

DECEMBER 2004

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

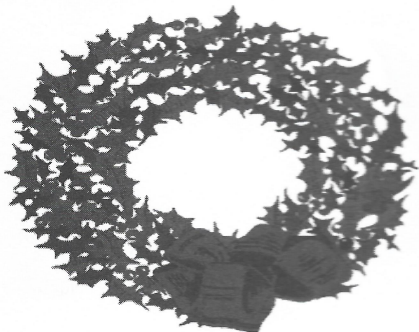
Makin
Majuro
Eniwetok
Saipan
Okinawa

2001- Present

Enduring Freedom
Iraqi Freedom
Noble Eagle

HAPPY

HOLIDAYS



The picture taken in front of Air Force One of some of the 19 members of Team 105. Left to right are: MSG Boda - Team OIC, SSG Morgan, SPC Fierro, SPC Culpepper, SPC Chandler, SPC Simpson and SSG Bennett NCOIC.

Note: This picture is not representative of the selected individual Team members selected for the Presidential detail.

Team 105/108th with Air Force One Submitted by MSG Boda and CPT Hernandez

The 108th IN Bn was tasked to support New York State's Air Force Bases Security Forces Squadrons across the state. Team 105/108 NY has been on Title Ten mission: Noble Eagle II, at Stewart ANGB since Feb 2003 augmenting the 105th Security Forces Squadron for homeland defense. Year one had 32 soldiers from D 1/108th IN (attached to A Co 1/108th IN to comprise the 108th New Yorkers). Year two has been comprised of 19 remaining soldiers from the initial group. Team 105 is comprised of members of D Co 1/108th IN,

(cont. on page 3)



THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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VOL. XLV DECEMBER 2004 NO. 4

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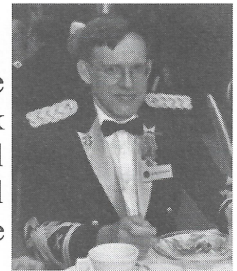
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| 11 | Robert Wartonick | Vestal, NY |
|----|------------------|------------|

Commander's Message

Greetings Friends,

It was great to see old friends and make new ones at this year's reunion. I want to thank all whose efforts resulted in such a successful and enjoyable reunion, creating another joyful memory for the Association and adding to the history of the 27th.



It is with the great humility I begin this year as your National Commander. I pledged with my fellow officers to work hard to fully support the needs of the Association. We all work for you and your desires will be our deeds.

As we look forward to the upcoming Holidays our deepest well wishes go out to those now deployed overseas in our nation's defense. Besides those serving in the ranks of 2-108th, a number of our members have or are preparing to deploy with HQS 42nd DIV to Iraq. Others still serve here at home in defense of our homeland. Their family's sacrifices are made greater by the holidays.

I will work on bringing in new members. As we bring new members into our association, I would ask you to reach out to old members or others who never where members to join our ranks. Invite them to your chapter meetings, bring them into or back to the fold. Their individual story are chapters in our own. Their addition will enhance that story.

Looks like we'll be close to getting the monuments at Camp Smith renovated. We are also working on getting them moved upstate.

May the Holidays find you all well and your love ones happy. May the New Year be joyous.

Yours in service, fellowship and friendship,
LTC Gregory O. Gallup (RET)

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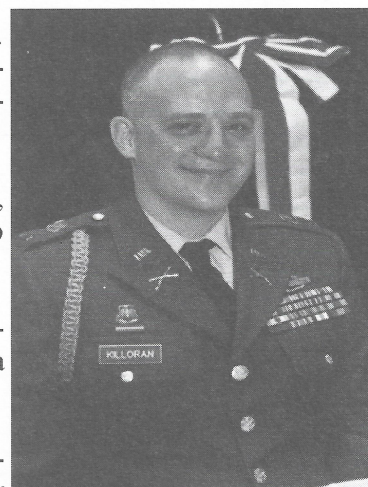
ANNUAL REUNION SEPTEMBER 2004

This year's reunion was held at the Quality Inn in North Syracuse 24-26 September 2004. Over 50 soldiers and guests attended the weekend. A special thanks goes to outgoing commander, LTC Michael Leonardo and incoming Quartermaster, SPC Rollin Skellington, for orchestrating a very successful convention.

A special thanks goes to the outgoing Quartermaster and incoming National Commander, Gregory Gallup for providing the Hospitality Room and to the Women's Auxiliary, who helped keep the room and our stomach's full.

Many past national commanders attended the commander's luncheon and immediately afterwards the memorial service was held. Current 27th soldiers did a great job by provided a color guard for the service.

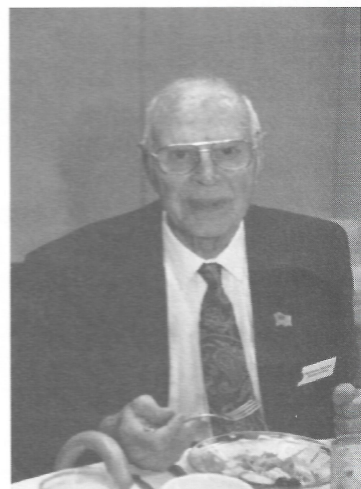
Our guest speaker, newly returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, 1LT Killoran (right) provided a very insightful and front line look at his experiences in Iraq. Thank you to him for sharing his experiences.



Of special interest, SPC Rollin Skellington provided a slide presentation at the banquet dinner, to bring back memories to the retired soldiers and demonstrate new history for the traditions of the 27th. Thank you for the hard work.

Hope to see you next year! As soon as we have information on next year's annual reunion, we will let you know. Tentatively Saratoga is being looked at for a location with an eye towards visiting the newly opened military museum.

In the meantime, enjoy the holidays with your families and friends! Roberta



THE ORION GALLIVANTER MAILBAG

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—\$10.00
- 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/Editor,
Roberta Comerford
P.O. Box 2522
Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

Email roberta.comerford@us.army.mil

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

ALL WOMEN'S AUX MEMBERS

- Membership Dues—\$2.00
- Memorial Fund Donations
- General Fund Donations

Mail to:

Women's Auxiliary, 27th Div
Attn: ESTHER GARDNER
126 Sergeant Street
Johnson City, NY 13790-1922

Make checks payable to:
Women's Auxiliary,
27th Division Association, Inc.

NOTE: Please do not combine Women's Auxiliary Items with Division Association Items. Doing so significantly increases the time it takes for the Women's Auxiliary to receive the money. Please be sure to send checks made out correctly to the Women's Auxiliary, directly to Esther Gardner.

Air Force One

(cont. from page 1)

stationed out of Ithaca, NY. On occasion we get VIPs coming to West Point or NY City. The picture is some members on Title 10, stationed at Stewart ANGB taken during the Republican Convention while President Bush was at the convention. Some of Team 105's members were hand picked to assist in the security detail of Air Force One while it was here due to their outstanding performance while stationed here.

From Buffalo to Baghdad

Nine months ago, nearly 70 local soldiers left their families for the dangers of a war they never expected

BY SANDRA TAN
News Staff Reporter
9/19/2004

Adam Amato/Buffalo News
"There's not a day that goes by when you don't think about dying," SPC. JOHN M. BAKER OF CHEEKTOWAGA

It was a routine late-night assignment. Spc. John M. Baker stepped on the gas of his Humvee as he moved through the darkness, accompanying two tanks to check on a police station near Sadr City.

Gunfire suddenly rained down on them from above, shooting into the lead tank. They had been drawn into an ambush.

The convoy backed up. Baker

pulled his Humvee alongside a tank to his left. Both tanks and soldiers raised their guns and returned fire.

Three rounds from a semiautomatic weapon zinged through his vehicle, drilling the air conditioner and ricocheting through the interior. Baker felt something strike his neck.

I've been shot, he thought.

But there wasn't any blood. The rounds missed him and the four other men inside.

Later, when the soldiers found the bullets and measured the holes, Baker discovered the worst: The rounds that entered his vehicle likely came from a fellow soldier's gun.

"That's probably the closest I came to death," said Baker, 24, of Cheektowaga.

It has been six months since nearly 70 area infantry soldiers from the Army National Guard were sent overseas and nine months since they left Western New York for intensive combat training.

For some of them, it could have

(Continued on page 5)

DEAD LINE:
Items for the March
issue must be received by
1 February 2005

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS
are now being offered!
See Page 8

New Members

Welcome Aboard!

CPT Tony J. Baker
Mr. Darryl Champous
Mr. Richard Fidurski
SGM Michael J. Ratkoski
SPC Rollin Skellington
1SG Thomas Williams

Gallivanter Fund

Our grateful thanks to the following contributors:

\$25.00 John F. Crowley
\$25.00 John R. Elliott
\$20.00 Howard Garrison
\$20.00 Harold M. Larsen
\$20.00 Mary Slattery
\$15.00 Nicholas Cavallaro
\$15.00 Robert J. Grossman
\$15.00 E.W. Marquardt
\$15.00 Rosemary Simonitsch
\$15.00 Glen A. Wynn
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\$10.00 Mary May
\$10.00 Joseph A. Nardo
\$10.00 Jeff Spring
\$10.00 Raymond Swift, Sr.
\$5.00 Dale Barber
\$5.00 Robert Wheeler

Memorial Fund

\$25.00 W. Taylor Hudson
 In memory of 2nd Platoon, AIT Co., 105th Inf.
\$25.00 Mary Slattery In memory of my husband, Ned Slattery
\$25.00 Louis Patrone In memory of members of 105th FA Bn
\$20.00 Joe Nader and Lee Dari
 In memory of the 27th Signal Company

MAILBAG

(Continued from page 4)

been a lifetime ago.

At least two of the soldiers have been awarded Purple Hearts for combat wounds in Iraq. That day in late June when Baker thought

he had been shot in the neck, his company had been fired at on three separate occasions, including a sniper attack.

The two platoons of Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry, have been divided, with one platoon attached to an Oregon battalion in the heart of Baghdad, and the other attached to an Arkansas battalion closer to the city outskirts. Both groups serve the 1st Cavalry Division.

They guard and patrol the city, supervise and train Iraqi police and the Iraqi National Guard, escort vehicles, man checkpoints, provide SWAT-type response and spend hours and days away from base on missions.

But during those periodic stretches of downtime, when the adrenaline rush drains from their bodies, it's quiet. That's when they reflect on the fact that the war they fight is nothing like the

(Continued on page 6)

Memorial Fund (cont.)

\$15.00 Margery J. Thiel In memory of my husband, Vernon M. Thiel
\$15.00 Marvin Mendelson In memory of members of E Company, 105th Inf
\$10.00 Nathan Batwin In memory of the men who served in E Co. 106th Inf
\$10.00 Louise Criscione In memory of my husband, PNC George Criscione
\$10.00 Thomas Acquilla In loving memory of Mary
\$10.00 Gregory O. Gallup To fallen comrades
\$10.00 Robert J. Stefferson In memory of All The Boys of Co B 106th Inf. 27th Div.

Women's Auxiliary December 04 Memorial Rehabilitation Fund

\$100.00 Irene Bielefield In memory of my husband, Theodore
\$25.00 Loretta Barnesky In memory of John H. Barnesky
\$25.00 Frances Speziale In memory of my husband, Victor
\$15.00 Kathleen Kruger In memory of Frank C. and Henry Kruger
\$15.00 Marcella Rolandelli In memory of PNC A. George Rolandelli, Mollie Greany Rolandelli and Mary A. Rolandelli
\$10.00 Helen Beauchamp In memory of Norman Beauchamp
\$10.00 Mary A. Dernberger In memory of Chauncey Dibble
\$10.00 Caroline Kelsch In memory of Thomas F. Kelsch
\$10.00 Margaret Krone In memory of James J. Krone
\$10.00 Anita Lipka In memory of husband, Edward
\$10.00 Osvolda Turilli In memory of Lucielle Pettiette
\$10.00 Mary Ann Wartonick In memory of 27th deceased members
\$10.00 Ruth Wheeler In memory of husband, George
\$5.00 Ann Bender

MAILBAG

(Continued from page 5)

one they expected.

The Buffalo News caught up with some of the soldiers home on leave. These stories belong to them and their families.

Culture shock

One thing's for sure - 80-degree weather will never feel warm again.

When soldiers of the 108th flew overseas in March, they spent a few weeks in Kuwait, getting processed and acclimated to the 120-degree heat. Then they rolled into Iraq.

"I remember the convoy," said Spc. Suhail Syed, a 21-year-old Lockport resident attached to the Arkansas unit. "As soon as you cross the border you tense up. You keep your eye on everything you can see."

Iraq was nothing like they expected.

Slums and stinking tall piles of garbage litter the city and the countryside because much of the country lacks basic sanitation. Stray animals nose through the rubbish. Human feces collect in the streets.

The soldiers live fairly comfortably in camps with full kitchens and recreation rooms. Goats keep the lawn trimmed, and at least one unit has adopted a stray dog.

Pfc. Eric Smith, a 20-year-old City of Tonawanda native attached to the Oregon unit, recounted how he adopted Baby, a black Lab mix who followed the convoy for six miles. The convoy traveled at 30 mph, but the dog kept pace until she finally collapsed at the gates of the camp.

She's now the company guard dog, protective of her rescuers.

Outside the camp gates, the landscape is far less secure. "It's

just dust, heat and open land for miles," Syed said. Each soldier often carries more than 40 pounds of equipment: a bullet-proof ceramic chest and back plate, flak vests, tactical helmets, neck and groin guards, plus weapons and ammunition.

After nine hours in the sun, many soldiers come home chafed and bleeding from their own gear, Smith said. But that same equipment keeps the men alive.

"I got my vest. I got my helmet," Smith said. "That's all I need."

Those are words spoken by a man whose unit has witnessed both mortar and rocket attacks at close range. Smith has seen car bombings and has been 20 feet away from rocket attacks that left his head throbbing and ears ringing from the shock waves.

(Continued on page 9)

Quartermaster Store

FROM THE QUARTERMASTER,
Rollin Skellington

At present we have T-shirts, hats and coffee mugs. Colors and sizes are limited, however we have a good quantity of inventory. The goal of the QMS is to provide quality goods at reasonable prices, maintain quality control by being a one-stop shop for the Association paraphernalia, and to support the National Association and the Women's Auxiliary. A percentage of the profit will go to the National, the Auxiliary and the Store.

Orders can be e-mailed to Rollin.Skellington@ny.ngb.army.mil or mail to: 27th Division Association, Attn: Quartermaster, Rollin Skellington, P.O. Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

All Items have Orion Emblem

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STORE PRICE</u>
T-Shirt (white)	\$ 8.00
T-Shirt (gold, red, lt. blue, royal)	\$ 10.00
Golf shirt (without pocket)	\$ 20.00
(white, gold, red, lt. blue, royal)	
Golf shirt (with pocket)	\$ 20.00
(white, gold, red, lt. blue, royal)	
Hat (red, blue, white, white w/red bill, white w/blue bill, white w/black bill).	\$ 10.00
Coffee Mug	\$ 5.00

Shipping and handling is \$3.00 for all items

Membership Renewal Forms

27TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Full Name _____
 (First) (Middle) (Last)

Spouse's Name _____

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

Current Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Post No. _____ or Check if member At Large _____

Unit Served _____

Date: From _____ To _____ Rank (Optional) _____

*Make remittance (\$10.00) payable to: The 27th Division Association, Inc.
 Send to: Attn: Sec/Treas: PO Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220*

I desire to become a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the 27th Division Association Inc., and pay herewith \$2.00 for one year membership dues for the year 2005.

I submit the following information to be included with my record:

Full Name _____
 (First) (Middle) (Last)

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

My son, husband, brother, father served in World War I-II _____ Battalion

With Company, Battery or Troop _____

*Make remittance (\$2.00) payable to:
 Women's Auxiliary The 27th Division Association, Inc.
 Send to: Attn: Esther Gardner Sec/Treas;
 126 Sergeant Street, Johnson City, NY 13790-1922*

27TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Full Name _____
 (First) (Middle) (Last)

Spouse's Name _____

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

Current Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Post No. _____ or Check if member At Large _____

Age Please check <30 \$200 _____ 31-40 \$190 _____ 41-50 \$170 _____
 51-60 \$150 _____ 61-70 \$120 _____ 71-80 \$90 _____ 81 & up \$60 _____

LIFE MEMBER

Submissions to the Editor

ONLY USE THIS ADDRESS:

27th Division Association
 P.O. Box 2522
 Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

LIFE MEMBERS:

Dues paid to National for life memberships are NATIONAL DUES only. If you want to belong to a Post, you will owe POST DUES. Roberta

REMINDER:

2005 Dues are \$10.00 (or Life Membership) At Large Members

Please make checks payable to:

The 27th Division Association, Inc.

Mail to: Secretary/Treasurer
 Roberta Comerford
 P.O. Box 2522
 Syracuse, NY 13220
 Member of a Post?
 See your Post Secretary

SUGGESTION: If you want to keep your Gallivanter intact - make a copy of this section and submit the copy of the membership renewal. (Or handwrite all information.)

DEAD LINE:

Items for the March issue must be received by 1 February 2005

TAPS

Herman M. Myatt

Herman M. Myatt, 82 Route 12E, died July 31, 2004 at Samaritan Medical Center, Watertown.

Mr. Myatt was a machinist at New Process Gear in Syracuse.

Born August 30, 1921, at Saranac Lake, son of William and Lillian McKinney Myatt, he graduated from Saranac Lake HS. He served with the 27th Division in the Headquarters Detachment, 3rd BN, 105th Inf from October 1939 – September 1945, when he was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant. He served with the 105th Inf in the central Pacific and Asiatic-Pacific theaters of WWII.

He married Beatrice M. Cater in 1940 in Mexico. The couple resided in Texas, NY before moving to Sackets Harbor. Mrs. Myatt died September 20, 1994.

Mr. Myatt had resided in Cape Vincent for three years. He was a member of Harold Townsend American Legion, United Auto Workers Union of Syracuse and the 27th Division Association.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Melvyn (June A.) Doud of Marion, Barbara J. Patchett, Cape Vincent, and Mrs. Willard (Patricia E.) Fitzpatrick, Virginia Beach, VA; five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and six nieces and nephews.

Jack Falkenstein

Jack Falkenstein 90, of Hollywood, Florida, passed away on 25 August while he was visiting his daughter, in California. Jack is survived by two daughters; one living in California and the other in New York.

Jack was a member of the 27th Infantry Division Association. He served with Company G, 105th Inf. in the Pacific Theater.

Mary A. Rolandelli

Mary A. Rolandelli, of Tuckan-hoe, passed away on 26 April, 2004. Daughter of the late A. George and Mary Greaney Rolandelli. Sister of George J. (Helen), William D. (Peg Fling), Marcella A. and the late Andrew J. (Lillian) Rolandelli.

Roy A. Kaps

Roy A. Kaps, 86 passed away August 1, 2004. Beloved son of the late Earl and Gertrude. Loving brother of Joyce M., James H. and the late (Earl "Derb", Leslie, and John "Jack"). WWII veteran and survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. He spent almost five years in the Army, part of the time in the 27th Division. Also survived by many nephews and nieces. Interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Hoy M. Haight

Hoy M. Haight, 80 of Huntsville, AR passed away on 8 July, 2004 in his sleep. He is survived

by his beloved wife Hazel, of 57 years, and two sons, Marvin of Huntsville and Lloyd of Writer, AR. He was a member of the 27th Division and was wounded in Okinawa. He was a member of the 165th Infantry.



Michael A. Uvanni

SGT Michael A. Uvanni, 27, of Lynch Street, Rome, died October 1, 2004 by a sniper in Samarra, Iraq. He was born March 13, 1977 in Rome, the son of Kevin and Janet Boncella Uvanni. He was a 1996 graduate of Rome Free Academy.

SGT Uvanni joined the Marine Corps in December of 1996 and served as mortar man until December 2003. In January 2004, he joined the 2-108th Infantry BN where he was serving as a motorman. He was killed in Samarra during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SGT Uvanni also worked with his uncle and cousin, James and Matthew Boncella, steel construction business.

(Continued on page 15)

MAILBAG

**Bob Wartonick**

This statue, **above**, was made by an Iraqi artist named Kalat, who for years was forced by Saddam Hussein to make the many hundreds of bronze busts of Saddam that dotted Baghdad. This artist was so grateful that the Americans liberated his country; he melted 3 of the fallen Saddam heads and made a memorial statue dedicated to the American soldiers and their fallen comrades. Kalat has been working on this night and day for several months.

To the left of the kneeling soldier is a small Iraqi girl giving the soldier comfort as he mourns the loss of his comrade in arms. It is currently on display outside the palace that is now home to the 4th Infantry division. It will eventually be shipped and shown at the memorial museum in Fort Hood, Texas.

Want to know why we don't hear this in the news? Because it does not have the shock effect that a flashed breast or controversy of a political race. It also is just a statue for the 600+ troops that have given all for this fight and are nothing more than a statistical number.

We need more stories of Kalat (the Iraqi artist) going out to the general public.

(cont. from page 5)

Combat Syed recounted how two fellow soldiers attached to the Arkansas unit were awarded Purple Hearts:

Sgt. Keith Parris of Olean for shrapnel injuries suffered in a firefight and Sgt. Cesar Echavaria of Rochester for injuries suffered from a roadside bomb explosion.

"Roadside bombs are pretty common," said Syed, who has come within 150 feet of one.

In some neighborhoods, Iraqis seemed happy to see the soldiers, waving to them and offering them small gifts, pictures of lost loved ones and even invitations to dinner. Children eagerly swarm around the men, who give out candy and small toys.

But many adults are far harder to woo. In some communities, the hostility is tangible.

"They just give you that look," Syed said, " "What are you doing in my country?'"

Baker, one of the most recent soldiers to come home on leave, said the hostile action seen by the 108th has escalated since the United States handed over power to the Iraqi government, and Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr escalated his clashes with U.S. forces.

One gunner in Baker's company, not associated with the 108th, lost a leg. Three other company soldiers from Arkansas were killed June 7 when they responded to military police officers caught by a roadside bomb.

As the soldiers came to their rescue, a second bomb went off.

Soldiers staying closer to the center of Baghdad have been on the receiving end of enemy fire virtually every day, they said, including mortars, rockets, even vehicles being blown up outside their compound.

Coping

It's after close calls when the soldiers return to camp and wonder who might be next.

"There's not a day that goes by when you don't think about dying," Baker said.

In the very beginning, some of the soldiers talked about it.

Not anymore. No reason, they figure, to make the prospect of death any more real than it already is.

Instead, they occasionally crack jokes about the grim reaper, teasing their brothers about their incredible luck at cheating the hands of fate.

MAILBAG

Sitting by his anxious parents in their suburban Lockport home, Syed was asked if it ever crossed his mind that he might not make it back home.

"Sometimes," he answered slowly, "when you have too much time on your hands."

Many soldiers have gotten creative about filling that time.

They've stenciled the Statue of Liberty on the side of vehicles and made poor attempts to decipher the Arabic programs they see on TV.

The home front

They also have kept active correspondence with the children and teachers at Charles Upson Elementary School in Lockport. The school has sent reams of letters and more than 600 pounds of care packages to the two platoons.

Soldiers pass around the students' letters and poems and hang their artwork in the barracks. Reading a youngster's account of recess is often a highlight for men so far removed from the playgrounds of youth.

And, of course, the men call and e-mail home whenever they can.

Every soldier has a family back home - parents, spouses and children living with the sacrifices made by husbands and sons who signed up as part-time soldiers on the domestic front.

Ann Marie, John Baker's wife, recalled the first time her husband called to give her his first impressions from Iraq. He told her he was really scared.

"And that came out of my hero husband's mouth," she said. "I think he's telling me the least amount as possible to keep me from worrying."

That was a common thread for many of the family members who sporadically hear from their loved ones at war.

"He doesn't want his mom and dad and his brothers and sisters to worry," said James Joyce, the Niagara County coroner whose son Jonathan is attached to the Arkansas battalion. "The message we're getting from him is, 'It's boring. I'm guarding the barracks.' He always tries to reassure me that he's all right."

Joyce and his wife know full well that their son has been in numerous enemy engagements, but they play along.

"I tell him I love and miss him and wait for him to come home," Joyce said.

The Joyces combat their restlessness by spending their time, money and energy shipping out hundreds of care packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the anysoldier.us Web-based effort to support the soldiers overseas.

Syed's parents, Dilshad and Manzoor, immigrated to the United States from Kashmir, India, and thought the National Guard program was similar to the National Cadet Corps of their native land, which loosely resembles an ROTC program.

So when their son Suhail signed up for the National Guard in March 2002, they didn't anticipate it would delay his plans to attend college and become a pharmacist.

Their minds still reel at the hardships their son faces as a full-time soldier who initially thought he would earn college money by giving up a weekend a month in service to the country.

"He's our eldest son," said his father. "We had other plans for him."

Both Suhail Syed and Eric Smith came home in time for the Fourth of July weekend. Both men's families live many miles apart, but they both had the same reaction when they heard the firecrackers go off.

They thought they were under attack.

Being stateside has required its own set of adjustments for these men, from regaining the ability to stay relaxed in crowds to marveling at the routine flow of street traffic.

Smith returned to Iraq in July,

MAILBAG

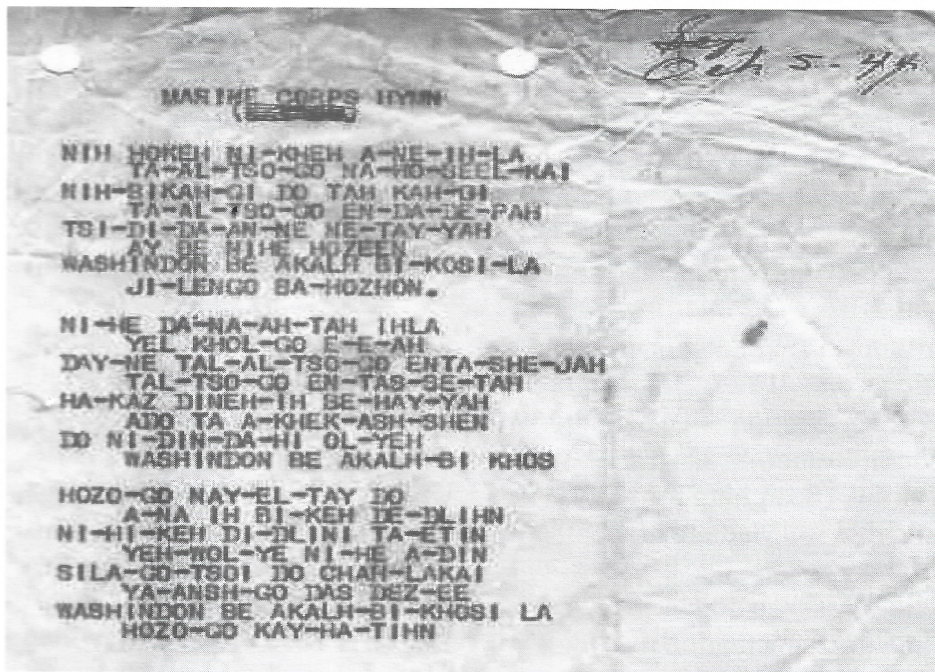
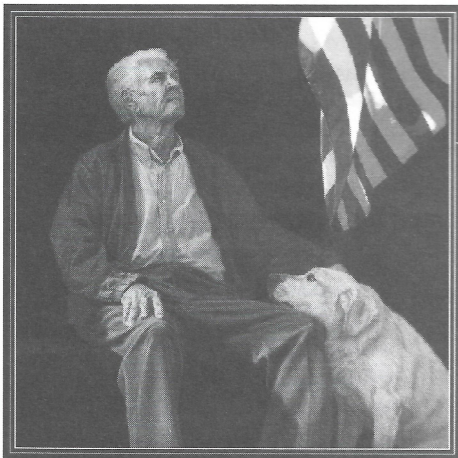
leaving behind his wife, Danielle, and a 9-month-old son. Syed returned the same month.

Baker returned to Iraq on Friday, leaving behind his wife, Ann Marie, and their 2-year-old daughter, Bailey.

In his worst moments in Iraq, Baker said, he thought about getting home to his family. That's what keeps him going.

"The way I look at it, I'm half-way done," he said. "I've got six months left to go. Yeah, the first six months were kind of hard. But I know what to expect now."

Anyone interested in sending letters and/or packages to help support Army National Guard members with Company B, 108th Infantry, can send them to the address below. Items will then be shipped to Iraq. Any checks sent to "B 1/108th FRG" will be accepted to help defray shipping costs. B Co. 1/108th Inf, Family Readiness Group, 27 Masten Ave., Buffalo, NY 14204



Above graphic is a scan of a 1944 Navajo Code Talkers Version of The Marines' Hymn. I have no idea where it originated, am trying to find out.

Mike Zuckerman

The VETERAN

It is the **VETERAN**,
not the preacher,
who has given us freedom
of religion

It is the **VETERAN**,
not the reporter,
who has given us freedom
of the press

It is the **VETERAN**,
not the poet,
who has given us
freedom of speech

It is the **VETERAN**,
not the campus organizer,
who has given us the
freedom to assemble

It is the **VETERAN**,
not the lawyer,

80 PLUS CLUB



First
Name

Last
Name

Louis R.
John R.

Coppola
Elliott

who has given us the right
to a fair trial

It is the **VETERAN**,
not the politician,
who has given us the
right to vote

It is the **VETERAN**
who salutes the Flag,
it is the **VETERAN**
who serves under the Flag

Eternal rest grant them O
Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon them.

MAILBAG

Stanley Kaplan

Hillbilly Medical Terms

Benign – What you do after you be eight.
 Bacteria – Back door to cafeteria.
 Barium – What doctors do when patients die.
 Cesarean Section – A neighborhood in Rome
 Catscan - Searching for Kitty.
 Cauterize – Made eye contact with her.
 Colic – A sheep dog.
 Coma – A punctuation mark.
 D&C – Where Washington is.
 Dilate – To live long.
 Enema – Not a friend.
 Fester – Quicker than some.
 Fibula – A small lie.
 G.I. Series – World Series of military baseball.
 Hangnail – What you hang your coat on.
 Impotent – Distinguished, well known.
 Labor Pain – Getting hurt at work.
 Medical Staff – A Doctor's cane.
 Morbid – A higher offer than I can bid.
 Nitrates – Cheaper than day rates.
 Node – I knew it.
 Outpatient – A person who has fainted.
 Pap Smear – A fatherhood test.
 Pelvis – Second cousin to Elvis.
 Post Operative – A letter carrier.
 Recovery Room – Place to do upholstery.
 Rectum – Damn near killing him.
 Secretion – Hiding something.

Seizure – Roman emperor.
 Tablet – A small table.
 Terminal Illness – Getting sick at the airport.
 Tumor – More than one.
 Urine – Opposite of mine.
 Varicose – Near by/close by.

Emmett Scott Prothero

THIS HAS GOT TO KEEP GOING UNTIL SOMEBODY KNOWS WE'RE FED UP WITH THOSE WHO WANT TO CHANGE OUR HISTORY WITHOUT ASKING US. GET MAD AMERICA.

The Omission from the New WW II Memorial I don't care if you are an unbeliever, one should not change the words of history.

Today I went to visit the new World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. I got an unexpected history lesson. Since I'm a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, veterans of "the greatest war" with their families. It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Ike and Truman that are engraved there.

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words President Roosevelt used to announce the attack on Pearl Harbor:

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941-- a date which will live in infamy-- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked."

One woman read the words aloud:

"With confidence in our armed forces, with the un bounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph." But as she read, she was suddenly angry. "Wait a minute!" she said. "They left out the end of the quote. They left out the most important part. Roosevelt said 'so help us God.' "

"You're probably right," her husband said. "We're not supposed to say things like that now."

"I know I'm right," she insisted. "I remember the speech" The two shook their heads sadly and walked away.

Listening to their conversation, I thought to myself, "Well, it has been 50 years. She's probably forgotten."

But she was right.

I went home and pulled out the book my book club is reading. It's "Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley. It's all about Iwo Jima. I haven't gotten too far in the book. It's tough to read because it's a graphic description of the battles in the Pacific.

But right there it was on page 58. Roosevelt's speech to the na-

MAILBAG

tion. It ends "...so help us God."

The people who edited out that part of the speech when they engraved it on the memorial could have fooled me. I was born after the war. But they couldn't fool the people who were there. Roosevelt's words are engraved on their hearts.

WHO GAVE THEM THE
RIGHT TO CHANGE THE
WORDS OF HIS
HISTORY??????????

People today are trying to change the history of America by leaving God out of it, but the truth is, God has been a part of this nation, since the beginning. He still wants to be...

Sebastian DeCosta

I was a PFC C Co., 106th Battalion in Saipan, WWII. I remember when we came to the end of our phase line and was ordered to stand by for further orders. The word came to "saddle up; Japanese over ran Marine Artillery Battery. We had to retrieve it. A Co., B Co., and C Co., return downhill to retrieve the Battery."

The Marine Artillery was under brush and tall grasses. We couldn't see over our heads, but ran into the Battery. I saw a hammock tied to two trees. Carefully I went over to see if that Marine was wounded. He was dead, cold to touch, no blood; someone had placed him

there. Further on Sgt. Davies came face to face with a Japanese officer with sword swinging. Sgt. Davies opened fire cutting him in half. We went through the grasses and bushes running into Japanese soldiers who retreated and who later formed the Bonsai Raiders. Over 2,000 Japanese Bonsai Raiders were killed by our Army 105 and 106 company and Tank Support. The 27th Army Battalion fought gallantly. I am proud to have fought and lived through this battle as an Army P.F.C. then Sergeant.

Charles Hilbert

The article in the September issue of the Gallivanter by James Ryan of Georgetown, SC, entitled "Army Infantry Fought Valorously on Saipan" is very correct.

I served in the Cannon Co. of the 106th Infantry on Saipan and we had been taken off the front lines just before the Japanese counterattack took place. After the attack, our unit was called upon to help stop the attack and re-take overrun area. Our guns 75mm howitzers mounted on a light tank chassis, we had turrets with no cover. We also had 30 and 50 caliber machine guns. Our crew had two members sick so we were left behind. A little later we received word that one of our guns had been knocked out by a Jap tank so

we had to find two men to make a crew. (I had never been able to understand how that gun got knocked out by a Jap tank when "General Howling Mad Smith" the Marine General said the Japs counterattacked with only sticks, knives and clubs." After the driver and I found two more men to make a crew, we took off to find the Infantry unit we were to support. On the way, we met the unit that had been hit by the Jap tank and found out the Jap cannon shell had hit the very top of the turret and it had sprayed shrapnel all over the inside of the tank wounding three men. We proceeded to our Infantry unit and started shooting Japs who were running all over the place. We burned down some buildings with our white phosphorous shells and shot at those trying to escape. The Infantry unit we were with found a culvert full of Japs. They through grenades in one end of the culvert and bayoneted those that came out the other end. The smell reminded me of when we butchered hogs on our farm back in Michigan. We then kept going North and came to the Marines 105mm Howitzers which were pointed in our direction. They did not have the breach blocks removed. Evidently, the Japs did not know how to operate them, for which we were very grateful. There were dead Japs and Marines laying all over the place and we found no live ones. Our tank kept going North on a two track into Tangpan Harbor. We came to a place

MAILBAG

where large piles of burned out 55 gallon gas barrels were piled. We went very slow and all at once a barrel moved and a head popped up. It was a Marine helmet. They thought we were Japs and they were hiding under the barrels. Boy were they glad to see us. There were 15-20 of them. We turned around and escorted them back to where a line was being established for the night's defense and that is the last we saw of them. I know every book I have read tells how that Marine Artillery Battery stopped the counterattack, except for a book entitled "Howlin Mad" vs. the Army" by Harry A. Gailey. Mr. Gailey had it right.

I have thought over the years that one of those Marines would come forth and set the record straight, but they are probably afraid of hurting their reputation. The men of the 105th fought bravely and don't have to take a back seat to any unit. The Marines are a great fighting force, but they also have their limits.

Bob Wartonick, Post 11

Once again Post 11 members and guests got together for a mini reunion. We get together twice a year – July and December. We met at the VFW for a catered indoor buffet picnic. Commander Ray Swift opened the event with a salute to the colors and led us in the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain Stan Gardner gave the invocation and a blessing to our troops. We then had a moment of silence to our departed comrades.

After the meal, Commander Swift gave us an update on what our NY National Guard troops are doing in

Iraq, Afghanistan and also the security duty they are performing within the State. The members were very attentive as Swift spoke and you could feel the pride of our former 27th soldiers for how the now Active Guard soldiers are carrying the tradition of the 27th patch.

COL French, our former 104th FA Battalion Commander was in town and was able to attend. The Colonel enlisted with many of us post WWII guys, and was our Battery and later our Battalion Commander. We really enjoyed meeting with him again.

General Garrison sent his regrets because of health reasons, but sends his regards to all. He maintains his membership to our Post and sent a donation to the Gallivanter.

As a fund raiser for our troops, Commander Swift showed us two different style magnetic ribbons to be displayed on your vehicle – a yellow ribbon which reads "Support Our Troops" and a red, white, and blue ribbon which reads "God Bless the USA". The response was very positive as many members ordered ribbons.

Thirty-eight guests attended: Frank and Kate DePersis, John and Ann Lipka, Jack and Bette Gorman, Ruth Leska, Stan and Esther Gardner, Matthew Garbett and Audrey Dufford, Peter and Rosalia Julian, Dick and Sandy Holly, Peter and Rose Sawicki, Nick and Mary Cavallaro, Darryl Champoux, Matt Miller, Howard Confer, Joe Podrazil, Devere



SSG Wichman

From the CNN web site, the above photograph are members of 2-108th Infantry Battalion.

McRorie, Woody Hayes, Elwood Thorpe, Robert R. French, Joe and Mary Kille, Bob and Mary Barton, Ray Swift, Sr. and Nadine Young, Ray Swift, Jr., Jeff Spring and Dale Barber.

Before departing, we made reservations for our December dinner/meeting to be held on 3 December. We closed our meeting with a salute to the flag and closing prayer.

Many thanks to Stan and Esther Gardner who donated a delicious and beautifully decorated cake.

Harold Robinson
102 Sterling Ridge, Rd.
Masardis, ME 04732-7704

I would like to know if any readers know when the 27th Division left Okinawa for Japan, who the commanding General was and when they left Japan for the States.

MAILBAG/TAPS

Michael Zuckerman

Enclosed is a letter I received from one of my Army buddies, Armando Moccia. I believe this merits publication in the Orion Gallivanter. (Below)

I saw Armando in June in Com-mack, L.I., N.Y. where I arranged a luncheon meeting of my outfit, the 149th truck Co. (formerly Co D of the 102nd QM Regt.) and the other members of the 27th Division, as I usually do each year when I visit my daughter in Kings Park.

Armando is about 86 or 87 years old and now uses canes to assist him in walking. As you can see he is very proud of his service exploits in WWII and rightfully so. The old warriors of the NY 27th Division in WWII have a great reverence of and allegiance to their country.

Armando Moccia

I will tell you that I delivered the atom bomb on August 9, 1945. It was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. I had delivered the atom bomb to the B29, Enola Gay plane, which was on Tinian. I was dispatched to pick up the atom bomb at the pier and deliver it to the airfield at the other end of the island of Tinian, where the B29 was waiting to drop it on Nagasaki. I, of the 27th Division helped end WWII.

I was mobilized with the 27th

back on 15 October, 1940, Co D, 102nd QM (later changed to the 149th Quartermaster Truck Company when the Division was triangularized at Ft. McClellen, AL.

TAPS (cont.)

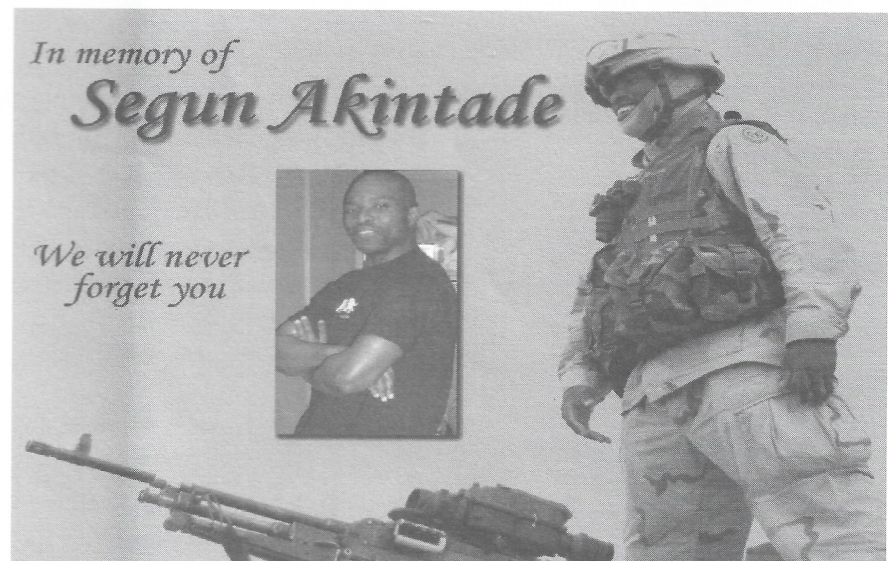
Surviving besides his parents, are his maternal grandmother, Helen Boncella, Rome; Paternal grandfather, Edward (Dick) and Amy Uvanni, Rome; paternal grandmother, Eileen and Leo Wierzbicki, Rome; special friend, Heather; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by his maternal grandfather, Chester Boncella. Interment was in St. John the Baptist Cemetery.

Segun Frederick Akintade

SPC Segun Frederick Akintade lived in Lagos, Nigeria until the age of 26, when he immigrated to the United States and settled in New York City. On February 7, 2004 SPC Akintade

enlisted in the National Guard on March 9, 2001 and was a member of Bravo Company, 1-105th Infantry and Alpha Company, 2-108th Infantry. On February 7, 2004, SPC Akintade became a United States Citizen at 2-108th Infantry's deployment ceremony at Fort Drum, New York.

In civilian life, Segun Akintade was a graduate of the City University of New York and worked as a computer systems technician at Bear Stearn's of New York City. SPC Akintade was an expert marksman with the M240B machine gun and a recipient of the Army Physical Fitness Patch. SPC Akintade took pride in being a soldier and emulated a sense of happiness in his success. SPC Akintade died while on patrol with the Battalion Quick reaction Force south of Ad Dujayl in the Salah Din Province, Iraq. Segun Akintade is survived by his mother, Veronica Akintade, his brother, Shile Akintade and his sister, Kola Akintade, all of whom reside in Nigeria. He is also survived by his fiancée, Liyah Mjoroge, who lives in NY.



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MAILBAG

Charles E. Laing

Recently, while reading my WWII magazine, I found the enclosed information that might interest some of the survivors and/or their friends or family of the 27th. I am planning to participate in this trip in search for the area where my uncle PFC Charles Emig, served and died. PFC Charles E. Emig was in A Co. 1st Bn, 105th from 1941-1944.

I am sending you the information re: the battlefield expedition on Saipan that you might be able to get the word out in the next edition of the "Gallivanter".

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: The Battlefield Expedition: Saipan is a three page flyer that sounds like an awesome opportunity, but with limited space, I will give a brief description. Further information call 703-327-8416, 866-422-8853, Battlefield Expeditions, 26012 Pembroke Circle South Riding, VA 20152 or www.battlefieldexpeditions.com.

battlefieldexpeditions.com. *Roberta*

Battlefield Expeditions: Saipan is a "squad-sized patrol" into History. It's time travel on foot into the very terrain and defenses that dictated the battle sixty years ago. It's a planned, organized, and supported patrol with a clear mission: to explore and experience the battlefield firsthand. This is specifically designed for the more adventurous.

This is for students, historians, educators, military personnel, or anyone with a passion for military history. But be clear, this is a hiking tour. Be prepared for some invigorating, physical and fulfilling days, with some good night's sleep.

16-26 February 2005

Day 1-2, two days travel, Day 3, island tour, Day 4, 4th Marine Division, Day 5, 27th Infantry Division and Tinian Day 6, 2nd Marine Division, Day 7, Free Day, Day 8 Guam, Day 9-10 Travel back to Honolulu. Day 11 Travel to Los Angeles.

Price: TBA

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I received word **Clifford D. Hayden** from Independence, KS is very much **ALIVE**. He was reported in Taps in the last Gallivanter. Congrats on his nine lives!

REMINDER:

2005 Dues are \$10.00

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