his assistants was killed by shell fire and he himself wounded, and under constant bombardment kept the telephone lines in operation, remaining at his post for nine hours, until wounded a second time. When completely exhausted he turned over his apparatus to the man sent to relieve him. His extreme gallantry, courage, and bravery afforded a magnificent example to the combat troops who witnessed it.

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

Home Town: New York, NY

## **NETTE, WILLIAM B.**

Private First Class, U.S. Army

Battery B, 104th Field Artillery, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 14, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to William B. Nette, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Montzeville, France, September 14, 1918. When a continuous bombardment had set fire to the camouflage covering of a large ammunition dump of 75- mm. shells and exploded nine of the shells, Private Nette, utterly disregarding his personal safety, left a sheltered position and ran to the dump, and with the aid of three other men extinguished the fire, not only saving the ammunition but also preventing the ascertainment of the exact location of the dump by the enemy.

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

Home Town: New York, NY

## **RATCHICK, LUIS**

Private, U.S. Army

Company D, 105th Machine-Gun Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 27, 1918

*(Continued on page 8)*

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

*(Continued from page 7)*

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Luis Ratchick, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action northeast of Ronssoy, France, September 27, 1918. During the attack on the Hindenburg line Private Ratchick displayed unusual coolness and bravery when on two occasions he voluntarily carried wounded comrades to a dressing station about 1,500 yards distant and each time returned to his company over a road that was being swept by heavy artillery and machine-gun fire. By his utter disregard of personal danger, Private Ratchick set an example which was of the utmost value to his company then and throughout all of its subsequent engagements.

General Orders No. No. 2, W.D., 1932

Home Town: New York, NY

## **SHUGG, WILLIAM R.**

Private, U.S. Army

Company G, 102d Field Signal Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 29, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to William R. Shugg, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action east of Ronssoy, France, September 29, 1918. After the commander of the infantry platoon to which he was attached as a visual signalman had been killed Private Shugg took command of the platoon and exhibited remarkable gallantry and leadership in leading it into effective combat.

General Orders No. No. 145, W.D., 1918

Home Town: Rutherford, NJ

## **SULLIVAN, RALPH B.**

Private, U.S. Army

Battery B, 104th Field Artillery, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 14, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Ralph B. Sullivan, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism

in action near Montzeville, France, September 14, 1918. When a continuous bombardment had set fire to the camouflage covering of a large ammunition dump of 75-mm. shells and exploded nine of the shells, Private Sullivan utterly disregarding his personal safety left a sheltered position and ran to the dump, and, with the aid of three other men, extinguished the fire, not only saving the ammunition but also preventing the ascertainment of the exact location of the dump by the enemy.

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

Home Town: New York, NY

## **THOMAS, FRANK B.**

Private First Class, U.S. Army

Company C, 102d Field Signal Battalion, 27th Division, A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 27, 1918

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Frank B. Thomas, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Ronssoy, France, September 27, 1918. When the telephone lines had been destroyed by the advancing tanks, and the enemy had started a counterattack from the three sides before new ones could be laid, Private Thomas volunteered to carry a message from the infantry battalion to which he was attached and succeeded in going through intense artillery, machine-gun, and sniper fire to regimental headquarters, delivering the message in time to enable reinforcements to be brought up.

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

Home Town: New York, NY



## 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 you 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



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*63 Argonne Drive Kenmore, NY 14217-2429*