

Sackets Harbor has two-century Army heritage

By **CONSTANCE BARONE**
Special to the Times

What do Electus Bockus and Daniel Brady have in common? Separated by 213 years, both army soldiers served at Sackets Harbor, but in very different capacities.

During the Second Battle of Sackets Harbor on May 29, 1813, LTC Bockus led the counterattack. Today LTC Brady leads the Fort Drum 10th Mountain Division Mountain Sappers 41st Engineer Battalion ‘snaplink’ partnership volunteer efforts between Fort Drum and Sackets Harbor. Though centuries apart, Backus and Brady represent a continuous unbroken army presence in the village that began in 1810 and continues today.

As the War of 1812 start, Sackets’ deep natural harbor made it the logical site for the U.S. military headquarters on the northern frontier. The National Park Service recognizes Sackets Harbor as one of the top War of 1812 sites in the country because of the May 29, 1813 battle outcome.

At that battle, Electus Backus, previously a teenage fifer during the American Revolution, was serving again during the “Second War for Independence.” He rallied regular U.S. Army units, but mortally wounded, he died a week later at age 47,

See SACKETS T7



The Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site is hosting a curated exhibit of Daniel Kantak’s photos, “Reflections of the Past” through June 28. Kantak, a Sackets Harbor photographer and poet, captured hundreds of photographs at the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site’s 2024 North American War of 1812 Grand Tactical, an event which drew over 375 living history participants from the United States and Canada. Thew exhibit is at the battlefield’s Hill Street Red Barn. DANIEL KANTAK PHOTO

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INSIDE

LEGEND OF THE 10TH

Museum focuses on history of the 10th Mountain Division, community engagement.

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250 years of the United States Army



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March 25, 1774

Boston Port Act — Start of the Intolerable Acts

In the wake of the Boston Tea Party, the British Parliament closed the port of Boston to ships with its passage of the Boston Port Act, which took effect June 1, 1774. It was the first of the Coercive, or Intolerable Acts, five laws passed by the British Parliament to suppress resistance to its authority over the American colonies.

May 20, 1774

Massachusetts Government Act

The second act, the Massachusetts Government Act of May 20, 1774, stripped the colony of its sovereignty. Many throughout the 13 colonies viewed this act as the most egregious of the Intolerable Acts and feared the British might impose similar laws on each of the rest of the colonies.

Tensions heightened when Lt. Gen. Thomas Gage, the commander in chief of British forces in North America and royal governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, invoked the new law in October 1774 and dissolved the provincial assembly. In response, colonists formed their own alternative government — the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, which controlled the entire colony

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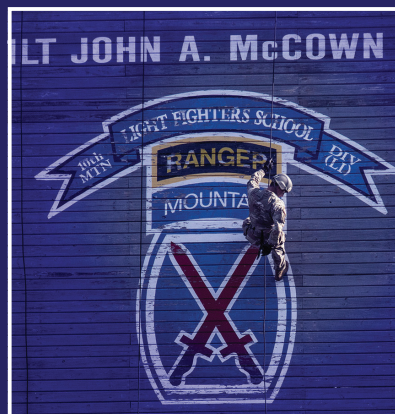
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From T2

outside of Boston — and prepared for a possible military confrontation with the forces that occupied the capital.

April 19, 1775

Battles of Lexington and Concord — The Start of the Revolutionary War

Upon learning that this extra-legal government was amassing stores of weapons in Concord, about 20 miles from Boston, Gage sent a military expedition, April 18, 1775, to seize and destroy all the munitions his men could find. This led to an exchange of musketry between local militia and British troops at the village green in Lexington and at the Old North Bridge in Concord, April 19, 1775, signaling the start of the Revolutionary War.

Militia units and other volunteers from Massachusetts and other New England colonies quickly converged on Cambridge. They formed what became known as the New England Army of Observation and put the British forces posted at Boston under siege. For the

time being, the rebellion was a regional affair.

British Expedition to Concord

May 10, 1775

Convening of the Second Continental Congress

Now that the fighting had begun, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress looked to the Continental Congress, which convened on May 10 in Philadelphia, for assistance from the other 12 colonies of British America. After much discussion, the delegates resolved to create an army that would represent not just New England, but all of the British colonies on the continent of North America.

June 14, 1775

Establishment of the Continental Army

On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That six companies of expert riflemen [sic], be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia; ... [and] that each company, as soon as completed [sic], shall march and join the army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the command

See TIMELINE T5



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Timeline

From T4

of the chief Officer in that army.

With this resolution, the Continental Congress adopted the New England Army of Observation, making it a "continental" army — a united colonial fighting force — that could represent all 13 colonies with the addition of the troops from the three middle colonies. The Continental Army thus became America's first national institution.

June 15, 1775

Selection of George Washington as Commander in Chief

The next step was to select a commander in chief. George Washington of Virginia was the favored choice because of his celebrated military record and the hope that a leader from Virginia could further unite the colonies. Congress unanimously voted on the measure, and the next day presented Washington his commission. It read, in part:

"We, reposing special trust and confidence in your patriotism, valor, conduct, and fidelity, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be General and Commander in chief, of the army of the United Colonies, and of all the forces now raised, or to be raised, by them, and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their service, and join the said Army for the Defence [sic] of American liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof: And you are hereby vested with full power and authority to act as you shall think for the good and welfare of the service."

Thus the Continental Congress commissioned George Washington as commander in chief of the Continental Army, June 19, 1775.

July 4, 1776

Declaration of Independence

When Congress declared independence, the Continental Army and the militia in the service of Congress became known collectively as the Army of the United States, instead of the Army of the United Colonies.

March 15, 1783

The Newburgh Conspiracy — Affirming Civilian Control of the Army

At the end of the Revolutionary War, many members of the Army, especially the officers, were frustrated with Congress' inability to meet its financial obligations to the Army. On March 10, an anonymous address circulated the camp at Newburgh, New York. This address, later acknowledged to be written by Gen. Horatio Gates' aide, called upon officers to plan a course of action to pressure Congress by force, implying a military takeover of the government. A meeting of officers was also anonymously called for the following day.

Determined to prevent a mutiny among his officers, Washington called them to convene an assembly, March 15, to discuss matters and implied that he would not attend. Washington unexpectedly interrupted the meeting and denounced the anonymous address, saying that it had "something so shocking in it that humanity revolts at the idea." In an eloquent and passionate address, Washington was able to diffuse the situation, appealing to their sense of duty and patriotism and placing their "full confidence in the purity of the intentions of Congress." Through his words, Washington not only reaffirmed the significance of civilian control of the military, but may have also saved the fate of American independence.

June 2, 1784

Formation of the First American Regiment

The tradition of service did not end with the conclusion of the Revolutionary War in 1783. When Congress ordered the last Continental Army to disband and its remaining Soldiers were discharged, June 2, 1784, it retained two companies to safeguard military arms and stores. The next day, Congress voted to form, from this nucleus, the 1st American Regiment for national service. By the fall of 1784, the whole U.S. Army was one regiment, consisting of eight infantry and two artillery companies.

August 7, 1789

Creation of the Department of War

The Continental Congress was replaced by the U.S. Congress in 1789. After the U.S. Constitution was ratified, Congress created the Department of War under the executive branch of the new federal government,

with responsibility to oversee the administration of the U.S. Army. Given this unbroken tradition of service dating to June 14, 1775, it is fitting that the

Army recalls the words on the commission of its first commanding general whenever it promotes one of our Soldiers today.

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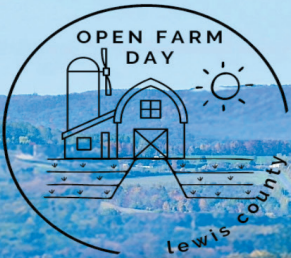
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Sockets

From T1

leaving behind his widow Sabra and 10 children.

As the War of 1812 continued, Revolutionary War veterans known as “Silver Greys” built Fort Volunteer on the cliffs across the harbor from the navy yard. That fortification expanded into Fort Pike. After the war, Madison Barracks grew around it becoming an army post positioned to protect the U.S. northern border on Lake Ontario across from British-held Canada.

Beginning in 1816 the army contracted for limestone buildings to house soldiers, and over the years added stone, brick and wooden structures for barracks, a hospital, gymnasium, mess hall, bakery and sheds for mules and horses before mechanizing in the 1930s.

President Monroe visited in 1817, while future President Ulysses S. Grant was stationed at the post in 1848 and 1851. Julia Dent Grant joined her young husband taking up residence in the Stone Row quarters shortly after their marriage in 1848. She wrote fondly of her time at the Northern New York army post.

While not as famous as Grant, John Roche enlisted at Sackets Harbor in 1839. With 30 others, he escorted President Martin Van Buren from Sackets Harbor to Niagara Falls.

“As the steamboat left the wharf at Madison Barracks a national salute was fired by the garrison amid the waving of hats and the cheers of those assembled on the bluff and wharf. The President expressed himself as highly gratified by his reception,” newspapers in Oswego and Buffalo reported.

War with Mexico, the Civil War, western conflicts with Native Americans, and war with Spain saw numerous units pass through the post to serve on the US southern border, in Cuba and the Philippines.

In 1908, the 24th US Infantry an all-black unit, arrived for their first deployment in the nation’s northeast. Interaction between troops and residents started off at odds, but eventually mutual acceptance overcame differences as music, sports, and religion

cut through awkward initial tensions. Village residents attended the soldier’s entertainment shows at Madison Barracks and conversely, Black troops joined the firemen’s field days. Some soldier’s families lived in the village with their children attending the local school.

By 1900, the Army needed larger training areas. Initially, soldiers marched from Sackets Harbor to the Henderson firing range at Stony Point, 14 miles each way. Then in 1906, Madison Barracks Col. Philip Reade suggested a training area by Black River at Great Bend, called Pine Plains. It became Pine Camp, today Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain Division.

Madison Barracks then shifted into a garrison headquarters, serving as housing and administration. In 1909 when the army chose a new water tower site, they relocated their cemetery to its present location off Dodge Avenue. The reinterred included War of 1812 officer BG Zebulon M. Pike.

Army bands serving at Madison Barracks unified and inspired through community concerts, marching in village parades, playing for Masonic fraternal dinners at the Union Hotel building and celebrating the 1913 battlegrounds memorial tree grove dedication.

Since the Revolutionary War, military affiliated Freemasons joined traveling Military Lodges. Military Masonic members at Madison Barracks included Ulysses S. Grant, and in 1887 the 11th Infantry bandmaster Achille LaGuardia, father of Fiorello, the future Mayor of New York City.

During World War I, a local musician Mrs. Charles (Grace) Ward, sponsored one of the first hostess houses, or “Hospitality House,” in the country. She and volunteers welcomed soldiers for song fests at the “home-away-from-home.”

Also during World War I, Madison Barracks became a convalescent site for soldiers wounded physically or mentally. Yet after the war another “first” for the army had the war department forming regiments of married men returning with European wives. “Never before have its officers been called on to adjust the domestic affairs of the enlisted men,” a Watertown

newspaper reported.

Sackets Harbor’s Madison Barracks became a destination for these couples. Brides from France, Germany, England, Belgium, and Luxembourg started married life in former wooden training buildings. Many found employment with officer’s families or as maids in village homes.

Young brides, Beatrice, Ottilie, Francine, Olga, Anna, and Yvonne, whose ages ranged from 15 to 23 years, were among 25 couples living at the barracks.

Transitioning into American life challenged young bride immigrants being “Americanized.” They learned the English language and American customs through the Americanization Bureau, American Red Cross and the Madison Barracks chap-

lain.

In the 1920s and 1930s, village families could receive medical care at the Madison Barracks large brick hospital, village youngsters enjoyed riding the army’s horses while families watched movies at Dodge Hall or attended music concerts and polo matches. In the post exchange, youngsters sat on the balcony of the gymnasium enthralled by the boxing matches on the gym floor below. Bread from the bakery only cost 5 cents a loaf.

As World War II began, in 1941 the community showed its patriotic duty, establishing one of the first USO centers in the north country. A parade of 200 soldiers led by the 258th Field Artillery band drew 500 citizens

to the first USO program. Later a dedication at the USO featured an “all-star aggregation of radio stars” in a nation-wide broadcast of the Sackets Harbor “wired radio station.”

By wiring the USO Club’s broadcasting booth on Main Street to Madison Barracks a quarter of a mile away, a radio signal aired the soldier’s nightly one-hour entertainment shows. In February 1943, 400 troops braved the 16 degrees below zero to attend a St. Valentine’s dance at the club.

But Pine Camp expanded, thus most major activity shifted from Madison Barracks. In 1945 the barracks became “surplus,” and sold. With Fort Drum

See SACKETS T8



Camaraderie Continues

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Museum focuses on legend of the 10th Mountain Division, community engagement

By **CHRIS BROCK**

cbrock@wdt.net

GREAT BEND — Three years after the 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum opened at its new location, the facility has increased engagement, especially for the civilian community.

The previous location of the museum, South Riva Ridge Loop, was in the middle of the base. When eyeing a new location, building a facility wasn't an option for the Army be-

cause of congressional limitations. It was decided the former media ops site, Building 2509 Col. Reade Road would be the new location. It's just outside the base, off Route 26 in the town of LeRay, with easy access from routes 3 and 11. The facility also gained about 350 square feet of exhibit space compared to the previous location.

Kent A. Bolke, museum director, was the facility's curator when it opened. He's now

its director.

"It's been very well received," he said. "There's been lots of engagement from the local public, as well as soldiers on post coming in to visit. It's about doubled our visitation by civilians able to visit."

The museum has also become a destination for out-of-town visitors. "We had a tour bus come in from Syracuse this morning," Bolke said during the first week of June.

More school groups are also coming in.

"It's not just guns and glory," Bolke said. "We tell an overall story. People who visit say, 'I had no idea that this happened here. They're not hidden stories, they're just unknown.'"

A popular feature of the museum is its classroom, capable of seating 32 people and featuring state-of-the-art audio/visual elements.

"We've had different community groups in here and several training units have come in to utilize the space for their own leadership and professional development," Bolke said.

A recent program for sol-

diers at the classroom featured a "virtual staff ride" of Operation Anaconda, a 2002 military operation in Afghanistan involving the U.S. Army and coalition forces. It was the largest combat operation in Afghanistan during the early stages of the War on Terror.

A virtual staff ride is a simulated virtual-reality-based battlefield study that uses technology to replicate real-world terrain.

"Curator Doug Schmidt displayed a digital map and walked people through the terrain, in 3-D, of what happened in Operation Anaconda," Bolke said. "The staff ride

See **MUSEUM T9**

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In this painting at the museum that's part of the Arnold J. Roberts Collection, soldiers stand at the rail under the USS West Point's lifeboats and look over the side of the ship. They are members of the 10th Light Division as they make their way from the U.S. to Italy.

Sackets

From T7

growth in the 1980s, the Sackets Harbor community and Madison Barracks provided housing that in turn fostered renovation of numerous historic structures in Madison Barracks.

EXPLORE THE HISTORY

Discover Sackets Harbor's military story, including Madison Barracks, in exhibits at the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State

Historic Site and the Village's Visitor Center, plus their web sites and publications, and on outdoor interpretive panels around the village.

The 212 years that link LTC Backus to LTC Brady are filled with thousands of soldiers, their families and support personnel who continue to make Sackets Harbor and Madison Barracks a place to call home.

Constance Barone is Site Manager at Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site.

Museum

From T8

was developed for other units and we also utilized it here.”

NEW ROBERTS COLLECTION

A wall facing the classroom features 15 watercolor paintings that make up the exhibit, “The Arnold J. Roberts Collection,” that was installed in April. “It will be up for a while, because these are absolutely fantastic,” Bolke said.

The paintings were discovered by someone in an abandoned self-storage unit in Saranac Lake, Roberts lived in Wilmington, Essex County, later in life.

“The person went through some of the artwork and clearly identified the 10th Mountain Division and decided to bring it to us, and of course we were interested,” Bolke said. “And once looking at it, we became very interested. It’s fantastic work.”

Roberts documented everyday life of a 10th Mountain Division unit during World War II. Bolke said the paintings were apparently done in the field

“It starts when they were going across the ocean on the USS West Point all the way through to the end of the war in Italy,” Bolke said. “I was just amazed at the detail — the snapshot of history and what life was like. It shows a soldier’s life as it was.”

Roberts was an infantryman with Company G, 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, during World War II. Born in New York City in 1912, he was drafted into the Army and reached the rank of Private First Class. He earned a Bronze Star for actions during the attack on Mount Belvedere. He continued to use his artistic talents after World War II as a commercial artist and art director for various advertising agencies in New York City. He was also a sculptor.

Roberts continued his love of skiing after his time with the 10th Mountain Division, joining the Whiteface Ski Patrol in 1965 and becoming a certified ski instructor. He died in 1977.



The roof of a M29 Weasel has been removed, allowing people at the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum to peer into it – a World War II tracked vehicle designed for operation in snow. / Watertown Daily Times

ROOTS AND GROWTH OF BASE

The oldest item displayed at the 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum is 13,500 years old. It’s a spear point that is part of a display that begins the story of the base. “We start with the archaeological remains from Native Americans who were living here,” Bolke said.

The Oneida Indian Nation was the first allies of the U.S. Army. During the Revolutionary War, Oneidas fought alongside colonizers in battles against the British.

The roots of the Army in the north country continue chronologically at the museum with the Army’s arrival in Sackets Harbor and the creation of Madison Barracks. In 1815, five companies of the Second Infantry Regiment arrived at Sackets Harbor to begin construction of the barracks. But the first military presence goes back to 1808, with the Sackets Harbor Navy station. The Madison Barracks display, featuring a giant wall mural of an early plan for the facility, is topped with a flintlock musket, circa 1795.

A 1904 Maxim machine gun helps to introduce the story at the museum of how Fort Drum developed. It was dug up out of a base training area decades ago.

In 1906, a partnership between the U.S. Army at Madison Barracks and north country community leaders began looking for local training areas. The area in Felts Mills, immediately north of the Black River, was chosen. In

1907, the New York National Guard established a temporary tent encampment, which they called Camp Hughes, named for Charles E. Hughes, then-governor of New York. Soldiers would return annually to the area, known locally as “Pine Plains.” In 1935, Pine Camp hosted the largest peacetime maneuvers held to that date when 36,000 regular and National Guardsmen from the 1st U.S. Army conducted division-sized field maneuvers.

The “35” maneuvers started the process for the Army in training itself to prepare for modern warfare, which would culminate with the Louisiana Maneuvers in 1941.

With the addition of that land for the base, communities — the “lost villages” — were erased. An exhibit pays homage to the communities. To make room for the expanded base, 525 families packed up and moved. Three-thousand buildings, including churches, post offices and 24 schools, were abandoned.

The division was constituted in 1943, then known as the 10th Light Division. Its soldiers volunteered for the division. Early recruits needed three letters of rec-


ommendation and some type of “outdoors” experience or knowledge. Fifteen-thousand men applied, but only 8,000 were accepted. It was redesignated the 10th Mountain Division on Nov. 6, 1944, and was deployed to the Italian theater under the command of Maj. Gen. George P. Hays soon after.

The museum’s World War II story also includes POWs who were housed on base; first Italians and then Germans.

THE REACTIVATION

The modern 10th Mountain Division was reactivated in 1985 as one of the U.S. Army’s new “light infantry” divisions under the command

See MUSEUM T15



In Appreciation
as we reflect on the Army's
legacy of service, sacrifice,
and dedication.

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Museum

From T9

of Brig. Gen. William S. Carpenter. The exhibit about the expansion reflects the unique way it was approached at Fort Drum, with an emphasis on an association with the civilian community, and “starting from scratch.”

From the expansion, the division’s mission grew impressively, all reflected in exhib-

its: Operation Desert Shield/Storm; Hurricane Andrew relief, and other storm responses, including the 1998 north country ice storm; Operation Restore Hope in Somalia; Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti; various peacekeeping operations and war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A poignant artifact in the Operation Restore Hope exhibit is a piece of wreckage from one of two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters shot down at the Battle of Mogadishu in October 1993. Eighteen Amer-


icans were killed and 73 were wounded in the battle.

A wall at the end of a walk-through at the museum features photos and information on four Medal of Honor recipients related to the division. Nearby is the 10th Mountain Division Warrior Legend Hall of Fame.

The 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum is open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.




The 10th Mountain Warrior Legend Hall of Fame at the museum honors individuals for their exceptional contributions to the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum. CHRIS BROCK/WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES



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During WWII, something was coming

As D-Day grew imminent, the north country waited and worried for news

By Chris Brock

Watertown Daily Times

"May the battle which has started on the beaches and fields of Normandy usher in an age of justice, of international cooperation and yet of eternal vigilance without which permanent peace can never be

possible."

Editorial, Watertown Daily Times, June 6, 1944

Nerves around the north country, and all across the free world, were on edge 81 years ago in the spring of 1944 as final

plans were made for the push of the Allies to liberate mainland Europe from the forces of Nazi Germany. It was known something was coming, but not where or when.

In Watertown, people wondered, and sometimes worried, how the public would

react when news came of D-Day. On April 25, 1944, Watertown Mayor Charles A. Winslow opposed a plan to ring church bells when news of the invasion came.

Mayor Winslow preferred saving such public displays for "great victories" with an eye toward "a noisy reception to news of the end of the war."

"When D-Day arrives, there will be no need for public signals," the mayor said. "The radios and newspapers will bring us the important news minutes after the invasion is launched."

He added, "The effect of public signals, especially on wives and mothers whose sons may be going into battle, would be adverse and could

have serious consequences. We are informed by reliable medical authority that the resulting shock might even be fatal in some cases."

City residents did receive a shock on Saturday, June 3, 1944 when the Associated Press reported erroneously that the Allied invasion of the European continent had begun. That afternoon, at 4:39, the Belmont Stakes horse racing program was interrupted over WWN radio, which at that time was owned and operated by the Watertown Daily Times. The erroneous news flash was broadcast via the Columbia Radio Network.

But five minutes later, at

See D-DAY T17

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D-Day

From T16

4:44 p.m., the network announced the flash was in error after receiving a kill order from the AP. This "prevented operation of the plan

of churches throughout the Northern New York for ringing church bells to announce the beginning of the invasion," the Times reported.

THE ALLIES LAND

Most of the north country was sleeping when news came of the June 6 invasion. Berlin

first announced the landings in a series of flashes that began at 12:30 a.m. Eastern Time. (Normandy time is six

hours ahead of Eastern U.S. time). WWNY first aired news of the landing at 2:02 a.m. Eastern time. The wires of the

AP and United Press came in with news of it simultaneously

See D-DAY T18



Assault troops approach Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944. The original caption for this iconic US Coast Guard image reads "INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH — Down the ramp of a Coast Guard landing barge Yankee soldiers storm toward the beach-sweeping fire of Nazi defenders in the D-Day invasion of the French Coast. Chief Photographer's Mate Robert F. Sargent, U.S. Coast Guard."



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D-Day

From T17

to the Times at 3:33 a.m. Eastern time. The AP flash simply read: "London - Eisenhower's headquarters announces the Allies land in France."

As the sun rose in Watertown on that trying Tuesday and as the day wore on, residents prayed. Apparently, bells were not rung.

"Between 11:30 and 11:50 this morning, the business section was crowded with children and adults but suddenly the crowds vanished as they left for their respective churches. And in a few minutes the entire business sec-

tion presented a deserted appearance," the Times, which published extra editions, reported.

At the Hotel Woodruff, people flocked to a window display that featured a large map that show the progress of Allied forces along with the latest news bulletins.

In Gouverneur at 8 a.m., the memorial tower amplifier of the First Presbyterian church played chimes and "God Bless America." Merchants displayed flags before their places of business.

Advertisers took time to show appreciation of the dissemination of news on the progress of the invasion. In a "Gratitude"-headlined advertisement, International

Business Machines Corp. wrote: "This, the greatest achievement of information ever recorded, makes us realize what our men faced when they landed, and more fully understand the depth of our obligation as individuals and organizations in backing up our armed forces."

According to the The World War II museum in New Orleans, by June 11, with the beachheads firmly secured, more than 326,000 Allied troops had crossed with more than 100,000 tons of military equipment.

In 1969, on the 25th anniversary of the invasion, the Watertown Daily Times reported that more than 70 Northern New Yorkers went

ashore on D-Day with engineering units, medical outfits and headquarters units. Navy personnel were among those aboard bouncing landing craft. Others flew over the beaches in bombers and fighter aircraft.

EARLY FIGHTING

At least three Jefferson County residents were casualties of D-Day, killed in the first days of fighting. They were members of the 299th Combat Engineers Battalion, which came ashore blasting obstacles.

The three:

* Cpl. Joseph Shimkonis, 19, of St. Mary Street, Watertown, killed June 6.

* Cpl. Tech Clarence E. Wetterhahan, 36, Chaumont, killed June 6.

* Cpl. Charles Leland Wood, 19, son of city manager C. Leland Wood. He was killed four days after the beachhead.

Several other Watertown-area troops participated. They would later work at such civilian tasks as truck drivers, bridge painters, school teachers and firefighters. For example, in 1969, the Times reported that Theodore C. Finn,

Factory Street, served with the 41st Armored Infantry unit of the Second Armored Division. "They were firing everything," Mr. Finn recalled in 1969. "Our orders were to get away from the beach. They kept us moving. We'd run and hit the dirt. We went inland about a mile to regroup."

Pvt. Finn was 21 on D-Day. Later in 1944, he received the Bronze Star for saving the lives of nine wounded comrades after their half-track vehicle had been wrecked in an enemy mine field in Germany while under heavy fire. He later served in the Korean War. Back home, he became a machine operator with New York Central Railroad and Penn Central Railroad and with Conrail until his retirement in 1983. He died of a heart attack at the age of 74 in 1995.

The Times, through social media, sought local survivors of D-Day in 2019. Also, Veterans Service Agencies directors in Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis counties were contacted to discover if they knew of any local D-Day survivors. The directors of Jefferson and

See D-DAY T19



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D-Day

From T18

Lewis county's Veterans Service Agencies forwarded the request to local VFWs and Legions posts. The requests were fruitless. The National World War II museum says there is no official resource for how many D-Day veterans remain. The number of remaining WWII veterans is estimated in 2019 was just under 500,000. By 2025 and the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army, that number has plummeted to about 66,000.

OSWEGO'S VETERAN OF THE YEAR

On May 17, 2019 the city of Oswego honored Angelo Favata, 96, as that city's Veteran of the Year. The Army veteran participated in the D-Day invasion on Omaha Beach, the Battle of the Bulge and action along the Rhine River as his unit made its way to Berlin.

Mr. Favata, who died on Jan. 22, 2021, preferred not to talk to the Times about his D-Day experiences. He told a daughter that they are too

painful to recall. "He never really spoke much about the war to us kids, just bits and pieces, here and there," said Sarah Weigelt.

However, Mr. Favata did recall his experiences in 2013 as part of a "Wartime Memories" project that featured 31 World War II veterans from Oswego, Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. They were added to the state's permanent archives through Sen. Patricia A. Ritchie's "Veterans Voices" program.

The interviews collected through program were sent to the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center. Located in Saratoga Springs, the museum seeks to relate the history of New York's central role in every one of America's major military conflicts, from the Revolution to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In the 16-minute "Veterans Voices" video, Mr. Favata recalled that he wasn't in the initial invasion, hitting the beach four days after June 6.

"We didn't have it as bad as the other guys who went in the first time," Mr. Favata, an ammunition corporal,

said for the video. "We were the LSTs - they dropped the end of that down in the water, we had to walk through water a couple of feet." (At this point in the video, Mr. Favata pauses to collect himself). "The water was all blood. A lot of dead bodies in the water yet. There were ships as far as you could see ... We were with General Patton at the time ... We caught up with them on the front lines and we went up to set up our gun. We had a crane-operated truck to set the gun up."

QUALITIES TO LIVE FOR

With the number of World War II survivors dwindling, what they experienced in duty for their country is often

left up to their descendants to pass along. Julianne Oliver, a Spanish teacher at Lyme Central High School, misses the calls she made to her grandfather, Andor Bocskor, each D-Day. Her grandfather escaped Axis powers in Hungary and fought for the U.S.

"My grandfather was so proud to be an American," Ms. Oliver said. "Specifically, concerning D-Day, I would call him every year as an adult to thank him for his service. I knew how much the day had affected him."

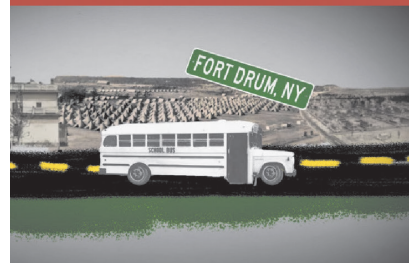
Mr. Bocskor, of Waddington, died at the age of 93 in 2013. He was born in Watertown on Nov. 18, 1919. He, his parents and his siblings moved back to Hungary when

he was 3, but an older brother stayed behind. But Mr. Bocskor returned to the U.S., catching the last boat to America before World War II broke out. Some of his brothers and a sister had to stay behind. Two brothers were conscripted into the Axis powers. He was in the Army's 188th Quartermaster Railroad Company as a private first class and was one of 50 soldiers in the unit chosen for the 6th Amphibious Special Engineers. Landing on the third wave on D-Day, he fought at Normandy, continuing through France and Belgium and as far as the Rhine River.

"I don't really like to talk

See D-DAY T20

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D-Day

From T19

about that," Mr. Bocskor told the Times in 2011.

"My grandfather would never tell me details about D-Day," said Ms. Oliver. "Only one time did he say that as his wave of soldiers came onto the beach that day, he had to pass so many bodies. He had tears in his eyes."

Ms. Oliver said her grandfather saw first-hand how much more opportunity there was in the U.S. compared to other countries; something worth fighting for.

"He made sure we realized how wonderful this country

was," said Ms. Oliver. "He also wanted us to be aware of the rest of the world and to try and understand other cultures to better cultivate peace. I studied languages and international relations in college partly because of this."

Ms. Oliver and her husband, Edward, have passed along qualities inspired by Mr. Bocskor to their daughters, Elle, Kate, and Ryse.

"We have taken our daughters on trips to many other countries to raise awareness of the world and their place in it," Ms. Oliver said. "They remember the man they called Nagypapa well and they do realize the impact he had on our family."

U.S. Army 250th

INVASION DATE: June 6, 1944 - The D in D-Day stands for "day" since the final invasion date was unknown and weather dependent.

ALLIED FORCES: More than 150,000 Allied troops from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Free France and Norway.

INVASION AREA: The Allied code names for the beaches along the 50-mile stretch of Normandy coast targeted for landing were Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. Omaha was the costliest beach in terms of Allied casualties.

THE ARMADA: 6,000 ships and landing craft, 50,000 vehicles and 11,000 planes.

COMMANDERS: United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Omar Bradley; United King-



The Allied armada disgorges its cargo on Omaha beach. LSTs have beached themselves and are unloading vehicles as freighters stand further off and are unloaded by LVCPs and DUKWs. Gift of Jeffery M. Cole and Mary Egan, The National WWII Museum Inc.

dom, Bernard Law Montgomery, Trafford Leigh-Mallory, Arthur Tedder, Miles Dempsey and Bertram Ramsay; Germany, Erwin Rommel, Gerd von Rundstedt and Friedrich Dollmann.

CASUALTIES: Numbers represent total killed, wounded, missing or captured - United States, 8,230; United Kingdom, 2,700; Canada, 1,074.

THE OUTCOME: By June 11, with the beachheads firmly se-

cured, more than 326,000 Allied troops had crossed with more than 100,000 tons of military equipment. Paris was liberated on Aug. 25. Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945.

WWII VETERANS TODAY (2025): The number of remaining WWII veterans is estimated at about 66,000. There is no official resource for how many D-Day veterans remain.

Source: ww2 museum

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At 40 years, Advocate Drum firing on all cylinders



North County community members rally for Fort Drum in March 2015 at Jefferson Community College. The Army was looking to cut up to 16,000 personnel from Fort Drum under its Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment done that year. Only 28 jobs were cut. Watertown Daily Times

By Chris Brock
cbrock@wdt.net

In March 1990, five years after the 10th Mountain Division was reactivated at Fort Drum as one of the Army's new light infantry divisions, Michael S. McFadden arrived as an enlisted soldier.

"I grew up in southern Louisiana, so when I was walking from reception to my first unit, which you do when you are in light infantry, it was snowing," he recalled. "I was quite shocked."

It was a cool reception for the flight medic, but in those 35 years since he arrived here from Mandeville, Louisiana, McFadden, a 32-year Army veteran, has forged a relationship between Fort Drum and the local military community that grows stronger by the day. In July, he was named executive director of Advocate Drum, the organization that leads local efforts to protect and enhance the base's value to the military and community.

As Advocate Drum marks its 40th anniversary, McFadden is especially energized as he fills a gap in Advocate Drum leadership at the nonprofit. In 2018, New York cut Military Base Retention funds for six communities, including fund-

ing that went to help sustain Advocate Drum. The cut meant that Advocate Drum had no executive leader from 2019 until last July, when McFadden was hired, thanks to a \$1 million grant from Empire State Development. In the spring of 2023, Thomas H. Carman, immediate past Advocate Drum board chairman, said, "If we don't have funding for Advocate Drum, we remain as we are, which is extremely flat-footed."

"Without an executive director for almost five years, the organization, in some ways, was kind of stagnant," McFadden said. "Obviously, the volunteers did a phenomenal job in terms of trying to keep Advocate Drum in the fight in advocating for Fort Drum in the local community."

In addition to an executive director, the advocacy is going a step further.

"One of the areas that fell to the wayside was the advertising, the branding of the organization," McFadden said. "When I came on board, we immediately worked to hire a marketing firm to help revamp our website, and to help us get back into the community, so people could truly understand

See ADVOCATE T22

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Advocate

From T21

Advocate Drum and what it is we do each day."

A CRUCIAL LINK

In 1985, the Fort Drum Steering Council was created following the decision by the Department of Defense in September 1984 that the 10th Mountain Division would be reactivated as a light infantry unit. The Steering Council, funded by the federal Office of Economic Adjustment (now called the Office for Local Defense Community Cooperation) and sponsoring local agencies, helped to build the north country's knowledge base regarding the Army's decision to station the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. As local leaders and elected officials began to understand the impact, community development plans were addressed.

Funding provisions for the Steering Council expired in 1990. In its wake came the creation of the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, designed to carry on the council's mission as a volunteer membership organization. FDRLO was rebranded as Advocate Drum in 2018 to better reflect its mission. Advocate Drum is also funded by Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties and by individual and corporate membership fees.

"Fort Drum, being the unique installation that it is, needed, and still needs an organization like this," McFadden said. "Fort Drum doesn't have a large medical facility on post, so a lot of significant health care issues come off post. There are no educational facilities on Fort Drum, all education happens for our children of the military off post. Those are two unique factors for Fort Drum that don't exist at most military installations. So, having an organization like Advocate Drum helps the link between the local community and the military installation."

McFadden was involved in one of those earlier base-community links. In the early 1990s, there wasn't a civilian life flight in the north country. Fort

Drum, with McFadden literally on board, was involved as the base began providing the service to the community. He was non-commissioned officer in charge of MAST - the Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic program, which involves using military resources like helicopters and medical personnel to assist in civilian medical emergencies, particularly highway crashes.

"Three or four times a week, I would fly medical evacuation missions in support of car and snowmobile accidents," McFadden said, and he became "ingrained" into the north country community.

"I would fly to local fire departments and demonstrate, 'How do you call us?' and how to interact with the Army, how to set up a landing zone to bring a helicopter in - all those types of things. That's when I started to get involved."

In 1991, McFadden met Sheryl Lynne Mallette, a Lowville native. They were married in 1993, live in Croghan and have three children. McFadden's military service took him away from Fort Drum but was again stationed with the 10th Mountain Division in 2010 as chief executive officer/task force commander for aviation and deployed to Eastern Afghanistan in support of medical evacuations for service members. He then advanced to deputy chief executive officer, overseeing the operating budget and leading planning and preparation of the organization for combat operations in Afghanistan.

Following his deployment to Afghanistan, McFadden served as the chief executive officer/task force commander in Ansbach, Germany, where he supervised the planning and execution of multiple training programs across Europe and NATO countries. His continued advance included deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Enterprise, Alabama; director of aviation operations/chief of plan for the U.S. Army XVII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and chief executive officer for the 3rd Combat Aviation Bridge, Savannah, Georgia.

See **ADVOCATE T23**

Advocate

From T22

gia/Europe.

RALLYING THE COMMUNITY

One of the successes of Advocate Drum over the years has been opposing about a half dozen versions of BRAC - Base Realignment and Closure processes, which look at reducing or eliminating military installations around the country. "Advocate Drum is at the forefront when it comes to rallying the community and speaking up on behalf of Fort Drum, whether it's our local or federally elected officials, to ensure that Fort Drum remains a viable military community," McFadden said.

Without Advocate Drum, the base would not have a point of contact to deal with such issues, he added.

"We meet regularly with the garrison leadership to sit down at least once a quarter to talk about issues happening on the installation or what issues we can potentially help them with. And we share potential issues here in the community with the installation."

Last week, annual figures were released reflecting the base's impact on the local economy when Advocate Drum and the Development Authority of the North Country released their annual economic impact study. It shows that for the federal fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, 2024, Fort Drum's total economic impact on the region was \$2.55 billion, a slight increase from \$2.5 billion from

the year prior. That number includes \$1.9 billion in direct spending in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties, plus an extra \$655 million in additional economic activity.

The economic impact of Fort Drum is evident across the community, and Advocate Drum is there to also help advocate for others. For example, "Advocate Drum was essential in spearheading the initiative for the Watertown YMCA new Aquatics Center project," said Shawna Cutuli, CEO of the Watertown Family YMCA. "With the help of Advocate Drum, we were able to secure a 9-million-dollar Department of Defense grant that helped build our new downtown YMCA. Funding opportunities like this would not be available without the unique relationship we have serving Fort Drum. The Watertown YMCA plays such an important role in supporting military families and the community."

Also in May, Empire State Development announced a \$4 million award to support a \$13 million project at Jefferson Community College aimed at keeping Fort Drum soldiers and their spouses in the area upon completion of their military service. The Dulles Building on JCC's Coffeen Street campus will be renovated and outfitted as the Next Move NY Vocational Training and Job Readiness Facility, which will enhance offerings at the college and further develop the workforce pipeline for transitioning soldiers and their spouses to help them attain local employment, according to ESD.

"It's basically to build our workforce talent with approxi-

U.S. Army 250th
mately 3,600 soldiers that leave Fort Drum each year, as well as veterans from other installations who are coming back here," McFadden said. "How do we get them into the work-

force and help us build our overall workforce?"

Such advocacy was in the forefront May 7 in Albany during the annual Fort Drum Day at the capitol. About a doz-

en community members spent the day in Albany educating elected officials on the north country, and its community including Fort Drum.

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102 mm howitzer gun crews fire live rounds during training exercises at Fort Drum in 2011. Watertown Daily Times

'It was May at its best'

80 YEARS AGO, WATERTOWN JOINED VICTORY IN EUROPE CELEBRATIONS

By **CHRIS BROCK**

cbrock@wdt.net

The dark clouds of World War II were finally seeing evidence of being permanently cast aside 80 years ago when Victory in Europe was announced.

In Watertown, those clouds were especially prevalent — literally. When the city celebrated VE-Day on Monday, May 7, 1945, it was a day earlier than the official May 8 designation. It created one of the largest crowds ever to gather in the city.

Mother Nature looked down

favorably when up to 8,000 people gathered at 2 p.m. on Public Square for a service of “thanksgiving.”

“It had rained continuously for 13 days,” the Watertown Daily Times reported on May 8, 1945. “It started to rain again early this morning. But yesterday

was an ideal day, sunshiny, warm and pleasant.

“It was May at its best.”

A sense of good overcoming evil was prevalent. On the weekend before victory was announced, people took seats at the Olympic Theatre for a special three-night program that showed newly released U.S. Army films about Nazi prison and slave camps and related atrocities.

But in Watertown and other communities around the north country, VE-Day was not a time

of wild celebration. The Times used the word “observances” to describe the happenings. The war was not over. Victory over Japan wouldn’t come for another three months.

“The day was observed with dignity and decorum,” the paper reported.

On May 8, 1945, Gen. Alfred Jodl, chief of staff of the German Wehrmacht, surrendered unconditionally to the Allies at Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower’s headquarters in Reims, France. The following morning, President Harry Truman and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill jointly proclaimed Victory in Europe Day.

The war in Europe was declared over at midnight, May 8, 1945.

In Watertown, businesses closed for the day as church bells tolled. Factory whistles blew for 5 minutes, the city’s siren system blasted and 10 “aerial bombs” exploded at 15-second intervals.

“There will be sorrow too, in homes from which the boys who left so bravely will never return,” a Times editorial said. “They are buried under white crosses in Italy, in France, in Belgium and in Germany. In this hour of victory, the sadness in these homes will be all the greater. These boys made the supreme sacrifice.”

As the public prepared to welcome soldiers back home, a sense of unease continued, and not just for the continuing war.

“They were worried in the future there would be another depression,” said Donna Alvah, department of history associate professor at St. Lawrence University, Canton.

Donna Alvah, department of history associate professor at St. Lawrence University, Canton. SLU

Ms. Alvah, also the college’s Margaret Vilas chairwoman of U.S. History and History Department chairwoman, said that in hindsight, we know there was an economic boom after the war.

“But the people at the time were thinking they might go



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VE-Day sidelights from the Times files:

* Stores in Watertown were closed within 5 minutes after the first announcement was made that Germany had surrendered. “Clerks rushed out of stores and proprietors immediately had customers leave ...”

* A large sign, “This is It,” covered the entire window of the Woodruff Cigar store.

* The “aerial bombs” that exploded over the city brought people running out of homes and stores shouting, “It’s all over in Europe!”

* Elevators in buildings where there are a number of physicians’ offices were kept operating in case persons needed to reach a doctor’s office for an emergency.

* A display window at the J.R. Miller clothing store attracted attention. “In the center section of the window was a scaffold with a painted miniature of Hitler hanging from it.”

* In Potsdam, the high school was closed at 11 a.m. and steam pressure was stepped up at the Depot Street paper mill in preparation for long blasts of the whistle to announce victory.

* In Ogdensburg, Canadian residents from border towns along the St. Lawrence River crossed the river in great numbers to join the Americans for the observance. Crowds jammed ferry boats to capacity.



People jammed Public Square in Watertown on May 7, 1945 for a thanksgiving service in observance of VE-Day. This photo was taken from the third floor of the Woolworth building. Watertown Daily Times

VE Day

From T24

back to the Great Depression of the 1930s," she said. "They didn't know the economy was going to boom the way it did thanks in part to the Cold War that gave people a lot of jobs in the defense industry."

As much of the public still worried, the soldiers fighting the war just wanted to get home. Ms. Alvah said that there was extensive research at the time asking soldiers their thoughts on the reasons they were fighting.

"Their top reason wasn't 'good versus evil,'" Ms. Alvah said. "Their top reason was to help the war be over so we can go home and to help their fellow soldiers."

The drive to defeat Hitler was definitely on their minds, Ms. Alvah said.

"But they also had these other practical concerns they apparently were giving to the social scientists who were doing these studies: 'I want to go home.' 'I want to go back to my family.'"

Michael H. McDermott, commander of the New York State American Legion. VFW

Michael H. McDermott, commander of the New York State American Legion, is a Vietnam War combat veteran who as a child listened to his uncles, World War II veterans, talk about the conflict in unguarded moments.

"What I heard was everybody was happy to be home," Mr. McDermott of Homer, Cortland County, said. "There was more to a family then than there is now as far as being together."

Mr. McDermott is worried that people today have forgotten about the sacrifices of soldiers

past. This copy of the unconditional capitulation act signed in Reims, France belonged to Admiral Karl Dönitz. He authenticated this copy on April 15, 1977, notably

by stating "This document was signed on my order by General Jodl." It's preserved at the Musée de la Reddition (Museum of the Surrender) in Reims, France. Musée de la Reddition

"People don't remember like they used to because a lot of these people that were really affected by it are dead," he said. "That's one of the problems with our country. We forget about the older people, so to speak, and what they did for our country. It's 'What can I get now?' not 'What did they do for me?' Maybe I'm putting it wrong, but that's how I feel."

When people gathered on Public Square in Watertown 75 years ago, it was before the realization

of what power the atomic bomb would bring. At the celebration, Watertown Mayor Charles A. Winslow told the crowd: "Now Japan must be made to realize that the nation that takes up the sword shall perish by it, and when the final victory is accomplished and Japan has been laid low, we shall have a better world in which to live and your children and their children and all succeeding generations will again live in peace and security for all time."

In the Times files, on the 40th anniversary of VE-Day, Washington Post writer Michael Kernan wrote that "somebody called" May 8, 1945 "The Last Happy

See VE-DAY T26



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REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The fighting at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, united the 13 colonies in a war for liberty. Within weeks, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. On June 14, it adopted the New England army around Boston, placed George Washington in command, and authorized ten rifle companies from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. The Army proved its mettle at Bunker Hill, and Washington soon began turning veteran militia and new recruits into Continental soldiers. The Army suffered many reverses in the years that followed, but victories at places like Trenton, Princeton and Saratoga slowly turned the tide and brought the French into the war. The Valley Forge winter transformed the Army into a more professional force. Defenses such as those at West Point checked the British, while Continentals and militia in the south drew a British army to Yorktown where it surrendered to Washington in 1781. Two years later, the war ended, and the United States won independence.

FACTS

1. Most soldiers carried smoothbore muskets, not rifles. The rifle was more accurate, but took longer to load and could not mount a bayonet.
2. A trained Continental Soldier could load and fire his musket three times a minute.
3. A musket required 13 steps to load and fire. Failure to follow them might result in a flash in the pan, meaning the musket fired, but the main charge did not go off. We still use the term to describe a failed action.
4. Most soldiers learned to

fight in disciplined ranks, using the bayonet.

5. In 1775, Army daily rations, when available, consisted of a pound of salt beef, a pound of fish, or $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of pork per day, a pound of bread or flour, a pint of milk, and a $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of rice or cornmeal. The Army also issued three pints of peas or beans per week or a vegetable equivalent.

6. Groups of six soldiers formed a mess and cooked their rations together in a tin, or iron kettle, or sometimes a skillet. The same mess also shared a tent.

7. Women accompanied the Army, serving as laundresses, nursing the sick, and other essential duties. Although not paid, women drew half a ration.

8. Women sometimes joined the fight. Margaret Corbin helped load a cannon at the defense of Fort Mifflin in 1776, where she was severely wounded. Mary Ludwig Hays did the same at Monmouth in 1778. Both women earned pensions for their service.

9. The Army launched the first successful submarine, the *TURTLE*, against the British in 1776. The *TURTLE* made two cruises, but didn't sink a ship.

10. The Battle of the Clouds near Philadelphia in 1777 is so named because a tropical storm doused the two armies as they prepared for battle. So much rain fell that their powder became soaked, and the two armies could not see each other. It is perhaps the only battle to be rained out.

CIVIL WAR/WESTERN EXPANSION

After decades of escalating tensions over the issue of slavery, eleven Southern states seceded

See ARMY T27

VE-Day

From T25

Day."

"I really believe that if necessary again, people would have it in them to sacrifice for something important and precious to them," Ms. Alvah said. "But they've become a

lot more cynical, especially since the Vietnam War, Watergate and the Senate investigation (the 1975 Church committee) into what the government had done in previous years secretly. People are more cynical about what the government is telling them and what the government's motives are in going to wars and entering into military operations."

Army

From T26

from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces began the Civil War by firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Over the next four years, roughly two million volunteer soldiers enlisted in the Army and conducted military operations to bring the Southern states back into the Union. These military campaigns stretched across the country, from Pennsylvania to Florida to New Mexico. In September 1862, following the Battle of Antietam, President Abraham Lincoln expanded U.S. war aims to include the emancipation of slaves. After a bloody conflict in which more than 620,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died from combat, disease or related causes, U.S. forces under the command of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant forced the surrender of the last major Confederate armies in April 1865. The Civil War was followed by the period known as Reconstruction, during which the U.S. government tried to reunify the divided nation. Westward expansion was a major contributing factor to the Revolutionary War and remained a key concept in American politics and international relations from the end of the revolution in 1783 until the end of the 19th century. Throughout this time, the U.S. Army embodied the will of its civilian political leaders on the frontier as the young nation negotiated with—and fought numerous wars against—the sovereign American Indian nations in recently acquired territories, fended off the encroachment of foreign powers, facilitated commerce, and protected local communities. Over the course of some 120 years, the U.S. Army

developed into a professional and accountable force capable of defending America's continental-scale interests against all enemies—foreign and domestic.

FACTS

Five future U.S. Presidents served in the Army during the American Civil War: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley.

A major staple of Civil War rations was hardtack, a type of hard biscuit that was issued in place of bread. It consisted of three ingredients: flour, water, and (occasionally) salt.

Volunteer companies were typically recruited from a single community or town and numbered 100 officers and men on paper, but casualties, disease and desertion often reduced them to less than 50 percent strength on the battlefield.

Union and Confederate armies used both smoothbore and rifled artillery, with the most common guns being the 12 -pound Napoleon, the 10 -pound Parrott Rifle and the 3-inch Ordnance Rifle.

During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill that created the Medal of Honor. The first Medals of Honor were awarded to volunteer Union soldiers from Ohio infantry regiments who participated in the Andrews Raid (also known as the “Great Locomotive Chase”) in April 1862.

More than 180,000 black soldiers, many former slaves, served in the U.S. Army between 1862 and 1865 as part of the United States Colored Troops (USCT).

During the Indian Wars, the Army depended upon immigrants to fill its enlisted ranks. Fifty percent or more of recruits each year were foreign -born, with the largest numbers coming from Ireland and Germany.

Native Americans often proved the most effective scouts

employed by the Army during the Indian Wars. The insignia of the Indian Scouts, crossed arrows, later served as inspiration

for the insignia the First Special Service Force and Special Forces. After the Civil War, the Army raised four regiments of all-black

soldiers for frontier service: The 9th and 10th Cavalry and the

See ARMY T28



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Army

From T27

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WORLDWARI

In August 1914, years of escalating competition between European alliances culminated in

the outbreak of the First World War. The two sides engaged in a savage war of attrition, defined by opposing trenches, barbed wire, poison gas and mass ca-

sualties. The U.S. initially maintained its neutrality but was eventually drawn into the conflict in April 1917. Despite having less than 130,000 soldiers at the beginning, the Army eventually grew to over four million, with nearly two million Soldiers serving in Europe. In battles such as the Second Marne, St. Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne, the Army entered the modern era. In six months of fighting, nearly 50,000 Americans lost their lives, with another 190,000 wounded. The guns fell silent with the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

FACTS

1. Lt. James Reese Europe and the regimental band from the 369th Infantry introduced the first purely American musical genre, jazz, to Europe during the war.

2. Most of the current Army's corps and divisions were formed during the war, enabling generations of soldiers to trace their unit's lineage back to the conflict.

3. The war saw the emergence of many of the weapon systems that have come to define modern combat, with tanks, airplanes, rapid-fire artillery, machine guns and infantry units cooperating on the battlefields of Europe.

4. The Thompson sub-machinegun, made famous during the gangster era of the 1920s and 30s, was originally designed for the First World War trenches.

5. During the war, an American division was 28,000 soldiers, about twice the size of a modern division.

6. During the war, American soldiers fought in France, Belgium, Italy and Russia.

7. American soldiers were known as "doughboys" in WWI.

8. The commander of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), General John J. Pershing, was eventually awarded the rank of General of the Armies, the on-

ly American general to hold this rank.

9. Many of the Army's bases within the United States, such as Fort Lewis, WA, and Fort Dix, NJ, were established during the war as training centers. as Fort Lewis, WA, and Fort Dix, NJ, were established during the war as training centers.

10. The Selective Service System was established during the war to manage mobilization.

WORLDWARI

World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany, under Adolf Hitler, invaded Poland causing Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany. Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan, known collectively as the Axis Powers, aimed for world domination. The U.S. initially remained neutral but aided its European allies by retooling its industries to become "the arsenal of democracy," providing crucial arms, ships, tanks, warplanes and other essential war materials to Great Britain, France and eventually to the Soviet Union and China. Simultaneously, the United States expanded and mobilized its armed forces for potential conflict. On December 7, 1941, Imperial Japan attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii bringing the United States directly into the conflict. In just under 4 years, the U.S. and Allied Powers liberated Europe and accepted Germany's unconditional surrender on May 8, 1945 and forced the unconditional surrender of Imperial Japan on September 2, 1945.

FACTS

1. In mobilizing for World War II, the U.S. Army expanded in size from 174,000 in 1939 to nearly 11 million by the war's end.

2. The Lend-Lease program, initiated by the United States in

See ARMY T29

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Army

From T28

March 1941, provided over \$50 billion worth of military supplies to Allied nations, significantly aiding their war efforts.

3. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, 156,000 troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force, commanded by U.S. Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower, executed Operation Overlord, landing in Normandy, France breaking through Hitler's Atlantic Wall defenses and establishing the crucial foothold in Europe to begin its liberation.

4. Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower had never commanded military units in battle prior to WWII.

5. General Douglas MacArthur was brought out of retirement to lead troops in WWII. When he finally retired for good in 1953, his military career had spanned 50 years.

KOREAN WAR

After a costly delaying action in the summer of 1950, a coalition of South Korea, the United States and other United Nations members defeated the invasion and advanced into North Korea. There the Chinese entered the war, pushing the UN force back into South Korea. The coalition fought its way back to the middle of the Korean peninsula and defeated two Chinese offensives in the spring of 1951. Armistice negotiations began in July 1951. Until the armistice was signed two years later, combat consisted of small attacks, raids, and patrolling.

FACTS

1. The war forced the U.S. Army to end its practice of racially segregating Black and Puerto Rican soldiers.

2. Over 40,000 Korean soldiers served in U.S. Army units during the war, and the Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army program has continued to this day.

3. Infantry units from eight other UN coalition members were attached to U.S. Army divisions during the war.

VIETNAM WAR

The first contingent of U.S. Army advisers arrived in Vietnam in December 1950. That small team of around 100 soldiers in the next decade, and then grew rapidly as the war between the

South Vietnamese government and the Communist insurgents supported by North Vietnam intensified. The U.S. Army in Vietnam reached its peak strength of 364,200 soldiers in January 1969, organized around seven divisions and twenty separate combat brigades. The U.S. began withdrawing its forces in July 1969, and the last Army combat unit left South Vietnam in August 1971. The last U.S. combat soldier came home in March 1973, while a small number of non-combat personnel remained until April 1975.

FACTS

1. The Army used an individual rather than unit replacement system in Vietnam. Most Soldiers served a 12-month tour with a minimum of two years between Vietnam deployments.

2. The primary Army infantry weapon in Vietnam, the M16 assault rifle, was the predecessor to the M-4 rifle.

3. The U.S. Army pioneered the concept of airmobile operations in Vietnam, first proven in the field by the 1st Cavalry Division when it fought North Vietnamese units in the Central Highlands in November 1965. The Mel Gibson film, "We Were Soldiers," portrays the battle of Landing Zone X-Ray during that campaign.

4. The U.S. Army used nearly 11,000 helicopters in South Vietnam during the war. At peak strength, the Army employed nearly 3,000 helicopters in country, with the 1st Cavalry Division accounting for over 450 of those aircraft.

5. The workhorse helicopter of the Vietnam War was the Bell UH-1 "Iroquois," better known as the Huey. First deployed to Vietnam in March 1962, the aircraft served as a troop transport, a medical evacuation vehicle, a gunship, a psychological warfare broadcaster and a reconnaissance aircraft equipped with chemical "people sniffers."

6. The sleek and deadly Bell AH-1 "Cobra," deployed to Vietnam in June 1967, was a dedicated gunship that featured a chin-mounted turret and side pylons capable of carrying a mixture of machine-guns, grenade launchers, rockets and wire-guided anti-tank missiles.

7. The nimble, bubble-shaped Hughes OH-6 "Cayuse," better known as the Loach from its designation as a Light Observa-

tion Helicopter (LOH), arrived in Vietnam in 1966 and served as the principal scout helicopter for the Army during the war.

8. The provisional scout units known as long-range reconnaissance patrols (LRRPs or Lurps) that Army divisions formed in

the early years of the Vietnam War became in February 1969

See ARMY T30

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Army

From T29

permanent formations in the 75th Ranger Regiment, a unit which is now a part of the U.S. Army's Special Operations Command.

9. The U.S. Army's Special

U.S. Army 250th

Forces, many of whom fought alongside non-Vietnamese tribespeople known as Montagnards, acquired their nickname "GreenBerets" in 1961 when President John F. Kennedy au-

thorized soldiers to wear the distinctive headgear.

GULFWAR

On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Kuwait, its southern, oil-rich neighbor. In response, President George H.W. Bush launched Operation DESERT SHIELD to deter further Iraqi aggression in the region. By the fall, over 750,000 troops, comprising U.S. service-members and coalition partners from more than 30 countries, had assembled in the Saudi Arabian desert. U.S. Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr. commanded the allied forces. In mid-January 1991, the U.S.-led coalition began Operation DESERT STORM, which kicked off with an intensive air campaign designed to knock out key Iraqi infrastructure and weaken Iraqi forces. The ground campaign commenced on February 24, 1991. In what was described as the "Left Hook," the U.S. Army swept across southern Iraq and struck the enemy's western flank while U.S. Marines moved into Kuwait. U.S. Army tanks engaged in several battles, including 73 Easting and Medina Ridge, where they overwhelmingly destroyed enemy tanks and vehicles. After only 100 hours of ground combat, coalition troops routed Iraqi forces and liberated Kuwait. The Gulf War ended with

Iraq's surrender.

FACTS

1. 148 Americans were killed in battle in the Gulf War.

2. This was the first war where the Global Positioning System (GPS) was used on a large scale in combat.

3. The U.S. Army added 1/8-ounce mini-Tabasco bottles into Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MREs) to improve flavor (some meals were notoriously difficult to eat due to their taste) and boost morale.

4. The 18th Airborne Corps consisted of the 82d Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, 24th Infantry Division, and the French Daguet Division. VII Corps consisted of the 1st Armored Division, the 3d Armored Division, the 1st Cavalry Division, the 1st Infantry Division, and the 1st British Armoured Division.

5. At the time, the 101st Airborne Division made an unprecedented air assault attack into Iraq, landing over 150 miles behind enemy lines to engage Iraqi troops and establish forward elements for coalition forces. (This record was later broken in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM)

6. Retreating Iraqi forces came under repeated fire from coalition aircraft and ground forces along Highway 80, which connects Kuwait to Iraq. With thousands of vehicles abandoned or destroyed, the carnage and devastation later gave rise to the moniker "Highway of Death."

7. Saddam referred to the Gulf War as "The Mother of All Battles."

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

On September 11, 2001, terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center in New York City and struck the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., using commercial airliners. In response, President George W. Bush launched the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The U.S. would stop potential threats around the world and take the fight to terrorist groups and the nations that backed them. The Army immediately deployed forces to Afghanistan to destroy Osama Bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist organization and depose his sponsors, the ruling Taliban. In 2003, President Bush expanded the war to Iraq. Soldiers and the other armed services overthrew Iraq's dictator, Saddam Hussein.

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Army

From T30

The fight to stabilize Iraq and prevent terrorist groups from overthrowing its new government continues to this day. The campaign in Afghanistan lasted until 2021, when U.S. forces withdrew, and the Taliban returned to power. Over the course of the two-decade conflict, over 2 million servicemen and women, less than 1 percent of the American population, deployed in support of the GWOT. Most of those who served were members of the Army.

FACTS

1. The Global War on Terrorism has been our nation's—and the Army's—longest war to date. Many soldiers who served in Afghanistan at the end of the conflict were infants on September 11, 2001.

2. Over two-thirds of the 7,000 servicemen and women who gave their lives fighting in the Global War on Terrorism served in one of the Army's three components: Active forces, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard.

3. The Global War on Terror-

ism saw the introduction of a range of new technologies on the battlefield, including the Blue Force Tracker, which gave senior leaders realtime details on unit movements, advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicles enhancing surveillance capabilities, and the Biometrics Automated Toolkit for assembling data on large populations.

4. Although most associate Operation Enduring Freedom only with the war in Afghanistan, there were five other Operations Enduring Freedom during the GWOT: OEF-Philippines, OEF-Horn of Africa, OEF Caribbean and Central American, OEF-Trans Sahara, and OEF-Kyrgyzstan.

5. Over 80 nations have fought alongside the United States or assisted it during the GWOT. These include America's allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, as well as Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, BosniaHerzegovina, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan,

Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the

Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga,

Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.



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