

March 2008

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 DEPLOYS!

- Stars of Orion move out to Fort Bragg -

Thousands of families statewide squeezed in last minute hugs and kisses before their loved ones said goodbye, heading overseas for military duty.

Ceremonies were held across the state Wednesday for the largest single call up for the New York National Guard since World War II. Close to 1,800 soldiers are deploying for duty in Afghanistan.

At Hancock Field's Air National Guard Base, Gov. Eliot Spitzer was one of nearly a thousand people who said farewell to 230 New York Army National Guardsmen headed to Afghanistan to help train Afghan security forces.

The members of the 27th Brigade Combat Team leave for Fort Drum Saturday, before heading to Fort Bragg in North Carolina for two months of training. After that, they will spend 10 months in

Afghanistan, where they will replace a South Carolina Army National Guard unit.



A third of the troops leaving have already served time in Iraq. Timothy Bishop and his wife Shannon are newlyweds - married for six months. They were dating when Tim served in Iraq; he says he didn't think they would be heading back again this soon. "I thought we'd have more time."

Jim and Colleen Meltz have had to put their lives on hold twice. "I hope someday that our children can live in peace and don't have to live with threat of terrorism," said 1st Sgt. James Meltz, who is serving his third tour.

Wives say they're gotten used to their husbands not being around, because of all the extensive training

(Continued on page 4)

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Commander's Message

Hello everyone,

As we look forward to spring and some nicer weather, I hope this edition of The Orion Gallivanter finds all of you well.

On Wednesday, January 16, 2008, I had the distinct pleasure of representing the 27th Division Association, Inc. at the deployment ceremony for Headquarters, 27th Brigade Combat Team and Headquarters, 427th Brigade Support Battalion. Before the ceremony got started, it was a pleasure to see so many past acquaintances and supporters of the 27th in attendance. It was a very proud and at the same time emotional moment as the troops marched in. The master of ceremony was Col Gary S. Yaple, Deputy Commander, 27th Brigade Combat Team. After the formation of the troops and music, the Official Party arrived which consisted of The Governor of New York State, Elliot Spitzer, Major General Joseph Taluto, The Adjutant General of New York National Guard, Brigadier General Steven Wickstrom, The Deputy Commander of the 42nd Division and Col Brian Balfe Commander of the 27th Brigade Combat Team. Next was the invocation followed by the National Anthem.

Col Yaple welcomed everyone to the ceremony, introduced many invited guests and dignitaries that were in attendance and gave a brief history of the lineage of the 27th BCT. Col Yaple then introduced Governor Elliot Spitzer followed by the rest of the official party making their individual remarks with Col Brian Balfe, the commander of the 27th BCT, making the final remarks. This was followed by the benediction, the retiring of the colors and the departing of the official party. The troops were then dismissed and refreshments were provided for all.

After the ceremony closed, there was time for all to be with their friends and families and show support for each other.

I would like to remind the membership, that many of the troops being deployed to Afghanistan with the 27th BCT are current members of the 27th Division Association, Inc. and I ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we do all our troops, their families and past and present comrades.

Yours in comradeship,

Raymond E. Swift
National Commander



Editor's Corner



Fellow Orion Veterans,

As you read this, the 27th will be finishing up our training at Fort Bragg, NC. This has been a hectic, exciting, frustrating but never dull journey for us all from the first events at Fort Drum in June of last year to arriving here at Fort Bragg.

Life here is certainly Spartan but assuredly not all that bad. Regardless if the year is 1918, 1942 or 2008, there will be constants in the lives of all soldiers that we can share across time. Waiting in lines, days of paperwork, medical tests and shots, going to the rifle ranges, mail call, going to the field and of course, chow hall food—good and bad. These shared experience will certainly open up many topics of discussion for our next 27th Reunion and is something that strengthens the common bonds with our newest and our most seasoned veterans.

Our missions will be dangerous at times and no one soldier will be exempt as we face challenges from an enemy who holds little distinction from choosing a crowded market place or a military convoy as a target. These challenges may be different than those faced in the past but as our predecessors overcame their own obstacles we will do so as well. As a veteran of nearly 25 years, I can assure all of you that the men and women who are wearing the 27th patch today are professional, skilled, motivated soldiers who will bring nothing less than honor to our 27th heritage.

Lastly, this is a rather special edition of the Gallivanter not only for the 27th but for me as well. As we complete our training at Fort Bragg, for the first time since World War II, the 27th colors will fly in a foreign land as a command element. For the Gallivanter, this will be the first time in 62 years that the publication will be occurring overseas. I'm proud to be your editor during these historic times for the 27th and I'll make sure that our "in country" issues are meaningful and will maintain the professionalism that is not only a hallmark of our Gallivanter but of the Stars of Orion as well.

Sincerely,
Your Editor
(CPT) Robert Romano

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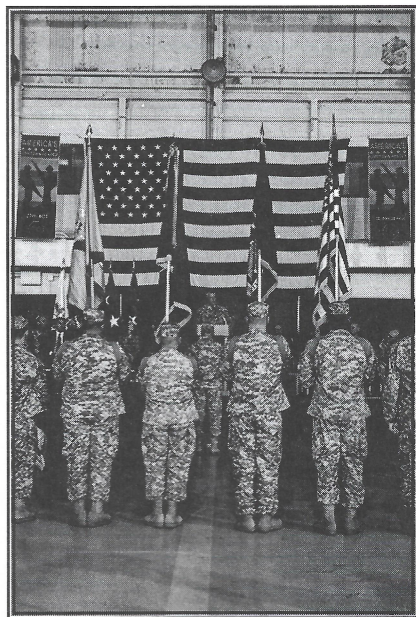
27th BRIGADE DEPLOYS!

(Continued from Main Page)



this year, but knowing they will now be overseas will be a change.

At Hancock Field's Air National Guard Base, family members looked on as their husbands, sons, brothers and fathers prepared to deploy. Sharon Huard doesn't know how the family will cope.



For now, they are keeping busy. They made more than 1,000 prayer cards and pins for everyone else here. "My kids really wanted to do something for other families," says Huard.

Staying strong seems to be a theme among the wives, knowing they need to keep it together while dad's away. The Bates family used an Elmo video to explain what's happening. Tracy Bates' 3-year old son Madden doesn't get it; her 6-year old Brian does.

While the wives tend to explaining it all to their children, the men are focused on what they have to do for the country.

The soldiers will join the coalition effort in training the Afghan National Army and the Afghan police.

Governor Bids Farewell To Deploying Soldiers

More than 1,400 New York Army National Guard Soldiers bound for Afghanistan formally bid farewell to their friends and family, Jan 16, at deployment ceremonies held across the state from Long Island to Buffalo.

In Syracuse, at a farewell ceremony for the Headquarters Soldiers of the 27th Brigade Combat

Team, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer praised the Citizen Soldiers and invoked the words of President and former New York Governor and New York National Guard member

Theodore Roosevelt.

"He said the said 'the true credit goes to those who are in the arena'" Spitzer told the 230 Soldiers and their families. "You are in the arena", he added. "That quotation is used by athletes, politicians, lawyers; it is truly deserved only for you. You are going to the only arena that matters," Spitzer said. "You are going into the arena where you will defend the principles that lead to our freedom."

"Nothing can be more fundamental. Nothing can be more important," the governor said.

While the Soldiers are deployed the state will watch out for their families, the governor promised. He also promised to do all he could to get a law enacted that would grant State University of New York tuition to any veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Major General Joseph Taluto, the Adjutant General and commander of the New York Army National Guard, urged the soldiers to do their jobs and

watch out for each other.

"Focus on your mission. Don't ever compromise your standards. Watch out for, and help each other, each and every day, and that includes today," Taluto said. "I am supremely confident if you do these

things, success will be yours." Although the Governor and Adjutant General attended the Syracuse cere-

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mony at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, nine ceremonies were held across the state ranging from 35 Soldiers saying goodbye at the Connecticut Avenue Armory in Buffalo to 130 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry bidding farewell at Suffolk County Community College Sports Center on Long Island.

Other farewells occurred in Rochester, New York City, Ithaca and at Camp Smith in the Hudson Valley.

Because the deploying members of the brigade come from all over New York, the decision was made to have ceremonies in the places the soldiers are coming from, said 27 BCT Public Affairs Officer Lt. Col. Paul Fanning.

Col. Brian Balfe, the 27th BCT commander evoked the history of the brigade and urged his soldiers to

follow in the footsteps of the 27th Division of World War I and II. He also praised the division soldiers for never faltering during the ten month train-up that brought them to the deployment.

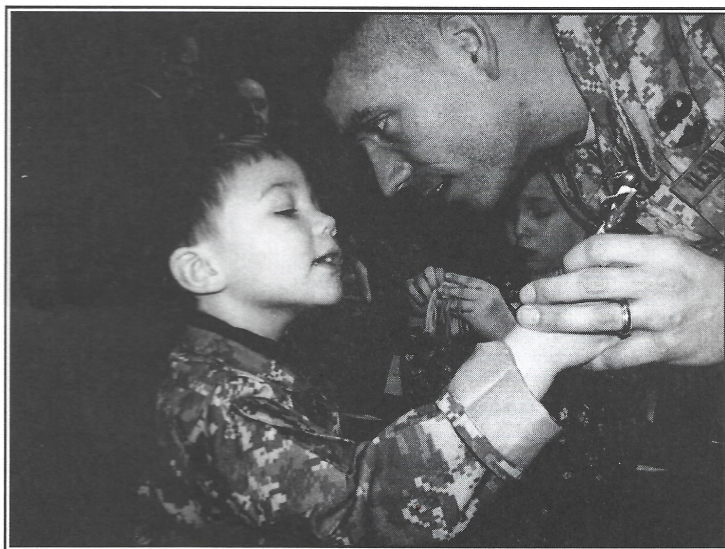
"Everything we have done in the 27th, and will hence forward do, will be done as a team," Balfe said.

Staff Sgt. James Hudson, a computer repair specialist in the brigade headquarters said he was ready to go, do the job and come home. He wasn't looking forward to leaving his family, but he was ready to do an important job, Hudson said.

Staff Sergeant Mathew Storm, a member of the brigade S-3 section, who received a coin from Gov. Spitzer, said it was exciting to meet the governor face-to-face and good of

him to come see the brigade's Soldiers off. "I think it really showed that he cares about the Guard," Storm said. "I think it was a very good move on his part of show support for the troops. I am grateful that he made it and I know it meant a lot to my family," he added.

The 27th BCT will head to Fort Bragg, North Carolina on Jan. 20, prior to deploying for duties in Afghanistan. The Soldiers will be responsible for training the Afghan National Army in conjunction with other members of the coalition of



nations fighting the Taliban and assisting the Afghan government. Almost 300 Soldiers assigned to the brigade have already been mobilized and are currently deployed in Afghanistan.

A total of 1,700 New York National Guard troops are being deployed for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The total active duty deployment time is expected to be one year for the entire task force and will include about two months of training at bases in the U.S. and 10 months duty in theater.

The 27th will take command of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII, which has the responsibility for the training and mentoring of

the Afghan National Army and National Police and providing additional reconstruction support to the fledgling democracy and the Afghan people.

Presently, the South Carolina Army National Guard's 218th Brigade is performing this mission having taken over from the Washington Guard's 41st Brigade in May. The task force from New York will include Soldiers from the New York City and Hudson Valley areas, the Capital District, the North Country and Central and Western New York.

Along with the 27th BCT, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII will include a Training Assistance Group formed from the Guard's 106th Regional Training Institute based at Camp Smith in the Hudson Valley and mentoring teams drawn from Guard combat and combat support units, security force personnel from the Western New York-based 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry, the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry from Central and upstate New York and the Fighting 69th Infantry Battalion from New York City and the Hudson Valley, and logistic and personnel from the 427th Forward Support Battalion at various armories statewide.

More than 6,000 members of the New York Army National Guard have been called to federal active duty for service mostly in Iraq or Afghanistan since 2003. Deployment levels peaked in 2004, when more than 3,500 troops assigned to nearly a dozen different units were on duty. About 600 New York National Guard Soldiers are presently serving on active duty.



Special Guest

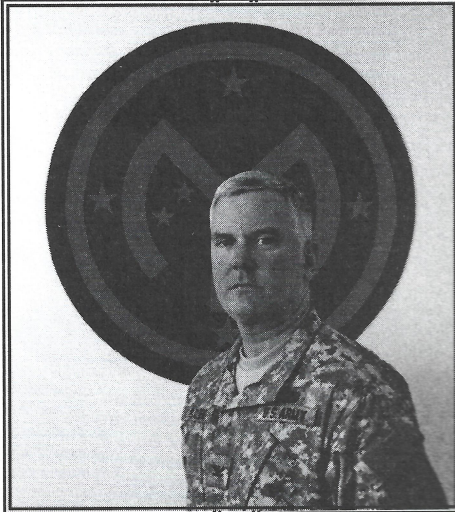
Colonel Balfé

TF Phoenix CO

It's been nearly a year since we learned that the 27th Brigade Combat Team had been selected to take command of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Since that time, the Team has been on a rugged and building pace of organizing, preparing and training. Now, the first phase of this historic mobilization is coming to a climax, as the end of post mobilization training nears and we prepare to move overseas to relieve our comrades in the 218th BCT of South Carolina, and conduct a Transfer of Authority.

In fulfillment of the Department of the Army's new mobilization model for deploying Guard and reserve units, the 27th BCT completed seven weeks of pre-mobilization training in 2007 during two three-week training periods in the Summer and Fall, and an additional week of training in December. In between those periods, we completed intense drill weekends packed with briefings, programs of instruction and planning meetings – at least one was an extended training weekend lasting four days.

The energy and time committed and the hard work performed is



starting to pay off. The 27th BCT is probably the best prepared force for the CJTF Phoenix mission to date, and I am convinced that this team will exceed the standard in country.

We face a challenging mission that continues to evolve in theater even as we are training at Fort Bragg, NC. We have a strong team of experienced leaders, from team and squad, up through the brigade headquarters and staff, which are fully committed to the task ahead. I am very proud of them and I know that all of our 27th Veterans share in this pride.

Orion Soldiers have never failed our nation and that is true of this team as well. The legacy of the New York Division in past wars is a source of deep inspiration, as is the record of service of those who have long served in our units during the Cold War period right up to this era of the Global War on Terror.

So as we stand at the Line of Departure, we are moving out with confidence, pride and gratitude for the support that is shown to us from back home, and the spirit of service that fills our hearts.

Command is a privilege. I know of no single greater honor than to be in command of this collective team, at this most important time in our nation's his-

tory, and assigned this awesome and vital mission. Orion!

Brian K. Balfé
Colonel, Infantry
27th Brigade Combat Team/
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII
Commanding

Special Guest

Colonel Yaple

TF Phoenix DCO

Hello to all Gallivanters from Forward Operating Base Patriot!

I just wanted to take a few minutes from our busy training schedule to let you all know how the men and women of the 27th are progressing in our preparation to deploy to Afghanistan.

FOB Patriot is a very realistic mock-up of what a typical FOB will be like overseas. It is a "Tent City", housing just over 2000 soldiers in very tight quarters- 16 Soldiers per tent. As a result we are all just finishing up with a nasty bout of the flu! Maybe this was all part of Uncle Sams plan to help increase our immunity?

In addition to the sleeping tents, the FOB has tents designated for dining facilities, a laser weapons marksmanship training system, several designated for classrooms, command posts, shower tents and trailers (hot water optional), laundry trailers and there is plenty of outdoor space to run and stay in shape. Home sweet

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home! Although the conditions here at FOB Patriot are somewhat austere, they pale in comparison to the training conditions our WWII brothers endured. We think of them often as they are an inspiration to all of us.

Our Soldiers are extremely motivated and eager to learn and improve themselves. They are training hard and we expect to be ready to deploy in very short order. They have completed weapons marksmanship training, crew served weapons training, base defense, mounted combat patrol, urban operations and several road marches. Everyone is doing a professional and great job!

Right before our deployment ceremony, the entire brigade will form up into the "Living Insignia" formation for a replica photo made famous during WWI. CSM Piwowarski is pulling his hair out trying to figure this formation out! I am really looking forward to seeing the results of this effort!

From my perspective the Soldiers of the 27th are carrying on the Division's history and traditions with dignity and pride. You would all be very proud if you could see them in action here at Fort Bragg, and I'm sure we will carry that spirit forward into Afghanistan.

Yours in the 27th-
Gary

GARY S. YAPLE
COL, IN
TF Phoenix VII Deputy Commander
27th Infantry Brigade Combat

THE BOYS FROM TROY

S u b m i t t e d b y W a y n e C l a r k e

Wayne Clarke works at the Military Museum in Saratoga, and is a huge advocate for the 27th Division Association and all history related to 27th. He has built a special relationship with the men in Troy's Post 105 and the Tibbets Cadets. Wayne expects to publish a book of Poems very soon. We'll be sure to keep you posted on how to obtain a copy when it comes out. Below is one about his friends from Troy...

*Most of 'em are gone now, they've been leavin' us one by one
That Second World War generation, their time on earth now done*

*There was a time, not so long ago, when they were young like me and you
When their hopes and dreams were put on hold, at the start of World War Two*

*They came from a National Guard unit, one spilling over with pride
For Troy, New York was their home town, where life ebbed and flowed like the tide*

*They were all part of one big family, whose visions of excitement and adventure swirled
Their rough and tumble battle cry was, "South Troy Against The World"*

*Their exploits have now become legend, so many of them rest now in graves
For many of them freely laid down their lives, for their brothers whom they would save*

*They were joined by others just like 'em, from every single state
Their nation called and they answered, for freedom was at stake*

*They were all part of the 27th, a division now known far and wide
In places like Makin and Saipan, too many of these young men died*

*Medals Of Honor, are awarded to so very few
For O'Brien and Baker and Salomon, it was the only one that would do*

*Today's men and women in uniform, carry on that tradition you see
Yes, the 27th is still alive and well, for freedom has never been free*

Now the few of them ol' boys still livin', stand with pride when Ol' Glory's unfurled

*And they still smile wide when they hear that ol' cry, "
South Troy Against The World"*

*from SOLDIER BALLADS and OTHER TALES
The Poems Of WD CLARKE*

MAILBAG

-TAPS-

Matthew P Garbett of Binghamton, NY passed away on 25 November 2007. He was predeceased by his wife Charlotte and is survived by 2 sons and a daughter-in-law, 3 grand children and 2 great grandchildren. Matthew left for Alabama in 1940 with Company H, 106th Infantry as a Corporal and returned from Hawaii to attend OCS. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart. He was a longtime member of Post 11, 27 Division Association

Nicholas J. Cavallaro of Binghamton
 Nicholas J. Cavallaro, 88, of Binghamton, passed away Sunday, January 13, 2008, at the New York State Veterans Home, Oxford. He was predeceased by his parents, Antonio and Concetta Cavallaro; and five brothers, George, Jack, Frank, Joe and Armand. He is survived his wife of 61 years, Mary J. Randesi Cavallaro, Binghamton; a daughter, Marie A. Cavallaro, Salisbury, Md.; a son, Nicholas A. Cavallaro, Houston, Tex.; a grandson, Ian N. Quillen, Williamsport, Pa.; a sister, Anna Lipka,



Binghamton; sister-in-law, Ellie Cavallaro; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Binghamton. Nicholas served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Pacific as First Sergeant with the 106th Infantry and was a life member of V.F.W. 2332, member of the 27th Division and past National Commander of the 27th Division and member of D.A.V. Chapter 60. He was a retired independent insurance agent. The family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to special friends, Maria Corby and Robert Mayo for all their help throughout his long illness and to Dr. Abdelazim for the excellent assistance Nicholas received under his care. The family also wishes to thank the entire staff and management and administration at the N.Y.S. Veterans Home, especially that of Apple Cottage, where Nicholas spent his remaining days in comfort and dignity. A Funeral Mass will be offered at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Binghamton, Wednesday at 10 a.m. Entombment will be in Calvary Cemetery, Johnson City. The family will receive friends at St. Mary of

the Assumption Church, Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in memory of Nicholas may be made to Danielle House, 160 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, N.Y. 13905; or a charity of your choice. Arrangements are by the J.A. McCormack Sons Funeral Home, 141 Main St., Binghamton, N.Y.

Williard Van Wie of Gunderland passed away at the age of ninety on February 12, 2008 at St Peter's Hospital after a brief illness. He was a distinguished US Army veteran. He served as a staff sergeant in the Pacific Theatre with the 27th Division, 106 Infantry, Company A. He was a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient.

Willard worked as an assembler at the Waterliet Arsenal for many years, retiring in 1979. He was a member of the 27th Division Association, Colonie Elks 2192, VFW Post 8692, DAV #88, and American Legion Post 1450.

Memorial Fund Contributions made in the names below: Col Aloysius Rolfes by P Larson, Edward Lipka by Ann Lipka and for Company B, 106 Inf- 27th Div lets try for the Ninety Club by Robert Stefferson.

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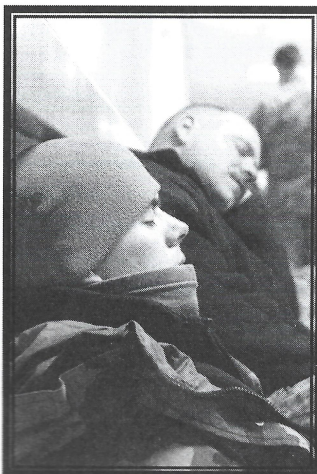
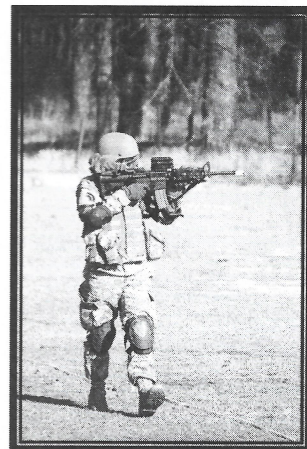
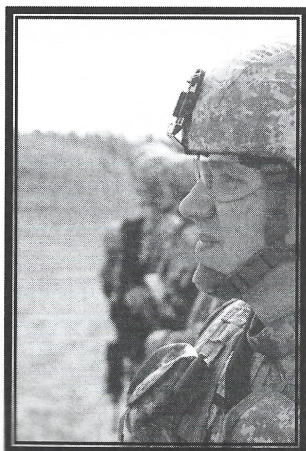
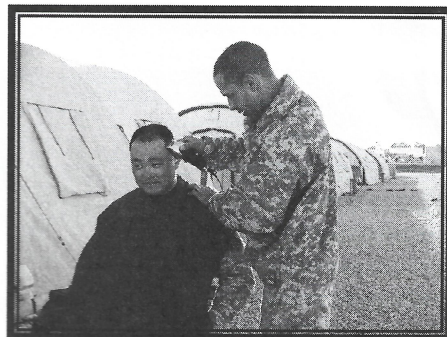
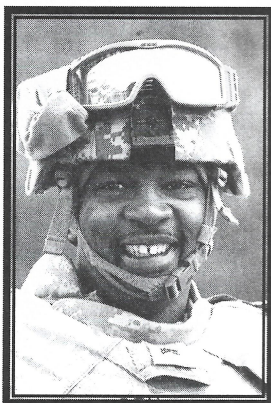
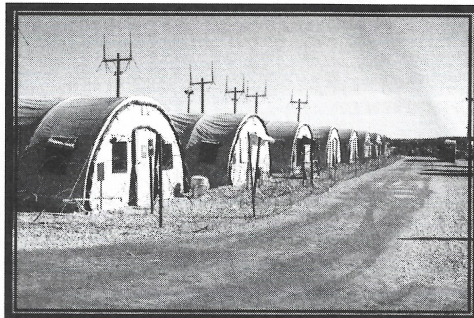
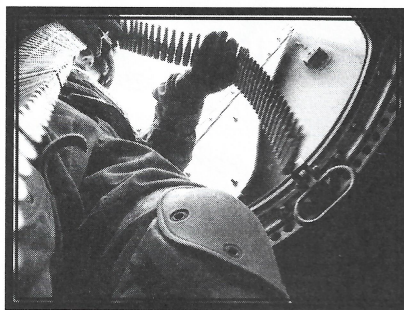
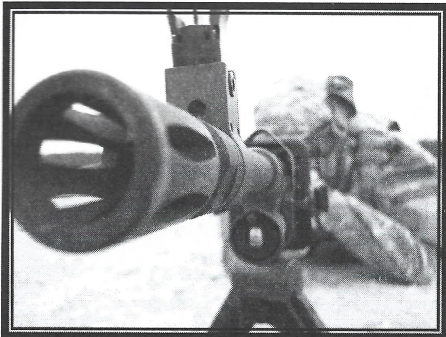


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THE SHUTTERBUG PAGE

Fort Bragg Edition



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

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-TAPS-

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Nicholas J. Cavallaro of Binghamton
 Nicholas J. Cavallaro, 88, of Binghamton, passed away Sunday, January 13, 2008, at the New York State Veterans Home, Oxford. He was predeceased by his parents, Antonio and Concetta Cavallaro; and five brothers, George, Jack, Frank, Joe and Armand. He is survived his wife of 61 years, Mary J. Randesi Cavallaro, Binghamton; a daughter, Marie A. Cavallaro, Salisbury, Md.; a son, Nicholas A. Cavallaro, Houston, Tex.; a grandson, Ian N. Quillen, Williamsport, Pa.; a sister, Anna Lipka,



Binghamton; sister-in-law, Ellie Cavallaro; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Binghamton. Nicholas served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Pacific as First Sergeant with the 106th Infantry and was a life member of V.F.W. 2332, member of the 27th Division and past National Commander of the 27th Division and member of D.A.V. Chapter 60. He was a retired independent insurance agent. The family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to special friends, Maria Corby and Robert Mayo for all their help throughout his long illness and to Dr. Abdelazim for the excellent assistance Nicholas received under his care. The family also wishes to thank the entire staff and management and administration at the N.Y.S. Veterans Home, especially that of Apple Cottage, where Nicholas spent his remaining days in comfort and dignity. A Funeral Mass will be offered at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Binghamton, Wednesday at 10 a.m. Entombment will be in Calvary Cemetery, Johnson City. The family will receive friends at St. Mary of

the Assumption Church, Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in memory of Nicholas may be made to Danielle House, 160 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, N.Y. 13905; or a charity of your choice. Arrangements are by the J.A. McCormack Sons Funeral Home, 141 Main St., Binghamton, N.Y.

Williard Van Wie of Gunderland passed away at the age of ninety on February 12, 2008 at St Peter's Hospital after a brief illness. He was a distinguished US Army veteran. He served as a staff sergeant in the Pacific Theatre with the 27th Division, 106 Infantry, Company A. He was a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient.

Willard worked as an assembler at the Waterliet Arsenal for many years, retiring in 1979. He was a member of the 27th Division Association, Colonie Elks 2192, VFW Post 8692, DAV #88, and American Legion Post 1450.

Memorial Fund Contributions made in the names below: Col Aloysius Rolfes by P Larson, Edward Lipka by Ann Lipka and for Company B, 106 Inf- 27th Div lets try for the Ninety Club by Robert Stefferson.

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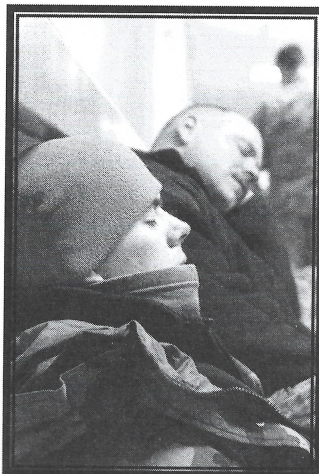
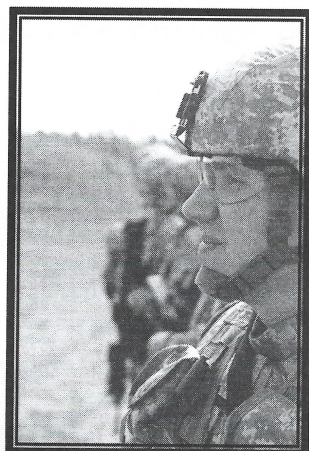
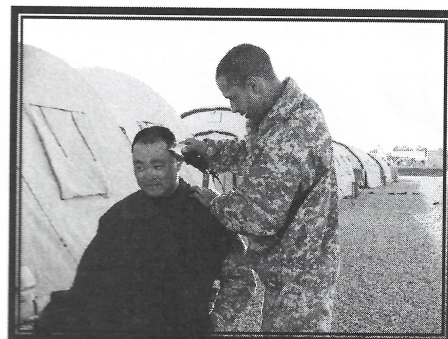
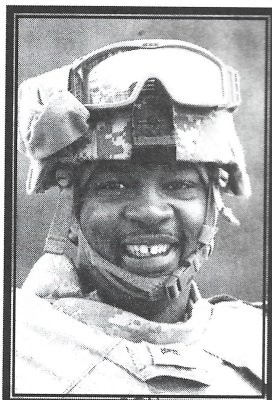
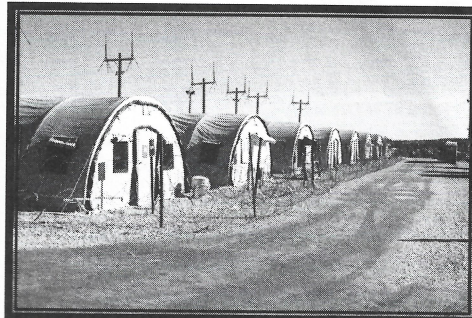
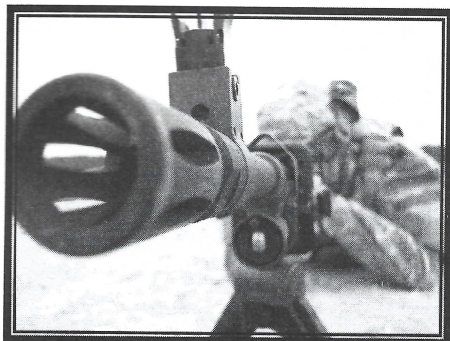
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