FEATURED EXHIBIT

One of the many exhibits showcased at the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum focuses on the many souvenirs soldiers could purchase for themselves or loved ones while stationed at or passing through Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. These items include postcards, pins, buttons, and even small shorts that could fit a doll or teddy bear. Items sent home to loved ones are sometimes referred to as Wives, Mothers, and Sweethearts items because they are who often receive such gifts. One such item on display in this exhibit is a decorative letter pouch. Letters and postcards were the main forms of communication during wartime, and as such, feature prominently in this exhibit. It is a unique feature of the Museum because it not only tells the story of the soldiers at Fort Indiantown Gap, but also those who were supporting them back home.

This exhibit is located on the second floor of the Museum building.

To see this, and other fascinating exhibits, please come visit the Museum!
DONATIONS

Artifact Information by Mr. Charles B. Oellig
Photos by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

Four National Guard manuals: The Guardsman’s Hand-Book, 1885; Decisions of Tactics and Guard Duty, 1886; Catechism of Outpost Duty, 1895; Infantry Drill Regulations, U.S. Army, 1891. These items were donated by Mr. Craig Correll.

A group of patches, insignia, challenge coins, buckles, badges, medals, and paper items donated by Alexis Student and family.

Souvenir letter pocket from Indiantown Gap, PA. These were very popular during World War II, along with pillow covers, pennants, and postcards, all of which were sold on or near Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. Courtesy of Mr. Terry Hannon

A collection of challenge coins (above), and patches (left), from Brig. Gen. Stanley J. Jaworski, (USAF, Ret.)

A hand-painted metal squadron sign once used by the 147th Fighter Interceptor Squadron of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard that was stationed in Pittsburgh in the 1950s. The little green character is “Omicron,” a fictional martian. The Royal House of Sam refers to the term “Sam”, which began as an expression of camaraderie between pilots. The basic insignia was developed by Colonel Edward J. Bollen for whom Bollen Bombing Range at Fort Indiantown Gap is named.

A World War I Testament of Private John K. Miller, Company I, 52d Infantry Regiment. The item was donated by Patricia Ziegler.

A World War II Nazi banner signed by members of Company H, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, donated by Jesse Carr.

A hand-made 728th Maintenance Battalion clock made around 1989-1990 donated by LTC William C. Confer (USA, Ret.).

Photographs, programs, and information on the funeral of General Edward Martin. Donated by COL William F. Kuba, (USA, Ret.) who served as a pallbearer.

Not Pictured:

A collection of 110th Infantry Regiment items including reunion programs, books, insignia, and 28th Infantry Division plate donated by Mr. Thomas Phillips, Jr.

Soldier’s scrapbook and uniform circa 1950’s donated by Patricia K. Pritchard.

A World War II Nazi banner signed by members of Company H, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, donated by Jesse Carr.

If you have objects that you wish to donate to the museum, please contact us at (717) 861-2402

MUSEUM WISH LIST

- 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 from the 1880s to 1930s
- Military history books
- 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

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TO REGISTER A TEAM OR TO BE A SPONSOR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.PNGMILITARYMUSEUM.ORG
ANNUAL MUSEUM PICNIC

by Ms. Stephanie L. Olsen
Photographs by Mr. Tom Cherry, DMVA Photographer

The Museum Board would like to thank you for your support and help for our 8th Annual Museum Picnic on Friday, May 19, 2017. The picnic was a great success, and we couldn’t have done it without your help! We had about 160 attendees and, most importantly, we had many new visitors to our Museum, Range House, and Chapel.

The weather was in our favor this year, so we had a beautiful day to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum. It was a day of good food, good weather, good people, and good music thanks to George Homberg and his band, "Mirage."

Many thanks go out to Police Chief Jon Worley and the FTIG Police for posting event signs and monitoring the safety of the picnic. We would most certainly like to thank LTC Chris McDevitt, Bob Vuksta, and all of State Reservation Maintenance for their help and attention to detail with grass mowing, canopies, tables, and chairs to support our event. Despite ongoing construction at the museum, Reservation Maintenance was able to move the location of the tents so that the construction would not interfere with our 30th Anniversary celebration. Again, thanks to all for a successful day, and we hope to see you at the 2018 picnic!

We would like to thank our volunteers and our tour guides for showing our guests around the museum complex.

UPCOMING EVENTS

9 September—GOLF TOURNAMENT
4 November—PNGMM PATCH SHOW (ASMIC)
The Board Bulletin
by David J. Smoker, Col (USAF, Ret)

First and foremost, the members of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum sincerely thank MG Walter Pudlowski (USA, Ret) and Brig Gen Stanley Jaworski (USAF, Ret) for their seven years of dedicated service as president and vice-president, respectively. Their behind the scenes work was endless, and in fact continues, as they both remain on the museum board. Although their accomplishments are many, the most visible is the relocation, funding, restoration, and dedication of the Our Lady of Victory Chapel on the museum campus. This accomplishment also included a fund campaign and restoration of the stained glass windows in the Chapel. The leadership of Generals Pudlowski and Jaworski has been and remains truly inspirational.

You will notice a change in the design and format of our newsletter. We have a couple goals in mind with the redesigned newsletter. We intend to provide content specifically related to the museum and of interest to our membership including featured exhibits; recently donated items; information about fund raising events; The Board Bulletin (news and information - this page); the ever interesting Curator’s Corner; and a historical page written by our command historian. Simultaneous to focusing more directly on museum items, events, and news, another goal is to cut down on the size of the newsletter saving printing and mailing costs.

As one of our objectives is to make the newsletter more reader friendly, we would like to ensure that each of you are receiving your preference of either a paper copy or an email copy of the newsletter. We ask that you contact us if you have a preferred way to receive your newsletter. To make a switch, please contact our editor Stephanie Olsen at steolsen@pa.gov or 717-861-6793.

We intend to publish three newsletters a year. This format will allow us to cover upcoming events in the spring issue, preview the golf tournament in the summer issue, and then provide the year in review and plans for the following year in the December issue. You will also notice the 30th Anniversary logo “Celebrating 30 Years” on the cover of this newsletter. As the museum was dedicated 18 December 1986, we are using 2017 to tout 30 years in business for the museum!

Our museum could not prosper without your membership dues and donations. To each of you, we are indeed grateful. Memberships and renewals since the last newsletter were graciously received from: Ms Shannan Zerance, Mr. Thomas Phillips, Jr., MG Randy Marchi (USA, Ret), Mr. John Jeffery, Col Carl Magagna (USAF, Ret), Mr. Charles Oellig, Mr. Franklin Blouch, Mr. David Oswald, Maj Gen Eric Weller (USAF, Ret), and Mr. James Clarkson. Thanks also to those who made financial donations recently including: Mr. Thomas Phillips, Jr. and Mr. David Oswald.

(Please note that we want to accurately denote your name and title, whether military or civilian, active or retired, so please provide that information when you pay your dues or simply call us to add or correct your title. Thank you!)

Your support is important to the museum and we are making progress. With your help and the continuing outstanding support of State Reservation Maintenance under the direction of LTC Chris McDevitt, the museum is currently undergoing a major and much needed facelift. Through the course of the summer, the museum and annex will have new period correct green shingle roofs, white siding mimicking the original slab boards, new insulation, new windows, new fire escape ladders in period correct wood, and new painted steps and ramps. Thanks again for your support!

In the next issue of the newsletter, look forward to information about our strategic plans and projects to continue to enhance the museum experience.

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CURATOR’S CORNER by Mr. Charles B. Oellig

Captain George C. Von der Lindt and his brother, Charles N. Von der Lindt, of Company G, First Regiment Infantry, NGP at Chickamauga, Georgia, during the Spanish-American War in 1898. George enlisted as a private in the Artillery Corps, Washington Grays, on July 1, 1879. He transferred to Company A, Third Regiment through consolidation with the Weccacoe Legion July 31, 1879, and again transferred to Company G, First Regiment, December 11, 1879. His promotions were to Corporal July 1, 1884; Sergeant June 1, 1885; Second Lieutenant October 4, 1892; First Lieutenant June 6, 1893; and Captain June 19, 1894. He served as Company Commander during the War with Spain May 10 to October 26, 1898. He was re-appointed Captain on January 24, 1899, and retired from the Guard June 18, 1899, after twenty years of service.

Charles enlisted as a private February 5, 1899, in Company G, First Regiment. His promotions were to Corporal in 1891; Sergeant May 27, 1895; First Sergeant July 24, 1899; and reverted to Sergeant August 21, 1899. In federal service during the War with Spain, he served as the First Sergeant of Company G. Charles was discharged September 18, 1890, at his own request, giving his reason as “business interference.” The brothers both lived in Philadelphia, PA. The photograph was taken between May 18 and August 20, 1898.

This is the 49th in a series of historical photographs of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen of the past, submitted by Charles Oellig, curator of the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum at Fort Indiantown Gap. The Museum is open Mondays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or other days by appointment. Call (717) 861-2402, or visit www.pngmilitarymuseum.org for more information or to schedule an appointment. The Museum is closed on major holidays.
WORLD WAR I
SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER
by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

NAME: Joseph Henry Thompson
RANK: Major
ORGANIZATION: U.S. Army
COMPANY: Company
UNIT: 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division
BORN: 26 September 1871
DECEASED: 1 Feb 1928 (age 56)
ENTERED SERVICE AT: Beaver Falls, PA
G.O. NUMBER: 21, War Department, 1925
DATE OF ISSUE: Unknown
ACCREDITED TO: Pennsylvania
WAR/CONFLICT: World War I
PLACE/DATE: Near Apremont, France 1 October 1918

CITATION: Counterattacked by 2 regiments of the enemy, Maj. Thompson encouraged his battalion in the front line of constantly braving the hazardous fire of machine guns and artillery. His courage was mainly responsible for the heavy repulse of the enemy. Later in the action, when the advance of his assaulting companies was held up by fire from a hostile machine gun nest and all but 1 of the 6 assaulting tanks were disabled, Maj. Thompson, with great gallantry and coolness, rushed forward on foot 3 separate times in advance of the assaulting line, under heavy machine gun and antitank-gun fire, and led the 1 remaining tank to within a few yards of the enemy machine gun nest, which succeeded in reducing it, thereby making it possible for the infantry to advance.

Sources:
PNGMM archives Center of Military History, http://www.history.army.mil/moh/worldwari.html#THOMPSON

WORLD WAR II
SOLDIER REMAINS FOUND
by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced on June 30, 2017, that Army Pfc. Gerald F. Wipfli, missing since World War II, has now been accounted for by the Department of Defense.

In early November 1944, Wipfli was a member of Company I, 3d Battalion, 112th Infantry, serving as a rifleman and a platoon runner when his unit was engaged in intense combat against German forces in the town of Schmidt, Germany, within the Hürtgen Forest. The area was located at the border of Germany and Belgium and covered a wooded area of roughly 50 square miles. If it succeeded, this area would have provided another possible corridor of the Allies to thrust forward into Germany.

After a month of fighting, the Americans suffered 4,500 casualties and only pushed into the thick woods by a few kilometers. American division after division would be pushed forward, trying to break the German stalemate. Soon the 28th Infantry Division would be called to push forward. Due to chaotic fighting, 112th Infantry officers were not able to accurately report the status of each soldier, and it took several days for Company I to gain accountability of their casualties. Private First Class Gerald F. Wipfli was among 33 soldiers listed as missing in action from his company. No surviving members of his unit had information on his fate, and he was reported missing in action on November 4, 1944.

Source:
9TH ANNUAL FOXHOLE INVITATIONAL
September 9, 2017
1 PM SHOTGUN START
BLUE MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE
FREDERICKSBURG, PA

HOW TO DONATE
www.pngmilitarymuseum.org
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HOURS
Hours are 10:00-4:30 (Monday & Friday).

For further information about the museum, please contact the following.

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717-861-2402
Command Historian, SGT Damian Smith
717-861-2464
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717-861-6793