

June 2007

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

27th Brigade Kicks-off AT 2007

Nearly 2,000 members of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and supporting units and personnel are on post to conduct an aggressive Annual Training period that for many will stretch to three weeks.



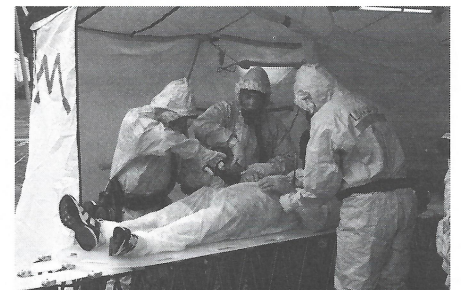
Participating units include the Syracuse-based brigade headquarters, the Fighting 69th and 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry, the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry, the 258th Field Artillery the 27th Brigade Sustainment and the 427th Support Battalions. In anticipation of a future mission, dozens of new

Orion officers and enlisted Soldiers have and continue to be transferred in from the state headquarters, 106th Regional Training Institute, 42nd Infantry Division and 53rd Troop Command units.

"The 27th has entered an exciting new period as we prepare for an important future missions," said COL Brian Balfe, brigade commander. "We have much to accomplish over the next few weeks and every Soldier must be focused on preparing now for the challenges ahead. I am proud of each and every Orion Soldier and grateful to all for volunteering to serve our nation, state and communities here in the Guard."

Key training events include infantry security force, live fire, support operations and for the first time a special external evaluation of selected 108th In-

fantry Soldiers assigned to a terror response team dubbed "CERFP" (pronounced SERF-PEE.) In short, the team will respond to a potential future terrorist attacks in New York where a chemical, biological or radiological weapon has been used. For the last year, Soldiers of the 108th have been intensely training and will be evaluated on 17 June on their ability to conduct Search and Rescue operations in a "hot zone" and decontaminate victims. Following the unit's validation, the CERFP will remain in a ready status over the next year, subject to call up in the event of a state emergency.



THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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VOL. XLVIII June 2007 NO. 2

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Commander's Message

Greetings to all,

I am in hopes that this message finds all of you in good health. Now that summer is upon us, We will be able to get out and enjoy the good weather. While making your plans for this summer, don't forget the following dates, 3-5 August 2007. That is the weekend that the national reunion of The 27th Division Association, Inc is being held in Syracuse, NY. See details in this copy of The Orion Gallivanter.

Many of you know that the 27th Brigade Combat Team is involved with many missions after our reunion. It is my desire, that as many members of The 27th Division Association, Inc. as possible, come to the Reunion to show our support to the 27th Brigade Combat Team, as many of the troops involved in these future missions will be at the reunion.

Please be aware that our Secretary, Roberta Comerford is deploying to Iraq in the near future. Vice Commander, Paul Hujer has stepped up to the plate and will be tackling the secretary duties.

I would like to mention again, as I did in the March edition, that much work is going into the preparations for our reunion. Please do not miss it. Two events in particular to mention: the Re-Dedication of the 27th Div Monument and the displays at Brigade HQ on Saturday morning. I hope to see all of you there.

As I conclude this message, I ask that your thoughts and prayers be of past and present comrades and all of our troops and their families.

Yours in comradeship,
Raymond E. Swift
National Commander

CONVENTION ISSUE

THE ORION-GALLIVANTER

OCTOBER, 1953

PROGRAM

33rd ANNUAL REUNION and CONVENTION
27th DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
SYRACUSE, N. Y., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th and 10th
Headquarters — Onondaga Hotel
Chairman, Committee in Charge — Charles F. Stanton

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:00 A.M. Registration, continues all day
7:00 P.M. Ladies Party
7:00 P.M. Stag Party

Afternoon — Informal get-togethers

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

9:00 A.M. Registration continues
10:00 A.M. Convention business session

1. Advance Colors	
Prayer	5 mins.
2. Minutes of last annual meeting	
Communications	5 mins.
3. Report of Committees	
Orion-Gallivanter — Eugene R. Collins	5 mins.
Auditing — Arch D. Anderson	5 mins.
Resolutions — Gilbert R. Sharp	5 mins.
Time and Place — Harry D. Putman	10 mins.
Action on report of Time and Place Comm.	15 mins.
4. Report of Officers	
Secretary-Treasurer	15 mins.
Commander	15 mins.
5. Old Business	10 mins.
6. Nominations of Officers — Raymond C. Clark	10 mins.
7. Balloting	30 mins.
8. Prayer	
Retire Colors	
Adjourn	

WELCOME TO SYRACUSE

As Mayor of the City of Syracuse, it is a genuine pleasure for me to welcome the members of the 27th Division to our City. All New York State is proud of the service of the 27th Division in World Wars I and II, and we in Syracuse are especially proud since many of the members of the 27th were Syracuseans.

We feel privileged to have your group in our midst and we hope you will find your visit very enjoyable, so much so that you will be induced to come back again. I wish you every success.

THOMAS J. CORCORAN

Mayor

October 1, 1953



Editor's Corner



First things first this edition—an apology. I must apologize to every one of my fellow 27th Veterans for the delay in the printing of the June issue.

Your humble editor as well as many of the active and past officers of the Division association are working members within the 27th Brigade and have spent the better part of June attending a rather busy and arduous training period at Fort Drum. From issuing new equipment to many days on weapons ranges to a variety of briefings, learning new techniques and skills, etc. we were extremely busy and there was scant little time left to take care of Gallivanter and Association business. With that in mind, the focus on this edition of the Gallivanter will be on the recent training. The stories are primarily from newsletters that were printed by our Public Affairs staff. “Thank You’s” go out to Major Oliver and LTC Fanning for their contributions.

As it has been since our inception, the 27th has been called on again to protect the people of New York and our Country. Much of the training the soldiers received in June is directly related to upcoming missions such as State response to both natural and man-made disasters and support to the Global War on Terror.

The big news this issue is of course, the upcoming reunion in August. We hope to have a large turn-out from present members of the 27th Brigade who will certainly be encouraged to become new members of the association!

From the southern US border, South America, Afghanistan and Iraq the association’s future is in the hands of these men and women who are writing the history of the 27th with each day that the Stars of Orion appear around the world.

Once again, my sincerest apologies for the delay in printing this issue.
See you all at the reunion!

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

Paul Hujer

P.O. Box 2522

Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

Email: Paul.Hujer@us.army.mil

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

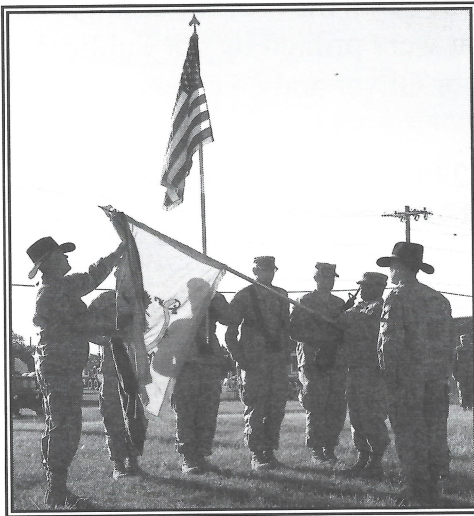
Remember to order your Orion Merchandise at the Reunion!



New Colors, New Mission

SECFOR Battalion Forms Up

The uncasing of the colors for the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry took place on June 15, 2007. This event was significant as it identifies the colors associated with a squadron. Uncasing the colors changed the 127th Armor to the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry. The 127th Armor was deactivated, and in turn the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry is now active.



The 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry is the lead element for the formation of a Security Forces (SECFOR) Battalion in preparation to support future missions. The mission of the SECFOR Battalion is to provide base security, convoy security and Quick Reaction Force.

Nearly 840 troops from the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry, the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry and the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry have merged together to form the SECFOR Battalion. "The merge is going flawlessly. Soldiers are falling into formation as if they been part of the squadron all along," said LTC Dunkle, SECFOR Battalion Commander.

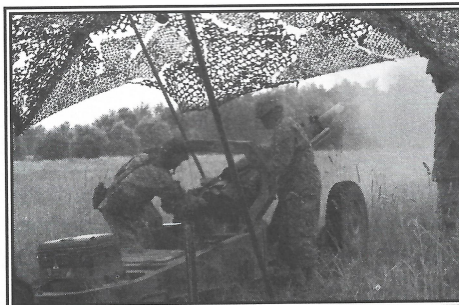
The SECFOR is up early and ready at 0600 for a full day of training that lasts frequently until 2300 hours. Some of the training that SECFOR has done includes working on tactics,

preparing to fire mortars, road marches and physical fitness. "Keys to successful training are maintaining excitement for deployment, effectiveness of squad leaders and overall unit pride."



**258TH STEEL
ON TARGET**
"YOU YELL, WE SHELL"

The First Battalion 258th Field Artillery (Washington Grays) performed live-fire gunnery on June 17, 2007. It has been nearly five years since the 258 FA has fired howitzers as a unit. The unit deployed to *Operation Iraqi Freedom* in 2002 to perform a Military Police mission as part of OIF II. Since returning home, the unit has trained on Warrior Leader Tasks while waiting to receive their equipment. This past weekend, the 258 FA received M102 howitzers that have put them back in action.



According to LTC Paul Conte, the 258 FA Commander, the training with the M102 howitzers went extremely well. Being able to live-fire the howitzers has motivated the troops, and morale is high. "It's rewarding to see an Artillery unit piece itself together with soldiers who have vast and different experiences in conjunction with both old and new equipment, and to see them come together and make the live fire a success," stated LTC Conte.

The M102 howitzers that the 258 FA fired were produced in 1973. They weigh about 3,180 pounds. It takes a 7-man crew to set up the equipment and a 3-man crew to fire. The 3-man crew consists of a gunner, assistant gunner and section chief.



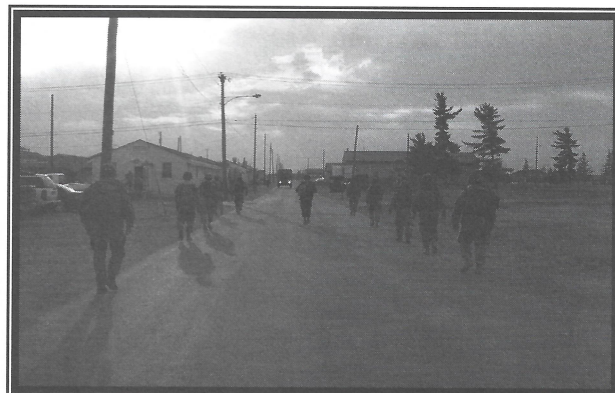
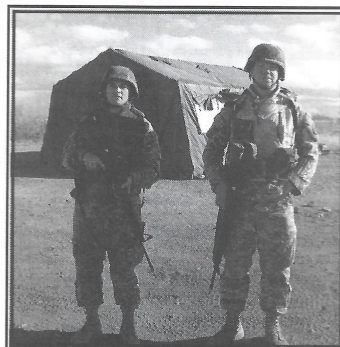
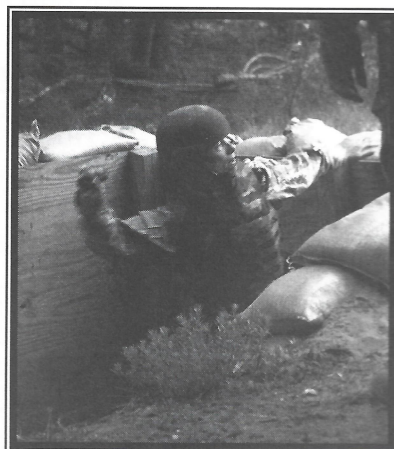
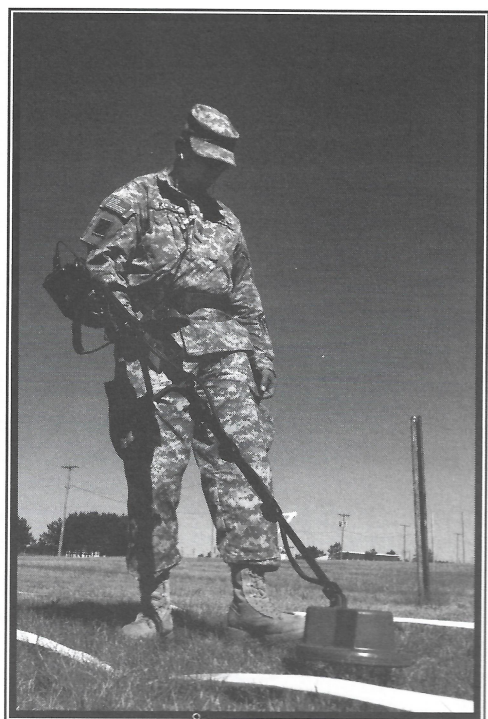
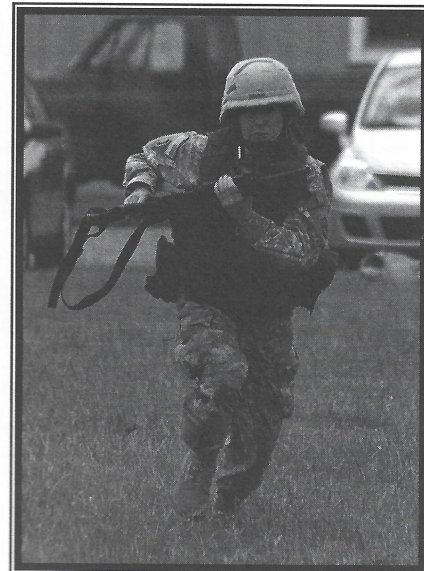
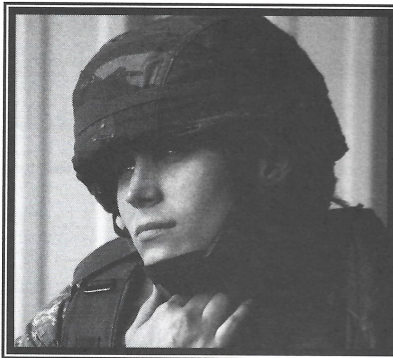
The field artillery is going through a training phase known as the "Reset" or "Repaint Red", for the color of the Field Artillery: RED. Most field artillery units have been deployed as Military Police; therefore, they have not had much training with field artillery equipment. "258 field artillery has essentially reset itself in this fiscal year and continues to focus on reset as new equipment becomes available to the unit," said LTC Conte. Conte went to say, "The school says we want to paint you red...want to make you artillery men again."

The 258 continues to focus on receiving equipment and training for potential missions. "This is step one in a multi year training plan to ready 258 for world wide deployment by 2013," said LTC Conte.

When asked about his experience since taking command of the 258 FA in January, LTC Conte replied, "It's great to be the King of Battle."



THE SHUTTERBUG PAGE



Have a picture you want to submit for the Shutterbug Page? Mail a copy of the photo to the Editor's Home address (See: Masthead) or E-Mail a scanned copy to the Editor at: Robert.romano@us.army.mil

The Annual 27th Division Association Reunion

AUGUST 3-5, 2007

Holiday Inn

441 Electronics Parkway
Liverpool, NY 13088



- Schedule of Events -

Friday, August 3rd, 2007

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Registration

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Blinger

Saturday, August 4th, 2007

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Static Displays, 27th BCT HQ

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Membership Meeting

11:00 AM - Memorial Service and Monument
Dedication—27th BCT HQ

12:30 PM - Commander's Luncheon, Barbagalo's
Restaurant, 6344 E. Molloy Rd.

5:00 PM Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM Dinner Banquet Room

Sunday, August 5th, 2007

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Farewells

- Holiday Inn -

From North / South of Syracuse:

- Take I-81 to Exit 25 (7th North Street)
- Right off exit, follow 1 mile to end

From East / West of Syracuse:

- Take I-90 to exit 37 (Electronics Parkway)
- Hotel will be right across the street

- 27th BCT HQ -

The Brigade HQ is located on the Hancock Air National Guard Base. Access is through the main gate on Molloy Rd. Once through the gate, take the first right and follow the road around to the Brigade HQ. Parking is on the far side.

From I-81: Mattydale Exit to Rt 11. Turn right onto E. Molloy Rd. Airbase will be on your left.

From I-90: Exit 35. First right off of the traffic circle—Thompson Rd. Turn left onto Molloy Rd. at the second traffic light. Airbase is on the right.

Meals Only Reservation Card

Please print and complete all the appropriate information. Return this card with payment to:
The 27th Division Association Inc., Attn: Secretary PO Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

MEAL INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse / Guest Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Please specify meals by quantity required in each box below:

Friday Blinger \$25 Each
 Saturday B- Fast \$18 Each
 CDR's Luncheon \$25 Each
 Reunion Dinner \$35 Each
 Sunday B-Fast \$18 Each

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

RSVP Must be Received by July 27th, 2007

The Annual 27th Division Association Reunion

AUGUST 3-5, 2007

Holiday Inn

441 Electronics Parkway

Liverpool, NY 13088



Total Package Includes:

- Lodging, Friday & Saturday Night
- Dinner Friday, all meals Saturday & breakfast Sunday
- \$300 for an individual (includes room, all meals & gratuities for one person)
- \$400 for a couple (includes room, all meals & gratuities for two people)

Meals Only Package:

Meal Only Prices:

- Friday Night Blinger: \$25 per Person
- Saturday Morning B-Fast: \$18 per Person
- Commander's Luncheon: \$25 per Person
- Reunion Dinner: \$35 per Person
- Sunday Morning B-Fast: \$18 per Person

Indicate Meals by Number of People on the "Meals Only" reservation card.

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 Holiday Inn of Liverpool. A special reservation table will be set up by the Reunion Hosting 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 the appropriate information. Return this card with payment to:
The 27th Division Association Inc., Attn: Secretary PO Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

ACCOMODATIONS INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse / Guest Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Number of Rooms _____ Number of Persons _____ Number of Nights _____

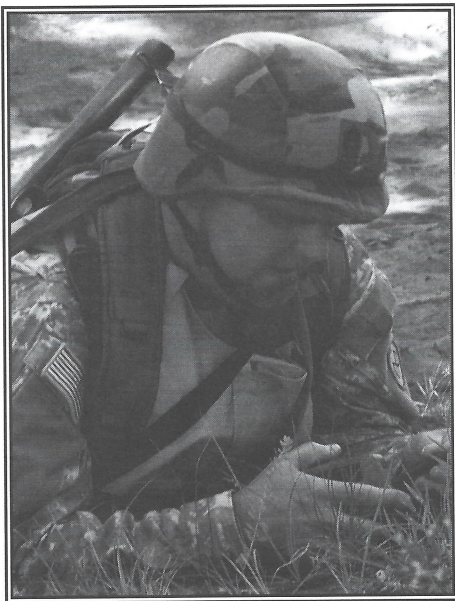
Two Double Beds
 Smoking
 Non Smoking
 OR
 One King Bed
 Smoking
 Non Smoking

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

RSVP Must be Received by July 27th, 2007

Headquarters Company Forges Ahead

Headquarters Company Soldiers, 27th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) continue to validate on individual tasks for the third consecutive week of their Annual Training at Ft. Drum in preparation for potential deployment. It is a requirement that individual tasks be validated before moving on to validate on the collective tasks. Most of the tasks require 85 percent validation. However, there are some tasks such as *Call for Fire* and *HMMWV Rollover* that require 100 percent validation in order to move forward to collective training.

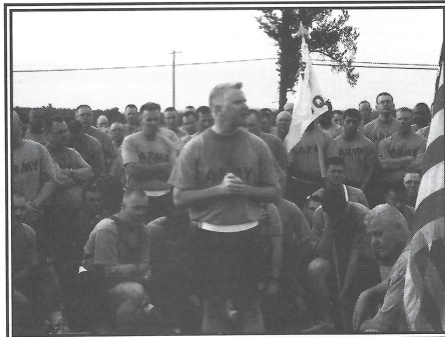


According to Captain Sandefur, Headquarters Company Commander, the 27th BCT is the first unit to validate itself. Sandefur went on to say, "In this groundbreaking effort, we are setting the standard for other units to follow or exceed."

The Headquarters Company wraps-up validation training today with an anticipated departure from Ft. Drum on Thursday.

Brigade Commander Praises Troops and Leaders for Successful AT

The 27th Brigade Combat Team commander praised his Soldiers, leaders and staff for their extra efforts to make the June Pre-Mobilization training successful. Although the training was not perfect, said Colonel Brian Balfe, the 27th accomplished a lot in a short time. "We have done very well. Task Force Orion and the T & E (42nd Training and Evaluation) battalion have my thanks," he said.



Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix has done very well, he added. "By now, you must have the feeling that what we are about to do is very real," said COL Balfe. "The training you are getting is meant to save your life and the lives of other Soldiers," he stressed. "This mission is important."



Fun Run Marks End of AT 07

Brigade members formed up early this morning for what has now become a tradition to run a 2.5-mile course around the "Old Post" of Ft. Drum. For the second year in a row, colors were flying and the call of cadences rang out across the training area. New units were welcomed as the Training Assistance Group (TAG) and Regional Security Assistance Command (RSAC) joined traditional BCT units for this team-building event.



The run marked the end of a three-week Annual Training (AT) period for the BCT that focused on individual skill validation, weapons ranges and establishing a new BCT Staff. The BCT will be back at Ft. Drum for another three weeks of AT in October to continue to hone their "Warrior Skills."



JUNE HISTORY OF THE 27TH IN WW2

This Date in Orion History 14 to 16 June 1944

Northern and Southern Attack forces began preparatory bombardment of the island of Saipan as the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions and the Army's 27th Division awaited the assault order. The Marines landed the next day and suffered nearly 2,000 casualties along the heavily defended beaches. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 27th Division's 165th Infantry Regiment (Fighting 69th) landed during the early morning hours of 16 June and was attached to the 4th Marine Division. The 165th passed through the 3rd Battalion 24th Marines and took up positions in preparation for an attack on the Aslito Airfield.

This Date in Orion History 17-20 June 44

The 258th Field Artillery Regiment saw considerable combat action during WWII even though not assigned with the 27th Infantry Division. Nicknamed the "Washington Grey's," the 258th and its renumbered second battalion – the 991st were among only six units equipped with the 155 mm Gun Motor Carriage M12, a French-designed gun mounted on the chassis of the M3 Medium Tank. Both units landed in Normandy following D-Day and served in the First U.S. Army, primarily supporting the 2nd and 3rd Armored Divisions. Unit fires proved critical to the breakout operation from the hedgerows and their guns became famous "bunker busters" for point-blank engagements along the Siegfried Line. Battery B became the first U.S. Army artillery unit to shell German soil in September 1944. Both battalions served with distinction through the end of the war.

This Date in Orion History 21-24 June

On 21 June 1944, Saipan's Aslito airfield was open to U.S. fighters hav-

ing been captured by 27th Infantry Division troops during the previous day. On 22 June, the assault on Saipan's Central Highland began at 0600 when elements of the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions pushed forward with the 27th in reserve prepared to support either Marine force. That evening, 27th Division troops from the 106th and 165th Infantry (Fighting 69th) Regiments began replacing the Marines' 25th regiment on the line, while the 105th remained in place as reserve at Nafutan Point. The following day 106th and 165th troops cleared the eastern slopes of Mount Topatchau, advancing along the valley road towards the parallel ridge. In the days ahead they would become known as the Valley of Death," and "Purple Heart Ridge."

This Date in Orion History 24-26 June

On 24 June 1944, 27th Infantry Division troops were locked in fierce battle on the Pacific island of Saipan. While Marine units pressed attacks towards the island's capital city of Garapan, the 27th's 106th and 165th Infantry Regiments were confronted with heavily dug in Japanese defenders on difficult terrain that favored the defenders. The 106th could not reduce the stronghold of "Hell's Pocket" and the 165th made no headway against the "Valley of Death," and "Purple Heart Ridge." Furious over the lack of progress, the V Amphibious Corps Commander, Marine Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith relieved the 27th Commanding General, Major General Ralph Smith in what would become a major command controversy that would set back Army-Marine relations for the remainder of the war. The troops on the line did not learn of the relief of their commander until much later.

This Date in Orion History 27-29 June

On the evening of 26 June 1944, the 27th Infantry Division's 165th Infantry Regiment (Fighting 69th) was attached to the 4th Marine Division and re-entered the line on Kagman Peninsula on the Pacific island of Saipan. Also that evening Japanese hold-outs on Nafutan Point managed to infiltrate through the 2nd Battalion 105th Infantry Regiment to attack Marine positions on Hill 500. The Marines wiped them out. Meanwhile, 27th Infantry Division troops continued intense combat operations without knowledge of the relief of their commanding general by Marine Lt. Gen. Holland "Howling Mad" Smith. LTG Smith fired Army MG Ralph Smith for the apparent lack of aggressiveness by 27th troops during the assault on Saipan's central highlands. A board of investigation later determined that the V (pronounced Fifth) Amphibious Corps Commander LTG Smith had the authority to relieve the 27th Division commander but that his rationale was flawed. The lack of Army progress was due to heavier than expected enemy strength at that location. They were fighting from well dug-in positions over terrain that was extremely difficult to traverse. The defenders had the advantage. In addition, LTG Smith had previously ordered the attachment of other 27th infantry units to Marine formations denying the Army assault force the reinforcements needed. "Howling Mad" Smith was known for his cantankerous temperament and criticism for other services. As a result of the Smith versus Smith affair, Marine generals were not placed in command of Army units again during the war. LTG Smith is also known to have spoken disparagingly about the 27th's National Guard status. But MG Smith, who commanded the 27th at the time, was not a New Yorker or even a Guardsman. He was Regular Army and came from Nebraska.

MAILBAG

—TAPS—

Joseph Rizzo of Holbrook, NY passed away March 7, 2006. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Angelina, daughter Barbara Francese, husband Rick and his grandsons, Christopher, Michael and Joseph.

Rizzo was proud to be in the Army, which he spoke of his time (5 years) with fond memories of the places and the men he served with.

Marino S. Papalas: was a member of the 27th Division Association passed away on October 26, 2005. He was a Sergeant in the 27th Division, 105th Battalion and served 42 months in the South Pacific Campaign. He was wounded in the invasion of Okinawa, paralyzed from the waist down for over a year. They told him he would never walk again, but he did. The highlight of his recuperation was receiving a bedside visit from Eleanor Roosevelt.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Mary, four children five grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

George Rogers 83, of Palm Bay FL, died on October 6, 2005. He was born in Albany and moved to Palm Bay 20 years ago from Troy.

George retired from the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs and was a U.S. Army veteran of WWII, having been decorated, including the Asiatic Pacific Services Medal. He was a member of the 27th Division Association as well as a Past National Commander of the organization.

He is predeceased by his wives Lucy Ciriago Rogers and Ruby Leake Rogers. Survivors include his companion Jean Amico, sons, George (Colleen) and Jack (Maureen) Rogers, five grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

John W. Federici was born June 18, 1925 and passed away August 29, 2005. Survivors are two sons and wife Rosalie who live in Bloomingdale, IL.

In the summer of 1985, John Federici and Charles Pfeiffer decided to start looking

for "G" Company guys to have a reunion each year. At one time there were over 100 on the list and the reunions continued until 2003.

Harold Potet Routt was born on November 6, 1918 and passed away November 3, 2005 in Hodgenville, Kentucky. He was predeceased by his wife, Margie Heath Routt, survived by two daughters, Mary Alice Bault and Rebecca Tedder, two sons, Gary W. Routt and Harold Ray Routt all of Hodgenville, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Hoyle Wilson Greene, Sr. 85, of Charlotte, NC, passed away January 20, 2006 at his home surrounded by his wife and children. His fight with cancer ended that day and he went home to be with his blessed Savior. He was born Feb. 27, 1920 in the rural community of Monroe, NC, Union County.

Hoyle served his country faithfully in the U.S. Army September 13, 1941 through May 19, 1945. After being assigned to the 27th Division, he served 3 years in the Pacific, Battle of Makin, Battle of Saipan and Espirito Santo, New Hebrides. He was with Headquarters Co., 3rd Battalion, 105th Infantry.

Hoyle is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 61 years, Hazel Wellmon Greene, his loving children, Shari Geho and husband John of Virginia Beach, VA, Wanda Attar of Mint Hill and Hoyle Wilson Greene, Jr. and wife Christy of Charlotte. Also surviving are 5 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. He is also survived by 1 brother and 2 sisters in law.

Pasquale J. Mercadante from the 27th Division, Amsterdam, NY, passed away December 5, 2005. He was 84 years old.

Frank R. Pusatere 83 of Donegal Ave., Troy passed away after a brief illness on February 12, 2006. Born and educated in Troy, he was the son of the late Rosario and Antonina Pusatere. He was a decorated veteran of WWII and a survivor of the Battle of Saipan. He was employed by Watervliet Arsenal for over 30 years retiring in 1976.

Pusatere is survived by two sons, Anthony and Frank Pusatere, two sisters,

Anna Canisterri and Ellen Deeb, a brother, Leo Pusatere and two sisters in law, Angilena and Betty Pusatere, and 5 grandchildren.

Genevieve (Jane) Behil formerly of Endwell, went to be with the Lord on June 1, 2006 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 57 years, Stephen. She is survived by her sister Pearl Zvolensky, sisters in law Valentina Kozlowski, Rose Ivan, Joan Behil, Mary and Hank Pochily and Barbara and Joseph Behil. She was a member of the Endwell Garden Club, the Endwell Bridge Club, the 27th Infantry Division Association Auxiliary, the IBM Travel Club and the St. Ann's Church Women's Auxiliary.

Ruby Rapp wife of Don Rapp, commander of the Florida Post 13, passed away on June 14th, 2006. She had a massive stroke. Don is a veteran of the New York 27th Infantry Division, having served in the 108th Infantry Regiment in the South Pacific.

Charles H. Hallden 97, of Madeira Beach, Florida died Jan. 25, 2007. He served in the 27th Division from 1940 thru 1945 in the 3rd Battalion, 106th Infantry. He was commanding officer of L Company on Eniwetok and Saipan and 3rd Battalion executive Officer on Okinawa. He stayed in the Army and retired as a Lt. Col. He served his country well. Survivors include his wife of 75 years, Alice L.; two sons, Richard and Alan; four grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Allen Roberts Formerly of Appalachen, NY, passed away 26 April, 2007. Predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Gertrude Roberts, he is survived by 3 sons and a daughter. After his active duty service during WW2 he served in the 175th IN, 27th Armored Div and after reorganization, the 204 Engineer BN, NYARNG.

James Barton Passed away 10 May 2007. Survived by his wife of 37 years, Mary, a son and a daughter. He served in the 108th IN and the 175th Armored Div and after reorganization, the 204th Engineer BN which he commanded until he retired.

-TAPS-

Ralph Dernberger 86 of Hebron, NJ. Died Dec 25th 2006. Born in Duncan W.Va. He was a retired grinder and lathe operator from Rockwell International. A WW2 Army veteran with the 27th Division Headquarters Company Special Troops. Survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary, a daughter and three sons.

Edward A. Jodlowski, 83, passed away on Tuesday, February 28, 2006. Born in Utica on April 24, 1922. Edward joined the National Guard in 1939 and was inducted into federal service on October 15, 1940. He served in the Pacific after Pearl Harbor until 1944. He received a medical discharge in 1945 with a Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and Combat Infantryman's Badge. Edward was the Past Commander of the 27th Division Association, life member of VFW and Utica Post #56 of the 27th Infantry Division Association. Besides his beloved wife, Stella, he leaves four children.

Farewell Post #13

Dear Editor,

On May 17, Post #13 of the 27th DIV Association conducted its farewell re-union in Daytona Beach, Florida. Approximately \$400 left in our treasury will be forwarded to our mother association in Syracuse. We hope this money will be used with discretion for our returning veterans of the 27th Brigade.

Mike Zuckerman



Remember When...
(Reunion program from 1938)

THE ORION  MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 1, 1938

Twentieth Anniversary Reunion At Albany

**GOVERNOR LEHMAN
MAY ADDRESS
REUNION.**

Governor Herbert H. Lehman is planning to address the members of the 27th Division Association, Inc., during the 20th anniversary reunion. He issued the following proclamation welcoming the veterans to the state capital:



Twenty years ago this summer the 27th Division, A. E. F., composed of the National Guard troops of the State of New York, was engaged in combat with the Imperial German Army in France and Belgium. Brigaded with the British Army the division gave a splendid account of itself during the months of June, July and August and in the early part of September materially aided in the capture of Kimmel Hill in Belgium.

The true test of the division's greatness as a combat unit, however, was to come in the latter part of September when beginning with the attack on the strongly fortified Hindenburg Line on September 27th and continuing through October 1st the New York State troops drove the Germans from their positions along that line and captured a system of field fortifications which have been regarded by military experts as probably the strongest ever erected during the World War.

You veterans of the wartime 27th Division are to gather in Albany on September 30th and October 1st for your annual reunion and to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Battle of the Hindenburg Line. The State of New York in the last legislative session passed a bill providing for the state's participation in this celebration. I was very happy to affix my signature to this bill.

I hope the demands upon my time will give me the pleasure of greeting the veterans of the 27th Division when you gather in the Capital City this autumn.

**MAJ. GEN. O'RYAN
INVITES COMRADES**

(By Maj. Gen. John F. O'Ryan.)

The coming reunion of the 27th Division Association, Inc., to be held at Albany on September 30th and October 1st, will mark the twentieth anniversary of the Battle of the Hindenburg Line. The occasion will, therefore, be one of special interest to every veteran of the Division.



It hardly seems possible that twenty years have elapsed since the Germans were forced, under the pressure of the terrific assaults delivered against the Tunnel Sector of the Hindenburg Line, to surrender that greatest of all field fortifications.

By this lapse of years, however,

Continued on Page Two

**PRESIDENT COLLINS
ANNOUNCES PLANS
FOR ANNIVERSARY**

We are now approaching the 20th anniversary of the high point of our service in France with the



27th Division, the breaking of the Hindenburg Line. Consequently, this year's reunion of the 27th Division Association, Inc., should be the most successful one since the formation of the association in 1920. With this object in view the officers and directors of the organization have worked diligently throughout the year in making preparations for the event. It was decided to hold the reunion in

Continued on Page Eight

**MAYOR THACHER SAYS
DIVISION WELCOME
TO ALBANY**

Mayor John Boyd Thacher 2d of Albany has extended full cooperation of the resources of the



City of Albany to make the 20th anniversary reunion a great success. He has sent out formal invitations to a dinner at the Ten Eyck Hotel, Albany, the night of Saturday, Oct. 1, in connection with the reunion.

The mayor also issued a formal invitation to the members of 27th Division Association, Inc., and their guests to take full advantage of Albany facilities.

His statement in which he extends a cordial welcome follows: Albany is proud and happy to have the 27th Division Association, Inc., conduct its 20th anniversary reunion within our fine old city. It is a secure feeling in these troubled times to know that New York State's gallant survivors of the crack 27th Division during the World War are again to reunite peaceably for the purpose of planning and developing beneficial legislation and to reminisce on events of the World War.

Historic Albany has much of interest to offer those who visit it and we know that members of the 27th Division will find themselves at home in the city which has grown old in the service of the ideals to which your organization has been dedicated.

We anticipate great pleasure in the according of our warm and cordial hospitality to the men of the 27th Division, their families and their distinguished guests when you visit us for the important annual reunion on September 30 and October 1.

Your very truly,
JOHN BOYD THACHER 2d.

Members: Please Urge Local Newspapers to Give Wildest Publicity to Anniversary Reunion at Albany Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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

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