

LIBERTY TORCH

77th Regional Support Command, Fort Totten, N.Y. 11359
Vol. 14 No. 1 July 2000



77th HHC



**411th
Engineer
Brigade**



**8th Medical
Brigade**



**455
Chemical
Brigade**

A century in review



301st ASG



**800th Military
Police Brigade**



William J. Collins, Jr.
Major General, Commander
77th Regional Support Command

This issue of the Liberty Torch is a tribute to the history of the 77th. It is intended honor every soldier that has proudly worn the Statue of Liberty Patch. We are a living legacy of the brave men and women who have unflinchingly gone off to battle ready to give their all to ensure our nation's welfare. Many did not return. We owe them the greatest debt.

Words from the CG

For those of us who still wear the Liberty Patch in a time of global unease, when "hot spots" around the world are just a bullet away from igniting, our part in our nation's defense is nothing short of courageous. Desert Storm, only a decade ago, proved how quickly the Reserve could be mobilized if war breaks out. We and our families live in an uncertain world, yet blessed by liberty that most of the world still yearns for, your service helps underwrite that liberty.

I hope this special issue gives you insight into our history. It illustrates every single Army Value. Our core values, loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage are exemplified in the actions of the Medal of Honor winners. Their bravery and courage are awesome. Maj. Charles Whittlesey

during World War I demonstrated just one example exemplifying the value "duty". He commanded the "Lost Battalion" and refused to surrender because his orders were to hold the forward position "at all costs."

Read between the lines of this chronicle and see the Army Values in the soldiers that served in the World Wars, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Bosnia and countless small deployments. Those values are alive and well in the soldiers deployed to places like Kosovo, Germany, Korea, Guatemala, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Read our history and be proud you are part of it. We are forging the next chapter in a long line of "Liberty Patchers," citizen soldiers, patriots all.



Commander's Success Indicators

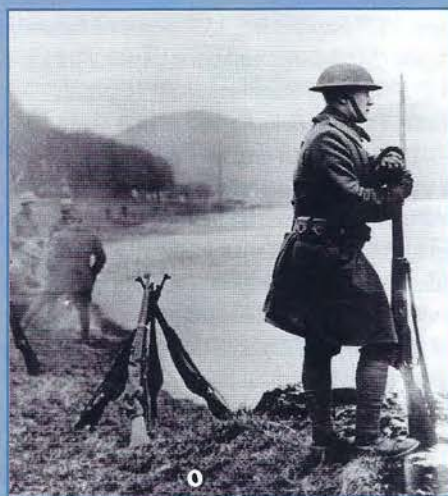


READINESS STANDARDS	TIER 1A	TIER 1B-2A	TIER 2B-5A
OVERALL	C-2	C-3	
PERSONNEL	P-1	P-2	P-3
ASSIGNED	90%+	80-89%	70-79%
AVAIL MOS QUAL	85%+	75-84%	65-74%
TRAINING	T-2 15-28DAYS	T-3 29-42DAYS	
EQUIPMENT ON-HAND	S-2	S-3	
EQUIPMENT	80-89%	65-79%	
AIRCRAFT	80-89%	60-79%	
EQUIP SERVICEABILITY	R-2	R-3	
EQUIPMENT	70-89%	60-69%	
AIRCRAFT	60-74%	50-59%	
RETENTION	SKILL LEVEL 1	SKILL LEVELS 2-5	
ASSIGNED	65%	70%	
DELAYED TRAINING	SHIP 95% NPS TO IET		
IDT PARTICIPATION	75% AUTHORIZED/ASSIGNED STRENGTH		

LIBERTY TORCH



With his bayonet mounted, a 77th Infantry Division soldier stands guard on the frontlines during World War I. The war marked the beginning of the 77th and a strong history of dedicated service of "Metro Division" citizen soldiers.



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About the 77th RSC leadership



Maj. Gen. William J. Collins, Jr. began his distinguished military career after receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery Corps through the

Reserve Officer Training Corps program at LaSalle University in Philadelphia. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting.

He joined the Army Reserve in 1967 upon his release from active duty. Collins then completed the Armor Officer Advanced Course and rose through the ranks in a series of positions, each of greater responsibility.

In May 1988, Collins assumed command of the 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (Mech) located in Horsham, Pa. The brigade was the largest mechanized unit the U.S. Army Reserve. He also served as deputy commanding general, 97th ARCOM. Prior to assuming duties as the Commanding General of the 77th Regional Support Command in May 1997, Collins served as the Commanding General of the 78th Division (Exercise) at Edison, N.J.

He is a graduate of such military institutions as the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, the Armor Officer Advance Course, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Senior Reserve Component Officer Course at the prestigious Army War College. Collins is also a graduate of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.



Brig. Gen. Gary R. DiLallo entered the United States Army Reserve as an enlisted man in 1968. He served until 1973 when he received a direct commission in

the Transportation Corps. In 1978 DiLallo transferred to the Army National Guard where he served until 1987.

After transferring back to the Army Reserve, he served in the 98th Division as the Provost Marshal and Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, commanded the 2d Battalion 392d Regiment in Ithaca, the 1st Brigade in Schenectady and the 2d Brigade in Buffalo. Prior to assuming his present position with the 77th Regional Support Command, DiLallo was the assistant Division Commander-Support, 98th Division (IT) in Rochester, N.Y.

In addition to the Transportation Basic Course, he is a graduate of the Military Police Officer Basic Course, the Ordnance Officer Basic Course, the AMEDD Officer and Advanced Course, the Engineer Officer Basic Course, the Armor Officer Basic Course, the Quartermaster Advanced Course, the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College and the prestigious US Army War College.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree from American University and a Master of Science degree in Theology from St. Bernard's Institute.



CSM Harry L. Lovell, Jr. was assigned as the 77th Regional Support command, command sergeant major on Jan. 12, 2000. His previous assignments include command

sergeant major of the 455th Chemical Brigade, 77th RSC; command sergeant major, 2nd Brigade (FE) 78th Division, command sergeant major, 1st Bn 309th Regiment 78th Division, command sergeant major, 157th Support Bn, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (Mech) and command sergeant major, 1st Bn 315th Infantry Regiment, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (Mech).

Lovell enlisted on Jan. 14, 1972 and served the majority of his career in the combat arms and combat support units. He has held many leadership positions some of which include infantry squad leader, infantry rifle sergeant, infantry support platoon sergeant, mechanized infantry company first sergeant, infantry battalion operations sergeant, battalion maintenance NCO.

His military education includes BNCOC, ANCO, NCO Academy Senior Course, Command Sergeant Major Orientation Course and the 78th Division Observer/ Controller Course. Lovell is a graduate of the Philadelphia Police Academy and holds an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University.

In civilian life he has been a member of the police department for more than 24 years. His current assignment is with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as a deputized Federal Agent, working on the Violent Traffickers Project investigating drug related Homicides.

The mission of the 77th Regional Support Command is to provide the nation with trained and ready units and furnish superior service to our customers.

WWI 'Metro Div' fought in four battles

The 77th Division, National Army, was organized at Camp Upton, near Yaphank, Long Island on August 25, 1917. It was called the "Metropolitan Division" because its personnel came almost entirely from New York City. They were an aggregate of about 23,000 Manhattan taxi drivers, Bronx tailors, Brooklyn factory hands, Wall Street executives and a generous sprinkling of professional men from the five boroughs.

Only six months after its activation, units of the 77th commanded by Brig. Gen. Evan M. Johnson left Camp Upton for various ports of debarkation. Some infantry units took the train to Boston, where they boarded a British ship, which joined a convoy near New York and then sailed for Europe.

On April 30, 1918, elements of the 77th went ashore in France – the first National Army Division to reach Europe. At Calais, it was planned that the 77th would operate as part of the British Army. They moved to positions behind the British front in Flanders, where British rifles, helmets and gas masks, as well as tea and rations were issued.

Leaving Flanders, the Division was assigned a sector in the Vosges foothills near Switzerland. They moved near Baccarat in Lorraine. The 77th was closely watched since it was the first of America's National Army Divisions to go on line. The Allied High Command wondered whether this army of amateurs could hold its own against seasoned professionals.

After three months of training in France, the 77th entered the front lines in the Baccarat sector in June 1918. Two months later, the 77th was along the Vesle River near Bazoches.

The Allies launched a major counter offensive on the Marne and moved on August 12 through Chateau Thierry toward the Vesle River looking for the enemy. On September 16, a regiment was withdrawn from the line and sent to the far western edge of the Argonne Forest.

The 77th attained its greatest fame in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. After four years of stalemate in this sector, an intricate network of deep trenches had developed. There was an impossible tangle of barbed wire. Constant bombardment had shattered the trees and pocked the earth with craters.

It was during this drive that soldiers of the "Lost Battalion" of the 308th Infantry Regiment made their heroic stand. But the Liberty Patch

soldiers in the Argonne Forest – elements of two battalions of the 308th Infantry and sections of the 306th Machine Gun battalion – were never really "lost."

Suddenly from the American rear on October 7 came rifle fire and the rat-tat-tat of Hotchkiss guns as elements of the 77th broke through after three days and relieved its isolated force by nightfall. Almost two-thirds of the troops had been killed in action. At dawn the next day, 252 survivors headed for the rear.

The 77th broke out of the Argonne into the valley of the Aire on October 10. The Division's assault battalions reached the Meuse River by November 6. It continued to hold the line when the firing stopped and Armistice was declared at 11 a.m. on Nov.

11, 1918. Official records show no other American division was nearer the German frontier than the front line of the 77th Division. The division fought in four campaigns during 68 days of combat: Baccarat, Oise-Aisne, Aisne-Marne and Meuse-Argonne. It counted 2,375 men killed or reported missing, 7,302 wounded.

On May 6, 1919, "New York's Own" 77th Division paraded up Fifth Avenue in its last formation. It was a memorable hour of spectacle and sentiment, "a dashing and magnificent picture," the New York Times reported.

In World War I, the 77th Infantry Division was composed of four infantry regiments: the 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th. There were only three – the 305th, 306th and 307th – in World War II.

77th relied on 'wing, prayer'

By Lt. Col. (Ret) Larry Light

Carrier pigeons were the radio communications of World War I – and one feathered messenger saved almost 500 troops of the 77th Infantry Division.

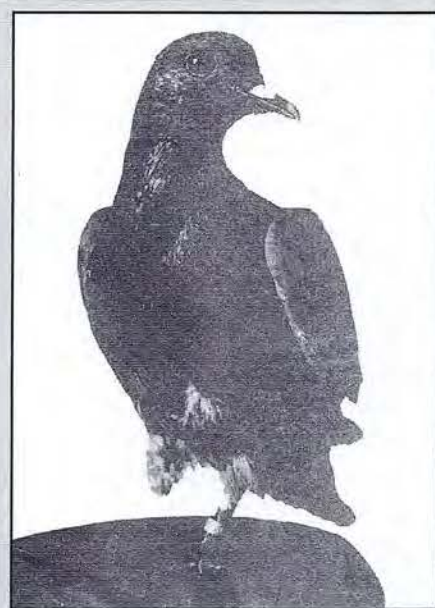
Cher Ami was among several hundred birds donated to the allies by British pigeon fanciers. After training by the Signal Corps, it was assigned to the 77th Division, ancestor of the 77th RSC. In October 1918, during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, it and five other birds moved out with elements of the 77th under Maj. Charles Whittlesey, who was ordered to hold a forward position "at all costs."

The costs were high.

Whittlesey's force, later known as the "Lost Battalion," became surrounded by Germans, who decimated them in their shallow trenches. To make matters worse, American artillery mistakenly began shelling Whittlesey's troops.

Whittlesey tried to sneak messengers through German lines, but they were killed. Every time he dispatched a pigeon, German marksmen blew it out of the sky.

Finally, one, Cher Ami, was left.



Lifesaver Cher Ami

As the bird flapped into the air, a German bullet hit it and it plunged to earth. To the amazement of the Americans 100 yards away, the plucky pigeon struggled aloft again. It had one leg gone and a wing badly damaged.

A mass of feathers and blood, it wobbled into U.S. headquarters. The "Lost Battalion" was saved.

Cher Ami got a hero's treatment from then on. It received the best medical care and sailed to America in an officer's cabin.

Stuffed after its death in 1920, the valiant bird now is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

'Lost Battalion' not lost

By Master Sgt. (Ret) Bob Button

History calls them the Lost Battalion, but the Liberty Patch soldiers who fought that World War I battle in the Argonne Forest were never lost. They were not really a battalion, but elements of two battalions of the 308th Infantry, plus sections of the 306th machine gun battalion — 679 men commanded by Maj. Charles S. Whittlesey.

It was Oct. 2, 1918, and the American and French attack into the heart of the Argonne Forest had come to a standstill. Assault after assault met devastating enemy fire from concealed German guns covering the entire front.

Both sides fought tooth and nail for each foot of ground, unaware that victory and defeat would be decided by the stroke of a pen in five weeks' time. At 12: 50 p.m., artillery smashed into the German lines to cover still another full-scale attack by charging French and American troops. Again they stopped in their tracks.

Whittlesey penetrated a heavily wooded ravine of tangled trees and vines, capturing two officers, 28 German soldiers and the three machine guns that defended the enemy position. He was ordered to hold the tiny salient. His 600 men dug "funkholes" and improved their defenses. It grew quiet. They rested.

The major sent several platoons to probe the German lines for a weak spot. Within two hours 18 men returned. The Germans had surrounded them and they were ordered to escape any way they could.

German artillery had been shelling the position since 8:30 a.m. without effect. Patrols re-

ported that the "Boche" were on the flanks. An enemy trench mortar opened fire. A platoon tried to silence it, but was turned back by machine gun fire. A German prisoner revealed that his company had moved in behind the Americans during the night.

By now, late afternoon October 3, communications with the 77th Division were broken. Rations were exhausted. Carrier pigeons flew to regimental headquarters with a message. The battalion was cut off!

Toward dusk, excited German voices were heard on all flanks. From the babble the New Yorkers made out the word *Amerikaner*. Large forces could be seen moving through the trees. It got dark.

"Stand to!" commanded an officer.

A weapon fired, and someone shouted, "Steady!" The Americans settled down. German voices got louder on all sides.

"Adolph..." Shouted a German on nearby high ground.

"Hier," came the reply. "Nun Alles ist in Stellung" (Now everybody is in position)

"Dritte Kompanie alles zusammen!" (Third Company all together), reported the first voice.

Potato-masher grenades fell from everywhere. Clusters of them rained from the trees, exploding deafeningly among the dug-in Liberty Patchers. The defenders held steady during the 10-minute bombardment. Every man was alert, weapon cocked and ready.

"Alles ist in Stellung..." shouted the enemy leader, but the command died in a hail of bullets as the Americans opened up in unison, foiling a second grenade attack and catching the Germans

upright. They had mistaken American calm for cowardice.

By October 4, 542 men held the position. They had no rations, no blankets. Ammunition was dangerously low. German voices that night were less bold. Some called out in English, ordering the Americans to move out. Nobody moved. Someone shouted in English, "Gas Masks!" but fooled no one with the heavily accented wrong command for gas attack.

"Gas masks, hell," replied a New Yorker.

From that point on, the Germans and Americans shouted commands and curses at each other inside the tiny Ardennes pocket. Rain fell almost continuously on the nearly starving Americans. Machine guns put grazing fire inches above their heads. The dead lay unburied where they fell. Wounded men suffered in silence as the two surviving medics crawled to aid them. Bandages from the dead were used again on the living.

By Sunday, October 6, 375 Americans still hung on at dawn. By evening, the force was down to 275 hungry but effective soldiers. Still they fought off attack after attack, determined to hold at all costs. They could hear the guns of friendly forces trying to blast a hole in the German pincers.

Nine Americans slipped into the forest to find food. One returned. Another was captured and sent back under a white flag of truce with a letter from the German commander. "Your wounded can be heard over here...I am appealing to your humane sentiments to stop..."

Whittlesey's response was to remove two white panels put out for identification by friendly aircraft. He would show no white.

"Come and get us," hollered the troops, by now too hungry and tired to make much noise, but still full of fight.

Withering fire and gasoline flame-throwers hit the stubborn Americans from the left. Suddenly, from the rear and right flank came rifle fire and the rat-tat-tat of Hotchkiss guns. Elements of the 77th Division had broken through. The stranded battalion stirred to life, firing the last of its ammunition, pumping out point-blank fire from its only remaining machine gun.

The enemy attack crumbled.

At dawn, Oct. 8, 1918, 252 survivors headed for the rear.





On the frontlines, watchfulness is the word for the sentry



To these French nationals, their homeland threatened, the Americans are saviors.



The division moves out bound for the troop ship and the conflict.



A doughboy drills with a makeshift wooden rifle, left, while in France, above, the division eats, sleeps and fights in the endless trenches, above



WWI Medal of Honor recipients

Capt. Wardlaw L. Miles
308th Infantry, 77th Division
Vesle, September 14, 1918

CITATION: Volunteered to lead his company in a hazardous attack on a commanding trench position near the Aisne Canal, which other troops had previously attempted to take without success. His company immediately met with intense machinegun fire, against which it had no artillery assistance, but Capt. Miles preceded the first wave and assisted in cutting a passage through the enemy's wire entanglements. In so doing, he was wounded 5 times by machinegun bullets, both legs and 1 arm being fractured, whereupon he ordered himself placed on a stretcher and had himself carried forward to the enemy trench in order that he might encourage and direct his company, which by this time suffered numerous casualties. Under the inspiration of this officer's indomitable spirit his men held the hostile position and consolidated the front line after an action lasting 2 hours, at the conclusion of which Capt. Miles was carried to the aid station against his will.

1st Lt. Dwite H. Schaffner
306th Infantry, 77th Division
Argonne, September 28, 1918

CITATION: He led his men in an attack on St. Hubert's Pavillion through terrific enemy machinegun, rifle, and artillery fire and drove the enemy from a strongly held entrenched position after hand-to-hand fighting. His bravery and contempt for danger inspired his men, enabling them to hold fast in the face of 3 determined enemy counterattacks. His company's position being exposed to enemy fire from both flanks, he made 3 efforts to locate an enemy machinegun, which had caused heavy casualties. On his third reconnaissance he discovered the gun position and personally silenced the gun, killing or wounding the crew. The third counterattack made by the enemy was initiated by the appearance of a small detachment in advance of the enemy attacking wave. When almost within reach on the American front line the enemy appeared behind them, attacking vigorously

with pistols, rifles, and handgrenades, causing heavy casualties in the American platoon. 1Lt. Schaffner mounted the parapet of the trench and used his pistol and grenades killing a number enemy soldiers, finally reaching the enemy officer leading the attacking forces, a captain, shooting and mortally wounding the latter with his pistol, and dragging the captured officer back to the company's trench, securing from him valuable information as to the enemy's strength and position. The information enabled 1st Lt. Schaffner to maintain for 5 hours the advanced position of his company despite the fact that it was surrounded on 3 sides by strong enemy forces. The undaunted bravery, gallant soldierly conduct, and leadership displayed by 1st Lt. Schaffner undoubtedly saved the survivors of the company from death or capture.

Maj. Charles W. Whittlesey
308th Infantry, 77th Division
Argonne, Oct. 2-7, 1918

CITATION: Although cut-off for 5 days from the remainder of his division, Maj. Whittlesey maintained his position, which he had reached under orders received for an advance, and held his command, consisting originally of 46 officers and men of the 308th Infantry and of Company K of the 307th Infantry, together in the face of superior numbers of the enemy during the 5 days Maj. Whittlesey and his command were thus cut off, and no rations or other supplies reached him, in spite of determined efforts which were made by his division. On the 4th day Maj. Whittlesey received from the enemy a written proposition to surrender, which he treated with contempt, although he was at the time out of rations and had suffered a loss of about 50 percent in killed and wounded of his command and was surrounded by the enemy.

Posthumously Awarded

Lt. Col. Fred Smith
308th Infantry, 77th Division
Argonne, September 29, 1918

CITATION: When communication from the forward regimental post of command to the Battalion leading the advance

had been interrupted temporarily by the infiltration of small parties of the enemy armed with machineguns, Lt. Col. Smith personally led a party of 2 other officers and 10 soldiers, and went forward to reestablish runner posts and carry ammunition to the front line. The guide became confused and the party strayed to the left flank beyond the outposts of supporting troops, suddenly coming under fire from a group of enemy machineguns only 50 yards away. Shouting to the other members of his party to take cover this officer, in disregard of his danger, drew his pistol and opened fire on the German guncrew. About this time he fell, severely wounded in the side, but regaining his footing, he continued to fire on the enemy until most of the men in his party were out of danger. Refusing first-aid treatment he then made his way in plain view of the enemy to a handgrenade dump and returned under continued heavy machinegun fire for the purpose of making another attack on the enemy emplacements. As he was attempting to ascertain the exact location of the nearest nest, he again fell, mortally wounded.

Capt. Nelson M. Holderman
308th Infantry, 77th Division
Argonne, Oct. 2-8, 1918

CITATION: Capt. Holderman commanded a company of a battalion which was cut off and surrounded by the enemy. He was wounded on 4, 5, and 7 October, but throughout the entire period, suffering great pain and subjected to fire of every character, he continued personally to lead and encourage the officers and men under his command with unflinching courage and with distinguished success. On 6 October, in a wounded condition, he rushed through enemy machinegun and shell fire and carried 2 wounded men to a place of safety.

Capt. George G. McMurty
308th Infantry, 77th Division
Argonne, Oct. 2-8, 1918

CITATION: Commanded a battalion which was cut off and surrounded by the enemy and although wounded in the knee by shrapnel on 4 October and suffering great pain, he continued

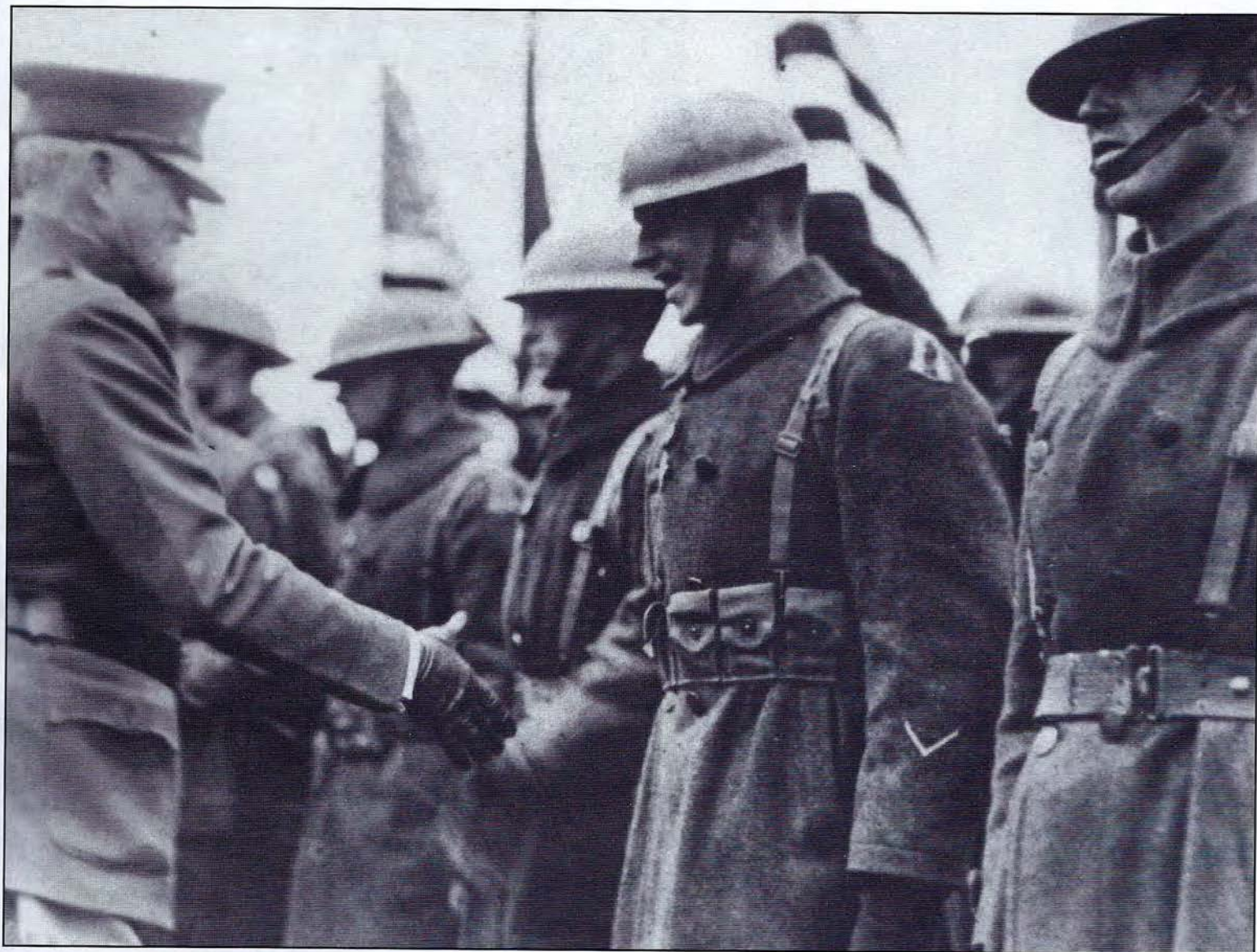
throughout the entire period to encourage his officers and men with a resistent optimism that contributed largely toward preventing panic and disorder among the troops, who were without food, cut off from communication with our lines. On 4 October during a heavy barrage, he personally directed and supervised the moving of the wounded to shelter before himself seeking shelter. On 6 October he was again wounded in the shoulder by a German grenade, but continued personally to organize and direct the defense against the German attack on the position until the attack was defeated. He continued to direct and command his troops, refusing relief, and personally led his men out of the position after assistance arrived before permitting himself to be taken to the hospital on 8 October. During this period the successful defense of the position was due largely to his efforts.

*1st Sgt. Benjamin Kaufman
Co. K, 308th Infantry, 77th Division
Argonne, Oct. 4, 1918*

CITATION: He took out a patrol for the purpose of attacking an enemy machinegun which had checked the advance of his company. Before reaching the gun he became separated from his patrol and a machinegun bullet shattered his right arm. Without hesitation he advanced on the gun alone, throwing grenades with his left hand and charging with an empty pistol, taking one prisoner and scattering the crew, bringing the gun and prisoner back to the first-aid station.

*Pfc. Archie Peck
Co. A, 307th Infantry, 77th Division
Argonne, Oct. 6, 1918*

CITATION: While engaged with 2 other soldiers on patrol duty, he and his comrades were subjected to the direct fire of an enemy machinegun, at which time both his companions were wounded. Returning to his company, he obtained another soldier to accompany him to assist in bringing in the wounded men. His assistant was killed in the exploit, but he continued on, twice returning safely bringing in both men, being under terrific machinegun fire during the entire journey.



Gen. "Black Jack" Pershing greets 77th Infantry Division soldiers during World War I.

Liberty Patch Div formed mini melting pot

The men who formed the 77th Infantry Division in World War II gathered for training at Fort Jackson, S.C., in March 1942. They came from all walks of life. Most were from the New York metropolitan area. Many were either foreign born or recent immigrant.

The "old bastards," as they sometimes were called, were assembled in less than 40 days. Their average age was 32. Some were in their forties and fifties. During the next four years, they would rigorously train for and experience almost every type of warfare seen in

the Pacific. They became expert at amphibious assaults, shore-to-shore; operations, jungle fighting, open and mechanized warfare, and night attacks; as well as attacks on fortifications, cave blasting, mountain warfare, reconnaissance and defensive maneuvers.

In April 1943, the 77th moved to Hyder, Arizona, and became the first infantry division to train and maneuver in the American desert. By the fall of 1943, elements of the 77th were scattered throughout training areas in the East. The Division reassembled at Camp Pickett, Va., in June 1944, to prepare for overseas deployment.

The following month, the 77th under the command of Maj. Gen. Andrew D. Bruce was sent to the Pacific for its first combat mission: to help the Marines liberate Guam, the first populated island captured by the Japanese. The oldest Infantry Division in the U.S. Army defeated the enemy in three separate engagements, securing the island by August 10.

They departed Guam in November 1944 for the east coast of Leyte in the Philippine Islands. Efforts by the 77th soldiers were a critical factor in breaking Japanese resistance there. When the port town of Palompon was captured after a 44-mile amphibious tractor invasion on Christmas Day, General MacArthur declared Leyte secure.

The 77th executed an order to assault Ie Shima on April 16, 1945. The two-by-five mile island is less than three miles west of Okinawa. There they took on their toughest test; the island's capture was crucial to the Pacific war effort.

Among the 239 soldiers who died was one civilian, Ernie Pyle. Marking the spot where the famed and beloved war correspondent was slain by a Japanese sniper, soldiers of the 77th erected a

crude wooden monument. "At this spot, the 77th Infantry Division Lost a Buddy: Ernie Pyle 18 April 1945."

Three days after the end of the mop-up operation, the weary division was in the line of fire on Okinawa, where it suffered its heaviest casualties. For the next two months, they often fought hand-to-hand.

When the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, the 77th Infantry Division was assigned to occupation duty at Hakodate, Hokkaido.

By the time the 77th Division was deactivated on Mar. 15, 1946 in Japan, it had been active just 10 days short of four years. During its five operations in three campaigns – Marianas, the Philippines, and Okinawa – about 200 days were spent in actual combat. The division killed 43,651 enemy soldiers. More than 2,000 Liberty Patch soldiers never saw the Statue of Liberty again. The 77th never fought in a losing campaign.



On the eve of World War II war, 77th veterans march up Fifth Ave.



On the beaches of Guam, Liberty Division soldiers dug in for a night's bivouac.



The U.S. flag flies for the first time on a Japanese home island, Geruma Shima.



A 77th soldiers radios for support during a fire fight in the underbrush.



Danger lurks in the jungles, villages and covered bridges of the Pacific Island.

Words of 'buddy' touched millions

War writer Ernie Pyle viewed as saint, hero

By Master Sgt. (Ret) Bob Button

"...To many a man in the line today, fear is not so much of death itself, but fear of the terror and anguish and utter horror that precedes death in battle."

Ernie Pyle's last column off Ie Shima, April 1945

To the 77th Infantry Division he was a buddy. Americans on all fronts during World War II called him "The Little Guy," or simply Ernie. His name was Ernest Taylor Pyle, the most famous combat correspondent to cover the war – a civilian who saw more battle than a lot of combatants he wrote about.

Ernie was a reluctant hero. Combat depressed and frightened him. His war began under a rain of bombs during the London Blitz of 1940 and ended with a single machinegun bullet on Ie Shima in 1945 as he helped write the bloodiest chapter in Liberty Patch history.

*At This Spot
The 77th Infantry Division
Lost a Buddy
ERNIE PYLE
18 April 1945*

His first ground combat came during the African campaign of 1942. He left the comfort and hot running water of London "in order that I can go along when there's some action," he wrote his editor, Lee Miller.

Ernie began to know the foot soldier. He had come a long way from pre-war days when he traveled the country writing about farmers, miners, clerks and factory workers. Back then he told his boss, "If there's one thing in this world I hate and detest, it is writing about the Army."

He joined the invasion of Normandy, still with the infantrymen he loved. He moved easily among them, armed only with a portable typewriter and a correspondent's armband. Ernie gave the folks back home an intimate look at heroics, humility and humor. He wrote about life in combat, and about death.

"Then a soldier came and stood beside the officer, bent over and spoke to his dead captain. Not in a whisper but tenderly, and said, 'I sure am sorry, sir.'"

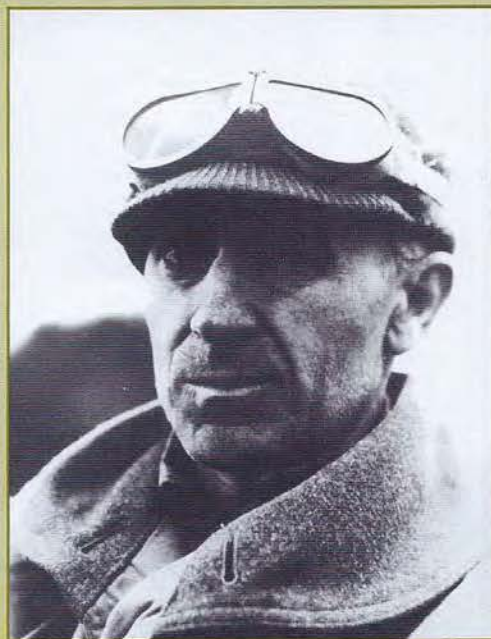
Ernie came home in 1944 tired of war. He had won the coveted Pulitzer Prize for journalism. Women all over America treasured his columns as letters from loved ones far away. He won honors from his home state, Indiana, the American Legion and a score of professional organizations.

His columns helped get combat pay and special badges for the Infantry and combat medical badges for their medics. One column criticized the jeep's handbrake and resulted in redesign of that rugged wartime vehicle. He could rest on his laurels.

***His columns
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pay and special
badges for the
infantry and
combat medical
badges for
medics.***

But duty pulled at Ernie Pyle. He covered the Iwo Jima battle from a Navy carrier, vowing he'd never make another beachhead. He'd go in after the landing forces from now on. Then came Okinawa. The Marines headed north toward the Motobu Peninsula on Okinawa's west coast, just three miles from Ie Shima island.

Ie Shima, only 10 miles square, is dominated by a 600-foot peak called the Pinnacle by Liberty Patch soldiers. The 77th "was to meet the stiffest opposition in its experience," according to an official history of the campaign.



War correspondent Ernest T. Pyle

Ernie landed on Red Beach 2 and headed for the 305th Regiment. He watched the 307th attack the Pinnacle, and talked with their wounded that night. At breakfast, he met with General Bruce, commander of the 77th, who noticed, "as soon as I left him...he was surrounded by soldiers. I didn't know he was going forward."

Ernie rode with Lt. Col. Joseph Coolidge, the 305th's commander, to establish a command post. Maj. George Pratt went along. It was 10 a.m. Near the little village of Ie, a single Nambu machinegun spattered the dirt alongside their jeep. Ernie and Coolidge dived into a ditch. Pratt took cover nearby.

Ernie raised his head to find Pratt. "Are you all right?"

The Nambu clattered.

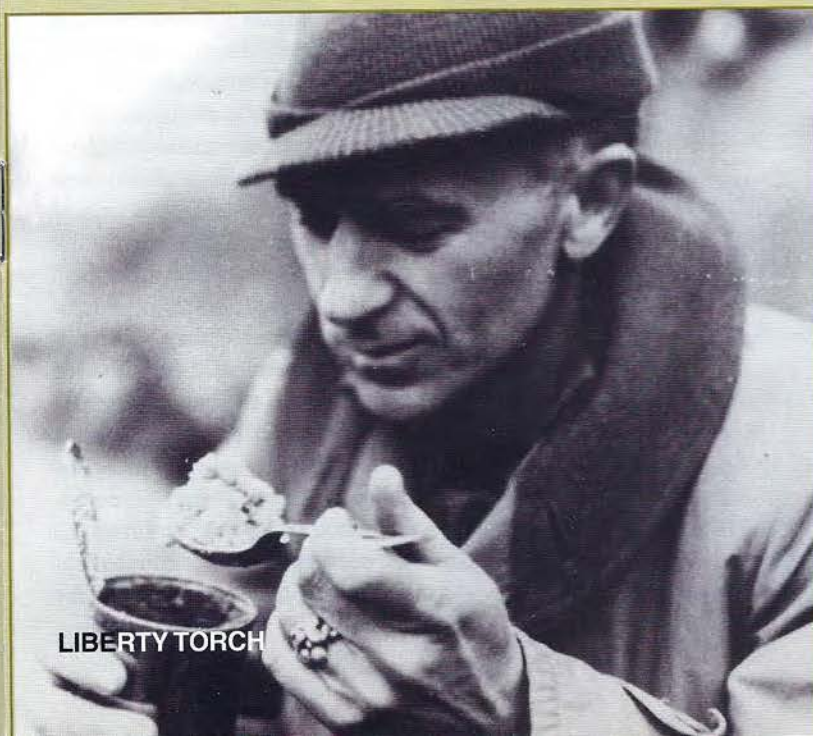
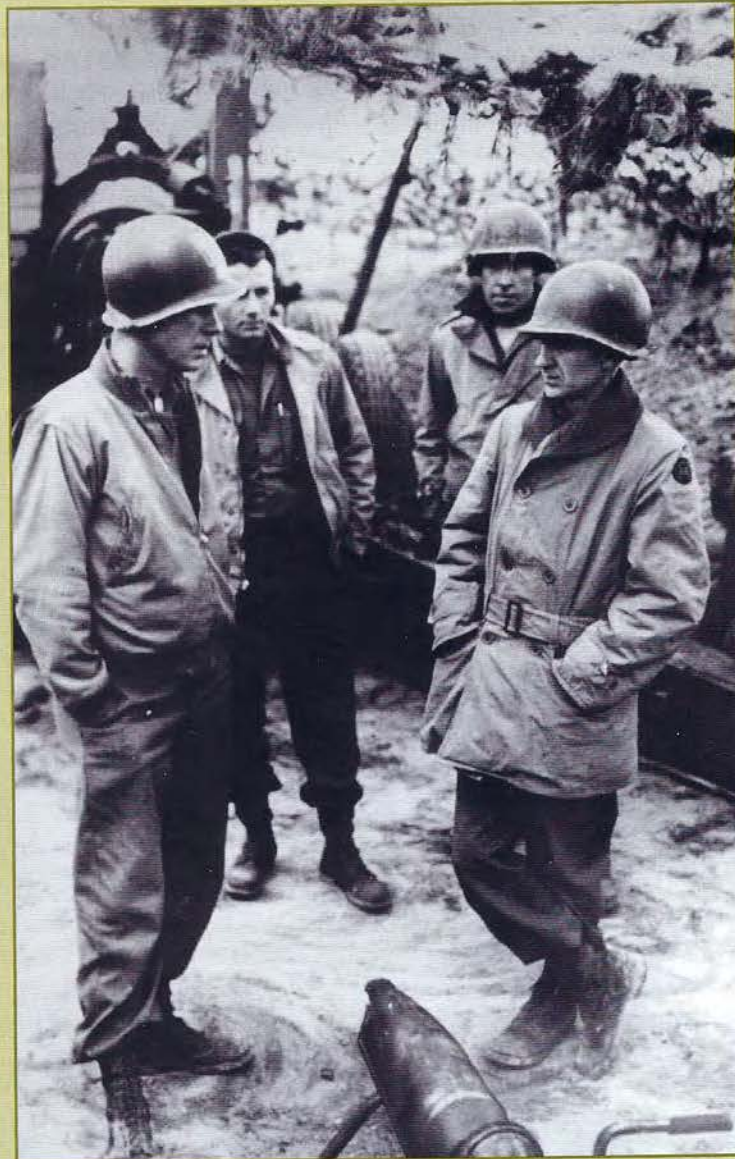
Ernie's last words, like thousands before them, expressed the Little Guy's love for the foot soldier.

Editor's note: The makeshift marker on Ie Shima has been replaced by a monument. Ernie's body was moved to the National Memorial Cemetery near Honolulu.

The 77th Regional Support Command is headquartered at Fort Totten in the only Army Reserve Center in the world dedicated to a civilian, The Ernie Pyle USAR Center.



(Clockwise from left) A day in the life of Ernie Pyle finds him chatting with troops from the 77th Infantry Division, then talking about an upcoming mission with a senior NCO. Pyle chows down on C-rations then later creates life on paper for faithful readers back in the States.



WWII Medal of Honor recipients

Capt. Robert Nett
Co. E., 305th Infantry
Leyte, P.I., Dec. 14, 1944

CITATION: He commanded Company E in an attack against a reinforced enemy battalion which had held up the American advance for 2 days from its entrenched positions around a 3-story concrete building. With another infantry company and armored vehicles, Company E advanced against heavy machinegun and other automatic weapons fire with Lt. Nett spearheading the assault against the strongpoint. During the fierce hand-to-hand encounter which ensued, he killed 7 deeply entrenched Japanese with his rifle and bayonet and, although seriously wounded, gallantly continued to lead his men forward, refusing to relinquish his command. Again he was severely wounded, but, still unwilling to retire, pressed ahead with his troops to assure the capture of the objective. Wounded once more in the final assault, he calmly made all arrangements for the resumption of the advance, turned over his command to another officer, and then walked unaided to the tent for medical treatment. By his remarkable courage in continuing forward through sheer determination despite successive wounds, Lt. Nett provided an inspiring example for his men and was instrumental in the capture of a vital strongpoint.

Pfc. George Benjamin Jr.
Co. A, 306th Infantry
Leyte, P.I. Dec. 31, 1944
Posthumously Awarded

CITATION: He was a radio operator, advancing in the rear of his company as it engaged a well-defended Japanese strongpoint holding up the progress of the entire battalion. When a rifle platoon supporting a tank hesitated in

its advance, he voluntarily and with utter disregard for personal safety left his comparatively secure position and ran across bullet-whipped terrain to the tank, waving and shouting to the men of the platoon to follow. Carrying his bulky radio and armed only with a pistol, he fearlessly penetrated intense machinegun and rifle fire to the enemy position, where he killed 1 of the enemy in a foxhole and moved on to annihilate the crew of a light machinegun. Heedless of the terrific fire now concentrated on him, he continued to spearhead the assault, killing 2 more of the enemy and exhorting the other men to advance, until he fell mortally wounded. After being evacuated to an aid station, his first thought was still of the American advance. Overcoming great pain he called for the battalion operations officer to report the location of enemy weapons and valuable tactical information he had secured in his heroic charge. The unwavering courage, the unswerving devotion to the task at hand, the aggressive leadership of Pfc. Benjamin were a source of great and lasting inspiration to his comrades and were to a great extent responsible for the success of the battalion's mission.

Pfc. Martin O. May
Co. H., 307th Infantry
Ie Shima, April 19-21, 1945

CITATION: He gallantly maintained a 3-day stand in the face of terrible odds when American troops fought for possession of the rugged slopes of Iegusuku-Yama on Ie Shima, Ryukyu Islands. After placing his heavy machinegun in an advantageous yet vulnerable position on a ridge to support riflemen, he became the target of fierce mortar and small arms fire from counterattacking Japanese. He repulsed this assault

by sweeping the enemy with accurate bursts while explosions and ricocheting bullets threw blinding dust and dirt about him. He broke up a second counterattack by hurling grenades into the midst of the enemy forces, and then refused to withdraw, volunteering to maintain his post and cover the movement of American riflemen as they reorganized to meet any further hostile action. The major effort of the enemy did not develop until the morning of 21 April. It found Pfc. May still supporting the rifle company in the face of devastating rifle, machinegun, and mortar fire. While many of the friendly troops about him became casualties, he continued to fire his machinegun until he was severely wounded and his gun rendered useless by the burst of a mortar shell. Refusing to withdraw from the violent action, he blasted fanatical Japanese troops with hand grenades until wounded again, this time mortally. By his intrepidity and the extreme tenacity with which he held firm until death against overwhelming forces, Pfc. May killed at least 16 Japanese, was largely responsible for maintaining the American lines, and inspired his comrades to efforts which later resulted in complete victory and seizure of the mountain stronghold.

Pfc. Desmond Doss
Med. Det. 307th Infantry
Okinawa, April 29-May 21, 1945

CITATION: He was a company aid man when the 1st Battalion assaulted a jagged escarpment 400 feet high. As our troops gained the summit, a heavy concentration of artillery, mortar and machinegun fire crashed into them, inflicting approximately 75 casualties and driving the others back, Pfc. Doss refused to seek cover and remained in the fire-swept area with the many stricken, carrying

them 1 by 1 to the edge of the escarpment and there lowering them on a rope-supported litter down the face of a cliff to friendly hands. On 2 May, he exposed himself to heavy rifle and mortar fire in rescuing a wounded man 200 yards forward of the lines on the same escarpment; and 2 days later he treated 4 men who had been cut down while assaulting a strongly defended cave, advancing through a shower of grenades to within 8 yards of enemy forces in a cave's mouth, where he dressed his comrades' wounds before making 4 separate trips under fire to evacuate them to safety. On 5 May, he unhesitatingly braved enemy shelling and small arms fire to assist an artillery officer. He applied bandages, moved his patient to a spot that offered protection from small-arms fire and, while artillery and mortar shells fell close by, painstakingly administered plasma. Later that day, when an American was severely wounded by fire from a cave, Pfc. Doss crawled to him where he had fallen 25 feet from the enemy position, rendered aid, and carried him 100 yards to safety while continually exposed to enemy fire. On 21 May, in a night attack on high ground near Shuri, he remained in exposed territory while the rest of his company took cover, fearlessly risking the chance that he would be mistaken for an infiltrating Japanese and giving aid to the injured until he was himself seriously wounded in the legs by the explosion of a grenade. Rather than call another aid man from cover, he cared for his own injuries and waited 5 hours before litter bearers reached him and started carrying him to cover. The trio was caught in an enemy tank attack and Pfc. Doss, seeing a more critically wounded man nearby, crawled off the litter and directed the bearers to give their first attention to the other man. Awaiting the

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litter bearers' return, he was again struck, this time suffering a compound fracture of 1 arm. With magnificent fortitude he bound a rifle stock to his shattered arm as a splint and then crawled 300 yards over rough terrain to the aid station. Through his outstanding bravery and unflinching determination in the face of desperately dangerous conditions Pfc. Doss saved the lives of many soldiers. His name became a symbol throughout the 77th Infantry Division for outstanding gallantry far above and beyond the call of duty.

Sgt. Joseph Muller
Co. B, 305th Infantry
Okinawa, May 15-16, 1945
Posthumously Awarded

CITATION: He displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty. When his platoon was stopped by deadly fire from a strongly defended ridge, he directed men to points where they could cover his attack. Then through the vicious machinegun and automatic fire, crawling forward alone, he suddenly jumped up, hurled his grenades, charged the enemy, and drove them into the open where his squad shot them down. Seeing enemy survivors about to man a machinegun, he fired his rifle at point-blank range, hurled himself upon them and killed the remaining 4. Before dawn the next day, the enemy counterattacked fiercely to retake the position. Sgt. Muller crawled forward through the flying bullets and explosives, then leaping to his feet, hurling grenades and firing his rifle, he charged the Japs and routed them. As he moved into his foxhole shared with 2 other men, a lone enemy, who had been feigning death, threw a grenade. Quickly seeing the danger to his companions, Sgt. Muller threw himself over it and smothered the blast with his body. Heroically sacrificing his life to save his comrades, he upheld the highest traditions of the military service.

Tech. Sgt. John Meagher
Co. E, 305th Infantry
Okinawa, June 19, 1945
Posthumously Awarded

CITATION: He displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty. In the heat of the fight, he mounted an assault tank, and with bullets splattering about him, designated targets to the gunner. Seeing an enemy soldier carrying an explosive charge dash for the tank treads, he shouted fire orders to the gunner, leaped from the tank, and bayoneted the charging soldier. Knocked unconscious and his rifle destroyed, he regained consciousness, secured a machinegun from the tank, and began a furious 1-man assault on the enemy. Firing from his hip, moving through vicious cross-fire that ripped through his clothing, he charged the nearest pillbox, killing 6. Going on amid the hail of bullets and grenades, he dashed for a second

enemy gun, running out of ammunition just as he reached the position. He grasped his empty gun by the barrel and in a violent onslaught killed the crew. By his fearless assaults T/Sgt. Meagher singlehandedly broke the enemy resistance, enabling his platoon to take its objective and continue the advance.

Master Sgt. Nick Oresko
Co. B, 306th Infantry
Germany, January 23, 1945

CITATION: Master Sgt. Oresko was a platoon leader with Company C. in an attack against strong enemy positions. Deadly automatic fire from the flanks pinned down his unit. Realizing that a machinegun in a nearby bunker must be eliminated, he swiftly worked ahead alone, braving bullets which struck about him, until close enough to throw a grenade into the German position. He rushed the bunker and, with pointblank rifle fire, killed all the

hostile occupants who survived the grenade blast. Another machinegun opened up on him, knocking him down and seriously wounding him in the hip. Refusing to withdraw from the battle, he placed himself at the head of his platoon to continue the assault. As withering machinegun and rifle fire swept the area, he struck out alone in advance of his men to a second bunker. With a grenade, he crippled the dug-in machinegun defending this position and then wiped out the troops manning it with his rifle, completing his second self-imposed, 1-man attack. Although weak from loss of blood, he refused to be evacuated until assured the mission was successfully accomplished. Through quick thinking, indomitable courage, and unswerving devotion to the attack in the face of bitter resistance and while wounded, M/Sgt. Oresko killed 12 Germans, prevented a delay in the assault, and made it possible for Company C to obtain its objective with minimum casualties.



World War II veteran Col. (Ret.) Robert Nett points to his nameplate that honors his receiving of the Congressional Medal of Honor. He and other Medal of Honor recipients are showcased in the 77th Regional Support Command Memorial Room at the U.S. Army Ernie Pyle Reserve Center. (Photo by Bruce Hill)

Former commanders

Long line of strong, proven leadership paves road for future

Maj. Gen. John W. Kaine
1967-1972



Maj. Gen. John W. Kaine joined the Army Reserve as a Private in 1935 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry in 1937. Subsequently he was assigned to the 45th Infantry Division in the European Theatre of Operations where he served as commander of the 2d Battalion and later the 1st Battalion of the 180th Infantry Regiment. He remained with the 45th Division until its deactivation in 1945. Kaine joined the 77th Infantry Division in 1948 serving successively as Chief of Staff; Commanding Officer, 306th Infantry Regiment; Chief of Staff and, as a Brigadier General, Assistant Division Commander. Appointed Commanding General in January 1958, promoted to Major General in May 1958, Kaine remained in command of the Division until it was inactivated in December 1965. After a stint as Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, Kaine was reassigned to the newly-formed 77th Army Reserve Command in 1967 where he served with distinction until his retirement on 10 December 1972 after completing 37 years of service. He died in January 1995 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Maj. Gen. George W. McGrath, Jr.
1972-1977



Maj. Gen. George W. McGrath Jr. enlisted in the Army in 1942 while still a student at Princeton University, where he was a member of the ROTC. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1943. He deployed to the European Theatre of Operations with the 656th and later served with XX Corps Artillery and the 35th Artillery Group. He earned the American Theatre and the European Theatre of Operations Ribbons with two battle stars. He joined the Army Reserve in 1948 and the 77th Infantry Division in 1950. His last and most prestigious military assignments were as Deputy Commander of the newly formed 77th ARCOM, Commander of the 301st Support Brigade and lastly as the 77th ARCOM Commander. He died in 1986 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Maj. Gen. Frederick J. Scheer
1977-1981

Maj. Gen. Frederick J. Scheer began his military career as a Private during World War II. He served with the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment in the Pacific. He saw action in New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon and Okinawa. By the end of the war he had obtained the rank of Sergeant Major. He accepted a commission to Second Lieutenant in the Army Reserve in 1948. In 1973 he assumed the position of Deputy Commander, Headquarters, 77th ARCOM. He became its Commanding General in March 1977 and was promoted to Major General in 1978. In addition, the Secretary of the Army named him to a three-year term on the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee. He is retired and lives in Florida.



Maj. Gen. William F. Ward, Jr.
1981-1984



Maj. Gen. William F. Ward, Jr. entered the Army in 1946 as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Cavalry upon graduation in 1950. During 1951 and 1952 he served in six campaigns in Korea as Air Liaison Officer and S2 of the 70th Tank Battalion. He entered the Army Reserve in 1954. He was appointed Deputy Commander of the ARCOM in 1977, and assumed command in 1984. Following his tenure of command Major General Ward was appointed by the President to be the Chief, Army Reserve. While serving in the capacity he was appointed the first Commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Command. He retired from the military in 1991 and lives in Florida and upstate New York.

Maj. Gen. George E. Barker
1984-1989

Major General George E. Barker began his Army career as a ROTC cadet at Arkansas State University. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1955. He then served in Germany as a Battery Officer and Aide-de-Camp with the 2d Armored Division Artillery. He entered the Army Reserve in 1957. General Barker became the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and Administration at the 77th ARCOM in 1979. In 1982 he was appointed Chief of Staff and served until 1983 when he was named Commander of the 353rd Civil Affairs Command. He assumed command of the 77th ARCOM in December 1984. He then became Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff of Personnel, Department of the Army as an individual Mobilization Augmentee. Retired from the military, General Barker is an executive with the American Cancer Society in New York City where he resides.



Maj. Gen. Francis T. Donohue
1989-1993



Maj. Gen. Francis T. Donohue entered the Army in 1959 after completing ROTC. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. His early assignments included Aide-de-Camp to the

Assistant Division Commanding General, 77th Infantry Division. General Donohue commanded the 800th Military Police Brigade and the 340th Military Police Battalion. He served in various staff positions at the 77th ARCOM headquarters including Headquarters Commandant, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Inspector General, Assistant Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander. He assumed command of the 77th ARCOM in April 1989. Retired from the military he is the first Deputy District Attorney for Westchester County, New York, where he resides.

Maj. Gen. Francis D. Terrell
1993-1997

Maj. Gen. Francis D. Terrell was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery in 1963, after completing ROTC training. Assigned to Vietnam from 1968



to 1970, he served as an Infantry Regimental Staff Advisor in the 3rd Battalion, 21st ARVN Infantry Division, MACV and as Senior Advisor for the 36th Field Artillery Battalion (155 howitzer), 21st Infantry Division. He joined the Reserve in 1977. After assignment to the headquarters, 77th ARCOM, he served as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Staff Judge Advocate, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Deputy Commanding General before assuming Command in May 1993. The 77th ARCOM was inactivated in April 1996 making General Terrell the last Commander of the ARCOM and the first Commander of the 77th Regional Support Command. In his civilian capacity he is the Director of the Greenberg Center for Legal Education and Urban Policy for the City College of New York. He resides in Manhattan and Earleton, N.Y.

'Vane' New Yorkers shape windmill and Liberty patch history



The 77th Army Reserve Command Patch depicts a gold likeness of the Statue of Liberty on a blue background. This patch, originally worn by members of the 77th Infantry Division in both world wars, was chosen to represent the 77th because its personnel came almost entirely from New York City. It readily identifies the wearer as coming from a New York based unit.



The distinctive insignia "Windmill Crest" of the 77th suggests its energy and dependability. The symbol originally was approved for some units of the old 77th Infantry Division in 1938. It was authorized as the official 77th ARCOM crest in 1970. It depicts part of New York City's rich ethnic history. The vanes of the Dutch windmill were on the seal of New Amsterdam three centuries ago and appear on the seal of the city today. The crest is gold base metal. The two sets of seven panels on each vane are white enamel. Red, white and blue are the colors of the three sides of the tower. Like its insignia, the 77th, in war and in peace, has a distinguished history, whether as the famous "Statue of Liberty Division" on the battlefields of both world wars or, after its reorganization, as an ARCOM and Regional Support Command.

60s spark birth of the ARCOM

At the end of World War II the 77th Infantry Division returned home and reverted to Reserve status guarding America's defense through the Korean War and the turbulent 1960s. In 1967 the 77th was reorganized to become one of 20 Army Reserve Commands (ARCOM). It also moved its headquarters from Manhattan to historic Fort Totten in Queens, N.Y. The soldiers of the 77th ARCOM retained the proud history of the Infantry Division as well as the Statue of Liberty Patch.

The Vietnam Years

In 1968 six of its individual units were called to active duty during the Pueblo Crisis. Five of these New York based units also remained on active duty and served in the Vietnam War. The activated units were the 316th Medical Detachment in Manhattan; the 1018th Supply and Service Company from Schenectady; the 448th Army Postal Unit from Hempstead; the 237th Maintenance Company, Fort Hamilton; and the 74th Field Hospital from Orangeburg.



Soldiers of the 77th load a round onto the rear of a 175 Howitzer vehicle during the Vietnam era.

By the summer of 1970 all six 77th ARCOM units that had been activated were honored at a public ceremony amid a large turnout of media. Scores of medals and honors were presented to the Reservists, including the Legion of Merit, a large number of Bronze Star Medals and Army Commendation Medals. Each of the 77th Vietnam units earned an outstanding reputation and some were considered by the Active Army to be the finest units of their type in the Republic of Vietnam. One of the few Legion of Merit Medals awarded to anyone during this period went to Lt. Col. Joseph Cillo. Only one man was killed in action.

Operation Graphic Hand

That same year history was made when the postal workers defied a Federal Court order. The President then declared a National Emergency and called to active duty almost all units of the 77th ARCOM in the N.Y. metropolitan area. This was the first time USAR units had even been employed in a domestic crisis. It proved that Army Reservists could be effectively mobilized within only a few hours. It was called Operation Graphic Hand approximately 14,000 Reservists from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Civil Affairs units set an excellent example of inter-service cooperation and effectiveness. Their efficiency and mission accomplishment earned them a citation from the U.S. Post Office as well as expressions of gratitude from both the President and Secretary of Defense. All told the units were mobilized less than a week.



Construction begins in 1982 for the new Ernie Pyle U.S. Army Reserve Center...

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Hurricane Agnes

1972 was another challenge for ARCOM units. Fourteen units and the Headquarters were called upon for assistance with rescue and relief work during Hurricane Agnes and its aftermath. This marked the first time the Army Reserve was deployed as part of the One Army Team in prolonged natural disaster relief work. Units that provided assistance were the HQ, 77th ARCOM at Ft. Totten, N.Y.; 359th Signal Gp., Liverpool, N.Y.; 479th Engineer Bn., Watertown, N.Y.; HQ, 464th Engineer Bn., Schenectady, N.Y.; Co. B., 464th Engineer Bn., Horseheads, N.Y.; Co. D., 464th Engineer Bn., Canadaigua, N.Y.; 816th Station Hosp., Utica, N.Y.; 340th MP Bn., Hempstead, N.Y.; 98th Signal Bn., Webster, N.Y.; 969th Maintenance Co., Horseheads, N.Y.; 618th Supply Co., Queens, N.Y.; 309th Ordnance Co., Elizabeth, N.J.; 1019th Field Service Co., Liverpool, N.Y.; ASO #1, Camp Drum, N.Y. and AMSA #44, Mattydale, N.Y.

Ernie Pyle U.S. Army Reserve Center

The continued growth of the 77th ARCOM dictated a need for more space on Fort Totten. On April 23, 1983 a \$12.72 million, three story building, was dedicated as the "Ernie Pyle U.S. Army Reserve Center. It became, and continues to be, the headquarters and training location for the 77th and many of its units. The 145,000 square-foot center, with space for 2,400 reservists, was, in 1983, the largest reserve facility in the country. Inside, at the time, were administrative offices, a medical examining facility, rifle range, seven classrooms, two kitchens and a drill hall. More than 2,000 people attended the dedication, which immortalized an unforgettable civilian, Ernie Pyle. Ernest Taylor Pyle was a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist whose life was ended by a single machinegun bullet from a Japanese sniper during the 77th Infantry Division's fight for Ie Shima, an island stronghold off the coast of Okinawa. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal at the opening ceremonies of the Reserve Center that bears his name.



During the Vietnam era, a 77th postal unit is called to handle mail.

Liberty Patch Day

The 77th was honored by the City of New York in 1984 when Mayor Edward I. Koch, wrote "... it is most appropriate to honor the veterans and present personnel who have served under the famous Statue of Liberty patch as an Infantry Division during World Wars I and II, and now as an Army Reserve Command." Governor Mario Cuomo, designating September 16, 1984 as "Liberty Patch Day", issued an official proclamation. The day-long celebration at Forest Park, Queens, was attended by more than 4,000 New Yorkers. A telegram from President Ronald Reagan said that he was "honored to take this opportunity to send greetings to all veterans and members of the 77th as you participate in commemorative festivities. The world-famous Seuffert Band conducted a rousing two-hour recital of classical, popular and military march selections.

Statue of Liberty Centennial

Among the millions of Americans' who celebrated the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty, none were prouder or more enthusiastic than the citizen-soldiers who wear Miss Liberty's likeness on their left shoulders. Except for the First Lady's U.S. Marine escort, Liberty Patcher's were the first soldiers to set foot on Liberty Island when it reopened on July 5, 1986. Soldiers of the 319th "Statue of Liberty" Band performed at a band concert at Lincoln Center. They also performed other concerts in Greenwich Village and Gracie Mansion as well as at the official ribbon cutting ceremony on Liberty Island. The soldier's of the 5th Battalion, 5th Field Artillery had the honor of being the official salute battery for the Statue of Liberty Centennial.

77th Infantry Division Memorial Room

A new addition to the Ernie Pyle U.S. Reserve Center opened in October 1988. The 77th Infantry Division Memorial Room was officially dedicated. "The history of the 77th is important to us" said Brig. Gen. Francis Donohue, deputy ARCOM commander. "We're seeing that we preserve it with this room." Among the artifacts in the memorial room are uniforms from both world wars, old pistols, anti-tank rounds, captured Japanese swords and flags, photos and newspaper pages recounting battles. The dedication coincided with an Open House on the Fort Totten parade field and a Tree Planting Ceremony in front of the center. (Cont. on next page)



...and opens with a formal flag raising and ribbon cutting ceremony in 1983.

Persian Gulf War

By far the most significant event in the 77th ARCOM history is our participation in the Persian Gulf War. In August 1990, Saddam Hussein's army unexpectedly crossed the Kuwaiti border and the world was turned upside down. In the 77th some 3,500 soldiers in 28 units – about one-quarter of the ARCOM's strength—were mobilized. Soldiers from the 77th deployed for duty in Saudi Arabia as well as Germany and the United States. They ran enemy prisoner of war camps, flew patients to, and provided care in, medical clinics and hospitals and maintained or transported equipment and repair parts around the battlefield. Liberty Patcher's provided military intelligence, directly supporting combat operations. The skills and demonstrated performance of Reservists gave the Army the ability to shoot, move and communicate. It was the ultimate test of the Reserve system. New York City threw open its arms in June 1991 and welcomed them home with a gala parade down Broadway's "Canyon of Heroes." It drew the largest crowd since General MacArthur's return from Korea. A smaller, but just as enthusiastic parade was also held in Westchester County. Following is a list of the units called to Active Duty for the Persian Gulf War. All were located in New York State.

C. Det., 24th MI Bn, Staten Island; 139th Trans. Det., Jamaica; 140th Fld Svc Co., Ft Totten; 142nd Trans. Det., Jamaica; 211th MI Co., Bronx; 237th Maint. Co., Ft Totten; 300th Med. Det., Bellmore; HHC, 301st Spt. Gp., Ft Totten; HHC, 318th Trans. Agency, Jamaica; 336th Med. Det., Newburgh; 340th MP Co., Jamaica; 355th Med. Det., Ft Hamilton; 356th Med. Det., Bronx; 365th Evac. Hosp., Niagara Falls; 386th Med. Det., Ft Hamilton; 387th Med. Det., Ft Hamilton; 392nd Med. Det., Ft. Hamilton; 395th Med. Det., Uniondale; 408th AG Det., Ft Totten; 408th Pers. Svc. Co., Ft Totten; HHC, 411th Engr. Bde, Floyd Bennett Field; 423rd Med. Det., N. Syracuse; 567th Med. Det., Uniondale; 623rd Trans. Co., Ft Totten; 766th Sup. Co., Bellmore; HHC, 800th MP Bde, Uniondale; 1208th USA Hosp., Ft Hamilton; 1302nd PS Det., Orangeburg.

Kaine Hall

The first commander of the 77th ARCOM was honored when the drill floor of the Ernie Pyle center was named the Kaine Hall in November 1991. Maj. Gen. J. W. Kaine was also the last commander of the 77th Infantry Division. Kaine joined the 77th in 1935 as a private. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1937. During WWII he was wounded in Germany while leading his battalion through the

Siegfried Line. By age 30, Kaine had achieved the rank of colonel; by age 40, the rank of brigadier general. In 1958 he was appointed commanding general of the 77th Infantry Division, and shortly thereafter received his second star. He commanded the Division until its deactivation in 1965.

Vietnam/Desert Storm Memorial Room

In combination with the 77th Infantry Division Memorial Room another Memorial Room was dedicated in February 1993. This room, the Vietnam and Persian Gulf War Memorial Room, honors 77th soldier's that participated in those conflicts. This room was dedicated during a yellow ribbon cutting ceremony attended by 200 soldiers and their families. Displayed among the Persian Gulf showcases are maps of the Middle East, cards requesting Iraqi surrender, Saudi Arabian money, desert boots and uniform and many photos. The Vietnam showcase holds US Army field gear such as a shirt, jacket, beret, rucksack and jungle boots. There is medical equipment, C-rations and a 105 mm artillery shell casing. Also on display are a Vietnamese hat, pipes, maps, gas mask, American POW bracelet and a montanyard knife, bow and arrow.

25/75 Anniversary

A gala celebration on Liberty Island took place in September 1992 as the 77th commemorated the 75th anniversary of the 77th Infantry Division and the 25th anniversary of the 77 Army Reserve Command. It also recognized the 50th anniversary of World War II. Called "25/75 the ceremony consisted of a pass in review parade, speeches, a USO show, the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the Herald Trumpets and the West Point Glee Club. The 5th Battalion, 5th Artillery gave a 21 gun salute from a ship off-shore. Maj. Gen. Donohue recalled the glorious history of the 77th Division, which never fought in a losing campaign. He said, "We are truly proud of our heritage and of our soldiers serving today. They have sacrificed much of themselves to serve the Statue of Liberty and the 77th ARCOM." He pledged that the soldiers of the 77th would "continue to prepare for war as a way to preserve the peace."

Reorganization

In 1995 the 77th Army Reserve Command was deactivated. In its place is the 77th Regional Support Command (RSC). The soldiers of the 77th RSC retain the proud history of the Infantry Division, the 77th ARCOM, as well as the Statue of Liberty Patch.



A 77th Army Reserve Command medic gives a soldier a check-up during the Vietnam War.

The ARCOM becomes an RSC

The 77th Regional Support Command came into being in 1995 as a result of the reorganization of the 77th Army Reserve Command. The first commander of the 77th RSC was Maj. Gen. Francis Terrell. He was also the last commander of the 77th ARCOM. His deputy commander was Brig. Gen. Robert J. Winzinger. Since 1997 the 77th RSC has been commanded by Maj. Gen. William J. Collins, Jr. The deputy commander is Brig. Gen. Gary DiLallo.

The 77th has been headquartered at Fort Totten, Queens, New York since 1968. The fort overlooks the Long Island Sound. The command consists of approximately 12,000 Army Reservists from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. There are 113 units, mostly located in the greater New York City area. The five major subordinate commands (MSCs) and direct reporting units (DRU's) include medical, transportation, supply, military police, intelligence, engineer, legal and public affairs specialties. In addition it provides base operations support to the 78th and 98th Training Divisions and the 353rd Civil Affairs Brigade.

The five MSC's are the 8th Medical Brigade, Fort Hamilton, N.Y.; 301st Area Support Group, Fort Totten, N.Y.; 411th Engineer Brigade, New Windsor, N.Y.; 800th Military Police Brigade, Uniondale, N.Y. and the 1179th Transportation Brigade, Fort Hamilton, N.Y. The DRU's are the 4th Legal Support Organization, Bronx, N.Y.; 7th Legal Support Organization, Albany, N.Y.; 361st Press Camp Headquarters, Fort Totten, N.Y.; 113 Chaplain Detachment, Fort Dix, N.J.; 1079th Garrison Support Unit, Fort Dix, N.J. and the 311th Military History Detachment, Fort Totten, N.Y.

Known as the "Premier" RSC, the soldiers of the 77th have traveled extensively throughout the world. In 1995 "Liberty Patchers" were called to support Operation Joint Endeavor, a NATO peacekeeping effort in the former Yugoslavia, now Bosnia-Herzegovina. Nine units from the 77th activated to support the Peacekeeping efforts.

Soldiers of the 77th participated in two internationally known humanitarian missions. They served with the Kosovo refugee relocation project, Operation Provide Refuge, at Fort Dix, N.J. where more than 4,000 refugees were processed and assigned to live with sponsor

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Master Sgt. Roy Ward, assistant professor of military science at Fordham University ROTC, guards the Memorial Day wreath at the Queensborough Memorial Day celebration. (Photo by Chet Marcus)

A young family member of the 423rd Military Police Co. rides shotgun in a vintage two and a half ton truck during the Douglaston/Littleneck Memorial Day Parade. (Photos by Chet Marcus)

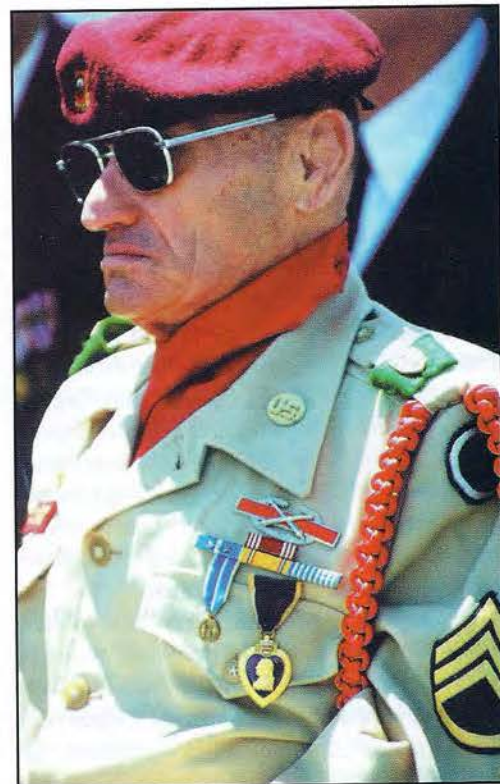


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families in the United States. This mission was the first U.S. based joint service refugee mission assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve. The other mission was Nuevos Horizontes, (New Horizons), in Guatemala. Soldiers built schools, wells, roads and offered medical and dental assistance to Guatemalans who live in remote mountain towns. In 1999, the 113th Chaplain Detachment was mobilized for 279 days to augment the USAREUR mission in Germany.

Units also participated in other exercises that provided professional and critical train-

ing: Platinum Wrench, Fort McCoy, Wis.; Polex, Fort Eustis, Va.; Rio Lobo, Fort Bragg, N.C.; Roving Sands, Fort Bliss, Texas; the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La. and Golden Medic at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Today the 77th Regional Support Command stands ready to do its mission. "To be the premier Regional Support Command dedicated to providing world class units and unparalleled services to meet the challenges of the 21st century and to provide the nation with trained and ready units while furnishing superior service to our customers."



A Korean War, combat artillery veteran, above, joins hundreds of veterans in rendering honors aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum at their memorial day ceremony.

The 77th Regional Support Command Honor Guard, left, fires a 21-gun salute.

Chaplain Det makes history as a first

Debut overseas ministry mission successfully completed

By Steve Snyder
Fort Dix Public Affairs Office

Four members of the newly formed 113th Chaplain Support Team recently returned home after successfully completing their first mission to Germany.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Orlandi, Officer-in-charge, and Sergeant 1st Class Prakash Mehta supported 1st Infantry troops bound for Kosovo and their families in the Kitzingen/Wurzburg area of Germany. They were split from other members of their team, executive officer Chap. (Lt. Col.) Hugh MacKenzie and Spc.. Wanda McLean, who ministered to soldiers belonging to the 100th Area Support Command and stationed in the Army's prime training grounds near the Czech border at Vilseck and Graffenwohr.

The 113th Chaplain Detachment is attached to the 1079th Group Support Unit at Fort Dix, N.J., where it was activated in April 1999. Their mission supports a new tactical concept for the Chaplain's corps whereby small teams mobilize and deploy, providing religious support to commands and units having no assigned chaplains. For 270 days, the 113th executed that mission, superbly, and under sometimes trying conditions.

Orlandi and Mehta stepped into positions with the 417th Base Support Chaplain's Office, replacing the unit's regular chaplains who deployed to Kosovo. The two-man team worked with about 2,000 soldiers and their families. They took responsibility for maintaining spiritual services at Larson and Harvey Chapels. The former presented special problems.

Larson Chapel had no religious programs, no staff and no priests. The duo from the 113th changed that equation. Orlandi and company began a religious education program, started a Catholic women-of-the-chapel group, sought out Eucharistic ministers, formed a parish council advisory board overseeing church repairs, finance, etc., trained teachers for religious classes and conducted counseling sessions for soldiers and family members.



Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Orlandi presides over mass at a church in Germany.

On the seventh day they rested, sometimes.

Counseling was especially important because, in Orlandi's opinion, soldiers need to be as spiritually fit as they are mentally or physically. Troops need patience during inevitable delays occurring within processing and it helps if they cultivate both perspective and a sense of humor. Family members, by the same token, need to talk over their troubles, too. With the number of deployments increasing, spouses are left alone more than ever caring for their small children. Orlandi encouraged his parishioners to keep busy, to avoid brooding and discontent. He organized letter-writing campaigns to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, (where the soldiers were sent), sent clothing and shoes to the chapel there, along with school supplies and materials for buildings schools.

The Larson Chapel, in the meantime, was falling apart. But with the help of about 30 volunteers, Orlandi and Mehta rebuilt, repainted and refurbished the building.

Mehta personally pushed through 43 work orders. Working with German nationals and learning their culture, Orlandi held ecumenical services with Protestant congregations in the area.

Twelve-hour-plus days included after-hours home visits, trips to the hospital and stops at barracks. In all, Orlandi performed 20 baptisms, two conversions, and organized a first confession for 17 children.

"The 113th team 'filled a void that the active Army couldn't,'" Orlandi said. He says the highlight of his tour came from "working with soldiers and their families." That's where his bread is buttered. And parishioners seemed appreciative. The church's enrollment increased from 65 to 240 when Orlandi and Mehta worked there.

Orlandi wasn't happy at being split from the rest of his team, though. Military staff duties consumed some of MacKenzie's time at Vilseck in lieu of chaplain responsibilities. Separating team members defeats the whole purpose for which Chaplain Support Teams were formed. Failing to keep teams intact reduces their effectiveness. True, the Army often runs by expedience. But following plans, on occasion, sometimes pays dividends too. Still, the mission to Germany has to be rated a success and chaplain support teams appear to be a viable, attractive, and ongoing option.

Your unit retention NCOs

Master Sgt. Peter Boyle 854 TH Eng. Bn.	(914) 361-4311	(914) 361-1621
Master Sgt. Jack Harwood 436 TH Trans. Bn.	(718) 815-5028	(718) 815-5003
Master Sgt. Christopher Vasso 348 TH General Hospital	(609) 299-2879	(609) 299-1516
Master Sgt. Santos Flores 865 TH CSH	(315) 793-8422	(315) 735- 6443
Master Sgt. Paul King 344th CSH	(718) 352-5147	(888) 814-3135
Sergeant 1st Class Gearge Stafford 301st ASG	(718) 352-5344	(888) 814-3135
Sergeant 1st Class Regina Clay-Givens 677 TH QM CO	(609) 662-3474	(609) 665-5711
Sergeant 1st Class Robert Cunningham 357 TH CM CO	(609) 910-0538	(609) 665-5711
Sergeant 1st Class Priscilla Ruiz 310 TH Military Police Bn	(516) 481-3247 ext. 139	(516) 481-4461
Staff Sgt. Phillip Thomas 413 TH S and S Bn.	(518) 374-4745	(518) 377-6316
Staff Sgt. Deloris Ward 1174 TH TT Bn.	(718) 352-5202	(718) 352-5193
Staff Sgt. William Asci 306th MP Bn.	(516) 481-3449 ext. 120	(800) 673-5107
Staff Sgt. Phillip Thomas 413th S and S Bn.	(518) 374-4745	(800) 642-5639

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A grassroots campaign to petition the New York State legislature to direct the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a Desert Storm license plate to honor Desert Storm veterans is underway. If you are interested participating in this petition please fill out the form below and return it to the 77th RSC, Public Affairs Office, Fort Totten, N.Y. 11359 as soon as possible.

NAME _____

UNIT _____

HOME PHONE _____