

JUNE 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

COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY BRIEFING

Presented by COL Randal Dragon

United States Department of Defense. News Transcript
Presenter: Col. Randal Dragon, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team
Monday, May 3, 2004 9:01 a.m. EDT

(Also participating; Capt. George Rodriguez, Lt. Joseph Merrill and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Forbes)

COL. DRAGON: Well, good afternoon.

I'd like to first introduce the individuals that are with me -- the soldiers that are with me today: Captain George Rodriguez right behind me here, company commander; Lieutenant Joe Merrill



Medics from Company C, 2-108th Infantry Battalion, 27th Infantry Brigade, New York Army National Guard, treated Army Contractor Thomas Hamill after he escaped his Iraqi captors and was rescued by

(Continued on page 11)

THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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Commander's Message

Greetings,

The past couple of months have been ones of great emotional highs and lows. The soldiers of the 27th Brigade, deployed to Iraq this past February, have all been in our prayers and thoughts. In the past month we experienced the great loss of Private First Class Nathan Brown on Easter Sunday, and the thrilling recovery of an American hostage by 27th Brigade Soldiers. In fact, both of these actions were by the same rifle company, Charlie Company 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry.



I had the somber privilege of attending the services for Private First Class Nathan Brown. The mass for Nathan was somber and his friends and family spoke of how they would miss him. Glens Falls is a small community and there were many well wishers outside the church holding flags and notes of hope.

Nathan was buried in Saratoga National Cemetery, in Schuylerville. It is about 20 miles from the church to the cemetery. All along the route there were people lining both sides of the road. A rough estimate is that between 7 and 8 thousand people took 5 minutes out of their day to honor Nathan as the hearse passed. At each of the 6 towns between Glens Falls and Schuylerville, there was an American Legion or VFW color guard on the side of the road, Fire trucks with lights flashing. Former service members were saluting, folks with their hands or hard hats over their hearts, and children holding flags. A crane at a construction site had an American flag at half mast on its cable.

As we drove past one diner, they had changed their marquis to read Nathan Brown, An American, A Soldier, A Hero. Nathan sacrificed his life so others could be free, continuing a 27th Division tradition of ending oppression and making the world a better place with the sweat and blood of young and courageous men and women.

On May third, the members of C Company, led by Capt. George Rodriguez, recovered an American contractor, Thomas Hamill, who was being held hostage in Iraq.

In this issue of the *Gallivanter*, you will see the briefing that Lt. Joseph Merrill and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Forbes gave to the press at the Coalition Provisional Authority Headquarters. Later that week.

The plans for the reunion are being finalized, and with the approval of the executive committee we will be able to share them with you Stay tuned for the details, I am confident this will be the best yet.

The details for the reunion are also in this issue. Please make your reservations soon to ensure you will not miss any of the fun.

Until next time . . .
Yours in the 27th

Michael A Leonardo

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 - Reunion Notices
 - Mailbag items
 - Taps
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Make checks payable to:
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NOTE: Please do not combine Women's Auxiliary Items with Division Association Items. Doing so significantly increases the time that 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.

David Evangelista

Wanted to let you know about a Web site where veterans and their families can access information and forms to request copies of military personnel records. As in the past, they must still mail or fax the form, but this site makes it much easier and more understandable.

The URL is http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/index.html

Bob Wartonick

The USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh (remember the figure) water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last 6 months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (fresh water distillers).

However, let it be noted that according to her log. "On July 27, 1798, the USS Constitution sailed from Boston with a full compliment of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum".

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping".

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November,

she set sail for England.

In the ensuing days she defeated 5 British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, and though unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The USS Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whiskey and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water.

GO NAVY !

Senator Metzenbaum to Senator Glenn: "How can you run for the Senate when you've never held a "real job"?"

Senator Glenn: "I served 23 years in the United States Marine Corps. I served through two wars. I flew 149 mis-

(Continued on page 4)

DEAD LINE:

Items for the September issue must be received by
1 August 2004

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS
are now being offered!
See Page 8**

New Members

Welcome Aboard!

Mr. Alvin D. Phillips
Mr. Francis H. Vieou
Mr. Thomas M. Baye

Gallivanter Fund

Our grateful thanks to the following contributors:

\$40.00 John P. Knapp, Sr.
\$20.00 Walter J. Glogowski
\$15.00 Roy A. Kaps
\$15.00 George H.R. O'Donnell
\$10.00 Margaret Tyark
\$10.00 Francis E. Martin

Memorial Fund

\$47.00 Robert S. Schnurr To all the men and women who have served in the 27th.

\$40.00 Rufino Cardillo In memory of the men from 27th Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Defense Platoon.

\$25.00 Richard W. Knapik In memory of SGT Frank Joseph.

\$25.00 Marie G. Pincher In loving memory of my husband Philip.

\$10.00 Louise Criscione In loving memory of my husband George.

80 PLUS CLUB



First Name	Last Name
Cecil W.	Balentine
John P.	Knapp, Sr.
Vincent W.	Walsh

Mail Bag

(Continued from page 3)

sions. My plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire on 12 different occasions. I was in the Space Program. It wasn't my checkbook, Howard; it was my Life on the line. It was not a nine to five job, where I took time off to take the daily cash receipts to the bank. I ask you to go with me ... as I went the other day ... to a Veterans Hospital and look those men - with their mangled bodies - in the eye, and tell THEM they didn't hold a job! You go with me to the Space Program at NASA and go, as I have gone, to the widows and orphans of Ed White, Gus Grissom and Roger Chaffee ... and you look those kids in the eye and tell them that their DADS didn't hold a job. You go with me on Memorial Day and you stand in Arlington National Cemetery, where I have more friends buried than I'd like to remember, and you watch those waving flags. You stand there, and you think about this Nation, and you tell ME that those people didn't have a job? I'll tell you, Howard Metzenbaum, you should be on your knees every

day of your life thanking God that there were some men - SOME MEN - who held a REAL job. And they required a dedication to a purpose - and a love of country and a dedication to duty - that was more important than life itself. And their self-sacrifice is what made this country possible. I HAVE held a job, Howard! --- What about you?"

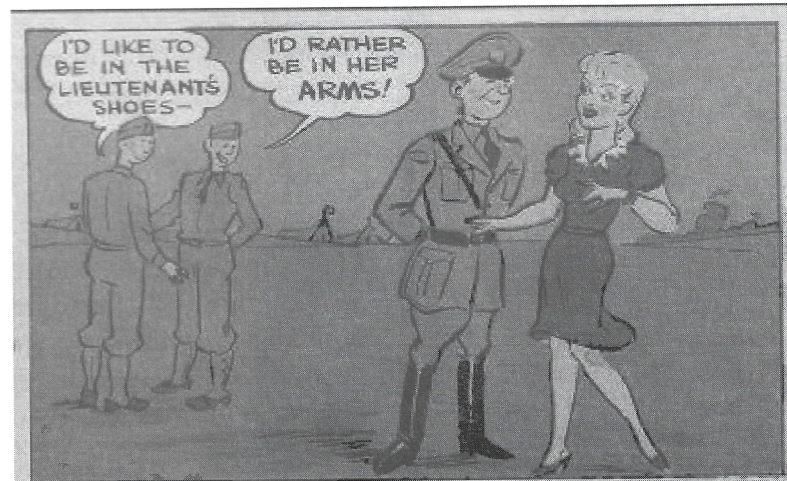
For those who don't remember - During WWII, Howard Metzenbaum was an attorney representing the Communist Party in the USA. Now he is a Senator!

If you can read this, thank a teacher.... If you are reading it in English, thank a Veteran..... If you agree pass this on to your friends!

WHY IS IT THAT WE HAVE TO SPEAK ENGLISH?

An officer in the U.S. Naval reserve was attending a conference that included admirals from both the U.S. Navy and the French Navy. At a cocktail reception, he found himself in a small

(Continued on page 5)



MAILBAG

(Continued from page 4)

group that included personnel from both navies. The French admiral started complaining that whereas Europeans learned many languages, Americans learned only English. He then asked: "Why is it that we have to speak English in these conferences rather than you speak French? Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied:

"Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you would not have to speak German." The group became silent.

Emmett Scott (Scotty) Prothero

**3207 Settlement Dr.
Round Rock, TX 78664
eprothero@aol.com**

Any of my ol' buddies out

there? I need information.

The September 2003 article "Battling For Saipan" brought back many memories and questions that have bothered me for many years.

After arriving at Schofield in May, 1943, I was assigned to the 27th Division, 102nd Engineers (c), Company A and was stationed in Kailua, Hawaii for a year prior to Saipan. During the Saipan campaign, we were assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the 105 Infantry.

I remember vividly that Banzai attack. The day before while the 2nd Battalion was preparing to dig in for the night along the beach, I and others were transferred from the 2nd to the 3rd and moved up on the hill overlooking the Tanapag Plain and

beach. I was assigned to help attend a machine gun overlooking the valley. The name of the hill I had forgotten. I know it was a CP and I remember during the day of the attack on the 7th of July a couple of Japanese soldiers were being questioned. It could have been Capt. Rohner post, but not sure. During the early morning of July 7th and into the night we fought off Japanese soldiers coming up the hill, some with bayonets and hand grenades only.

If anyone remembers me or can give additional information and any citations that should have been awarded, please contact me. In 1992 I attended the 102nd-152nd Engineers (c) BN Vet Assn in Las Vegas, Nevada. Sgt. Irv Ziffer and others I knew where there.

(Continued on page 10)

Quartermaster Store

FROM THE QUARTERMASTER,
GREGORY O. GALLUP

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 Woman's Auxiliary. A percentage of the profit will go to the National, the Auxiliary and the Store.

As sales increase, and the QM gets established, we are looking to stock a variety of items such as: glassware, plates, coasters, jackets, windbreakers, coins, calendars, pens, magnets, envelopes, postcards, pins and cufflinks.

Posts can buy at a lower rate, however orders must be at least 10 items to receive the discounted rate. The Post can resell the items at a price they set with no reimbursement to the Association Contact Quartermaster Gregory Gallup for Post rates.

Orders can be e-mailed to GOGMAJ@AOL.com or mail to: Gregory Gallup, 7550 Song Lake Road, Tully, N.Y. 13159. 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) (white, gold, red, lt. blue, royal)	\$ 20.00
Golf shirt (with pocket) (white, gold, red, lt. blue, royal)	\$ 20.00
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

The Annual 27th Division Association Inc. Reunion

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2004

Quality Inn

1308 Buckley Road
North Syracuse NY 13212

Total Package

Meals Only Package

Includes:

Includes:

Lodging, Friday and Saturday Night
Dinner Friday, All meals Saturday, and
Breakfast Sunday
\$260 for an individual (includes room, all
meals & gratuities for one person)
\$360 for a couple (includes room, all
meals & gratuities for two people)

Meal Package Only Prices:
Friday Night Blinger: \$22/ Person
Saturday Morning B-Fast: \$13/ Person
Commander's Luncheon: \$17/ Person
Banquet Dinner: \$35/ Person
Sunday Morning B-Fast: \$13/ Person

Indicate Meals by Number of people on
reservation card on back side of this flier.

Room and Meal Payments: Make checks payable to the 27th Division Association.

Room reservations will be made by the Secretary, 27th Division Association as per the RSVP card received below. The Division Association will handle payment due to the Quality Inn. A special registration table will be set up by the Hosting Reunion Committee for registration, meal tickets and program package.

\$10 Member Reunion registration fee due upon arrival.

Total Package Reservation Card

Please print and complete all appropriate information and return this card with a check to
The 27th Division Association Inc., Attn: Secretary PO Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220-2522
PH: (315) 438-3007

ACCOMODATIONS INFORMATION

27th Division Association National Reunion 24-26 September 2002

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Number of Rooms _____ Number of persons _____ Number of Nights _____

Two Double Beds - smoking non-smoking **OR** One King Bed smoking non-smoking

Saturday Night Dinner Selection: Fish _____ Prime Rib _____ Chicken _____

RSVP Must Be Received No Later Than September 1st 2004

The Annual 27th Division Association Inc. Reunion

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2004

Quality Inn

1308 Buckley Road

North Syracuse NY 13212

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 24, 2004

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Registration

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Business Meeting

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM Blinger

Saturday, September 25, 2004

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Membership Meeting

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

12:00 PM Commander's Luncheon

Immediately followed by a Memorial Service

6:00 PM Cocktail Hour

7:00 PM Dinner, Banquet Room

Sunday, September 26, 2004

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Farewells

Quality Inn

Quality Inn is a resort style setting that is "just minutes away" from all that Syracuse has to offer. A complimentary shuttle service allows guests quick access to various "hot spots" such as the Carousel Mall, Armory Square, Syracuse University and the Carrier Dome.

Directions:

From the New York State Thruway: Exit 36 Syracuse - Mattydale (I-81) to Interstate 81 South. Take exit 25 (next exit) off I-81. Turn right on 7th North Street. Turn right on Buckley Road. Quality Inn is ¼ mile on right hand side.

Check In Time 1:00 PM

Check Out Time 11:00 AM

Meals Only Reservation Card

Please print and complete all appropriate information and return this card with a check to
The 27th Division Association Inc., Attn: Secretary PO Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220-2522
 PH: (315) 438-3007

MEAL INFORMATION

27th Division Association National Reunion 24-26 September 2004

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Please specify meals by quantity required in each box below:

Friday Blinger Saturday B-Fast Cdr's Luncheon Reunion Dinner Sunday B-Fast
 \$22 each \$13 each \$17 each \$35 each \$13 each

Saturday Night Dinner Selection: Fish _____ Prime Rib _____ Chicken _____

RSVP Must Be Received No Later Than September 1st 2004

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 2004.**

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

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(or Life Membership)

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Please make checks

payable to:

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Association, Inc.

Mail to: Sec/Treas
(Roberta Comerford)

P.O. Box 2522

Syracuse, NY 13220

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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

DEAD LINE:

Items for the September
issue must be received by
1 August 2004

Taps

Martin E. Nolan

Colonel Martin Nolan enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1938, when he was then teaching 7th and 8th grade Social Studies in the State of New York in 1941 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of the Infantry and volunteered for active duty in August of that year. That began 31 years of active service, including combat in the Pacific Theater in WWII at Makin in the Gilbert Island, Saipan and Okinawa. He was the Intelligence Officer and later Executive Officer of the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Div in Korea from August 1950 until December 1951. His total of 13 years of overseas duty included tours in Thailand, Denmark and in Okinawa in support of Vietnam operations. Major peacetime assignments included: Operations Officer, 1st Army HQ, Supply and Service Officer, XIII Corps; Professor of Military Science and Tactics; and instructor of Infantry tactics at the Army's Command and General Staff College. His last assignment was at Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City with the 96th US Army Reserve Command. Awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with OLC, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge with 2nd award. He held degrees of Bachelor of Education from the State College of NY, Master of Science from USC and a doctorate in education from the University of Utah.

Martin is survived by his wife,

Dorothy, son Martin Richard Nolan, Baton Rouge, LA, daughters, Kathleen and Margaret both of New York and Barbara of Spain; brother Dennis of New York and sisters Angela Martin of Appleton, WI and Mary Alice Nolan of San Francisco, CA.

He was a member of the St. George Catholic Church and the American Legion.

At his request, he has been cremated at will be interred in the Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC



PFC Nathan Brown

Army Pfc. Nathan P. Brown, 21, of South Glens Falls, N.Y.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, 1st Armored Division, (27th Infantry Brigade)

New York Army National Guard, Glens Falls, N.Y.; killed April 11 when his patrol was ambushed in Samarra, Iraq.

New York guardsman remembered with full honors

By Kirstan Conley
Associated Press

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. — An American flag and Rick Brown's face were reflected in the windows of St. Alphonsus Church here Tuesday.

Brown stared straight ahead as the flag was draped over the silver casket of his 21-year-old son, who was killed while serving in Iraq.

About 1,000 people waited inside the church to follow the fresh-faced New York Army National Guardsmen, who eventually would lead Nathan Brown's body along the banks of the Hudson River to his plot in the Saratoga National Cemetery.

Brown, who attended South Glens Falls High School, died April 11 when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee in Samarra, Iraq, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. The attack also injured friends from Brown's hometown who served with him in the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, based in Glens Falls.

Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany noted how Brown's death

(Continued on page 10)

TAPS

came on Easter Sunday, the same day people in the young soldier's hometown celebrated the resurrection of Christ. The Christian faith, Hubbard said, is one of paradox: death brings life and suffering brings glory.

Members of Brown's battalion carried his casket. Men in dress uniforms retired from battles dating back to World War II flushed as they strained to hold back tears.

Brown planned to get married and enroll in Adirondack Community College when he returned. Staff Sgt. Arthur Coon gave a eulogy, saying he was proud to recruit Brown. He said the military sent Brown a defective backpack, then a second one to replace it.

"He arrived to say his final goodbye and gave me the backpack," Coon said. "It seemed like a simple gesture. He gave me the new one and kept the damaged one."

Coon said he wants people to remember Brown's generosity and positive attitude. He said a planned arsenal in Glens Falls should be named in Brown's honor.

Brown's friends, Robert Havens and Joe Nassivera, embraced after breaking down in tears as they tried to put in words what their friendship with Brown meant. Friends recalled Brown building forts, playing along the river and causing mischief.

MAILBAG

Obrien/Baker Post

The O'Brien/Baker Post of the 27th Division Assn. is planning to dedicate a memorial the three members of the 105th Infantry Regiment who were awarded (posthumously) the MEDAL of HONOR for their actions on Saipan on 7 July 1944. They are Lt. Col William O'Brien, Capt. Ben Salomon and Sgt. Thomas Baker. They were all members of the 1st and 2nd Battalion 105th Regiment.

Capt. Salomon's award came on 1 May 2002 after many years of work and was presented by President Bush. A medical lab has been named after Capt Salomon at Ft. Benning and a memorial is in place at The Army Medical Corps at Ft Hood in Texas. O'Brien and Baker have a display in the Armory on Gilmore Rd. in Troy N.Y.

The ceremony was scheduled to take place at the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center on Lake Ave, in Saratoga N.Y. on 7 July 2004 the 60th, anniversary of the Banzai Attack, but has been **postponed** due to construction delays. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their performance on that day. Watch the newspapers or contact: Quartermaster George Plante 422 Weatherwax Road, Troy N.Y. 12018. or call 518-674-3811. President Bush was invited but has declined richard.goldenberg@ny.due to scheduling conflicts.

OTHER CONTACTS:

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518-233-1331
NICK GRINALDO
518-274-3962
DICK CALKINS
518-785-8668

27th Division Veteran visits the WWII Memorial

Joe Nader Visited the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. and was quoted in the papers on what he thought of the memorial after its unveiling.

For Joe Nader, 87, of Yonkers, N.Y., an Army Lieutenant Colonel who served in the Pacific during the war, the day was typically bittersweet. In Washington with four buddies, Mr Nader was happy to see the memorial as he moves through the twilight of his life.

"We lived to see it. I'm willing to go to bed now and sleep forever, now that I've seen it. It's like the statues in Vatican City, it's so pretty."

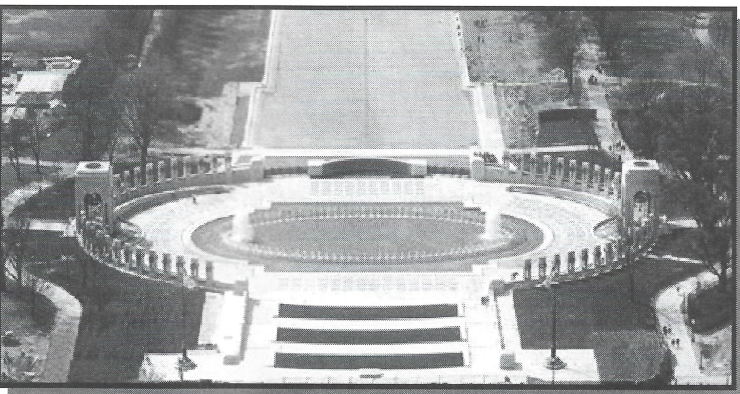
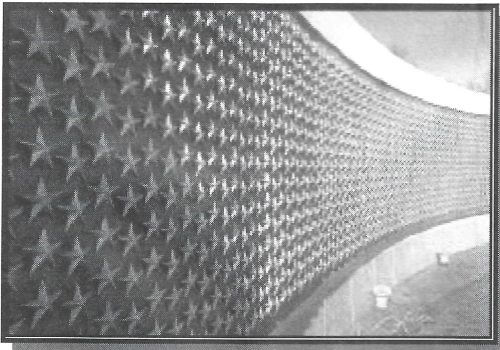
Pictures of the WWII Memorial on the following page are (from top to bottom)

WWII Memorial Shield engraved on the Ceremonial entrance (Photo by Richard Latoff)

The Field of Stars

The Pacific Arch

WWII Memorial view from Washington Monument (Photo by Richard Latoff)



COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY BRIEFING

(Continued from page 1)

is a platoon leader; and Sergeant First Class Mark Forbes [is] a platoon sergeant.

I'd like to start with a brief statement. At 1030 hours on Sunday, 2 May at a location 70 kilometers northwest of Baghdad, a patrol from Task Force 1-26 Infantry was conducting security operations when they approached -- they were approached by a man claiming to be an American. The man identified himself as Thomas Hamill, a Haliburton employee who had been taken hostage by anti-coalition forces on 9 April. Mr. Hamill had a gunshot wound to his right forearm. He appeared to be in overall good health, but he was rendered medical aid by the soldiers on the scene.

The soldiers, who were assigned to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, and task organized to my brigade combat team, are from the New York National Guard. They secured Mr. Hamill, who then led them to the house where he had been

held captive. The patrol conducted an immediate search of the house where Mr. Hamill was held, where they

detained two males and seized one AK-47 rifle. There were no U.S. or Iraqi casualties in this operation.

At approximately 1200 hours, the patrol called for medical evacuation and a medevac helicopter transported Mr. Hamill to the nearest medical treatment facility, just north of Tikrit. Mr. Hamill received -- was arrived -- correction, arrived at the medical facility at approximately 1315 hours, where he received expert medical treatment by U. S. Army health care personnel.

The soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division are proud that we were able to assist in securing Mr. Hamill's freedom. We are equally proud of the courage of all civilians and military that have chosen to make a difference in this mission in Iraq.

I speak for every soldier in the 1st Infantry Division in saying that we are extremely honored to have the professionals of the 2nd Battalion of the 108th Infantry fighting as part of our team. The unit was mobilized just eight months ago and now serve, as do all coalition forces, to eliminate the threat here in Iraq while simultaneously helping to provide a stable environment and set the conditions for Iraqi civil and military self-reliance. Due to the efforts of these great soldiers here, an American will return home to his family. Freedom is priceless.

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Taps

(Continued from page 10)

Brown was buried with full military honors. Shots echoed across rolling green hills and cornfields as a seven-member rifle team fired its salute.

The soldier also received a special honor when members of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment of the New York Army National Guard flew five UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from Albany International Airport to the service in a Missing Man Formation.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Maguire, a two-star general and the state's highest-ranking National Guard officer, presented the family with a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and a New York State Medal of Valor. The state Senate approved a resolution honoring Brown's memory.

"What can I say and what can I do to mend the heartbreak of the family?" asked state Sen. Elizabeth

Little of Warren County. "At a time when words seem very inadequate, I think the only thing we can do is through our presence and through our actions here today in this resolution and through our thoughts and prayers express our sorrow and sympathy to family and our gratitude."

Philip T. Pincher

RENSSELAER -- Philip T. Pincher, 85, of Valley View Blvd., formerly of Castleton, N. Y., went to live with the Lord on Saturday, April 10, 2004 at the Julie Blair Nursing Home in Albany, after a long illness. Born in Green Island, N.Y., the son of the late Barbara Tornesello and Pasquale Pincher. Mr. Pincher was educated in Watervliet and was employed by the former Behr Manning, now the Norton Company and Nashau Company for a total of 30 years, retiring in 1981. He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving five

years in the South Pacific. He was wounded on Saipan and awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for Valor. He was an active and dedicated member of the 27th Division Association. He was a member of V.F.W. Post #7337 of Castleton, a member of Emmanuel Reformed Church in Castleton where he was a Deacon of the Greater Consistory and also a member of the Rensselaer Elks and the Troy Norton Retirees Club. Beloved husband of 36 years of Marie Grooten Pincher; father of Phyllis Pincher of Albany; brother of Rose Halse and Viola Lawrence.

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