

MARCH 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

A Soldier's Story

My Memory of The Battle of Okinawa

By Sid Harris

Because of our shortage of replacements and the terrible beating we had taken on Saipan, we were originally slated to capture 6 small islands off of the coast of OKINAWA. We were to garrison OKINAWA when it was secured.

When we arrived off OKINAWA, we were informed that we would take the right flank of our line that was to attack the southern part of the island. The Marines were to attack the North end, which was thought to be more fortified.

Our line was composed of the 7th Division on our left, 96th Division in the center and the 27th on the right extending to the coast.

We had 4 Battalions of Artillery in our Division. Three battalions of 105mm guns (36) One battalion of 155mm guns (12). We found out that the South end had 907 of the defending force. So XXIV Corps assigned two battalions of Marine 105mm guns to our line, which gave us a total of 72 guns. Each Army Division had the same with the addition of the two Marine battalion's guns.

The terrain, when we started the attack was fairly open with a large series of inter—locking hills. When a smoke grenade was thrown into one hole on a hill, smoke came out of 20 other holes. All of the hills were the same. The Japs had their guns about 2 feet

back from the outside edge of the holes and could not be seen from outside. It took us a little time to take each hill, one at a time. We eventually got by them and butted into the SHURI LINE, which was impregnable. We pounded it and attacked it numerous times but were always repulsed with heavy casualties. Navy planes hit them with bombs and Napalm to no avail. This went on for 10 days and with rough seas it was becoming a real problem to get shells for our Artillery. We held our positions and tried to find a way to crack the SHURI LINE.

Our Colonel sent a night patrol over a pipeline, which crossed an estuary 150 yards wide, which was

THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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

VOL. XLVII MARCH 2006 NO. 1

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Sgt. Arthur J. Coakley

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Commander's Message

Greetings many friends

Our board of directors meeting was held on the 28th of January at Hafners in North Syracuse. It was a very productive meeting, we discussed the next annual reunion and it was decided that we would again go to the Courtyard by Marriott in Saratoga Springs the weekend of 28 and 29 September and the 1st of October. It is the board's intent to have the monument that is currently at Camp Smith moved to the NYS Military Museum and have it re-dedicated that weekend that we are all there. Hopefully by our planning early we will be able to improve our responses and improve our headcount at the reunion, it would be nice to have a large turnout for the dedication. Our next board meeting is scheduled for the 17th of June where we will finalize the plans for the reunion and make the nomination for the vacant 3rd Vice Commander.

We have one new Officer to introduce Scott Kyle will be taking the position of editor for the Gallivanter. Scott is currently a fire team leader with Alpha Co. 2-108th infantry, and has been an active member of the 27th Div. Association, and also the 108th Association For many years. We welcome him and look forward to working with him throughout the future. I would also like to thank Roberta Comerford for her tenure as both the secretary and editor of the Gallivanter she has spent several years doing both jobs and will remain on the board as the Secretary for the Association.

There is some interest in what the current units of the Brigade are accomplishing and what they have done in support of the current missions in the world. I will be sending a letter to the current Commanders and their Sergeant Majors to get their responses published in upcoming Galivanter issues.

As I mentioned in the December issue, more units within NYS are being activated and families are being impacted by deployments or upcoming deployments. We have the ability to quell some of the fear that those soldiers feel at leaving their families that someone here at home can answer questions or be able to help with advise while they are deployed. I watch my local post at how the relationships have grown over the years between members and how they look after each other. It amazes me that the relationships we make during military service span such a long time and I hope that we can foster that in the next generation of veterans and their families.

Yours in friendship

Harold Jones IV

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- | | |
|--|--|
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Mailing Addresses:

27th DIV ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

- Unit & Personal Remembrances
 - 80 Plus Club to the Editor
 - Historical stories
 - Reunion Notices
 - Mailbag items
 - Taps
- New Membership application
- Membership Dues—\$10.00
- Memorial Fund Donations
 - Gallivanter Donations
 - Change of address

(The Post Office does not tell us you have changed address, you must let us know.)

Mail to this address:

**27th Division Association
Attn: Secretary/Editor,
Roberta Comerford
P.O. Box 2522
Syracuse, NY 13220-2522**

Email roberta.comerford@us.army.mil

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

ALL WOMEN'S AUX MEMBERS

- Membership Dues—\$2.00
- Memorial Fund Donations
- General Fund Donations

Mail to:

**Women's Auxiliary, 27th Div
Attn: ESTHER GARDNER
126 Sergeant Street
Johnson City, NY 13790-1922**

Make checks payable to:
**Women's Auxiliary,
27th Division Association, Inc.**

NOTE: Please do not combine Women's Auxiliary Items with Division Association Items. Doing so significantly increases the time it takes for the Women's Auxiliary to receive the money. Please be sure to send checks made out correctly to the Women's Auxiliary, directly to Esther Gardner.

**MEMBERSHIPS
See Page 7**

Memory of Okinawa Battle

(Continued from page 1)

to our battalion on the immediate front. The Lieutenant who was leading the patrol said there was a ridge (KAKZU) on the ocean side, which did not seem to be heavily defended. The Colonel discussed the possibility of the Engineers putting up a footbridge and our battalion crossing, getting under their heavy guns and making a night attack on the ocean side of KAKZU RIDGE. The General agreed, as we did not have any other options. The Engineers started moving up the material they needed and stored it out of sight of Japanese observation for the next night. Artillery and Planes hit them for as long as we needed to keep them in their under-ground holes. The Engineers put the bridge up and we were across by 0200 and at the foot of the RIDGE ready to attack by 0300.

The Artillery and Planes shifted so that it was clear for us at the top. We hit them about dawn and drove them back. The rest of the Regiment joined us. We let the 96th Division thru us and the other 2 Regiments. We all drove them back and this enabled the 7th Division to also reach the top. The Japs knocked out the footbridge 3 times after we had crossed and the Engineers kept putting it back up. We found out later that 70,000 Japanese troops had been opposing us, which made us realize that we could not crack the SHURI LINE. The rains started and it became so muddy that the vehicles could not move.

We continued to push the Japs

back. It became a bloody and rough time. OKINAWA was fast becoming the bloodiest battle of the whole Pacific. After nearly a month of constant fighting, the Army Divisions had to be re-aligned. Fortunately, the Marines had an easier time and had secured the North and were able by the end of April to relieve the exhausted Army Divisions for rest and replacements.

After a few days rest, no replacements, the 27th started a 3 month mop-up of the Northern mountains of OKINAWA. We killed more of the enemy and rounded up thousands of civilians. The 77th, 96th, 7th Army Divisions and the Marines finished the southern end, which had become just a senseless killing on both sides of the line.

Finally, sometime in August, OKINAWA was over.

Sid Harris
2nd Battalion 106th Infantry
27th Division

80 PLUS CLUB



First Name	Last Name	
Doran L.	Ankney	(Age 83)
Howard C.	O'Neil	(Age 86)
Duane W.	Wolfe	

The Annual 27th Division Association Inc. Reunion

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2006



Courtyard Marriott

11 Excelsior Avenue

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



Total Package

Meals Only Package

Includes:

Includes:

Lodging, Friday and Saturday Night
 Dinner Friday, All meals Saturday, and
 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)

Meal Package Only Prices:
 Friday Night Blinger: \$22/ Person
 Saturday Morning B-Fast: \$13/ Person
 Commander's Luncheon: \$25/ Person
 Banquet Dinner: \$35/ Person
 Sunday Morning B-Fast: \$13/ Person

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

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

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

\$10 Member Reunion registration fee due upon arrival.

Total Package Reservation Card

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

ACCOMODATIONS INFORMATION

27th Division Association National Reunion 29 September – 1 October 2006

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____ Phone: () _____

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

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

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

RSVP Must Be Received No Later Than September 1st 2006

The Annual 27th Division Association Inc. Reunion



SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2006

Courtyard Marriott

11 Excelsior Avenue

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



Schedule of Events

Courtyard Marriott

Friday, September 29, 2006

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Registration

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Blinger

Saturday, September 30, 2006

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Membership Meeting

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

12:00 PM Commander's Luncheon

Immediately followed by a Memorial Service

5:00 PM Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM Dinner, Banquet Room

Sunday, October 1, 2006

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Farewells

The NEW Courtyard Hotel by Marriott is conveniently located in historic downtown Saratoga Springs and less than 2 miles from the race track. We're within walking distance to museums, restaurants, retail shops and the City Center.

Directions:

From the New York State Thruway: Exit 24 Take Route 87 North towards Saratoga Springs 25 Miles Take

EXIT 15- toward SARATOGA SPRINGS / GANSEVOORT Route 50

Turn LEFT onto NY-50 / CV WHITNEY MEMORIAL HWY. 1.7 Miles

Turn Left onto Rock Street

Turn Left onto Excelsior

Meals Only Reservation Card

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

MEAL INFORMATION

27th Division Association National Reunion 29 September – 1 October 2006

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Please specify meals by quantity required in each box below:

Friday Blinger Saturday B-Fast Cdr's Luncheon Reunion Dinner Sunday B-Fast
 \$22 each \$13 each \$25 each \$35 each \$13 each

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

RSVP Must Be Received No Later Than September 1st 2006

New Members

Welcome Aboard!

Mr. Richard D. Williams
Mr. David Stark

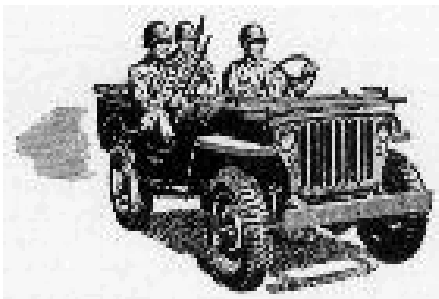
Gallivanter Fund

Our grateful thanks to the following contributors:

\$50.00 John F. Crowley
\$25.00 John R. Elliott
\$25.00 Richard Huff
\$20.00 Robert E. Skoog
\$15.00 Palmer Larson
\$15.00 Wm W McPherren
\$15.00 John J. Collins
\$10.00 Arthur P. Conlon

Memorial Fund

\$25.00 Howard C. O'Neal
In memory of F Company who did not make it back
\$20.00 G Co. Reunion Group Fund In memory of Charles Pfeiffer Co. "G"
\$20.00 G Co. Reunion Group Fund In memory of John Federici
\$20.00 G Co. Reunion Group Fund In memory of Harold Routt
\$15.00 Nathan Batwin In memory of the men of E Co, 106 Inf, who have gone to the beyond
\$10.00 Francis A. Leone, Sr. In memory of deceased members of Co M, 106th Inf, 27th Div.



MAILBAG

Gilbert S. Record
453 Crescent Court
Frankfort, IN 46041-2225
765-654-6295

I have a copy of the names of "G" Company men from the amphibious exercise in November 1989. Anyone who would like a copy please let me know and I will be glad to send it to them. There are four members of "H" Company along with three widows and some family members who still meet every six months in Effingham, IL at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel. If anyone who was in "H" Company would like to join us, let me know.

Mike Zuckerman

Three veterans of NY 27th Infantry Division of Post 13, Florida and 102 NY and the Syracuse post, with their wives, attended a "Farewell Cruise" aboard the Carribean Princess to the Eastern Carribean on January 14-21, 2006 out of Port Everglades, FL in Fort Lauderdale. A good time was had by all. It was cozy and comfortable and we dedicated this cruise to St. Thomas, St. Maaren and the Cays to all our comrades who were deceased.

Another cruise may develop next year in January, 2007 aboard the brand new "Costa Magica" to the Turks and Caicos Island and the Dominican Republic.

He also advises Frank Leone is the recipient of the Bronze Star for bravery in the Pacific. John Munka is the recipient of both the Bronze Star and the Silver Star for bravery on Eniwetok and Saipan. You see them in the twilight of their lives. They are dedicated Americans and unsung heroes as are many others of the Greatest Generation. I am proud of them.

Louis V. Pappa
Co H, 105th Inf.
104 Parker Boulevard
Weaver, AL 36277
256-820-7735

Anniston, AL is still here with a lot of memories with it. I am asking something. I have the 27th Division book that has pictures of the division before we went to combat. Would it have any value? Just curious as my sons want to keep it when I pass on. Thank you.



IT'S CHOW TIME! From left to right aboard the "Carribean Princess", Frank Leone, Mary Leone, Mike Zuckerman, Etta Zuckerman, Anna Marie Monka, and John Monka

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*

I desire to become a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the 27th Division Association Inc., and pay herewith \$2.00 for one year membership dues for the year 2005.

I submit the following information to be included with my record:

Full Name _____
 (First) (Middle) (Last)

Address _____
 (House Number and Street) (City) (Zone) (State) (Zip)

My son, husband, brother, father served in World War I-II
 _____ Battalion

With Company, Battery or Troop _____
*Make remittance (\$2.00) payable to:
 Women's Auxiliary The 27th Division Association, Inc.
 Send to: Attn: Esther Gardner Sec/Treas;
 126 Sergeant Street, Johnson City, NY 13790-1922*

27TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Full Name _____
 (First) (Middle) (Last)

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____
 (House Number and Street) (City) (Zone) (State) (Zip)

Current Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Post No. _____ or Check if member At Large _____

Age Please check <30 \$200 ___ 31-40 \$190 ___ 41-50 \$170 ___
 51-60 \$150 ___ 61-70 \$120 ___ 71-80 \$90 ___ 81 & up \$60 ___

LIFE MEMBER

Submissions to the Editor

ONLY USE THIS ADDRESS:

27th Division Association
 P.O. Box 2522
 Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

LIFE MEMBERS:

Dues paid to National for life memberships are NATIONAL DUES only. If you want to belong to a Post, you will owe POST DUES. Roberta

REMINDER:

2006 Dues are \$10.00 (or Life Membership)

At Large Members

Please make checks

payable to:

The 27th Division Association, Inc.

Mail to: Secretary/Treasurer

Roberta Comerford

P.O. Box 2522

Syracuse, NY 13220

Member of a Post?

See your Post Secretary

SUGGESTION: If you want to keep your Gallivanter intact - make a copy of this section and submit the copy of the membership renewal. (Or handwrite all information.)

DEAD LINE:

Items for the June issue must be received by
1 May 2006

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P.O. Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

VOL. XLVII MARCH 2006 NO. 1

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR ON THE LABEL!

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

TAPS



Charles A. Pfeiffer, 83, of 531 35th St. SE, passed away July 7, 2005, in his residence after a long battle with cancer, with his family at his bedside. He was

born in Pekin, Ill., on Oct. 31, 1921, the son of Charles Pfeiffer and Bettie Mansfield Pfeiffer Morris. He married Myra McMakin on Nov. 2, 1950, in Tremont, Ill., in the Baptist Parsonage.

Charlie, (Snuffy) was a devoted husband and father. He served his country bravely in World War II while assigned to the South Pacific Theater. He was awarded the Combat Infantrymen's Badge, the Bronze Star and other decorations. Mr. Pfeiffer and his wife were active in planning annual reunions for the G Company, 106th Infantry, 27th Division for 19 years, and were active in the National 27th Division. Snuffy seemed to have a smile and a joke ready for almost any situation. His sense of humor and zest for life made an impression on everyone who met him. He will be sincerely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Pasquale Mercadante passed away December 6, 2005. He is survived by his wife Clementina Mercadante. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Arthur G. Hansen, 89 of Council Bluffs, passed away December 5, 2005 at his residence. He was born March 21, 1916 in rural Council Bluffs to Peter C. and Ann Hansen. He was a 1934 graduate of Abraham Lincoln High School. He was a WWII veteran serving in Makin invasion, Saipan and Okinawa with the U.S. Army in the 27th Infantry Division. He was an officer in G Company, 105th Regt., 27th Division. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star. He is survived by is wife, Gwendolyn M. Hansen, a son, daughter, three grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Russell Joseph Delfosse passed away December 9, 2005. Born March 31, 1919, in Laporte, Indiana, he was raised on Montreal, Canada and upstate New York. He joined the U.S. Army in 1940, served in the Philippine Campaigns in the Pacific Theatre during WWII with Co H 108th Infantry Regiment. He left the service as a First Ser-

geant in 1945. He was proud to be a soldier of the 108th Infantry Regiment and 27th Division. He and Rigmor (Rae) Peterson were married on September 16, 1946, and were married 59 years. He is survived by his beloved wife, Rae, and daughters Ellen Darden, Therese Osborne, Lorraine Delfosse and Suzanne Wilnaus, their husbands Frank Darden, Bill Osborne, Steve Walker and Don Wilnau are the sons he never had. He is also survived by nine grandchildren.

Leo Alvin Sharp Sr., age 84 of Sevierville, passed away January 25, 2006. MAJ Sharp was a decorated Combat Infantry Officer in WWII, having served with the 27th Infantry Division in Saipan, Okinawa and Japan. He was later with the 79th Infantry Division and the 75th American Military Government Company in Japan. MAJ Sharp was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and served as an instructor in small unit tactics at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA. He is survived by his wife of over 58 years, Lavelle Brown Sharp, son Leo Sharp, wife Barbara, grandchildren and cousins.