# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Col. David J. Smoker (USAF, Ret.)</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Charles B. Oellig, Museum Director &amp; Curator</td>
<td>Museum Director &amp; Curator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Shannan D. Zerance, Vice-President</td>
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<td>Ms. Stephanie L. Olsen, Treasurer</td>
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<td>MAJ Chuck Holbrook (USA, Ret.), Secretary</td>
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<td>LTC Richard H. Shertzer, (USA, Ret.), Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>MG Walter F. Pudlowski (USA, Ret.)</td>
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<td>Brig. Gen. Gerald E. Otterbein (USAF, Ret.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COL Samuel E. Hayes III</td>
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<td>Col. Carl Magagna (USAF, Ret.)</td>
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<td>LTC Jonathan DeVries (USA, Ret.)</td>
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<td>LTC David Weisnicht (USA, Ret.)</td>
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<td>WO4 David A. Sakmar</td>
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<td>SGT Damian J. M. Smith</td>
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<td>Ms. Sharon E. Flaig</td>
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<td>Ms. Rita Meneses</td>
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## ADVISORS (Non-Voting Members)

- Mr. Leonard Cowitch, Legal Counsel

## NEWSLETTER & MEDIA STAFF

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Col. David J. Smoker (USAF, Ret.), President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Stephanie L. Olsen, Editor/Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>SGT Damian J. M. Smith, Articles/Photos/Command Historian</td>
<td>Command Historian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Carolyn O’Day Malfara, Webmaster</td>
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## INDEX

- 2016 Museum Year in Review 2
- 2017 Austere Challenge 3
- 228th Transportation Battalion Activated 4
- 9th Museum Benefit Golf Event planned set for 9 Sept 4
- Golf Form 5
- 2017 Golf Sponsor Letter 6
- Catto Award 7
- PA National Guard Support Inauguration 8
- State Police receive support during storm for Toddler 9
- WWI Soldier of the Quarter 9
- Museum Receives Morgan Firearm Collection 10
- Museum Insignia Show (ASMIC) 11
- 125 Years of Mount Gretna 12
- Battle of the Bulge Reenactment 12
- U.S. Commemorates entry into World War I 13
- Donations 14
- Museum Membership 16
- Financial Donations 17
- Electronic Newsletter Available 17
- Museum Tour Groups 17
- Museum Wish List 18
- Museum Calendar 18
- Curator’s Corner 19
- Hours and Directions 20
2016 MUSEUM’S “YEAR IN REVIEW”

by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

The Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum had another year of steady growth in 2016. The number of museum visitors went up by several hundred. While our views on social sites such as Facebook rose over 20%, views to the museum website were down for 2016. However, the museum received more group visitors then 2015, but we were still down 20 groups from the high several years ago. Our historical requests increased 103 more than in 2015.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Visitors:</th>
<th>2016 Numbers</th>
<th>+/- From Previous Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Museum Visitors (Signed In)</td>
<td>2,178</td>
<td>+342</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum Visitors (Est 5% more)</td>
<td>2,287</td>
<td>+451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Tour Group</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Book Members</td>
<td>1,224</td>
<td>+225</td>
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(68% are men, 32% are female Facebook members)

**Museum Website 2016 stats include:**

- Unique Visitors           | 26,240   | -1,550   |
- Website Visitors          | 37,783   | -427     |
- Pages Viewed              | 87,299   | +89      |
- Website Hits              | 819,487  | -101,121 |
- Bandwidth Data            | 35.98 GB | -10.48 GB|

**Historical Requests Answered:**

- Museum Director           | 518       | +54      |
- Command Historian         | 464       | +103     |
Total                       | 982       | +157     |

**Repairs & Restorations**

The museum was able to move forward on a number of different projects in 2016 thanks to your membership and donations. These projects include the restoration of two stained glass transom windows from the old 3d Regiment Armory in Philadelphia that were restored, leaving two more still awaiting conservation care. Six museum showcases were repaired and wrapped in standard black vinyl to add to a uniform appearance at the museum. Ten additional museum showcases were purchased with donations to increase our capability to display items. Several of our jeeps are on their way to a complete restoration by our dedicated volunteer Mr. Tom Small.

**Cataloging**

We continue to make progress on cataloging the items that come into the museum through donations. COL John Maietta, (USA, Ret.) is making steady progress helping to identify and catalog over 100,000 slides and photographs in our photo archive room.

**Bylaws**

MG Pudlowski led and completed a review and update to the museum by-laws in the fall of 2016. These revisions will improve the overall quality and function of the museum.

**Events**

Our 8th annual museum picnic on 19 May 2017 was a huge success with 158 people in attendance. We were pleased to have many attendees from the PNG Joint Commanders’ Workshop. We would like to thank everyone that came out to help us celebrate over 30 years as a museum!

The attendance at the museum Insignia Swap-meets has been intermittent over the four events in 2016. These small events help local insignia and patch collectors add to their collections and allow a time to share research information.

The 8th annual Maj. Gen. Frank Smoker Foxhole Invitational was held on 10 September 2016 at Pine Meadows Golf Complex. With blue skies and great weather, our main fundraiser was a huge success. We now look forward to the 9th Invitational on 9 September 2017 at Blue Mountain.
PA GUARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN “AUSTERE CHALLENGE”

by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

Members of the Pennsylvania National Guard participated in massive command post exercise involving the participation of thousands of U. S. troops in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States. The exercise, known as Austere Challenge 2017 actually commenced in October 2016 and culminated in February 2017.

The European Command Headquartered out of Stuggart, Germany commanded the event and brought together service members around the world for a computer-assisted global command-and-control exercise. It was designed to train multi-combatant command coordination in various fictitious scenarios which focused mainly on European security. The United States European Command is one of nine Unified Combatant Commands in the United States military. The command is responsible for military relations with NATO and 51 countries with a total population of close to a billion people.

Describing the exercise as a complete success, Army General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, EUCOM’s commander, said the training event was another way to remain responsive and proactive in a theater that is constantly and dynamically changing.

Also visiting the troops during the exercise was MG John Gronski, former 28th Infantry Division Commander and currently serving as the Deputy Commanding General for Army National Guard in Europe.

Members of the 28th Infantry Division participated as their own division (TOC) and their support staff (pucksters) participated as members of seven different brigades underneath them for the exercise.

At the same time soldiers from the 213th Regional Support Group were working under the U.S. Army Europe’s 21st Theater Sustainment Command for the exercise. The soldiers made good use of their off time by visiting many different locations. Some of the cities were Weiden, Rothenburg, Vilseck, Nuremberg, Stuggart and Munich. Some of the historical sites include the Kaiserburg Castle at Nuremberg, the Nuremberg War Trails, and the Dachau Concentration Camp at Munich.

Sources:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/dc/USEUCOM.svg/220px-USEUCOM.svg.png
https://www.army.mil/article/182855/eucom_nato_troops_conclude_global_exercise_austere_challenge
213th REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ACTIVATES NEW 228th BATTALION

by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

The 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard welcomed the 228th Transportation (Motor Transport) Battalion with a unit activation ceremony at Fort Indiantown Gap on the February 11, 2017.

COL Laura McHugh, Commander, 213th Regional Support Group, presents the guidon during the activation ceremony for the 228th Transportation Battalion. The 228th Transportation Battalion is commanded by LTC Daniel Carrol, and CSM Mark Frohm, here they unfurl the colors during its uncasing. The uncasing of a guidon marks a definitive point in time to commemorate the beginning of a unit’s history and lineage a standing Army tradition. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Cory Johnson, 109th MPAD)

The 213th Regional Support Group activated the 228th Transportation Battalion which is authorized more than 900 soldiers. The unit contains three transportation companies which are the 121st Transportation Company based in Johnstown, the 131st Transportation Company based in Williamstown, and the 721st Transportation Company based at Fort Indiantown Gap. The battalion also has the 1067th Composite Transportation Company based out of Phoenixville which also falls under the 228th’s control.

The 228th’s mission is to supervise units conducting motor transport operations in order to meet the operational requirements of the United States Army and, on order, to conduct defense support to civilian authorities (DSCA) operations as directed by the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Sources:
- [https://www.dvidshub.net/news/225132/213th-regional-support-group-activates-228th-transportation-battalion](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/225132/213th-regional-support-group-activates-228th-transportation-battalion)
- [https://www.army.mil/article/176520/pa_guards_213th_regional_support_group_activates_new_transportation_battalion_and_company](https://www.army.mil/article/176520/pa_guards_213th_regional_support_group_activates_new_transportation_battalion_and_company)

GOLF EVENT TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER

by Col. David J. Smoker (USAF, Ret), President

On 9 September 2017, the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum will host its 9th annual Maj. Gen. Frank H. Smoker, Jr. Foxhole Invitational Golf Tournament. We were extremely fortunate to have Ms. Sharon Flaig organize and run the tournament for eight years and will always be grateful for her leadership of eight very successful tournaments! Golf tournaments are the main fundraiser for the museum and we greatly appreciate Sharon’s dedication as well as your support.

This year we are again fortunate as Master Sergeant Mike Saphore (USA, Ret.) and his fiancée Ms. Jamie Kersey have volunteered to organize and run the tournament. Mike served on active duty in the Army and in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard for a combined 23 years. Now he and Jamie graciously offered to run the tournament and donate all of the proceeds to the museum as did Sharon for all these years.

**Event:** Major General Frank H. Smoker, Jr. 9th Annual Foxhole Invitational Golf Tournament

**Date:** September 9, 2017

**Time:** 1:00 PM (Shotgun Start)

**Location:** Blue Mountain Golf Course

628 Blue Mountain Road

Fredericksburg, PA

717-865-4401

**Includes:** 18 holes of Golf and Buffet Dinner

**Registration:** The deadline is August 26, first come, first serve—may fill up fast!

Team Form & Sponsor Letter Go to home page at

[www.pngmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.pngmilitarymuseum.org)

For those that have questions on the golf tournament, please email Ms. Jamie Kersey at: [Foxholegolf@gmail.com](mailto:Foxholegolf@gmail.com) or phone at 717-813-7581 for additional details.
MAJOR GENERAL
FRANK H. SMOKER, JR

9th Annual
Foxhole Invitational
Golf Tournament
Benefiting the PA National Guard
Military Museum

September 9, 2017 • 1:00p.m. Shotgun Start
Blue Mountain Golf Course
628 Blue Mountain Rd • Fredericksburg, PA • 717-865-4401

- Buffet Dinner
- Longest Drive
- Putting Contest
- 4-Person Scramble
- Beat The Pro
- Door Prizes
- Closest To The Pin
- Hit the Green
- Raffle Drawings

Questions? Contact Jamie at 717-813-7581 or foxholegolf@gmail.com

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM
$260/foursome

Foursome Contact: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Cell: __________________________

Email: __________________________

Street Address: __________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________

Golfer: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Golfer: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Golfer: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Golfer: __________________________ Email: __________________________

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 26, 2017
(ONLY THE FIRST 144 ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PA NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY MUSEUM

PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:
Foxhole Invitational Golf Tournament
PO Box 262
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
Hello from the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum!

On Saturday, September 9, 2017, the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum will host its 9th Annual Maj Gen Frank H. Smoker, Jr. Foxhole Invitational Golf Tournament to raise funds for the museum and support its mission. The tournament was an overwhelming success last year, and we could not have done it without great sponsors like you!

The Museum’s mission is to preserve and honor the history of the Pennsylvania National Guard by providing educational activities for the public, including Pennsylvania National Guard members, their families, veterans, civic groups, and youth organizations. Its exhibits are a representation, past and present, of the troops who have fought for our freedom since 1747. The Museum allows visitors to take a step back in time and witness the sacrifices our National Guard Veterans endured for us and our country.

To help support the Museum, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, we would like to invite you to “chip in” to support and sponsor the 9th Annual Foxhole Invitational. For a team form, please go to: “PNG Military Museum”, then click on the “9th Annual Maj Gen Frank H. Smoker, Jr. Foxhole Invitational” logo in the bottom right corner of the page. Or simply email me and I will send forms to you. For forms or questions, please call me at 717-813-7581 or email me at foxholegolf@gmail.com.

Again, we greatly appreciate your kind consideration to support this worthy cause and thank you for sponsoring the Foxhole Invitational. Together we can continue to enhance our museum and preserve the history of our Pennsylvania National Guard.

Sincerely,

Jamie Kersey
PA MILITIAMAN’S RIGHTEOUS LEGACY HONORED BY GUARD MEMBER’S ALTRUISM

by Tech. Sgt. Andria Almond, 111th Attack Wing

PHILADELPHIA – On Election Day 1871, a bullet punctured Pennsylvania Militia 5th Brigade Maj. Octavius V. Catto’s heart, killing him within steps of his Philadelphia home.

A black Civil War-era officer, professor, minister and political activist, his blood-stained history reveals the sacrifice of fighting for righteousness – and the virtue of resolution.

These qualities – Catto’s qualities – are exemplified in the Major Octavius V. Catto Medal (OVC), which was awarded to two state Guard members within the historic halls of The Union League of Philadelphia on Feb. 25.

Air Force Lt. Col. Adam Colombo, 111th Attack Wing chief of aerospace medicine, stationed here and Army Staff Sgt. Travis Goebel, Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site flight engineer instructor, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, were this year’s recipients of the prestigious OVC award. "When we put on our uniforms, we tell the world what we stand for," said keynote speaker and the Pennsylvania National Guard Director of the Joint Staff Army Col. David Wood. "And now, when Staff Sgt. Groebel and Lt. Col. Colombo wear their dress uniforms they will wear this medal proudly in honor of Maj. Octavius Catto and the ideals for which he stood."

Originally created in the 1880s, the award mysteriously disappeared without record. Then in 2011, it was approved for re-introduction into the Commonwealth’s military decorations system. This year's Airman and Soldier are the sixth set of recipients for the medal since its reemergence.

Per the Pennsylvania National Guard regulation for awards and decorations, the OVC is awarded to a Pennsylvania Guard member who, "...exemplifies professionalism, a sincere devotion to duty support and/or volunteerism to the community, and recognizes and encourages respect for individual diversity." All these traits must also serve to foster a positive work environment and bolster mission accomplishment.

Wood narrated how both of this year’s recipients qualified for the award. "When compared against past recipients, the [Army] sergeant here today and going back to Maj. Catto, I just saw myself as doing what I liked and doing it a way that benefited others," said Colombo.

He continued by explaining how the OVC award personifies the role of a National Guardsman. "In the National Guard, we are citizens first; but, we integrate into our local community to be ready at a moment's notice to help the community, help the nation and go abroad, if necessary. We use our assets and our skills as civilians in the Guard, and return that benefit to the community."

Goebel's statements paralleled Colombo, in that he felt the medal embodies the dual role of a National Guard member. "Being a National Guardsman my entire career, this award means a lot," said Goebel. "It shows that our state recognizes the Soldiers who are stepping up and not only providing military service, but community service, too."

Catto, national spokesperson for enfranchisement and civil rights for African Americans in the 1860’s, was killed while defending black Americans at polling places. He led desegregation efforts in Philadelphia and, as a staunch supporter of the Union cause and the Lincoln Administration, worked in the inner circle of Radical Republicans to gain civil liberties.

Wood concluded the event by saying, "Major Catto risked his life, first in the defense of his country and again to see African Americans be able to exercise their right to vote…So today, 146 years after his death, we celebrate his life and accomplishments by presenting this outstanding Army [noncommissioned officer] and this superior Air Guard officer the Major Octavius Catto medal."
THOUSANDS OF PA NATIONAL GUARSMEN SUPPORT INAUGURATION

By 2nd Lt. Susan Penning, 193d SOW PAO

Washington, D.C. -- About 2,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the Commonwealth assembled Jan. 18-21 to support the 58th Presidential Inauguration. About 1,000 of these troops headed to Washington, D.C., to perform several critical inaugural missions, including crowd management, traffic control, civil disturbance response and communication and ceremonial duties. The rest remained on standby at various locations, with the ability to provide swift emergency response and aviation lift support as needed.

"The Soldiers and Airmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard consider it an honor to be a part of this historic event and will continue the long tradition of providing militia support to the president and our nation during each presidential inauguration," said Col. Sam Hayes, Director of Domestic Operations, PANG.

These Army and Air National Guardsmen added to the approximately 7,500 troops from 44 states, three territories and the District of Columbia that supported the inaugural mission. They served on Joint Task Force D.C., a task force specifically created in response to requests for assistance from local and federal agencies in the National Capital Region. The troops augmented the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Capitol Police and D.C. Metropolitan Police forces.

Executing such a large-scale mission required extensive coordination and planning from many Air and Army National Guard units and included several different job specializations, such as medical, logistics, security forces and services.

"Our group is made up of highly trained, highly motivated medical professionals with the mission of saving lives and mitigating pain and suffering," said Air National Guard Lt. Col. Richard Lorraine, 193rd Special Operations Medical Group Detachment 1 commander. Lorraine's unit, which remained on standby during the inauguration, provides life support, medical treatment and transport in the event of a catastrophic disaster.

"I've been involved in this mission for 10 years. It's why I joined the military," said Lorraine, a private practice physician in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. "I wanted to be able to do more with my training."

"We have to consolidate folks from all over the state," said Army National Guard Capt. Johnny Perez, 876th Engineer Battalion Bravo Company commander in Spring City, Pennsylvania. "We always hope for the best but prepare for the worst. These are civilians who have to leave their families, their jobs. It requires an enormous time effort, but they're all happy to volunteer their service to their state and country. We're all very proud."

PANG support at presidential inaugurations dates back to April 30, 1789, when local militia members - known today as the Pennsylvania National Guard - joined the U.S. Army and revolutionary war veterans to form an honor detail to escort Gen. George Washington from Philadelphia to his inauguration ceremony in New York City.

Source:

CONVOY LEADS TODDLER THROUGH SNOWSTORM FOR LIFE-SAVING HEART TRANSPLANT

by BEN BURROWS (www.syracuse.com)

A convoy coordinated between Pennsylvania State Police, the National Guard, and PennDOT safely transported a toddler in need of a heart transplant from one hospital to another through Winter Storm Stella on Tuesday.

According to WPVI in Philadelphia, the 23-month-old child was transported from Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono in East Stroudsburg to Geisinger Children's Hospital in Danville.

The trip was about 88 miles, according to Google maps. "PennDOT led the way with a plow train, state police went with the group to make sure they were safe," Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf said, according to WPVI. "The National Guard followed up to make sure that if anything happened they could help. And the local emergency responders and healthcare practitioners made sure the baby was safe while they made that trip."

The Pennsylvania State Police posted a picture of the convoy to its Facebook page Tuesday afternoon:

The snow doesn't stop us! PSP Troopers teamed up with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Pennsylvania National Guard, and Suburban EMS to escort a 23-month-old child from Lehigh Valley Health Network in East Stroudsburg to Geisinger Children’s Hospital in Danville for an emergency medical procedure. The team effort ensured everyone arrived safely. #Stella

Source:


WWI SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER

by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

NAME:
Mestrovitch, James I.  
(Was an ethnic Serb, and born as Joko Meštrović)

RANK:
Sergeant

ORGANIZATION:
U.S. Army

COMPANY:
Company C

UNIT:
111th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division

BORN:
Montenegro

DECEASED:
4 November 1918

ENTERED SERVICE AT:
Pittsburgh, PA

G.O. NUMBER:
20, War Department, 1919

DATE OF ISSUE:
20 October 1899

ACCREDITED TO:
Pennsylvania

WAR/CONFLICT:
World War I

PLACE/DATE:
At Fismette, France, 10 August 1918

CITATION:
Seeing his company commander laying wounded 30 yards in front of the line after his company had withdrawn to a sheltered position behind a stone wall, Sgt. Mestrovitch voluntarily left cover and crawled through heavy machinegun and shell fire to where the officer lay. He took the officer upon his back and crawled to a place of safety, where he administered first-aid treatment, his exceptional heroism saving the officer's life.

Sadly he died from the Spanish flu on the 4 November 1918, just one week before the armistice. In the 1920s, his remains were repatriated by a U.S. battleship from France to Montenegro, where he was buried in cemetery of Serbian Orthodox Church of St. John in his home village of Đuraševići near Tivat.

Source:

PNGMM archives

The Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum is very pleased to have just received some historical World War II items from Mr. Wally Morgan, who is a veteran of the 28th Infantry Division, serving during World War II and a member of our museum for many years.

Some of the items donated pistols included a Erfurt, P-08 Model semi-automatic dated 1917; Model 1934 Mauser; and a Walter P38 dated 1943 with Nazi markings.

Mr. Wallace E. Morgan enlisted on December 4, 1942 in Des Moines, Iowa. He trained for 18 months with the 103d Division, 410th Regiment, Company “M” (Heavy Weapons) at Camp Clairborne, Louisiana and Camp Howze, Texas. With the buildup for the invasion going on, Mr. Morgan was transferred to England as a replacement in May of 1944.

With the invasion already going on, he was shipped to Normandy, France and arrived on Omaha Beach on a fishing boat in late June, 1944. He was assigned his unit and joined up with Company D, 110th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division in Percy, France. Company D was a heavy weapons company in which he served as the number one gunner of a water cooled machine gun and fought his way all the way to Paris, France.

On August 27, 1944, the 110th Infantry Regiment was located at Versailles, France. The order came to march directly through Paris to fight on the far side of the city. The French 2d Armored division had already cleared the city. On the night of the 28th of August, the division moved into Paris during a drenching rain and prepared for a “parade” through the city the next day. The parade began to be formed near Bois do Boulogne and the division marched twenty-four abreast down the Avenue Foch by the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de L-Etoile, which was the architectural hub of the city, then finally down the Champs Elysees to the Place de la Concorde.

Throughout Paris, tens of thousand of French citizens lined the streets of Paris. The key leadership reviewing the parade was General Charles De Gualle, representing the Free French Forces, Lieutenant General Omar Bradley, 12th Army Group Commander; General Courtney H. Hodges, First Army Commander and our division commander General Norman Daniel “Dutch” Cota representing the American forces.

The parade was so famous that a U.S. three-cent postage stamp was issued with the 28th Infantry Division marching down the Champs Elysees with the Arc De Triumpe seen in the background. The planes were added later by the artist.

From Paris the unit fought into Luxembourg and then into Germany. On September 11, 1944, the unit began a fierce battle near Hochscheid, Germany. This lead to a series of fierce battles for the 28th.

For the 28th, the next major battle would be known as the Hurtgen Forest. For the 110th Infantry Regiment, this action began on November 2, 1944. The 28th was sent in after the 9th Infantry Division had to be relieved after suffering 4,500 casualties in just over 30 days. They were only able to push 3 kilometers into the thick heavily defended forest. For the next two weeks there was heavy fighting on both sides. Soldiers suffered from battle fatigue, trench foot and lack of warm clothing.

By November 12 the battalion had been severely depleted of soldiers and the unit received a hundred new replacements. Mr. Morgan was told to take possession of a certain hill, which had already seen much fighting as there were dead soldiers everywhere. The unit crossed a dry creek bed and moved their way up a hill. Wally was one of three that were assigned to a particular machine gun along with five ammunition carriers. Being so close to the front line, they could not test fire the machine gun that night. They just hunkered down and tried to stay safe during the constant barrage of artillery fire.

In the morning on November 13, when the attack began they found out that the machine gun would not fire and had frozen in the freezing cold. Soon, he realized that he had been wounded and by shrapnel. Having a carbine and using it, he soon realized that ammunition was running out and that...
there were too many Germans coming at him. Suddenly, he was surrounded by six or eight Germans in a patrol who had their guns pointed right at him. At this point, Wally knew that he was no longer a free man but now a POW.

Wally did not know the war in Europe was over until they heard the Russians coming. Along with the German guards, they joined the long line of people who were walking westward towards the American lines. The mass of people walked for three days and nights with very little rest. Once the line had reached the Elbe River, Wally was officially liberated by the 82d Airborne. The documentation that Wally has says that he was liberated on June 4, 1945, almost a month after V-E Day.

Once liberated, Wally walked around the area and told the Germans that he wanted their guns, and took them. Other soldiers were doing the same thing at the time. One of the pistols he took off a dead German soldier. This all happened when he was first liberated and they were allowed to keep the weapons and bring them home as war trophies which are now on display at the museum.

Sources:


MUSEUM’S INSIGNIA SHOW

by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

On April 8, the museum hosted their quarterly insignia show in the museum’s annex building with an attendance of 30 people. The trade show offers a location to buy, sell, or trade various military insignia, books, medals, pictures and field equipment from all branches of the military. No fire-arms or ammunition are allowed at the show. The remainder of the shows for the year are:

15 July 2017
4 November 2017

For more information, please contact the Museum Director, Mr. Charles B. Oellig at 717-861-2402 or email him at c-coellig@pa.gov for more information on the events.
MOUNT GRENTA
by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

The history of Mr. Gretna is vast in the central Pennsylvania area. The wood from the area helped fuel the fires that forged cannons for George Washington’s Continental Army. Railroads helped bring visitors to the area including President Benjamin Harrison.

For the Pennsylvania National Guard, the area of Mount Gretna served as a small training site for roughly 50 years. During that time, a single division would be formed from five divisions in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The National Guard of Pennsylvania (NGP) as it was known back then conducted mobilizations for the Spanish American War and World War I. Units conducted annual training summer camps as well as trained for various state active duty missions on the 200 acre site.

During these five decades the National Guard greatly increased its marksmanship training on the ranges located at Mt. Gretna.

On Friday, June 16, the Pennsylvania Chautauqua will be hosting a program of the history of Mount Gretna. This program will begin at 7:30 pm. All are welcomed to attend this public event.

The Hall of Philosophy
106 Chautauqua Drive
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064

The program begin at 7:30 PM and there will be several displays and speakers for the event.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE REENACTMENT AT FTIG
by Tom Cherry, DMVA PAO Staff

World War II re-enactors and history buffs gathered for the annual Battle of the Bulge World War II Living History Week and associated reenactment held at the installation on January 27-28, 2017. The annual event is sponsored by the World War II Historical Association, Inc. and includes various opportunities to buy authentic and reproduction pieces as well as the reenactment that is open to the public.
U.S. COMMEMORATES
ENTRY INTO WWI

by Mr. Chris Isleib, Director of Public Affairs
(U.S. World War One Centennial Commission)

Washington D.C. (April 6, 2017)–The premiere production with moving tributes, compelling imagery and performances brought crowds to tears and to their feet as the United States World War I Centennial Commission hosted “In Sacrifice for Liberty and Peace: Centennial Commemoration of the U.S. Entry into World War I” yesterday at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri.

The commemoration events began with a moving prelude that included remarks by descendants of notable Generals John J. Pershing and George S. Patton. Highlights of the landmark day included a long-overdue Purple Heart Reuniting Ceremony with World War I Military Order of the Purple Heart medal recipient Cpl Leo George Rauf’s great nephew Michael Kazin, American historian and professor, Georgetown University; Dr. John Hamilton, Professor of Journalism, Louisiana State University; Emma Sky, OBE, British expert on the Middle East; and Evan Thomas, American journalist, "Fighting First," is currently deployed to Iraq.

Actor, director and producer Kevin Costner narrated the opening of the ceremony which took attendees, television and life-stream viewers back to the 1910s as war broke out in Europe, American volunteers signed up to fight, and German submarines sank the RMS Lusitania triggering the Great Debate as the nation headed into the 1916 presidential election.

The crowd honored the sacrifice of the men and women who served in World War I with a solemn moment of silence followed by the tolling of bells. The 1st Infantry Division Color Guard, in World War I period uniforms retired the colors. Cannons were fired by the Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment Missouri Army National Guard to mark the Declaration of War, the start of a turning point in American history that took the country from a developing democracy into a world power.

The program paid tribute to the bravery of African American and Native American fighters; the struggle and patriotism of immigrant soldiers; and the significant impact on women, their standing in society and their civil rights. Noble Sissle Jr., descendant of famous WWI jazz composer Noble Sissle, read text by sociologist and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois and Helen Keller’s famed “Strike Against War” speech was an eloquent reminder of the struggle with the decision to go to war.

The Acting Secretary of the U.S. Army Robert M. Speer read from President Calvin Coolidge’s speech delivered on November 11, 1926 at the dedication of the Liberty Memorial. He reminded the audience that today’s military carries the same ideals and values of U.S. soldiers in World War I. His remarks were followed by poems and prayers illustrating the nation’s concerns and fears for what was ahead. The ceremony finale, evoking the patriotic fervor that swept the United States, despite the national debate and anxiety, was a rousing full–cast performance of the iconic “Over There,” followed by a flyover by a B2 Spirit stealth bomber of the 509th Bomb Wing from Whiteman Air Force Base located in central Missouri.

In the afternoon, a panel of notable diplomats, historians and academics presented a colloquium on the global impact of World War I. The two-part discussion, with Dr. John Morrow, American historian and professor, University of Georgia; Dr. Michael Kazin, American historian and professor, Georgetown University; Dr. John Hamilton, Professor of Journalism, Louisiana State University; Emma Sky, OBE, British expert on the Middle East; and Evan Thomas, American journalist, historian and author, sought to answer critical questions such as how to build peace after a global conflict, why the U.S. entered the war and whether entering the war was the right decision.

Source:

DONATIONS

All photos by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

Several Pennsylvania National Guard unit guidons were transferred from USPFO to the museum for archival storage. This one was used by the 109th Infantry Regiment which served as a Combined Arms Battalion (CAB) which had infantry and armor companies, hence the yellow armor guidon in an infantry battalion.

Two World War I Honorable Discharge and Enlistment record certificate and a Registration card from Mr. Don Rinck of New Jersey. One was for Private Benjamin F. Bogan, 121399, a member of HQS CO., 108th Field Artillery, 28th Division, AEF and the 15th Company, 4th Battalion, 153rd Depot Brigade. The other document was for Ordnance Sergeant William O. Rinck, 1778925, a member of the Ordnance Detachment, 312th Field Artillery, 79th Division.

Two early National Guard of Pennsylvania marksmanship medals transferred to us from our friend Mr. Stefan Rohal, Curator at the United States marine Corps Museum at Quantico, VA. A revolver qualification medal dated 1899 with a four year qualification pendant and a ten year qualification medal for a “marksman” with the rifle circa 1903 to 1913 with an eleven year pendant.

An anonymous donation of a World War I Medal of Honor that was in private hands.

Under federal laws, selling the Medal of Honor is punishable by fines of up to $100,000 and a year in jail.

The medal is now on display at the museum in our Medal of Honor case.

A donation of items related to 1Lt Arthur Parker of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Lieutenant Parker served in several National Guard Field Artillery Units around the 1950s.
An anonymous donor sent in these two Keystone Lubricating Company cans and a matchbook cover advertising the same company. The donor must have made the connection of the red keystone with that of our 28th Infantry Division’s keystone. Whoever the donor is, we appreciate it here at the museum.

A number of items from the 8th Army Air Force from World War II. The collection was donated by Ms. Betty Boadman.

A collection of Pennsylvania National Guard marksmanship medals from the late 1800s to early 1900s. Purchased with funds from our generous donors.

Silver officer’s goblet manufactured by Wallace Brothers and engraved “Presented to HQS PNGM OFFICERS MESS” from Mr. Pete Graybash.

A World War II Scrapbook with photos, documents, and letters from Mr. Christopher Smith.

A collection of items related to First Sergeant Sunday Aiello who served with Service Company, 110th Infantry Regiment during the 1950s. Some of the items include his Honorable Discharge certificate, Bronze Star, and his unit insignia. Donated by his son Mr. David Aiello.

A photo from Company L, 109th Infantry Regiment with a separate roster identifying everyman in the photo. The item was donated by Mr. William Kelz and Mr. Mike Kelz.
A LETTER
TO OUR
MEMBERSHIP

by
Rick Shertzer, Membership Chairman

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum realized revenues of $3,840 in membership dues and $1,725 additional donations for a total of $5,565 in Calendar Year 2016. These funds, provided by membership dues and donations received from 295 members helped support the operation of the three historic buildings currently open to the public, including:

Bldg 8-57, a WWII barracks that houses the main display of Pennsylvania Air and Army National Guard artifacts.

Bldg 8-76, a WWII chapel with its collection of items unique to the Chaplain Corps.

Bldg 8-106 the Victorian Range House dating to the Mount Gretna era of the PA Army National Guard with a display of marksmanship memorabilia.

The Museum Board of directors would like to pursue the additional projects listed below:

- New windows, siding, and roofs for the two WWII barracks currently in use on the museum grounds.
- Procurement of an historic tank or artillery piece for display on the concrete pad outside of Bldg 8-57.
- Completion of the restoration of four jeeps currently in the museum collection.
- The ultimate connection of the museum and annex with an enclosed walkway that would provide additional display space as well as public restrooms at the museum.
- Procurement of one or two steel buildings for storage, workshop space, and a jeep display.

Your Board recognizes these plans are ambitious, but is confident that the generous financial support provided by the membership during our first 30 years of operation, will continue as existing and new members provide for this legacy. If you haven’t visited recently, I encourage you to plan a trip or drop in for a visit. I think you will be pleased with what you see in the museum! Driving directions, contact information and hours of operation are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Thanks for helping make the first 30 years so successful! I look forward to continuing membership growth that will ensure the facility will continue to be available for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you to our recently rejoined or new members. The military museum is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and tax deductible dues or donations may be sent to:

PNG Military Museum
Building T-8-57
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5003

Membership application forms are available on the museum website at:

www.pngmilitarymuseum.org

We endeavor to recognize everyone in the newsletter who has joined or renewed their membership in recent months and intend to recognize all patrons. Important to us is your current military rank, federal grade at retirement, or civilian title, so where we do not have your rank or civilian title, please let us know so we can update our membership roster. Following is the list of recent regular, family, life, and business memberships for the first months of 2017:
MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP and DONATIONS

Paolo Sica (Regular)  Kelly Fonner (Life)
Charles Holbrook (Regular)  James Sims (Regular)
Donna & Thomas Weik (Family)  Louis Brown (Regular)
Ronald Boltz (Regular)  Gary & Gail Williamson (Family)
Walter Zapotoczny (Regular)  Betty Guise (Family)
Robert Lundy Jr. (Regular)  Wayne Anspach (Life)
Peter Graybash Jr. (Regular)  Bentura Rodriguez (Regular)
Joseph Fadrowski (Regular)  John Szivos (Regular)
Thomas & Cynthia Small, Sr. (Family)  Allen Kifer (Family)
William Bull (Regular)  
Frederick Bailey (Regular)  
John Byerly, Sr. (Regular)  
James MacVay (Regular)  
COL James Cassarella (Regular)  
Gerald E. Otterbein (Life)  
Brig Gen Anthony Carrelli, TAGPA (Life)  
Raymond Rauanheiro (Regular)  
Carl Magagna (Regular)  
Kevin Peter (Regular)  
Aldred Allison, Jr. (Regular)  
Alfonso Maida (Regular)  
Myrtle Hastings (Regular)  
Richard Stichter (Regular)  
Robert Clay (Regular)  
Timothy Patches (Life)  
James & Vickie Hoffman (Family)

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

As a museum member, we offer you an electronic version of this newsletter. If you would like to receive an electronic version instead of a mailed copy, please contact SGT Damian J. M. Smith at: c-damsmith@pa.gov If you are unsure if you would like to have it sent that way, you can try it once and revert back to the original mailed copy of the newsletter if you prefer.

MUSEUM TOUR GROUPS

Palmyra High School Class
BSA Troop 251 (Clarks Green, PA)
BSA Troop 57 (Scranton, PA)
Cub Pack 126 (Moscow, PA)
Cub Pack 437 (Mountaintop, PA)
Veterans Outreach Center

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

We would like to thank those members and patrons of the military museum who donated financial support (above their membership) for the care of artifacts, building projects or in memory of or in honor of someone who has served.

Donna Weik
Alfonso M. Maida
Kelly Fonner in memory of her late husband CSM Fonner (USA, Ret).
Betty Guise in memory of her late husband Col Dennis Guise (USAF, Ret)
MUSEUM WISH LIST

If you have objects that you wish to donate to the Museum, please contact us at (717) 861-2402. Please have some information regarding the item types, their age, or the conflict they are related to, their connection to Pennsylvania, your contact information, and, if possible, photographs of the object. The more information the better. Listed below are just some items we are looking for:

- Armory items from Across the State
- American Civil War Items
- EAASTS, Army and Air Guard unit patches
- Spanish American War Items
- Items from Mt. Gretna during the time the Pennsylvania National Guard trained there in the late 1880s to 1930s
- Military History books for our museum and archive library
- Kosovo Items (PA Guard Items)
- Bosnia Items (PA Guard Items)
- OIF Items (PA Guard Items)
- OEF Items (PA Guard Items)
- Unit Challenge Coins
- All types of Period Weapons

2017 CALENDAR OF HISTORY & EVENTS

JUNE
14 U.S. Army’s Birthday (1775) & Flag Day
18 Father’s Day

JULY
4 Independence Day

AUGUST
4 U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

SEPTEMBER
7-10 28th ID Reunion

OCTOBER
13 U.S. Navy Birthday

NOVEMBER
10 U.S. Marine Corps Birthday
11 Veterans Day
26 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER
7 PA National Guard Birthday (1747) and Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
13 National Guard Birthday (1636)
17 National Wreaths Across America
CURATOR’S CORNER by Mr. CHARLES B. OELLIG

Edward Harry Schell was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on September 11, 1877. He grew up only a few blocks from the armory of Company D, 8th Infantry Regiment, NGP. He would enlist in that unit on October 28, 1896 as a private. He was mustered into federal service with his company for the Spanish American war and was soon promoted to corporal, and then to sergeant and was finally commissioned second lieutenant in 1903. Followed by promotions to first lieutenant in 1908, captain in 1910. He served with the national guard on the Mexican Border 1916 and was called for World War One.

Schell served as major and lieutenant colonel, quartermaster corps from September 1918 to April 1919 as Group Quartermaster Hospital Center at Bazoilles, France, one of the largest hospital centers in France. After the war LTC Schell returned to the Pennsylvania National Guard as head of the Quartermaster Department. In 1931, he was promoted to Colonel of that department.

One of his favorite awards was the General William Moffat Reilly Long Service medal. At that time these awards were made of gold and his was only the eighteenth awarded, in 1936. Colonel Schell retired from the guard in 1939 with forty three years of service. He passed away on the 28th of October, 1949 and its interred in the Paxtang cemetery near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
HOURS

Hours are 10:00-4:30 (Monday & Friday).

To schedule an appointment to visit the museum at a time not listed, call our Museum Director, Mr. Charlie B. Oellig, Monday & Friday at 717-861-2402, our Command Historian, SGT Damian J. M. Smith, at 717-861-2464, or the Cultural Resources Manager, Ms. Stephanie L. Olsen at 717-861-6793.

DIRECTIONS

From I-81, take exit 85B(northbound) or exit 85 (southbound), Fort Indiantown Gap exit, and proceed north on Route 934. At the first red light on post, turn right onto Service Road. Drive four tenths of a mile. The museum is located at the corner of Service Road and Wiley Road, building number T-8-57. Look for the Civil War Cannon and the museum signs on the right hand side.