

December 2006

# 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*



## Ladies Alter '18 Insignia "Patch Stars Wrong", Says Old Timer (A Short History on the Birth of the Orion Patch)



Is your shoulder patch right or wrong? For an answer we send you to 1st Sgt. John Joseph McGuigan of the Lions who is well versed in "Galla Vanter" lore and legend and whose experience with this Division began in 1907.

Here is Sgt. McGuigan's version of the shoulder patch: First issued in 1917 (only ten to a company) the patch was the "N" superimposed on the "Y" set in the Constellation of Orion. When the organization went overseas and participated in the Flanders, Ypres—Lys and Somme offensives, and saw action in many other sectors, those members of the Division wanted them now.

Billeted at the time in the famed manufacturing town of Amiens, the Division sent Brig Gen Lyons in quest of someone to make up patches. He was introduced to a group of women who were members of a 150 year old sewing circle. They

wanted to help, and they did help by volunteering to make the patches. The good ladies, failing to understand the significance of the heavenly body in the background, gave up accuracy for artistry, by moving one of the stars under the leg of the "Y". Maj. Gen. O' Ryan, commanding general, rejected the incorrect patch, but inadvertently they were distributed and some of the boys sent them home so some vendor in the States could make up the shortages. One of these patches found its way to official Washington where the mistake of the star positions was not discovered, or if discovered not rectified. We know there are other versions of the "patch" incident. If yours is different, drop us a line.

Next to my typewriter is one of the original patches issued in 1917 to the then Cpl. McGuigan. It is blood stained from wounds sustained by "Mac" when he was struck down while building a bridge

across St. Martin's River, 17 October, 1918, under terrific German shell-fire. Incidentally Sgt. McGuigan has a mess kit issued to him in Spartanburg in '17. Every engagement, sector billeting area, ship and the hospitals he recuperated in are listed thereon. This meatcan is worthy of a story but time and space do not allow it.

1st Sgt. John Joseph McGuigan says "an Army moves on honors, not on rumors." In our book, that means your Uncle Sam is winning this war because of guys like "Mac", and we are proud to wear this shoulder patch, right or wrong.

*This article printed at a Pacific Base appeared in the "Galla Vanter", Of - For- ByThe Enlisted Men - Dated January 8, 1945. I'm guessing this article may have been written by PFC Jesse Klein.*

# THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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

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

**VOL. XLVII      DECEMBER 2006      NO. 4**

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# Commander's Message

Greetings,

It is with great humility that I write this message to you. To believe that I have the honor of being your national commander, is astonishing to me. I want to thank all of the members of the 27th Division Association for letting me serve in this position. I pray to God to give me the wisdom, and your help, to lead our Association through the next year.

Here is a short resume: I enlisted in the 27th Division on 18 Jun 1950. I Joined Battery C 249th field Artillery Battalion as a wire mans helper. I continued to serve in the 27th until it was deactivated in 1967. I was then placed as a member of the 204th Engineer Battalion. I stayed with the 204th until I retired on 9 Jun 1994 as the Command Sergeants Major. I have been a member of the 27th Division Association for many years and have served as the commander of Post 11 for the last 3 years.

My desire as your commander is to do all we came to bring in members to fill our dwindling ranks. The 27th Brigade Combat Team is still wearing the Orion patch and is a credit to the State of New York, The United States Army and the memory of the 27th Division. I have had the honor to address many of the key personnel of the brigade and am very proud of the job that they do every day. To have the members of this great brigade join our ranks would be a great boost to the organization. We should also remember that past and present members of any unit that has the 27th Division in the lineage of that unit are eligible to join our association.

The 86th Annual 27th Division Association Inc. Reunion was held in Saratoga Springs, NY September 29-October 1, 2006. It was good to see old friends and meet new ones. A good time was had by all and the accommodations were excellent. I want to thank every one involved, for the hard work that was put into the preparations ,that made the reunion the success that it was. The sad part to me was when the Auxiliary announced that they were going to disband. The ladies have done so very much in the past and it is a hard thing to see them break up. Let us hope that their torch will be picked up before long by the younger generations that we hope will follow.

The time is already here to prepare for next years reunion. We are planning to hold it in Syracuse, NY, where there will be a dedication of the 27th Division Monuments, that are now in place, in front of the 27th Brigade Combat Team Headquarters. Many other things are being discussed to make this a reunion to remember. As soon as we have a definite date for next year, we will let you know so you can plan on being there.

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and may God watch over our troops and their families as they continue to protect us and our way of life.

**Happy Holidays!**

Yours in Comradeship,

Raymond E. Swift  
National Commander

## Auxiliary Officers 2005-2006

National President.....Louise Criscione 80 Dane Court, Latham, NY 12111 Phone: 518-782-1507	Sergeant-at-Arms.....Mary Cavallaro 1 Powers Rd., Binghamton, NY 13903 Phone: 607-724-8671
Sr. Vice President.....Phyllis Marotta 217 Waite Road, Amsterdam, NY 12010 Phone: 518-237-0917	Color Bearer.....Mary (Nettie) Leun 6125 69th Lane, Middle Village, LI, NY 11379 Phone: 718-497-5205
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Chaplain/Parliamentarian .....Madeline DeLucia R.R. Box 178, Coldbrook, NY 13324 Phone: 315-826-3583	Trustee.....Mary Slattery Desson Avenue, Troy, NY 12180 Phone: 518-273-5205
Secretary/Treasurer.....Esther Gardner 126 Sergeant St., Johnson City, NY 13790 Phone: 607-797-3493	Trustee.....Ann Marie Munka 288 Lake Front Drive, Akron, OH 44319 Phone: 330-644-0323
Historian.....Tina Perry 13 Mountain View Ave, Gloversville, NY 12078 Phone: 518-725-1533	

## 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**

**Roberta Comerford**

**P.O. Box 2522**

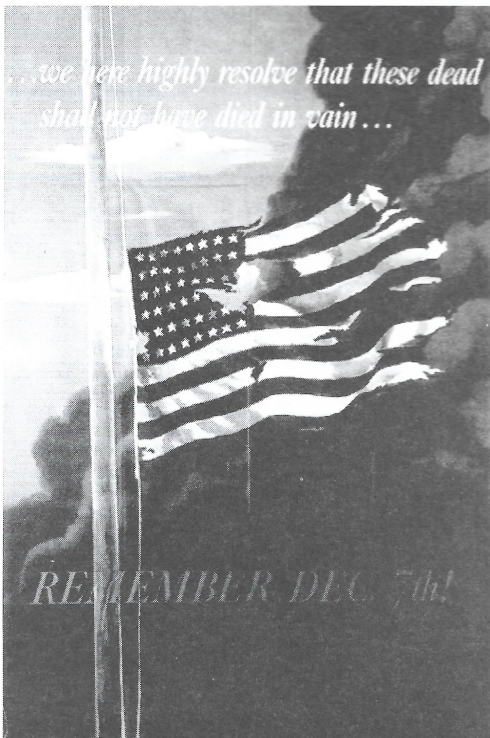
**Syracuse, NY 13220-2522**

**Email roberta.comerford@us.army.mil**

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

## MEMBERSHIPS

See Page 7



## Editor's Corner

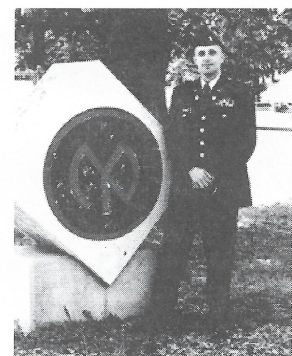
Hello, and welcome to the Editor's Corner! I'm Rob Romano and I'm your new Gallivanter editor. In the coming months, I hope to use this spot to inform you about the current and future happenings within the 27th BCT and will include an article or two penned by yours truly from time to time. I intend to make minor changes throughout the Gallivanter to spruce things up and to add a bit more visual presentation. I've been a semi-professional photographer for nearly 20 years and I'm excited over the prospects of adding pictures from the past, present and future of our proud 27th. I hope to solicit articles from the recent deployments as well as from additional sources from within our ranks.

I share Commander Ray Swift's vision of the future of the 27th Division Association. The WW2 veterans have been the backbone and foundation of the association for many years. As their numbers sadly dwindle, while honoring our past we must look to the future and actively work to draw on all the soldiers who have proudly worn the Orion patch. During the staff meeting Saturday morning in Saratoga our Association Officers recognized this need while discussing the arrangements for the 2007 Reunion. The usual fall date has great significance to the WW2 era veterans but to increase attendance it was suggested to move the reunion date to late spring or summer. In full agreement, the officers voted to move the date, showing a willingness to embrace the changes that will allow the association to hopefully grow and thrive. The Private heading off to Basic Training today will be the future of our organization tomorrow.

I myself had a meeting with just this idea of past and future. While working as the Project Office for the deactivation of the 1-108th IN last year, an elderly gentleman was escorted to my office. He showed me a picture of a dining in that had occurred in the old Auburn Armory. He then showed me his NY State discharge papers dated 1936. I quickly did the math and he smiled and corrected me when I said, "sir, you're 93?". "No, sir, I'm 94." I smiled back at the thought that although 55 years separated this 27th veteran and myself in age, we were connected by our service and a patch.

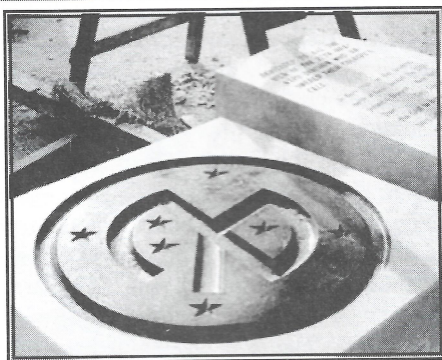
So who is this new editor? I began my military career in the Air Force back in 1983 as a Military Policeman and was assigned to Strategic Air Command. I worked with the Minute Man missiles in North Dakota for eight years before transferring to the NY Air National Guard as an Aircraft Mechanic working on the C-5A transports in Newburg, NY. In 1996 I went from "blue to green", transferring to Delta Co. 1-108th IN as an 11B / 11H section leader. In 1999, I was accepted into the OCS program and received my commission in July, 2000. I was assigned as the staff Intel Officer with the 1-108th IN until being mobilized for the Noble Eagle II mission in Jan, 2003. Two years later I was back in Auburn where I oversaw the deactivation of the 1-108th. With the closing of the unit, I was transferred to Brigade HQ where I'm presently assigned as the Assistant Brigade Intel Officer as my "traditional" Guardsmen duty but during the week I'm the New Equipment Fielding Project Officer. (Reader's Digest version: I manage all the new gear that's coming to the Brigade, deal with contractors, write lots of memos for LTC Yaple to sign and type way too many e-mails.)

Once again, I'm excited to be your new editor and look forward to bringing you the best Gallivanter that I can.

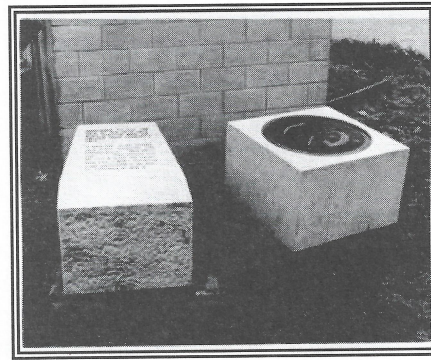


# 27th Division Monument Relocated

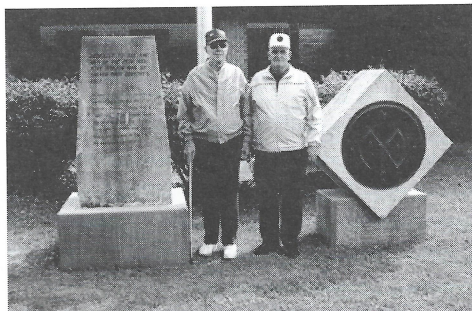
On Wednesday, October 4th, members of the 27th BCT and 27th ID Association, gathered outside the Brigade Headquarters in Syracuse, NY to remember their place in history and to commemorate the relocation of two monuments dedicated to the service of the 27th Infantry Division in World War 2. The two monuments had been transported from Camp Smith. Mounting pedestals were built and the stones received a proper cleaning from the local OMS shop.



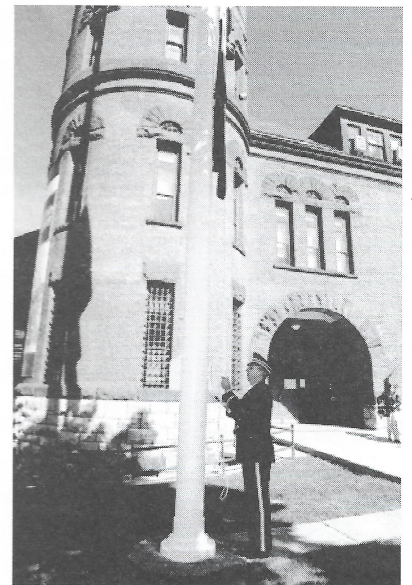
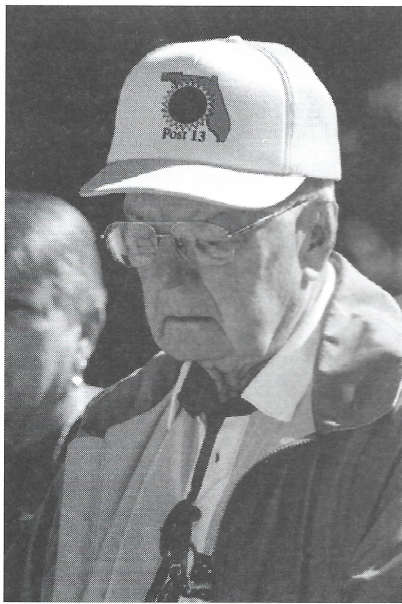
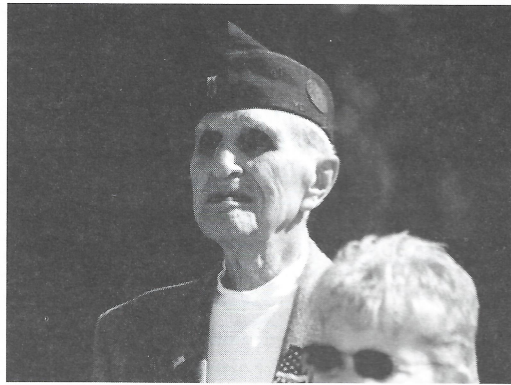
Fresh cut quarry stone on Okinawa



As unit members and the Division Association Commander stood in formation, the flag which had been flying at half mast was raised to full mast with an NY Honor Guard member playing taps in the vicinity. The ceremony honored the fallen soldiers of the 27th since WW2. A dedication ceremony for the monuments will be conducted during the 2007 Division Association's Reunion Weekend. (Date to be announced.)



# The Association Reunion Weekend



## MAILBAG

**Albert J. Ruggiero**  
22 Vermont Ave.  
Milford, CT 06460  
Aruggiero002@snet.net

I am seeking information either through personal recollections or company files about my uncle's military service. He was a recipient of the Gallivantor. His name was **Michael R Onofrio**. His address was 804 Russell St., New Haven, CT. 06513. He participated in the following battles: Kwajalein - i.e. Shima - Makin - Saipan & Okinawa. He was a member of Company H, 106th Infantry. Any information you can pass on to me will be gratefully received. He was my hero and never talked much about experiences. Is there anything you folks can do for me?

**Christopher Nicoletis**  
825 Whittier Avenue  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040  
516-707-4265

I am looking for any information on my uncle **William Baralis** was killed on Saipan during WWII. He was a Sergeant in the 105<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He died on 8 July 1944 and is buried at the Punch Bowl on Honolulu. Does anyone know where he enlisted, where he went to do his boot camp training, where he was shipped to? He trained extensively in Hawaii. What other battles did he fight besides Saipan? What day and battle he was wounded in? Who were his friends? Are any of his friends still alive and how can I contact them.  
Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**Gilbert Holland**  
31491 Bishopville Road  
Selbyville, DE 19975  
Gilchris54@hotmail.com

A friend of mine **Walter H. Bunting** fought in WWII in the 105<sup>th</sup> Regiment and was in several campaigns one of which was Saipan in which he became very close to two men of Indian decent,

**PVT Jack T. Rainwater** and **CPL Dominick A. Chiaro**. Walter would very much like to find out where these two men are and if they are still living, would like to contact them. He is 85 years old and guesses that these men are also in their 80s. I would appreciate any help you can give us in my search. Walter lives in Bishopville, Maryland, where he lived when he went into the Army. Walt and these two men were snipers together and they saved his life in one incident. He received his letters from his wife as T/S Walter S. Bunting, 3764<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Truck Com. APO 957 c/o Postmaster San Francisco, CA.

### News From Post 11

Our summer indoor picnic was held on 7 July 2006 at our favorite meeting place, the Johnson City, VFW. Commander Ray Swift led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance and salute to the colors. A prayer was offered by our Chaplain Stan Gardner followed by a moment of silence to our departed members. Treasurer report and Secretary report by Bob War-tonick followed by a short meeting. Forty members and guests participated in a picnic of hot dawgs, burgers, baked beans, macaroni and potato salad, tossed salad, relishes, cold drinks, coffee, ice cream and cake prepared by the Ladies of the VFW. Meeting was closed with a prayer salute to the colors. Next get together will be on 1 December 2006.

Members and guests in attendance were: Mr./Mrs. Anatole Babykin, Dale Barber, Bob and Mary Barton, Mary Cavallaro, Frank and Cathy DePersis, Nelson Dickey, Matthew Garbet and guest, Stan and Esther Gardner, Richard and Sandy Holley, Jack and Audrey Howey, Peter and Rosalie Julian, Joe and Mary Kille, Peter Kozak, Mr./Mrs. Alden Knapp, John Lamonaco and Ann Lipka, Matt Miller, Harry Platt, Joe Podrazil, Pete and rose Sawicki, Mr./Mrs. DeWitt Schell, Mr./Mrs. David Stark, Ray Swift, Bob Urban, Bob and Mary Ann War-tonick.

### New Members

**Mr. Kyle Slocum**  
**Mr. Robert Romano**

### Gallivantor Fund

Our grateful thanks to the following contributors:

**\$10 Mary Slattery**  
**\$10 Stan Gardner**  
**\$5 Esther Gardner**

### Memorial Fund

**\$25 Mary Slattery—In memory of Ned Slattery**  
**\$10 Mary May Sluck—In memory of her husband, William Sluck**  
**\$15 LTC Joe Nader—In memory of the men of 27th Signal Company**

### Auxiliary Memorial Fund

**\$50 Irene Biehlefeld—In memory of Theodore Biehlefeld**  
**\$50 Bernie Homan—In memory of Alfred Homan**  
**\$50 Antionette H. Trotter—In memory of Rocco Mangino & Ernestine Mangino**  
**\$25 Margralina Britton—In memory of her husband Ralph**  
**\$25 Retha Hendrickson—In memory of her husband Ralph**  
**\$25 Dorothy Meighan—In memory of Joseph D, Meighan, Capt., US Army**  
**\$25 Mary Slattery—In memory of her husband Ned**  
**\$25 Frances Speziale—In memory of her husband Victor**  
**\$15 Margaret Krone—In memory of James J Krone**  
**\$15 Kathleen Kruger—In memory of Frank and Henry Kruger**  
**\$10 Loretta Barnasky—In memory of John M. Barnasky - 24th FA**  
**\$10 Mary Cavallaro—In memory of her parents**  
**\$10 Dorothy DiMarco—In memory of Mike DeMarco**  
**\$10 Esther Gardner—In memory of Steve Behil and Mike Planavsky**  
**\$10 Josephine Gilligan—In memory of George T. Gilligan**  
**\$10 Ruth Leska—In memory of George M. Leska**  
**\$10 Anne Lipka - memory of her husband**  
**\$10 Genevieve Laiacona—In memory of her husband Sal**  
**\$10 Genevieve Laiacona In memory of John Corcoran**  
**\$10 MaryAnn War-tonick In memory of all deceased 27th Division Members**

## 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; P.O. Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220*

### 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

For more information about the 27th Infantry and the 27th Division Association, visit our website at:

[www.27thInfantry.com](http://www.27thInfantry.com)

*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.)*

## Submissions to the Editor

**ONLY USE THIS ADDRESS:**

27th Division Association  
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## LIFE MEMBERS:

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2007 Dues are \$10.00 (or Life Membership)

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 Roberta Comerford  
 P.O. Box 2522

Syracuse, NY 13220

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## Minutes of the 27th ID Association Meeting

September 30, 2006

### 27<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

Present: Harold Jones, National Commander  
Raymond Swift, Sr., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander  
Paul Hujer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander  
Gary Yaple, Treasurer  
Rollin Skellington, Quartermaster

Commander Jones called the meeting to order at 10:15 hours.

Robert Fox offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Gary Yaple provided a video introduction of the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT.

#### TREASURER

Gary Yaple read the treasurer's report. Bob Fox made the motion to accept the report as read. Walt Draisey seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

#### QUARTERMASTER

Rolling Skellington read the quartermaster's report. Discussion on new vendor. There will be a very small inventory, but most items will be ordered direct to the vendor. The vendor will mail to the ordering person's house. Gil Kosiba made a motion to accept the quartermaster report as read. Tiny Jackson seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

#### MONUMENT

Gary Yaple provided a presentation on the monument which moved from Camp Smith to 27<sup>th</sup> BCT Headquarters. Gary discussed a memorial service the full time soldiers conducted on 28 September 2006. Gary discussed the City of Syracuse has someone who is responsible for maintaining historic monuments and they will contract with the person for the monument's upkeep. Roy Nyquist talked about tracking all 27<sup>th</sup> Division monuments that are displayed in New York and other parts of the country. Bob Fox asked specifically about the monument at Fort McClellan, AL. Harold Jones responded he trained there last year. He found the monument, photographed it with other members of the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT in training with him at the time at Fort McClellan. Harold will attempt to post the photographs on the association's web site online.

#### CHANGE OF COMMAND

Gary Yaple discussed the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT had a change of command on 15 May 2006 from COL Daniel Maney to COL Brian Balfe. Gary is now the Deputy Commander.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### REUNION

Discussion the potential regarding have the reunion in Syracuse formal dedication of the monuments along with a static display of current BCT equipment to include weapons and vehicles. Possibly including the FATS system. Several dates were discussed for the reunion. Traditionally the reunion has always been around the timeframe the 27<sup>th</sup> Division was federally activated for service during WWII. Gary Yaple mention present soldiers have been deployed during every month of the year. Discussion with the potential of having a spring conference. There will be a business meeting sometime in December to confirm the potential reunion date. At that time Paul Hernandez will have checked with hotels in the area and will have information for us. Harold Jones made a motion to accept next year's reunion in Syracuse. Don Rapp seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

#### NEW OFFICERS

Raymond Swift will move into the National Commander's position.

(Continued on Page 9)



(Continued from Page 8)

Paul Hujer will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander  
 Eric Killoran will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander to be sworn in December.  
 Gary Yaple will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander  
 SGT at Arms – Joseph Nader  
 Historian – Daniel Markle  
 Judge Advocate – Hon. Bruce Fein  
 Surgeon – Vacant (Thomas Aquilla has been ill).  
 Treasurer – Paul Hernandez  
 Chaplain – Bob Fox  
 Assistant Chaplain – Bob Wartonick  
 Quartermaster – Rollin Skellington  
 Gallivanter Editor – Robert Romano  
 Secretary – Roberta Comerford

Raymond Swift made a motion to accept officers. Tiny Jackson seconded motion. Unanimous vote.

### HISTORIAL DOCUMENTS

Bob Wartonick questioned the status of the cds. Historical documents were going to be scanned and placed onto a cd. The cd is being massed produced and will be available soon. The quartermaster will sell copies of the cd.

### POINTS OF CONTACT

Paul Hernandez asked about points of contact for each post. We need to prepare of list of posts and officers within the post and if they have availability to get on e-mail.

Gil Kosiba made a motion to close the meeting at 1102 hours. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

## A Sad note from the Women's Auxiliary— End of an Era

*Submitted by Esther Gardener on behalf of the Auxiliary:*

It is with saddened hearts, after 75 years, we have disbanded and closed the doors of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division Association Women's' Auxiliary.

Perhaps when our men and women are all home again, the wives daughters and

granddaughters will again open the doors on a new Auxiliary.

The monies, after expenses, have been dispersed as follows:

\$50 ... World Trade Center  
 \$100 ... WIMSA  
 \$100 ... NYS Military Museum

The remaining monies will be divided equally between the four (4) VAVS Medical Centers.

Ladies, you will not be forgotten. Our memories are many and go way back.  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Officers of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division Women's Auxiliary.



*Officers of the Women's Auxiliary announcing that they have disbanded*

## Quartermaster's Corner

Dear Friends,

The 27<sup>th</sup> Division Association Store has lots of new collectibles. You can see all of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division Association items at the new online store, [www.27thinfantry.com](http://www.27thinfantry.com). On this website, you will also be able to see everything that is new with the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT and the Association. If you have any questions or requests you can e-mail me at [27thdivisionqm@gmail.com](mailto:27thdivisionqm@gmail.com). I would like to announce a 2 CD set of 27<sup>th</sup> Division historic pictures now available at the Quartermaster store for \$20.00. The shipping and handling costs have increased to \$4.00 due to the increase of postage.

Have a blessed and safe holiday.

Your Quartermaster,  
 Rollin Skellington

## A Request for Help

*Letter from Ralph Hendrickson, President of Chapter #2, National Association for Uniformed Service, Veteran of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division and a long time member of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division Association.*

I am a member of the 27th Division Association and over most of the past half century with hundreds of others did help to put through the legislation for the 27th Division Memorial Highway. Those signs are a beautiful addition to the landscape and there is now the possibility of losing those signs. I'm fighting mad and ready to come to blows with the state legislature.

The purpose of this letter is to get your ire up to join the fight to keep the 27th Division Memorial Highway. I have prepared a folder that is on display with some of the information it took to get the Memorial Highway and what is happening to take it away.

The proposal to turn Route 17 into an interstate highway is very real. It didn't happen overnight. Years ago they had a number reserved for it. It is north of 1-84 and south of 1-88. The interstate number is 1-86. When it appeared in the paper the special interest groups had begun their publicity, which brings it closer.

It was New York State Senate Bill 7182 and the Assembly Bill 10240 that made the section from the Town of Owego to the intersection of I-87, the 27th Division Memorial Highway. This state law applies to Route 17. When there is no longer a Route

17, those signs come down.

It's new legislation to put them back. The chance of success is not very good. There is none if the highway has federal funding, which controls the access roads and has restriction against signs. If the highway does not have the federal funding the state has control as in the case of Rt-88 and the signs 'honoring State Senator Warren Anderson. It will take time, maybe three or four years and those signs will out live some of us, but that is not the point, we want those signs for posterity after we are gone.

As soon as I get home from the convention I will begin my lobbying 'as president of NAUS New York Chapter #2 with the vigor of an angry member of Post 11 of the 27th Division Association. I am using the weight of NAUS a major lobbying veteran organization in the move to save the Memorial Highway. I will go about it in the same manner as I did when I aided the 27th Division Association in getting the Highway. Now that we are about to lose it, I'm not pulling any punches.

It really wasn't the national organization of NAUS that helped the 27th Division Association to get the law passed for the Memorial Highway. It was the veterans of the 27th Division in the New York Chapters of NAUS that did it. NAUS has chapters in 50 states the chapters in the other 49 states could care less about the 27th Division Memorial Highway, but the legislators who received our letters and phone calls didn't know that, nor am I about to tell them. So you see it is a local issue and more 27th Division veterans must get involved in NAUS

New York chapters.

This is why I am asking you to join NAUS. You will be helping the national organization, but that is not the point, NAUS gives you a big horn that you blow that the deafest politician can hear. Also as a chapter member you are well informed about everything concerning the 27th Division. Not much gets past the 27th Division veterans in the posts. In fact it's the 27th Division veterans talking to you now. There are others beside myself in Chapter #2.

The Memorial Highway is not the only issue concerning the 27th Division. There is a spark of life in reactivating it. We have to fan that spark into a raging fire. The 27th Brigade is the spark; The main issue here is to preserve the 27th Division Association. We need those new members.

The \$15 a year it takes to Join NAUS is money well spent, it goes for lobbying, postage (there is a lot of mail) the magazine and special literature between issues of the magazine.

We can't include the reactivation of the 27th Division in the fight to preserve the 27th Division Memorial Highway, but it isn't forgotten. We are starting a separate fight for that. It involves different legislators. Joining NAUS will help this too. Nothing would please me more than to see the return of our old infantry and artillery units and to have those 27th Division Memorial Highway signs for my great grand children to see, who aren't even born.

## **"BLINGER".**

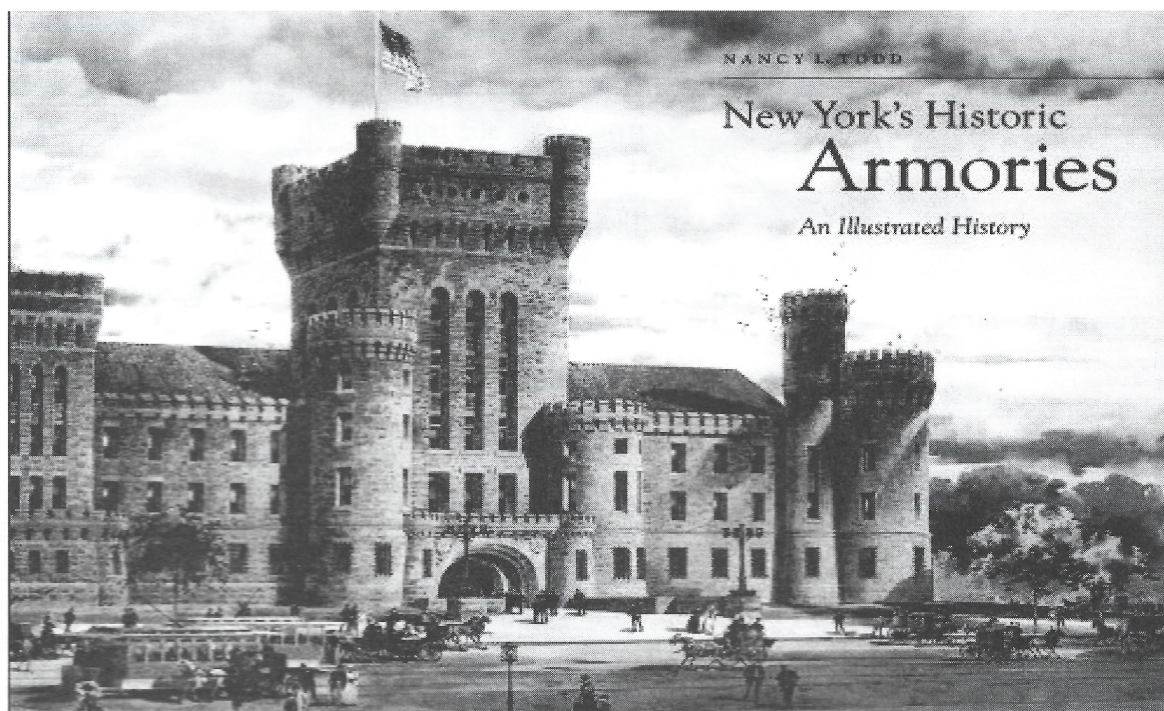
### **A Tradition that Should be Carried on!**

What is a Blinger? Someone asked Steve Behil this question and he answered it as best he could in the September issue. Among the goodies I inherited was a page from the September 1957 Gallivanter which answers the above question. The editor at that time tried to determine where the word blinger originated-

He looked it up in every available dictionary and even contacted *GEN OGDEN ROSS*, honorary National Commander and a member of the association since its inception, who might know where the word came from. No luck, General Ross only recalled that it had been used to describe our stag buffet affairs as far back as he could recall.

More searching until the editor, in conversation with ED JONES of Utica, a former association member mentioned "blinger." Ed came up with a reasonable answer. According to him, the word originated with Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, then a Lieutenant Colonel with the 26th Infantry, AEF, at the time the American Legion was being organized in Paris right after World War I. Someone suggested that a rousing party, a real "dinger" be thrown. Gen. Roosevelt went along with the idea, Jones said, but suggested that, in order to denote that it was an out-size stag party, that it be called a "blinger."

Apparently some veterans of the 27th were among those present and took the word back to the States with them. The American Legion has since dropped the word from its vocabulary, but the 27th Association has kept it alive as a special word in the American language. To us of the Association, blinger means the annual good time when we get together in good fellowship, to eat, drink, and be merry.



## New York's Historic Armories: An Illustrated History

By Nancy L. Todd

New York's Army National Guard armories are among the most imposing monuments to the role of the citizen soldier in American military history. In *New York's Historic Armories*, Nancy L. Todd draws on archival research as well as hundreds of historic and contemporary photographs and drawings to trace the evolution of the armory as a specific building type in American architectural and military history. The result of a ten-year collaboration between the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (funded in part by the U.S. Department of Defense's Legacy Resource Management Program), this illustrated history presents information on all known armories in the state as well as the units associated with them, and will serve as a valuable reference for readers interested in general, military, and architectural history.

"This attractive and engaging book highlights New York's large and distinguished group of historic armories—national treasures associated with a revered history of security and peacekeeping . . . I am confident that this book will further our understanding and appreciation of the state's historic armories and their contribution to safeguarding our communities and citizens." — Governor George E. Pataki

"Begun in the late eighteenth century, New York's extensive armory building program had a significant impact on the development of communities across the state . . . Today, many of the historic armories are underused or have become obsolete. Safeguarding this remarkable collection presents both challenges and exciting possibilities." — Bernadette Castro, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

"As the men and women of our New York National Guard continue their great tradition of defending freedom for their fellow citizens, we applaud this exceptional and unique opportunity to remember the past through the beautiful architectural structures that make up the foundation of our force." — Major General Joseph J. Taluto

Nancy L. Todd, an architectural historian with an M.A. in American history, is a Program Analyst at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In 1997 she received the Adjutant General's Award, New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, for extraordinary contributions to the historic preservation of New York's armories.

To order from SUNY Press: [www.sunypress.edu](http://www.sunypress.edu) or 1-800-666-2211

Or check [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

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