# December 2012 /// CORION 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

Noble Eagle I & II

Iraqi Freedom

Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, Kuwait

# ORION RESPONDS

#### HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF EFFORTS

FORT HAMILTON, N.Y. – Soldiers, airmen, first responders and other government agencies aid Coney Island residents impacted by Hurricane Sandy in New York City, N.Y., Nov. 9, 2012.

The collaborative effort offered residents supplies and medical attention; determined to support residents not able to leave their homes.

"We are going to go door-to-door, seeing if anybody needs food, medical assistance, water or anything that they might need," said U.S. Army National Guardsman Pvt. Joseph Chojnacki IV, a cavalry scout of A. Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, Geneva, N.Y.

Chojnacki and fellow Army Guardsmen were on standby before the storm hit and was then activated and arrived to Fort Hamilton, N.Y., Oct. 31, 2012.

"Buildings were completely devastated," said Chojnacki, a Buffalo, N.Y., native.

"We were walking on what used to be regular streets," he explained regarding the view he saw when he first arrived to the city. "It felt like we were walking at the beach, because of all the sand."

But the Guardsmen weren't the only ones who traveled hundreds of miles to help those affected by the storm.

Blake Graham, and Kiaya Perkins, Lafayette, Ind., natives, and first responders – medical personnel capable of providing basic life support – of the Prompt Ambulance Service, Lafayette, Ind., traveled more than 700 miles to support Hurricane Sandy relief operations.

Graham, and Perkins are a few of more than 700 medical personnel working together to aid local residents.

"Its great how everyone can come from everywhere and work together," said Graham.

Others assisting with the relief efforts, were Soldiers from the 101st Cavalry, Guardsmen of the 28th Military Police Company, Johnstown, Pa.; airmen of the 171st Air Refueling Wing, Pittsburg, Pa.; and members of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

[DOHMH].

Although the relief effort came prepared to assist those in need,



# THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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### Commander's Message

#### Greetings Gallivanters!

As I am writing my comments to you we are in the thick of our State response to Hurricane Sandy. In true form to the highest standards of the 27th, members of this fine organization are deployed overseas and simultaneously mobilized in response to the devastation caused by the hurricane. Millions of citizens were affected by widespread power outages, flooding, fires, significant personal loss and total destruction of entire neighborhoods.

The men and women of the 27th Brigade were among the first in the fight, rescuing hundreds of citizens. In the days following hurricane landfall, thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines joined together to deliver emergency assistance in the form of distribution points for relief items, security presence patrols, power generation, debris clearance and removal and water pumping capabilities to name a few. Two weeks into this mission our warriors continued to provide emergency relief to the citizens of New York, with no definitive end to the mission in sight.

At the same time, many of the 2-108th Infantry Soldiers had arrived home and were re-integrating back to their normal lives. These brave Soldiers had earned a well deserved break! Additionally, the rest of the deployed Brigade was preparing to return home. By the time you read this, they should be back on United States soil or within days a few days of arriving.

We are so proud of all the 27th has accomplished this year in response to the call to duty by both Nation and State. They are all a testament to the storied history and proud lineage of this great organization.

Congratulations and well done 27th Brigade! Welcome Home!

Yours in the 27th, Gary

#### **Editor's Corner**



#### Mailing Addresses:

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    - Historical stories
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# Remember to Check out the 27th Div on Facebook!

Search for "27th Division Association or use this link: https://www.facebook.com/#!/ groups/168222080741/ Fellow 27th Veterans,

As you read this, the last elements of the 27th BDE will have returned home or will soon be on their way. As we return, every Soldier processes through Camp Shelby, MS—the same place that we mobilized out from. The fellow National Guardsmen and Civilians of Camp Shelby have been out processing our Soldiers in a professional and speedy manner in an effort to get everyone home as quickly as possible. I processed through in late November and can attest to their concern and attention to detail.

It's been a memorable year for nearly every Soldier within the 27th BDE. From multiple countries for the deployed units, to conducting our primary mission—responding to natural disasters for the units that remained stateside. In every mission the men and women of the 27th BDE acquitted themselves with the professionalism that has always been the hallmark of The Empire Brigade. Whether assisting the people of Afghanistan, working with middle eastern partners or bringing aid and relief to our own state we have left our mark.

Our next year will bring new missions, new challenges and as always, new history to be written. Many Soldiers will be moving on—back to their previous units, new assignments or retirement. Together, we the veterans of the 27th must work to ensure that all Soldiers who wore the Stars of Orion become members of the Association, ensuring that we will continue on as active organization.

Sincerely, Your Editor Robert Romano

#### **Orion Responds**

Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts

(Continued from page 1)

the workforces were there to collect information from those needing other assistance not readily available such as prescription refills, and restoring power, heat, or telephone communications.

"It's [a] beautiful thing," said Faina Goldreyer, a New York City resident whose car was flooded, and was left without a working telephone because of the storm. Goldreyer was thankful for the soldiers and medical personnel.

At the time, more than 2,000 homes were reached by the relief effort and more than 10 residents needed medical care.

With many homes still out of power, water, food and telephone services; service members, first responders, and other local government agencies will continue to seek people in need.

"I'm happy I'm here and able to help out," said U.S. Army Guardsman Spc. Zebadiah Mientkiewicz, a Fredonia, N.Y., native, and cavalry scout with B. Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, Jamestown, N.Y.

"All-in-all, we're doing good stuff," he said. "Doing the right thing."

LONG BEACH, N.Y. – New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Company F, 427th Brigade Support Battalion assist local residents arriving by military vehicle to Long Beach City Hall for evacuation to shelters supervised by Nassau County Office of Emergency Management. The National Guard response force is part of Governor Cuomo's callup of more than 2,200 troops in response to subtropical storm Sandy which struck New York City and Long Island Oct. 29. The National Guard has been supporting local emergency responders in and around Long Beach to assist residents coping with the severe flooding caused by the 10 foot storm surge.



## Portraits In Courage

Medal of Honor Recipients of the 27th

#### **SGT Thomas Baker**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty at Saipan, Mariana Islands, 19 June to 7 July 1944. When his entire company was held up by fire from automatic weapons and small-arms fire from strongly fortified enemy positions that commanded the view of the company, Sgt. (then Pvt.) Baker voluntarily took a bazooka and dashed alone to within 100 yards of the enemy. Through heavy rifle and machinegun fire that was directed at him by the enemy, he knocked out the strong point, enabling his company to assault the ridge. Some days later while his company advanced across the open field flanked with obstructions and places of concealment for the enemy, Sgt. Baker again voluntarily took up a position in the rear to protect the company against surprise attack and came upon 2 heavily fortified enemy pockets manned by 2 officers and 10 enlisted men which had been bypassed. Without regard for such superior numbers, he unhesitatingly attacked and killed all of them. Five hundred yards farther, he discovered 6 men of the enemy who had concealed themselves behind our lines and destroyed all of them. On 7 July 1944, the perimeter of which Sgt. Baker was a part was attacked from 3 sides by from 3,000 to 5,000 Japanese. During the early stages of this attack, Sgt. Baker was seriously wounded but he insisted on remaining in the line and fired at the enemy at ranges sometimes as close as 5 yards until his am-

munition munition and weapon batness from hand he was carried the rear by a was then himthis point Sgt. be moved any he preferred to rather than risk more of his time later, at was placed in



out. Without amwith his tered to useless--to-hand combat, about 50 yards to comrade, who self wounded. At Baker refused to farther stating that be left to die the lives of any friends. A short request, he a sitting position

against a small tree. Another comrade, withdrawing, offered assistance. Sgt. Baker refused, insisting that he be left alone and be given a soldier's pistol with its remaining 8 rounds of ammunition. When last seen alive, Sgt. Baker was propped against a tree, pistol in hand, calmly facing the foe. Later Sgt. Baker's body was found in the same position, gun empty, with 8 Japanese lying dead before him. His deeds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.

# Orion Responds

BROOKLYN, NY -- New York Army National Guard Soldier Pvt. Irving Fuentes with Headquarters, Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, talks with a local resident of Coney Island, NY November 24, 2012. Working with local authorities in the wake of hurricane Sandy, Fuentes and other Soldiers of the 69th are going door to door, providing goods and services, like water and food, and also collecting data to better assess the welfare of the residents.

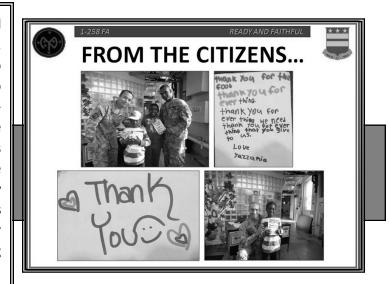




NEW YORK CITY-- Soldiers assigned to the New York Army National Guard's 3rd Platoon of Company A, 1-69th Infantry rush a patient from Bellevue Hospital on Wednesday night, Oct. 31 after the decision was made to evacuate the hospital. Despite losing power when Hurricane Sandy hit on Monday, Oct. 29, the hospital stayed open using an emergency generator on the roof which was refueled by 1-69th Soldiers carrying five gallon fuel jugs up 13 floors to keep the 1000 gallon tank filled.

150 Soldiers were called out to respond to the evacuation order to move 500 patients after millions of gallons of water were discovered in the basement.

From 11-13 NOV 12, Soldiers from TF 258 were tasked with assisting in debris removal efforts in the Rockaways. The storm surge caused major flooding and damage to many homes. Many residents found themselves having to throw out everything from wet dry wall to ruined appliances. Working with the Department of Sanitation, the Soldiers assisted in the removal of 35 truckloads of debris spread across 50 blocks. According to SPC Woodard, "The Soldiers understood that they weren't just throwing away trash, they were throwing away peoples' memories. It was important that we treated folk's stuff with respect." Their efforts will allow these people to more closer to rebuilding their lives.



#### **HOW IT HAPPENED**

#### Part 10: "Armistice"

Nov. 11 was sure a big day for us. After many weary months of war "and Sherman certainly was right" peace was declared officially. At 10:58 A.M. things were humming as usual and two minutes later almost perfect quiet. Some contrast to what we had been hearing for months. We were in Peaceful valley at last and the big majority of us alive and kicking.

Things seemed mighty strange. Now instead of the big Jerries coming over whistling, then exploding somewhere near us with a roar, the loudest noise that we hear is the purr of a motor truck

going past or a second lieutenant giving a com-Things don't mand. seem right at all. We have many visions of Home, Sweet Home and are not sung to sleep nights by our artillerv.

Nov. 12 very quiet. Spent the time in doing a sadly needed washing. Hope that Mother doesn't learn about my becoming so proficient with a cake of soap and a scrub brush. Also got a chance to take a sort of bath and clean up a trifle. Now

feel like a new man. One of the fellows was talking with an officer today and the officer looking at the front of the private's blouse said "What is that on your blouse?" The private looked where the officer was pointing and picking off the Cootie said "What is the matter with you you little fool, do you want to catch pneumonia?" and put the cootie back inside his blouse. No details now-a-days but the trucks going up to move the artillery back.

It seems as if Old Man Weather knows exactly what has happened. For weeks it has been cold and nasty with rain and rain. Now since the Armistice the skies have cleared up. We are having moonlit and starry nights and sunshiny days although quite cold. Also we can have lights at night and reveille isn't until 6:30 A.M. Great speculation, also much worry as to whether we are going to be part of the army of occupation or not. We surely hope not. Nov 14th 8 fellows from each company were sent to the army of occupation, some by choice and some as punishment. By this it looks as if we were not going to be part of the army of occupation and our visions of Home, Sweet Home are much brighter. Home is sure the greatest little place in this old world. Getting much colder. Had to go up stairs in our shell shocked French barracks and tear up the floor in order to get fire wood for our powder stoves.

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> the 309<sup>th</sup> field artillery, draft boys

of Rochester and vicinity marched into the courtyard of our barracks. them over. Knew some of the boys and talked down, over and across. Their It sounded great especould listen with closed eyes and imagine Teddy Dosenbach standing there waving his baton at

Next day they started to clean up their cannon preparatory to turning Rochester up, band gave concerts every morning and afternoon. cially as we had had no band with us and we

Maplewood Park. Imagination is a great thing. Just imagine a meal now with soup, oysters on the half shell, roast duckling, salad and pie a la mode, all for 35¢. Who asked where? I said just imagine it.

Nov. 16th we turned all of our trucks over to the army of occupation. We sure must be preparing to return to God's country and we consider ourselves some lucky boys. Big rumor that the 106<sup>th</sup> machine gun battalion are at Bar Le Duc and that we are to rejoin the 27<sup>th</sup> Div. soon. Certainly hope so as I haven't seen my old side kicks since leaving the good old U.S.A. Getting so cold that I bought a couple of sheepskins from a French soldier to



keep warm. Had a jacket made out of them. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> I was ordered to Decize (pronounced desease – and so it was), which town was back in the center of France.

I was to take a course on internal combustion engines, going to Motor Transport School #1. Left Farbourg-Paive, just outside of Verdun, for Dugny in a truck at 6 P.M. took a car to Lereoville where we caught the Paris special to Vitry Le Francois; stayed over night here in a small hotel and had some good eats, white sheets and the bed and the bed was soft. First in a long time. Next morning at 6:46 after a good breakfast we took the train for Chaumont by way of St. Dizier. Of course all soldiers had to ride 3<sup>rd</sup> class on all French railways which at their best are terrible, but we didn't mind a little thing like that. We were going to have a change of scenery and that was quite interesting. General Pershing and General Army Headquarters were at Chaumont. We tried to get some money on our pay books but as the francs were all gone but were unsuccessful. There was a great Y.M.C.A. at Chaumont where they fed us fine. Took the night train for Decize. The regulations at Chaumont were very strict about soldiers entering the town but we outfigured the guard and were able to look the town over. This night was very cold and we had to sleep on the floor of the rattler that We were due to arrive in we were riding in. Decize at 1 A.M. and like all good French trains we did finally arrive at 6 A.M. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> arrived at school and found that I was only six days late. Was given quarters and assigned to company and classes. That afternoon I started to look around and was pleased to discover some old playmates of mine there studying for commissions. One by the name of Herb. Anthony of "Holsum Bread" fame and the other was Vern. Adkin with whom I used to compare answers at East High School. Both from Rochester and Base Hospital #19. Rochester got talked about that night and for days after. Incidentally I borrowed 580 francs from Herb. before I left school.

Each day we had classes and work on motors from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M. then were allowed out in the town until 8:30. Curfew rang at 9 P.M. and if we weren't in at that time, why we appeared before the commandant the next morning. Each Saturday we exercised by washing all of the trucks

and they had all been playing around in the mud the entire week. Cute little job. The food was worse than when the war was on so most of the borrowed francs went for food at the little French restaurant located on the grounds where they said "Dix franc" without a smile for ham and eggs. Dix franc, in other words, means two large bucks in the English language.

While at school we heard the big rumor that the 27<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> Div. were to be home to parade on Xmas in New York. Everytime we get some good news, it lasts for a couple of days, then we find out it is not true and then feel like beating some one up. Haven't been paid for over two months so sold my overshoes for 10 francs, also my sheepskins for 20 francs. Nov. 25th, Thanksgiving Day and we surely have much to be thankful for. There were about a hundred Mason's at school beside myself so that night we chartered a hotel down town and put on a Turkey Dinner. Plenty to eat, speeches, songs and general good time although we had to be back in our barracks at the usual hour of 9. Big rumor that the 27th Div. is at Bordeaux ready to sail. Plenty of rumors in the army. More rain and plenty of it but that is a mere trifle in a soldier's life. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> received travelling orders and left school at 2 P.M. Received invitation to stay at school and take a course for commission but declined with thanks.

#### Next: "Home Again!"

The Archives are not complete and are not a static collection. They are the history of our brothers-inarms since 1916. We need your stories and pictures to help keep that history accurate and complete. If you can, please send in anything you have, from WWI to TF Sandy, and it will be added to the Archives. Photos with names, newspaper clippings, typewritten stories, or just about anything from any era will help. Copies and digital images are just fine. Contact me if you have any questions.

Geoffrey Milligan, Historian geoffrey.milligan@gmail.com

# The Way it was - the Way it is NIGHT VISION OF THE 27TH

#### - M1 / M2 Snipercopes -

Practical, man portable night vision equipment was first introduced to the US Army with the M1 / M2 Sniperscopes in 1944. They were developed at the same time as the M3—a select fire version of the M1 Carbine. The scopes were pushed into production to counter Japanese night infiltration techniques.

The Sniperscope evolved from the M1, with an initial effective range of about 70 yards, to the M2, with a range of about 100 yards. Both of these used vibrator power supplies to convert 6 volt battery levels to 4250 volts for the image-viewing tube. IR rays are focused on the image tubes, causing electrons to be emitted, which are then accelerated and strike a fluorescent screen, converting the sub-visible-light image to the visible light range, showing all objects as various shades of green. Both system weighed approximately 32lbs.

Once acquiring an enemy target, standard operating procedure would have the operator open fire with a short automatic burst, directing nearby riflemen or BAR operators to fire on the unseen enemy position. Sniperscopes were used in the later island campaigns to include Okinawa where they accounted for 30% of enemy casualties.



#### - AN/PSQ-20 ENVG -

Throughout the development of Night Imaging equipment, the two primary methods that evolved used image intensification or thermal (infra-red). Each method has different strengths and weaknesses. Image intensification allows for a lightweight system, low power usage and a greater amount of detail in low light conditions but can't operate in total darkness. Thermal systems tend to be heavier but aren't effected by obscurants such as dust or smoke. Additionally, thermal systems can be used during daylight hours to see through dense foliage or other natural camouflage.

Weighing in at less than 2lbs, the AN/PSQ-20 Enhanced Night Vision Goggle is the first lightweight unit to incorporate both systems requiring only 4 AA batteries to operate. Initial development began in 2004 with the first test units being issued to Special Forces in 2008.

The AN/PSQ-20 is continually undergoing further development with the ENVG-D model expected to be delivered in 2014. These models will be lighter, have greater range and lower power usage as well as allowing for digital transfer of images to weapon systems or to digital video storage devices.



Author Major Robert Romano has been the 27th Brigade's "New Equipment Fielding Officer" since 2006 and has been the primary project officer on over 125 fieldings from shotguns to satellite communications equipment totaling more that \$250 Million.



#### MAILBAG



#### — MESSAGES & MEMORIALS —

#### - Paul B. Vandevander -

Dear Sirs.

My Father, Paul B. Vandevander served with the 27th DIV, 165th IN, Company D in WWII. He passed away in Aug, 2012 of a heart attack. He didn't suffer at death and lived a good life of 87 years. We will miss him a lot for he was a great father and a fine man. I loved to hear him tell me about his time in the Army and he was very proud of his service. Thank you. Lynn P. Vandevander

Michael Mahar 41 Sparkill Ave. Albany, NY 12209 (sparkill41@gmail.com)

Dear Fellow Vets,

I am researching the history of Co. D. 105th IN on or just prior to Saipan. SGT John Mulligan of Co. D, who was a friend of my father, was listed as KIA on 7/9/44 but according to Loves book, Saipan was secured prior to that date. Is it possible that SGT Mulligan wasn't found until after the battle? With service records having been lost in the fire, the Army has not been able to help. Is there an informal history of the 105th or after action reports with might contain information on Co. D.?

Any guidance you could provide would be appreciated. Mike Mahar

Kenneth Johnson PO Box 23 El Dorado, CA 95623

To the Gallivanter,

I am writing this to give you information about myself, hoping to get in contact with some of the men from my unit. I was assigned to Company L, 165th IN in Jan 1944 after returning from Makin. After a few months of training on Oahu we went to Saipan. From there we went to the New Hebredies for replacements and more training. From there it was on to Okinawa. After peace was declared were flown to Okinawa where we stayed in a small town called Kashiwaki. We stayed there until December 1945 when we left to come back to the states. I would like to hear from any of my old unit (at the above address).

Sincerely, Kenneth Johnson



# THE SHUTTERBUG















# Former Foes **Exchange Salutes**

FREDERICKSBURG, VA-- Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers (on left) from Battery A 1st Battalion 111th Field Artillery. and the 116th Special Troops Battalion exchange salutes with New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Company A 1st Battalion 69th Infantry during a ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg, which was fought on Dec. 9, 1862.



The 69th Infantry, and the ancestors of the Virginia Army National Guard units, fought against each other during the battle. The members of A Company visited the battle field to commemorate the event. The unit representatives met along the "Sunken Road" where the Confederates had dug in to resist the Union assault.

Members of the 69th Infantry put springs of green in their coats, to mark themselves as an Irish regiment, before they charged the Confederate lines that day.

# **NYC Mayor Bloomberg Honors Service of the 27th**

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg honored NY Army National Guardsmen during a Veterans Day celebration in Manhattan, N.Y., Nov. 11, 2012.

Bloomberg thanked all of those helping within the community and specifically acknowledged the soldiers of B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, out of Jamestown, N.Y. Hurricane sandy gave the city another reason to thank soldiers on Veterans Day, he said. Soldiers, along with service members from all the branches, responded quickly after the storm devastated parts of New York. Service members sprang into action helping repair and restore the city's infrastructure, said Bloomberg. In fact, the soldiers have lead various



relief operations to include overseeing point of distribution sites – giving out food, water and supplies – and leading door-to-door health checks with first responders throughout the city.

"We're absolutely happy to be here," said U.S. Army National Guard Capt. Jeffrey J. Kelley, commander of B. Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, Jamestown, N.Y. Kelley is proud and impressed by his soldiers' efforts since they were activated and mobilized to Fort Hamilton, Oct. 31, 2012. "The soldiers work hard and don't complain," said Kelley, a Grand Island, N.Y., native. "I couldn't ask for a better troop."

U.S. Army National Guard Pvt. Zachary Moore, a mortar man within the troop, was overwhelmed by the mayor's gesture. "It was nice to meet the mayor and to hear what he felt about what we are doing," said Moore, a Jamestown, N.Y., native. "It made me feel good when he called us out and thanked us for our hard work."

The soldiers will continue to support Hurricane Sandy relief operations throughout the city knowing that residents are appreciative for their unrelenting efforts. "Thank you," said Bloomberg. "For everything you've done for our city."

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