

MARCH/JUNE 2005

# 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*

## Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.

3. Why are his gloves wet?

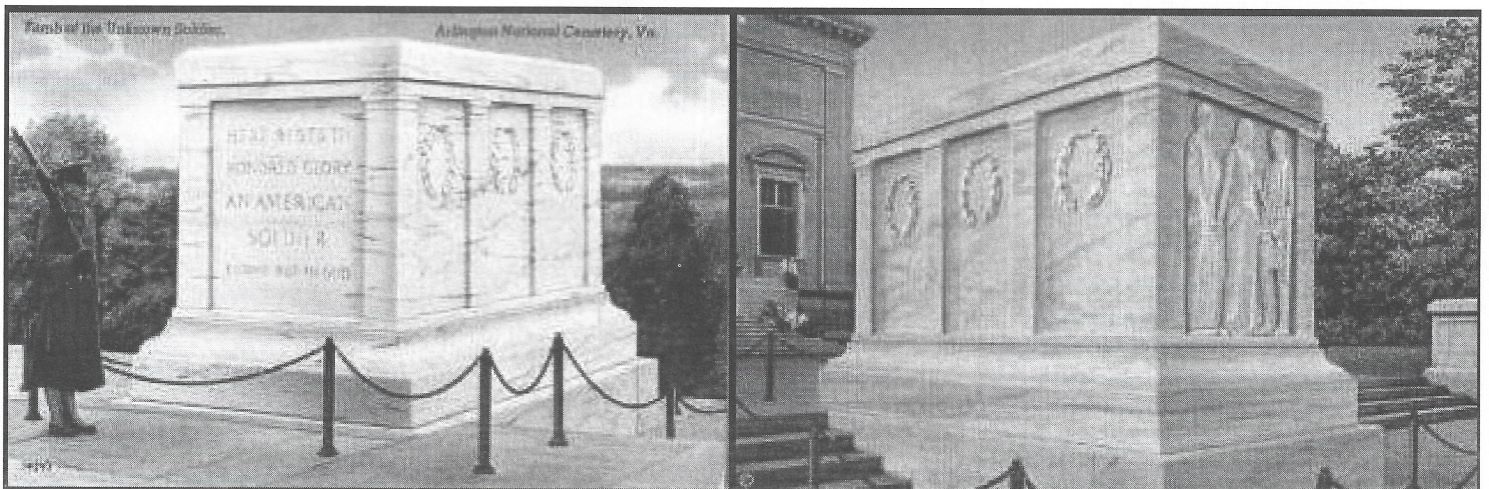
His gloves are moistened to pre-

vent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb.

After his march across the path,



# THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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THE 27TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Attn: Sec/Editor, P.O. Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

VOL. XLV MARCH/JUNE 2005 NO. 1  
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- 2nd Vice-Commander Raymond Swift  
17 Barlow Road, Binghamton, NY 13904
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63 Argonne Drive, Kenmore, NY 14217
- Sgt.-At-Arms Joseph Nader  
125 Elliott Ave., Yonkers, NY 10705
- Historian Daniel Markle  
133 Culver Parkway, Rochester, NY 14609  
585-482-0287
- Judge Advocate Hon. Bruce Fein  
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# Commander's Message



Greetings Friends,

Summer is now upon us. As we enjoy the sunny days and warm nights let us remember those who have served and those who are serving this great nation. Remember we benefit from their scarifies.

As you know we have talked about the monument at Camp Smith and the lack of attention it receives there. We are close to getting it moved. The new location will be either Saratoga or Syracuse. These sites will enable us to ensure better care is taken of the monument in the future.

Looks like the 27th INF BDE will continue to serve as an Infantry unit. Plans are in the works to reconfigure it into an organization similar to the old RCT. The BDE size combat organizations are how the Army is redesigning itself for the future operations. This will bring ARTY back to the BDE. The plan calls for the reorganization and equipping of this new unit within a year. We wish the 27th BDE the best of luck as it accepts this new challenge and carries the 27th heritage forward.

Hope all is well with the membership and their families. Enjoy the rest of the summer season be happy and safe. Best wishes always to you and yours. Look forward to seeing you all again at the Reunion in the fall.

Yours in service and friendship,

LTC Gregory O. Gallup

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Phone: 518-286-2304
- Trustee.....Mary Slattery  
55 Desson Avenue, Troy, NY 12180  
Phone: 518-273-5205

# 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 Auxil-

*(Continued from page 1)*

he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30." Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet.



There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable

*(Continued on page 8)*

## **DEAD LINE:**

**Items for the September issue must be received by 1 August 2005**

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

# MAILBAG

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### The Military Wife's Life

by Alexandra Benakis

The military wife has so much to bear,

She's everything at once, no one could compare,

When God made her, he had perfection in mind,

For nowhere on Earth is another of her kind,

She leads a life not many choose to,

For her job is the hardest in the military to do,

She is courageous and strong, one would say made of steel,

But way deep down is a heart that can feel,

She stands by her husband, so proud and so tall,

And waits many night by the phone for a call,

She's Mommy and Daddy all rolled into one,

She'll never rest easy until her job's done,

She sits all alone and in silence she weeps,

Did I do a good job, is my family okay?

But deep in her heart she knows that it's true,

God is right beside her helping her through...

**Louis Turilli  
475 43rd Ave. Ct.  
East Moline, IL 61244  
PHONE: 309-792-0087**

I would like to share with you some of my experiences with the 249th F.A. Bn. 27th Infantry Division.

**REUNION:** Information will be mailed as a separate mailing, but has been tentatively scheduled for 28-30 October 2005 in the Saratoga area.

I was inducted in the army Sept 1942. After completing my basic training and graduation from Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Field Artillery. My first assignment in the 249th Field Artillery Battalion was with the Provisional Battery "D". Ultimately I was assigned to Firing Battery "C" with Capt. Fred Fancher on the island of Oahu.

The first 27th Division assignment on the island of Oahu was a defensive posture in anticipation of a possible Japanese invasion. In August 1943 the 249th F.A. Bn. was moved into the Schofield Barracks area. Training method changed from defensive to offensive. The training included amphibious landing on the island of Maui in preparation

*(Continued on page 5)*

### DEAD LINE:

**Items for the September issue must be received by  
1 August 2005**

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS  
are now being offered!  
See Page 7**

**New Members**

Welcome Aboard!

- Rear Adm. (Ret.) Thomas J. Johnson**
- SFC Herbert G. Hawker**
- Mr. Peter Kozak**
- Mr. Harry E. Platt**
- Mr. Howard Confer**
- SSG Joseph Victor Fisher**

**Gallivanter Fund**

Our grateful thanks to the following contributors:

- \$40.00 Ralph V. Quinton**
- \$40.00 John F. Crowley**
- \$25.00 John R. Elliott**
- \$25.00 Robert E. Skoog**
- \$25.00 Richard J. Sloan**
- \$25.00 Archie Mathews**
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- \$5.00 Joseph Tessitore**
- \$5.00 Frank Depersis**
- \$5.00 DeWitt Schell**
- \$5.00 Julius Kovalski**
- \$5.00 Margaret Tyarks**
- \$5.00 Quentin DeNio**
- \$5.00 Marvin J. Guill**
- \$2.00 George J. Cancasci**

**MAILBAG**

*(Continued from page 4)*

for the assault on Japanese Islands in the Central Pacific. Upon completion of this intensive training the 249th F.A. Bn. was ready for the invasion of Saipan. The 249th F.A. Bn. was

**Memorial Fund**

- \$25.00 Richard W. Knapik of Post 16** In memory of Company "M" S/Sgt Frank Joseph
- \$25.00 Joyce Wheeler** In loving memory of Donald Wheeler - served 1940-1945 Btry B, 104th FA
- \$20.00 Thomas M. Baye** In memory of Co C 165th Inf, 27th Division, God Bless Them
- \$20.00 The survivors of WWII G Co, 106th Inf. Regt.** In memory of James Bucholzer
- \$20.00 The survivors of WWII G Co, 106th Inf. Regt.** In memory of Philip Pincher
- \$20.00 The survivors of WWII G Co, 106th Inf. Regt.** In memory of Ollie Russell
- \$20.00 Louis W. Pawlinga** In memory of 1st LT Dan Rodgers Co L 106th Inf
- \$15.00 John A. Sidur** In memory of Co B 105 Infantry
- \$10.00 Henry Mahler** In memory of Edward Theodore Fabiszewski Co B 106th Inf

transported on LST 272. However as a forward observer for "C" Battery, I sailed to Saipan on an APA with the 3rd Battalion of the 105th Infantry Regiment. I went ashore on Saipan the evening of June 17th 1944 with my forward observer team which consisted of myself, Corporal Ira Baker and three other enlisted personnel. Firing on the beach was intensive and chaotic. After a sleepless night we finally made contact with the Infantry Company Commander on the morning of the 18th, June 1944. Our mission was to advance on the beach toward Nafutan Point. The advance was slow due to enemy machine gun and small arms fire with occasional incoming artillery and mortar rounds. The 249th F.A. Bn. had landed and was in position to assist our advance. I fired several missions of artillery into areas where Japanese movement was noticed and into the areas from where Japanese fire was coming. That night I placed artillery fire on possible Japanese avenues of approach as defensive fire to prevent Japanese infiltration into our position.

On the morning of the 19th, Japanese fire intensified, particularly from a Japanese artillery piece firing from a cliff on Nafutan Point. One of the Japanese artillery rounds landed within a few yards of my F.O. team. One of my men, I believe it was Pvt. Thomas Wyatt, called out "Lieutenant! Baker has been hit!" I crawled where Baker was

**80 PLUS CLUB**



<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>
Charles J.	Zakaras

*(Continued on page 6)*

# MAILBAG

*(Continued from page 5)*

lying on the ground with his eyes wide open and he died within a matter of a few minutes. We left Ira Baker's body with some Infantry Medics and we continued to proceed toward Nafutan Point. My F.O. Party was relieved on the evening of the 19th and we returned on the morning of the 21st to almost the exact spot we had left on the 19th. We had determined where the Japanese artillery piece was located. It was in a cave near the top of Nafutan Point. I adjusted my artillery fire with the intention of penetrating the narrow opening of the cave, however, the disbursement from my firing battery 105 MM gun did not allow a shell to enter the cave.

My Fire Direction Center located at Headquarters Battery made contact with the Air Force and the Navy. I marked the area where the cave was located with smoke rounds. We watched as the Air Force bombed and the

Navy Light Cruiser shelled the area. However, the Japanese gun resumed firing as soon as our bombardment ceased. Communication was then established with a 155 MM Gun Battery (a "long Tom" which has a flatter trajectory). Using the coordinates from my previous mission the 155MM fired one round. A minor adjustment was made and I called for a "Fire for Effect". Three rounds were fired. The first 2 rounds almost succeeded in penetrating the opening of the cave. The third round succeeded in penetrating the opening of the cave. I received the citation as follows:

"Second Lieutenant Louis Turilli 01180752, Field Artillery, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy at Saipan, Mariana Islands, on 21 June 1944. An enemy artillery emplacement had delayed the advance of our units for a day. Lieutenant

TURILLI, under machine gun and small arms fire, placed his men and artillery in such a position that they were able to knock out the enemy gun.

**OFFICIAL:**

Morton J. Strauss,  
Captain, AGD,  
Asst Adj General.

This citation to accompany General Orders No. 58, this headquarters."

At many of our reunions, this Japanese artillery piece was a subject of our discussion. There had been rumors about a Japanese gun firing from a cave with "movable steel doors". This made a fine story, but there were no steel doors. Penetration of the cave was difficult due to how narrow the opening was and its location--on the side of the cliff.

I had many more experiences on

*(Continued on page 11)*

## 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
Golf shirt (with pocket)	\$ 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**

# 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*

# 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 September issue must be received by 1 August 2005

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 \_\_\_\_\_

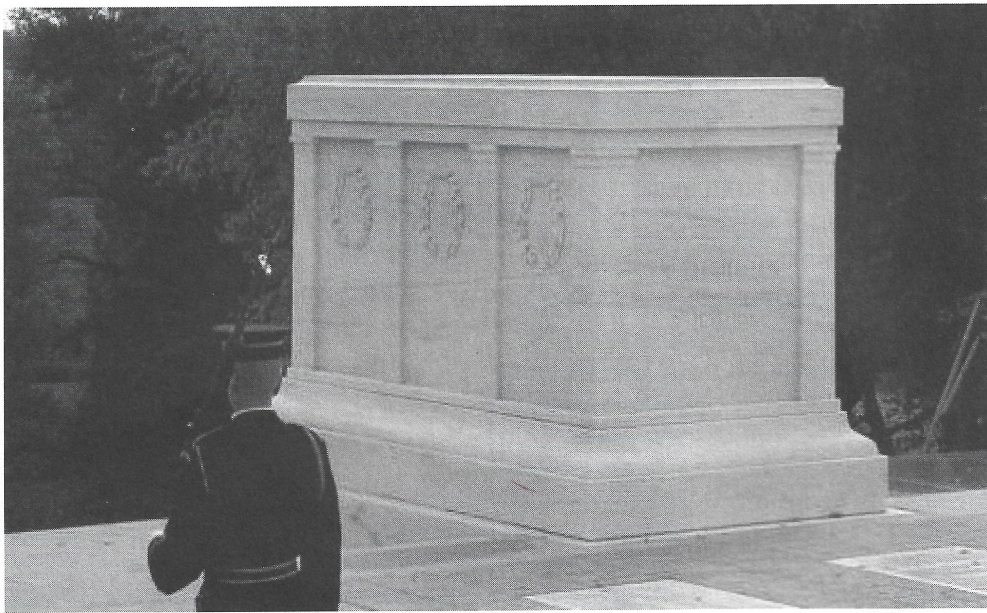
Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ or Check if member At Large \_\_\_\_\_

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

## MAILBAG



said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve.

*(Continued from page 3)*

people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST GRANT  
THEM O LORD, AND LET  
PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE  
UPON THEM.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabel was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that be-

cause of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they

### Bob Wartonick

At about the time our original 13 states adopted their new constitution, in the year 1787, Alexander Tyler (a Scottish history professor at The University of Edinburgh) had this to say about "The Fall of The Athenian Republic" some 2,000 years prior.

"A democracy is always tempo-





# MAILBAG

rary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship."

"The average age of the worlds greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

From Bondage to spiritual faith;

From spiritual faith to great courage;

From courage to liberty;

From liberty to abundance;

From abundance to complacency;

From complacency to apathy;

From apathy to dependence;

From dependence back into bondage."

Professor Joseph Olson of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, points out

some interesting facts concerning the most recent Presidential election:

Population of counties won by:

Gore=127 million  
Bush=143 million

Square miles of land won by:

Gore=580,000  
Bush=2,2427,000

States won by:

Gore=19  
Bush=29

Murder rate per 100,000 residents in counties won by:

Gore=13.2  
Bush=2.1

Professor Olson adds:

"In aggregate, the map of the terri-

tory Bush won was mostly the land owned by the tax-paying citizens of this great country. Gore's territory encompassed those citizens living in government-owned tenements and living off government welfare..."

Olson believes the U.S. is now somewhere between the "apathy" and "complacency" phase of Professor Tyler's definition of democracy; with 40 percent of the nation's population already having reached the "governmental dependency" phase.

## Larry Mcguire

519th WWII Dallas Texas Reunion at DFW Airport April 22nd, 2005. (See picture below). This is only the 2nd Reunion since 1945. the ranks are thinning. The wives, sons and daughters enjoyed the Reunion and assisted



04/23/2005

Above are WWII members of the 519th MPs at their Dallas, Texas reunion the weekend of 22 April 2005. Their 2nd reunion since 1945!

## MAILBAG/TAPS

Dad in attending. When the 27th Div went home in Dec 1945, those without enough points were sent to Yokahama and became MP's.

Larry McGuire, HQ 249th FA  
27th Division (E Mail  
ldmcgr@earthlink.net)

### **John Baker, President**

The 74/174 Veterans Assn. will host their annual stag picnic on 7 AUG 2005 at the NOCO pavilion, located in Sheridan Park, Tonawanda, NY. The time is from noon until dusk.

### **Larry McGuire**

25th Annual Reunion  
Paris Landing State Park Inn on  
Kentucky Lake  
400 Lodge Rd., Buchanan, TN  
38222  
Sept 16th, 17th, 18th, 2005

The 24th annual reunion was held at The Paris Landing State Park Inn on September 17th, 18th and 19th, 2004. A good time was had by all in attendance. The late Charles Stewart, 106th Infantry started the Reunions 25 years ago. Everyone in the 27th Division has always been welcome. The reunion has great conversation with outstanding accommodations and food. Room rate this year \$75.07 double. Meals paid for at time of meal.  
Call Reservations 1-800 250 8614 or 1-731 642 1042. Tell them you are with the 27th Divi-

sion Reunion. Hosts are Prudy Yerian/Larry McGuire 1-636 456 8977 e-mail  
ldmcgr@earthlink.net

## TAPS

### **Leo Romsiewicz, Sr.**

Leo Romsiewicz, Sr., 86, passed away on 1 November, 2004 at the Haven House Hospice and Palliative Care Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

He first served in the 27th Division with Company G, 105th Infantry. In 1941, he was discharged in Alabama and in 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and served until September, 1945. Married in 1948 and his wife passed away in 1998.

His additional survivors include one son, Leo Romsiewicz, Jr. and his wife Susan of Marietta, Georgia.

### **Martin Emmer**

Martin Emmer passed away on 13 March 2005 at Seattle, WA as a result of complications from pneumonia. He was a platoon Sgt in Company H, 106th Infantry and served with the 27th from 1940 to 1945. He served in Pacific Theater participating in the battles for Saipan and Okinawa. He is survived by his wife, Ruth and daughter, Hillery, who cared for him during his illness.

### **Robert "Eddie Edwards Miller**

Mr. Robert "Eddie" Edwards Miller, 84, of Evelyn Avenue born 3 August 1920 and passed away 13 April 2005. He attended St. Mary's Institute, and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1939 enlisted in 27th Division New York Army National Guard. He saw combat in Saipan and Okinawa. He received Purple Heart. Served in both the Amsterdam Police force and Fire Department. Married Sophie Benosky 7 APR 1957, who passed away 20 August 2000. He was a member of Post #4 of the 27th Division Association.

### **Marvin Guill**

Marvin Guill passed away March 10, 2005. He was married 59 years to Olga, the father of RoseAnn and Michael grandfather of four, great-grandfather of two. Loved to receive the Gallivanter and very proud of the 27th Division. He fought on Saipan, Maryian Island and Ohanarin. He was sent home from the 165th Inf after four years. Will be missed greatly.

### **Lawrence W. Castler**

Lawrence W. Castler, 92, of Johnstown died on March 17, 2005. He married Jean Weaver Castler on February 20, 1942. He served in the Army National Guard with the 105th Inf as a sergeant. He then served from 1942 until 1945 with the 302nd Division in Europe. He is survived by his wife Jean, one son, one daughter, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, several

# MAILBAG

Saipan from the 21st of June up to and including the Banzai Attack of July 6-7-8 where I had a "Forward Observer" position. I will submit details of these missions if you feel there would be interest in them.

I am 89 years old and still going strong.

**CPL Clifton Mason**  
**31 Smith Street**  
**Gouverneur, NY 13642**  
**315-287-1183**

I would like a map of Pacific area and the islands that the 27<sup>th</sup> landed on! I landed on 3 islands of Eniwetok on Saipan, 1944, on Okinawa in September, 1945 as a forward observer. Thank you. 104<sup>th</sup> FA, 27<sup>th</sup> Division, Battery A.

## Roy Nyquist Secretary/Editor Post #13

May I commend you on the addition of "2001-Present" on the front of the Gallivanter. It gives us old timers a wonderful sense of pride to have that 27<sup>th</sup> Div. patch worn on the shoulders of our present gallant men and women in the continuing fight for freedom. May I also say that we all enjoy the Gallivanter and the great job you are doing with it. Thank You.

## JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

*Author Unknown*

He was getting old and paunchy  
 and his hair was falling fast,  
 And he sat around the Legion  
 telling stories of his past

Of a war that he had fought in  
 and the deeds that he had done,  
 In his exploits with his buddies~~they were heroes, every one.

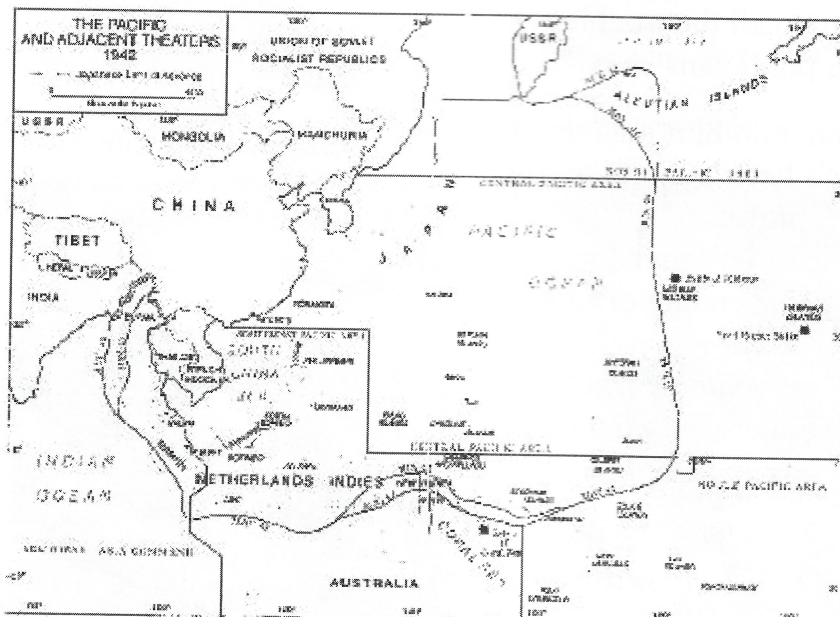
And tho' sometimes to his neighbours,  
 his tales became a joke,  
 All his Legion buddies listened,  
 for they knew whereof he spoke  
 But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
 for old Bill has passed away,  
 And the world's a little poorer,  
 for the soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,  
 just his children and his wife,  
 For he lived an ordinary, quick  
 and uneventful life  
 Held a job and raised a family,  
 quietly going his own way  
 And the world won't note his passing,  
 tho' a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
 their bodies lie in state  
 While thousands note their passing  
 and proclaim that they were great,  
 Papers tell their life stories  
 from the time that they were young,  
 But the passing of a soldier goes  
 unnoticed and unsung.

In the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land  
 One guy breaks his promises and cons his fellow man  
 But the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife,  
 Goes off to serve his country and offers up his life.

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives



# THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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SSG PAUL E. HUJER  
63 ARGONNE DR  
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2004

## CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR ON THE LABEL!

If it doesn't say 2005, 2006 or LIFE after your name then it's time to pay your dues. Post Members remit payment to your post. At Large Members please remit payment to: The 27th Division Association, Inc. P.O. Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220

## MAILBAG

Are sometimes disproportion-  
ate to the service that he gives

While the ordinary soldier  
who offered up his all  
Is paid off with a medal and  
perhaps a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them, for  
it was so long ago  
That the old Bills of our coun-  
try went to battle, but we  
know

It was not the politicians, with  
their compromise and ploys  
Who won for us the freedom  
that our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in  
danger with your enemies at  
hand

Would you want a politician  
with his ever shifting stand  
Or would you prefer a soldier  
who has sworn to defend  
His home, his kin and country  
and would fight right to the  
end?

He was just a common sol-  
dier and his ranks are grow-  
ing thin

But his presence should re-  
mind us we may need his  
likes again.

For when countries are in  
conflict then we find the sol-  
dier's part

Is to clean up all the troubles  
that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour  
while he's here to hear the  
praise,

Then at least let's give him  
homage at the ending of his  
days

Perhaps just a simple head-  
line in a paper that would  
say,

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN  
MOURNING, FOR A SOL-  
DIER DIED TODAY !!"

## NOTE FROM EDITOR:

Due to technical difficulties, we  
have produced a larger issue com-  
bining March and June issues.  
We are sorry for any inconven-  
ience.

Regarding the upcoming reunion,  
you will receive a separate mail-  
ing for the reunion 28—30 Octo-  
ber 2005 during the month of July.  
The Board of Directors is looking  
at securing a reunion site with an  
eye towards Saratoga area and vis-  
iting the new New York Military  
Museum.

## REMINDER:

2005 Dues are \$10.00

At Large Members

Please make checks

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The 27th Division  
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