



Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum

Building T-8-57, Fort Indiantown Gap
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PNG MILITARY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER NO. 31-2018

WWW.PNGMILITARYMUSEUM.ORG



WWI FEATURED EXHIBIT

by Mr. Charles B. Oellig
Photographs by SGT Damian J.M. Smith



Above: A World War I soldier holding a pigeon transport cage near the front lines.

Below: An original military bird cage used in war. This one is part of the museum collection.



HEADQUARTERS of 3rd Bn. Form 6 P. S.
TO C.O. 112th Inf.

17276

No.	Date	PIGEON SERVICE
20	11/11/18	Signal Corps, U.S.A.

All firing ceased at
11 Hr. per order.

2191

FROM	Maxon	TIME	a. m.
PLACE	P.C.		2:20 p. m.
Sender's Signature	Dickson		
Time of Receipt at Loft	2-35	No. of Copies sent by P. S.	1

Above: From the museum collection. An original 28th Division pigeon message from Headquarters of 3d Battalion to the Commanding Officer 112th Infantry. "All firing ceased at 11 HR per Order." The WWI Armistice Treaty was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. This year is the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, "the war to end all wars."

Pigeons played a vital part in World War I, because the U.S. Army used specially trained homing pigeons to carry messages. Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, served as the home of the U.S. Army Pigeon Breeding and Training Center from 1917 until 1957. Pigeons were considered an undetectable method of communication. Because pigeons have been known to fly hundreds of miles in a day, averaging one mile per minute, they proved to be an extremely reliable way of sending messages.

A small capsule would be placed around the leg of the pigeon, which contained paper messages, maps, photographs or cameras. The bird would then be released to fly to its home loft with the message. Military historians claim that ninety to ninety-five percent of all messages sent by the U.S. Army using pigeons were received. Pigeons were so vital during the war that more than 100,000 were used, but the Army has since discontinued their use in favor of faster communication methods.

Source: <http://www.militarian.com/threads/army-pigeons-in-world-war-i.6350/>

DONATIONS

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

Pictured below is a recently donated PPSH-41. This Soviet submachine gun was designed by Georgi Shpagin as a cheaper, simplified alternative to the PPD-40 submachine gun. This weapon contains a 71-round drum magazine as used in World War II. The gun is dated 1944 and was donated anonymously.



Pictured below is a piece of the "Dragon's Tooth" from the Siegfried Line acquired April 30, 2008, by Mr. Allan Atwell, a World War II veteran of the 28th Infantry Division. Atwell attended this year's reunion for the 28th Infantry Division held in September.



The above golden tone pyramid presentation plaque was presented by Major General Nasser Assi, Director of the Egyptian Training Authority, Egyptian Army, to the 28th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan, for participation and support of Bright Star 2018 on September 19, 2018. Major General Andrew P. Schafer, Jr., the current commanding general, transferred the item to the museum in October of 2018.



Pictured above is a set of general officer's military vehicle license plate attachments. These were placed on a vehicle occupied by a general to indicate his rank. The box is stenciled for the Transportation Motor Pool (TMP), Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (IGMR).

Donated, but not Pictured:

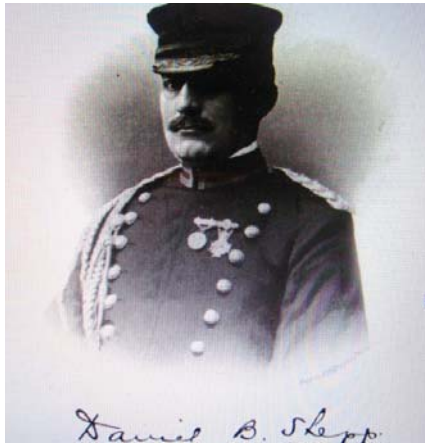
A TM 11-1122, Technical Manual of anti-tank mines and an M-1 detector dated April 6, 1943. Donated anonymously.

A collection of seven land deeds of Lebanon County properties with local names. Donated by Ms. Doris Ditzler.

PA State Guard Enlistment Form (c. 1945), 4th Regiment State Guard Patch and two Corporal Chevrons. Donated anonymously.

MUSEUM ACQUIRES DANIEL B. SHEPP COLLECTION

by Charles B. Oellig



The museum recently acquired the uniforms of LTC Daniel B. Shepp. He served as Aide-de-Camp on the Staff of Governor William Stone when the Pennsylvania Commission visited the Charlestown Exposition in 1902.

He was reappointed Aide-de-Camp on the Staff of Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker, 1903-1907. Shepp again served as Aide-de-Camp on the Staff of Major-General Henry C. Corbin on the occasion of the dedication ceremonies of the St. Louis Exposition in 1903. He was appointed Assistant Quartermaster General on the Staff of Governor Edwin S. Stuart in 1907, National Guard of Pennsylvania (NGP).

Shepp's service ranged from approximately the Spanish-American War (1898) to 1910. The collection includes two coats made by John G. Haas, a military uniform supplier in Lancaster, PA. The officer's coats and vest all have brass state staff officer's buttons. These uniforms and caps are in mint condition. It is very unusual to find uniforms more than 100 years old that are this well preserved.



10th Annual Major General Frank H. Smoker, Jr. Foxhole Invitational Golf Tournament

Please see Board Bulletin article on Page 4

Below: Cultural Resources Manager Stephanie Olsen and interns Jeremiah Kreider and Kerry Buffenmeyer.



The Museum Board would like to thank all of its amazing volunteers!

Below: Museum Board Member Capt. Jonathan Williams (USAF, Ret.).



THE BOARD BULLETIN

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

As the year comes to a close, and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we sincerely thank each and every member of the museum and all who have donated to the museum, the car show, and the golf tournament. The success of the museum is completely dependent on you, and we greatly appreciate and value your membership and contributions!

We have had an exciting and busy year collecting new artifacts such as the LTC Daniel Shepp uniform collection noted on Page 3, adding new displays, improving our response to members and contributors, operating a best-yet golf tournament, and adding a car show to the annual picnic. Again, none of this would be possible without your continuing support. We encourage you to come see our new displays and enjoy a museum tour at your leisure with Mr. Charlie Oellig. The museum at Fort Indiantown Gap proudly showcases the valiant service of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen. It is open to the public Mondays and Fridays or by prior appointment and has no admission fee.



Above: Golf Pro Tom Kintzer and Shannan Zerance

Many thanks to Tom Kintzer, who has donated his time and talent for several years, serving as the golf pro on the "Beat the Pro" contest hole. Also thanks to our Vice President, Ms. Shannan Zerance, who has been integral to the continuing success of the event as she has served on the tournament committee for all ten years!

This year the museum board was grateful to have Treasurer Stephanie Olsen serve as golf tournament co-chair. The most essential ingredient responsible for the great success of the tournament is, and always has been, the many dedicated volunteers and board members, to whom the museum owes a huge debt of gratitude!

From humble beginnings ten years ago, the golf tournament has continued to exceed expectations, with all proceeds benefiting our non-profit museum. The Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum is chartered to preserve and honor the heritage and contributions of Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard men and women from 1747 through present day. Pennsylvania National Guardsmen continue to serve and defend our state and nation worldwide. Thanks to the generosity and support of Mike and Jamie Saphore, the museum is able to carry on its mission of honoring the legacy of our local heroes.

Finally, please note that next year, we plan to alter our event schedule. Next year's 11th Annual Major General Frank H. Smoker, Jr., Foxhole Invitational Golf Tournament is planned for a morning start on Saturday May 18, 2019. The 2nd Annual Military and Muscle Car and Truck Show and Picnic is planned for September 2019.



Above (left to right): Ms Stephanie Olsen, Tournament Co-Chair; Col. David Smoker (USAF, Ret) Museum Board President; Mrs. Jamie Saphore, Tournament Chair; and MSGT Mike Saphore (USA, Ret), Tournament Sponsor and retired Pennsylvania Army National Guardsman. A check for \$11,300 in proceeds was presented at the October 2018 Museum Board meeting.

The Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum was honored to host its 10th Annual Major General Frank H. Smoker, Jr., Foxhole Invitational Golf Tournament on September 8, 2018, at Blue Mountain Golf Course in Fredericksburg, PA.



For the second year, Mike and Jamie Saphore, owners of the Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel, hosted the tournament. This was our most successful year to date, with an impressive \$11,300 raised!



UPCOMING 2019 MUSEUM EVENTS

17	Feb	PNGMM Patch Show
20	April	PNGMM Patch Show
18	May	11th Annual Foxhole Golf Tournament
20	July	PNGMM Patch Show
TBD	Sept	2nd Annual Car Show/Picnic
2	Nov	PNGMM Patch Show



Above (left to right): Rachael Smith and Stephanie Olsen
History and Museum Outreach Display
11th Annual Unity Day
September 12, 2018
Building 8-80, Fort Indiantown Gap

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Col. David J. Smoker (USAF, Ret.), Board President
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Mr. Charles B. Oellig, Curator
SGT Damian J. M. Smith, Articles/Photos
Mrs. Carolyn Dymond, Webmaster

TOUR GROUPS

by Mr. Charles B. Oellig

PNGMM Annual Picnic and Car Show
(108 people)



Green Ride Retirement Community of Newville, PA
(20 people)

WOCS Class 18-001
(21 candidates & staff)

Pine Grove Senior Citizens Group
(20 people)

Hope Spring Farm
(6 people)

Model T Antique Auto Club
(23 people)

335th Radio Research Company, Vietnam Veterans
Reunion Group
(43 people)

28th Infantry Division Association Reunion
(30 people)

95th Infantry Division Association Reunion
(75 people)

March for the Fallen (Family members)
(30 people)

Auburn Boy Scout Troop & Cub Scout Pack
(14 people)

Harrisburg Area Community College Professors
(8 people)

PA History Tour Group
(33 people)

Boy Scout Troop 35
(25 people)

CURATOR'S CORNER

by Mr. Charles B. Oellig



Photo courtesy of Museum Collection

The Loyalty Day Parade in Scranton, Pennsylvania, was the first appearance of the new Pennsylvania Reserve Militia (PRM), also known as the Home Guards. The photograph above is of a patriotic parade in Scranton, Lackawanna County, on April 6, 1918.

The photograph shows the entire Second Regiment of the PRM, which replaced the 28th Division. The PRM was training at Camp Hancock, Georgia, in preparation for combat in France during the Great War. Leading the parade is the band (partly shown), then the companies of the Second Regiment, including: Headquarters, Wilkes-Barre; Company A, Easton; Company B, Allentown; Company C, Scranton; Company D, Scranton & Honesdale; Company E, Pittston; Company F, Wilkes-Barre; Company G, Plymouth and Nanticoke; Company H, Williamsport; Company I, Harrisburg; Company K, Lock Haven; Company L, Pottsville and Tamaqua; and Company M, Pine Grove and Lebanon. Patriotic military parades are far less frequent today than they were in the past.

This is the 53rd in a series of historical photographs of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen of the past, submitted by Mr. Charles B. Oellig, curator of the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum at Fort Indiantown Gap. For more information about artifacts, hours or appointments, please call 717-861-2402.

WORLD WAR I SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER LTC JAMES A. SHANNON

Source: [Martin, Edward. The Twenty-eighth Division, Pennsylvania's Guard in the World War, Vol III, page 138.](#)

“Perhaps at no other time during the Meuse-Argonne offensive did the fighting become more spectacular than about Hill 244. Here soldiers climbed up the almost insurmountable cliff in order to make secure the possession of the slope and crest of that strongly held German position. Owing to German resistance on Hills 244 and 223 these were not taken and the positions were not consolidated until 8:30 A.M. Wire that had remained untouched by the heavy artillery fire from the American guns had to be cut on Hill 244, and this was done only through heavy losses. In the attack on Hill 244, Lieutenant Colonel James A. Shannon received a wound from which he died the same day. The command of the 112th Infantry then passed to Major Smathers, who was the following day evacuated. The command then went to Captain John F. Graff, Jr., who acquitted himself exceptionally well in this position.

General Nolan, in command of the 55th Infantry Brigade at this time, in his operations report, made the following reference to Colonel Shannon...: ‘Lieutenant Colonel James A. Shannon was assigned to the command of the 109th Regiment on the 30th of



September and remained in command of this regiment until the morning of October 3, when he was assigned to the command of the 112th Regiment of the 56th Brigade, being relieved by Colonel Prescott. While in command of the 109th Regiment, and later in command of the 112th Regiment, attached to

the Brigade for the attack on Hill 244, he displayed extraordinary qualities of leadership. Calm and resourceful in action, he was an inspiration to his officers and men. In his death the Army has lost one of its best young officers.”

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive took place from 26 September to 11 November 1918 and was considered the greatest American battle of WWI.

THE ARMISTICE

Source: [Martin, Edward. The Twenty-eighth Division, Pennsylvania's Guard in the World War, Vol III, pages 150-152.](#)

“With the rest of the 28th Division the 112th then proceeded to the Thiaucourt sector. There was now a general feeling that the war was about to end and a spirit of elation was abroad. The vigorous patrols in the Bois de Dampvitoux, in which detachments and companies from all battalions of the Regiment at one time or another participated during this period, resulted in securing valuable enemy information on strength, morale, and front-line conditions. These patrols also resulted in the capture of three German officers, and two hundred and sixty men.

While preparations were being made for what was considered to be the final battle of the war, an attack upon the city of Metz, the Regiment received what proved to be the last battle order of the World War. This contained the plan of attack upon the enemy's line in which the 28th Division was to play a large role. The order had scarcely arrived when a telephone call was received directing the attack to be held up until further orders. After hours of waiting, at 8:25 A.M. on November 11, word was received that the Armistice had been signed and that all hostilities would end at 11 A.M. on that day.

Although the command to attack had been annulled, there was no prohibition of artillery fire, and the next three hours were filled with a terrific bombardment from both sides. Fortunately, not a man of the 112th was killed or wounded during this fire. Of this artillery fire, Colonel Rickards said a few days later: ‘I think the most terrible gunfire that I had witnessed was that last three hours of the war. I estimate that in the area occupied by the 111th Infantry about three thousand shells fell, and most remarkable to state, not a casualty from one of them. This seems almost impossible, yet it is a fact. The last gun that I heard fired from our side was just three seconds to eleven o'clock. The last shell that I heard coming from the enemy was a six inch one that fell within seventy-five yards of my P.C. but fortunately it was a dud. This was at eleven o'clock.’”

HOW TO DONATE

www.pngmilitarymuseum.org

www.facebook.com/PNGMilitaryMuseum



HOURS

Hours are 10:00-4:30 Mondays & Fridays

Special Events by Appointment

Closed on Major Holidays

For more information, please contact:

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