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48th IBCT Deploys

Georgia's 48th IBCT Conducts Departure Ceremony

&

Taking Care of Each Other

Georgia National Guard Airmen Conduct Hurricane Relief

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Ga. ARNG Receives Seven Newly Appointed Warrant Officers

STORY BY: MAJ. WILLIAM CARRAWAY | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Seven Georgia Army National Guard warrant officers graduated as part of Warrant Officer Candidate School Class 19-03 at Fort Rucker, Ala. Dec. 19, 2018. It was the largest single graduation of warrant officers in the history of the Ga. ARNG.

“This is a significant accomplishment for the Ga. ARNG warrant officer program,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Carl Jackson, Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Ga. ARNG. “This is a credit to the quality of our warrant officer candidates, our recruiters and the staff who helped prepare them for success.”

The Ga. ARNG warrant officers constituted one third of the National Guard graduates of WOCS Class 19-03 which was comprised of 85 Soldiers. To further add to the Georgia flavor of the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Randall Simmons, commander of the Ga. ARNG served as graduation speaker.

“Congratulations on this milestone,” said Simmons. “I hope that you all feel a strong sense of pride and accomplishment in completing this course. Thank you for making the Army stronger.”

Following the ceremony, the Ga. ARNG graduates received congratulations from family members and fellow service members. In addition to Simmons, Col. Dwayne Wilson, chief of staff of the Ga. ARNG and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Carl Jackson, Command

Chief Warrant Officer of the Ga. ARNG were present to welcome the Georgia Guardsmen into the warrant officer ranks. Warrant Officer Michael Romeo, an airdrop systems technician who previously served as a parachute rigger in the Georgia Army National Guard’s Marietta, Ga.-based 165th Quartermaster Company, received his first salute from 1st Sgt. Thomas Eddy of the 165th. Warrant Officer Bridgette Simmons was congratulated by several of her fellow Soldiers from the Atlanta-based Combined Services Maintenance Support facility who made the four hour drive from Atlanta to witness her appointment.

Despite their diverse backgrounds and future service assignments, the new warrant officers were united in their sense of accomplishment.

“It feels great,” said Warrant Officer William Gilbert, who will serve with the Columbus, Ga.-based 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. “It has been a fight. Once you get here, you have to earn it. I would highly recommend (the WOCS program).”

2018 marks the 100th birthday of the U.S. Army’s Warrant Officer Corps. Warrant officers serve as technical experts in 17 of the Army’s 20 branches managing and maintaining complex battlefield systems. More than 200 warrant officers serve in the Ga. ARNG in all five of the state’s brigades as well as

the joint force headquarters in Marietta, Ga.

Georgia’s newest warrant officers will serve in the aviation, field artillery, signal, logistics and adjutant general branches.

To become a warrant officer, Soldiers must score a 110 on the General Technical portion of the Armed Forces Aptitude and Battery test and possess potential for leadership. Soldiers must generally have attained the rank of sergeant and meet specific requirements for their military occupation specialty. The Georgia Army National Guard is actively seeking to add to its warrant officer ranks and maintains a full-time staff to recruit and prepare warrant officer candidates for the rigorous five-week warrant officer candidate school.

“The Warrant Officer Advisory Program is set up to be a three to four month program,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Smith, warrant officer strength manager for the Ga. ARNG. “We help them from the very beginning of the process.”

During the program, prospective warrant officers drill with the advisory program and receive mentoring and guidance on the transition to the warrant officer corps. Judging from the record number of Georgia Guard warrant officer graduates of WOCS Class 19-03, the advisory program has been a tremendous success.

“Without their assistance I wouldn’t have made it,” said Gilbert. There were things that we knew that the Active Duty candidates did not know thanks to the preparation we received.”





HISTORIC 122ND TSD GETS NEW COMMANDER

Story by: Maj. William Carraway | Public Affairs Office | Georgia Army National Guard

Lieutenant Colonel Lucas Rice assumed command of the Georgia Army National Guard's 122nd Tactical Support Detachment from Col. Alan Alexander during a ceremony at the Clay National Guard Center Dec. 2, 2018.

"The 122nd TSD has an important mission in support of the 7th Infantry Division," said Brig. Gen. Thomas Blackstock, commander of the 78th Troop Command. "They couldn't do what they do without your support and it is due in large part to the work you have done the past two years under Col. Alexander's leadership."

Alexander assumed command of the 122nd TSD in June 2016. His previous assignments include rotations as deputy commander of the 78th Troop Command, executive officer of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and commander of the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment. Alexander completed combat tours in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division and Afghanistan with 2-121. In his next assignment Alexander will serve as the deputy commander of Task Force Southeast for Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan.

During his farewell remarks, Alexander recognized his family for their enduring support and thanked current and past members of the 122nd TSD for their hard work.

"I have had the privilege to command what I call the best kept secret in the Georgia Guard," said Alexander addressing the assembled Soldiers. "This opportunity came about because of numerous people, some of whom are present, who made the investment to train and mentor me. I sincerely appreciate the investment."

The 122nd TSD was originally constituted in the Georgia National Guard as the Field Hospital Number 1 in 1914.

Following service on the Mexican border in 1916 and 1917, the unit was sent to Camp Wheeler in Macon, Ga. to prepare for World War I mobilization. The 7th Infantry Division was organized at Camp Wheeler December 6, 1917, and for the next several months, the forerunners of the 7th Infantry Division and 122nd TDS trained on the same ground.

One hundred years later, the 122nd TSD supplements the staff of the 7th Infantry Division during National Training Center rotations.

Lieutenant Col. Rice brings a wealth of experience to his new command and its important mission. A graduate of West Point, Rice began his military career at Ft. Campbell, Ky. with the 101st Aviation Brigade where he served as a platoon leader and member of battalion and brigade staff. During his active duty career, Rice additionally served in Korea and later as an Apache instructor pilot at Fort Rucker, Ala.

In 2008, Rice joined the Georgia National Guard. As a pilot with the Marietta-based 78th Aviation Troop Command, Rice deployed to multiple national disasters as well as extended deployments to both Haiti and the Texas border in support of counterdrug operations.

He has deployed to Afghanistan with the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and served as the commander of the 1-171 General Support Aviation Battalion. His most recent assignment was as an operations officer in the Joint Operations Center, Clay National Guard Center.

Rice congratulated Col. Alexander on his follow-on assignment and addressed the soldiers of his new command.

"You represent this state and this unit very well and I look forward to continuing to be able to do that with you," said Rice.

Professional Development

REVIEWS OF BOOKS THAT TEACH US ABOUT OUR CRAFT

Story by: Maj. William Carraway | Public Affairs Office | Georgia Army National Guard

The Georgia National Guard's professional reader's forum was established to provide leaders at all levels of the organization with a venue to read and discuss books from different leadership perspectives. The first book selected for review was *This Kind of War*, by T. R. Fehrenbach offers a history of the Korean War. Brigadier General Randall Simmons explained why *This Kind of War* was selected as the forum's initial subject of discussion.

"In every meeting I have had with Gen. (Mark) Milley, he has talked about this book. I will tell you that everything we are doing in the U.S. Army and the Georgia National Guard in terms of readiness and lethality can be tied back to this book."

Major General Joe Jarrard, Georgia's Adjutant General, also noted the relevance of the book in his opening comments to the forum.

"To live and fight in conditions as they did is hard for us to comprehend," observed Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard, Georgia's Adjutant General. "These conditions are among the reasons that the Chief of Staff of the Army is implementing the new physical fitness test. He wants everyone to be able to survive under conditions such as these."

Nearly 50 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians ranging in rank from specialist to major general participated in the discussion which was moderated by Col. Kenneth Hutnick, Deputy United States Property and Fiscal Officer of the Ga. National Guard. Chief Warrant Officer 5 (retired) Jim Gray, an infantry veteran of the Korean War, offered a personal perspective on the discussion and comments from readers.

At 540 pages, *This Kind Of War* explores the causes behind the Korean conflict, from lapses in intelligence gathering to Post-WWII jockeying for position by the communist Soviet Union. Tactical and training lessons are explored, notably the lack of anti-armor capability in U.S. Army units initially deployed to the Korean Peninsula and the impact of rapid post WWII force reductions on Army readiness. The book offers examinations of strategic and operational leadership lessons and also paints a harrowing picture of leaders at the company level faced with life or death decisions at places like the Battle of Osan, Bloody Ridge



and the Gauntlet. Finally, the book delves into the strategic shift from maneuver warfare across wide-open stretches to engagements in the mountains of North Korea as the peace process ground slowly to a diplomatic resolution.

The second book in the professional reader's forum series will be *The Big Stick: The Limits of Soft Power and the Necessity of Military Force* by Eliot Cohen. Interested readers may receive a copy of the book from Col. Hutnick. The next professional reader's forum will be held Feb. 3, 2018 at the Clay National Guard Center.

"Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers."
- President Harry Truman

48TH IBCT DEPLOYS TO AFGHANISTAN

STORY BY: MAJ. WILLIAM CARRAWAY | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE | GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



S

oldiers, family members and honored guests of the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team gathered at Fort Stewart, Ga. Dec. 21, 2018 for a color casing ceremony commemorating the Macon-based brigade's fourth combat deployment since Sept. 11, 2001. Georgia Governor Nathan Deal was among the dignitaries that addressed the departing Soldiers.

"You are about to embark on an undertaking that will add further distinction to your unit," said Governor Deal. "You bring pride to our state. You give all of us a sense that we are indeed in good hands."

Also addressing the Soldiers and family members were Lt. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau; Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard, Adjutant General of Georgia and Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Quintas, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division.

"Today represents the highest point in the partnership between the Georgia Army National Guard, the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 3rd Infantry Division and several others all oriented on the Army's number one priority: war fighting readiness," said Quintas. "This effort started in March 2016 when the Secretary of the Army established the Associated Unit Pilot."

at the adjutant general's direction, Col. Matthew Smith, commander of the 48th IBCT and the brigade's senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Major Matthew Marks, cased the brigade colors in anticipation of their pending mobilization to Afghanistan. The battalion commanders and command sergeants major of the 48th IBCT's subordinate units similarly cased their colors.

As the ceremony neared conclusion Governor Nathan Deal made a special presentation to the 48th IBCT.

"I have the honor to present to Col. Smith, a flag of the state of Georgia which will signify our continuing presence as you deploy to Afghanistan," said Deal. "May God bless all of you and keep you safe. We look forward to your successful tour and to your triumphant return to the state of Georgia. God bless you all."

Colonel Smith thanked Governor Deal for the presentation and referenced current events, suggesting that the unit would be flexible as the mission proceeded. Smith also had a message for the Soldiers and family members in attendance.

"As you spend time together over the next few days set some goals for the next nine months," said Smith. "Deployments are hard, but they are not unproductive if properly





planned for. We will be back in no time.”

The command team of the 48th IBCT has steered the brigade through a rigorous training regimen that has included an eXportable Combat Training Capability rotation at Fort Stewart, Ga. in 2017 and a four-week rotation at the Combined Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. Over the past four weeks, the 48th has trained alongside counterparts from the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart. Training has consisted of reflex fire marksmanship training, live-fire lanes and sling load operations in which helicopters of the 3rd ID Combat Aviation Battalion transported field howitzers of the Savannah-based 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment to firing points for live-fire missions.

The units that comprise the 48th IBCT have histories that predate the United States of America. Its units have served in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Seminole Indian War, the Mexican War and the Civil War. Units of the 48th IBCT mustered for the Spanish American War and served in the 42nd Division in World War I. The 121st Infantry Regiment served in the European Theater during World War II, while the predecessors of 177th Brigade Engineer Battalion and 108th Cavalry served in the Pacific. The 1-118th FA and the 148th Brigade Support Battalion had

units that served in Europe and the Pacific during World War II.

The 48th Infantry Brigade was activated in 1990 for Desert Storm. The brigade was the only National Guard combat brigade validated as combat ready; however hostilities ended before the brigade could be mobilized overseas.

Elements of the 48th Brigade deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2001 for Stabilization Force Rotation 9. The 48th was among the first National Guard combat units of this size and capability to take over an SFOR mission of this scope.

In May 2005, the 48th Brigade deployed to Iraq and was assigned to Multi-National Division – Baghdad under the 3rd Infantry Division. During the deployment, units of the 48th Brigade served from Kuwait to Mosul and west to the border with Syria. Upon returning from service in Iraq, the 48th Brigade was redesignated the 48th IBCT.

In 2009, more than 3,000 Soldiers of the 48th IBCT deployed to Afghanistan. During their yearlong deployment, the brigade conducted combat operations with members of the Afghan National Police and Army.

In 2013, units of the 48th IBCT returned to Afghanistan. In the course of the nine-month deployment, 48th IBCT

Soldiers in which soldiers conducted base operations and support including vital missions such as security and force protection.

The 48th IBCT was selected to participate in Associated Units Pilot program in March, 2016. The program established a formal relationship between reserve and active duty components. The 48th IBCT associated with the active Army’s 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart. The Soldiers of the 48th IBCT wear the 3rd Infantry Division patch, but retain the historic designation as the Macon Volunteers.





161ST MHD PREPARES FOR OVERSEAS MISSION

Story by: Maj. William Carraway | Public Affairs Office | Georgia Army National Guard

The 78th Troop Command's 78th Troop Sustainment Battalion held a departure ceremony for the Soldiers of the 161st Military History Detachment Dec. 2, 2018 at the Clay National Guard Center in Marietta, Ga. The 161st MHD is in the final stages of preparation before mobilizing to Europe on a mission that will have far-reaching implications to how future generations of Soldiers and academics understand today's events as tomorrow's history.

"Our mission is to collect and preserve historical data of current and previous Army operations in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve," said 1st Lt. Bryant Wine, the military historian who will lead the 161st MHD collection efforts. "The United States has increased its military presence in Europe since Russia's annexation of Crimea. Along with reassuring our European and NATO partners, the presence of American forces in Europe also serves as a deterrent to Russian aggression."

An MHD is a small, independent team that supplements the collection of historical material for deployed Army units for use in writing the official history of operations. The 161st MHD is ordinarily composed of one officer and two non-commissioned officers, but personnel assignments fluctuate due to mission requirements. In addition to Wine, the MHD will be staffed by non-commissioned officers trained in interviewing, document collection and preservation, photography and database management as well as an officer

who will facilitate MHD operations.

During the departure ceremony, Wine, who works as a history teacher at Johns Creek High School in his civilian capacity, explained the role the MHDs and historians play in recording the Army history.

"The Army uses historians in all combatant commands and contingency operations to write the Army's official history," said Wine. "Historians rely on the primary source data collected by MHDs in order to write their manuscripts that eventually become the Army's history."

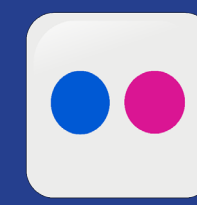
The 161st Military History Detachment was organized September 1, 2011 and federally recognized November 22, 2011 as one of 25 military history detachments. As of 2018 there are 36 MHDs of which two are in the Army, seven are in the Army Reserve and 27 are in the Army National Guard.

In January 2015, the 161st MHD was activated and mobilized to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait where the unit served as the first military history detachment assigned to collect the history of Operation Inherent Resolve.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Lt. Col. Catherine Cherry, commander of the 78th TSB offered comments in support of the 161st MHD Soldiers and their families.

"We are very excited to support you going forward," said Cherry. "The battalion staff and I are here for you night and day. This is an amazing opportunity, and I have no doubt you will succeed."

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WE TOOK CARE OF EACH OTHER

Story by: Tech Sgt. Amber Williams | 165th Airlift Wing | Georgia Air National Guard

“When you’re young and in a small town, you think, ‘Everyone knows who I am, everyone knows my family.’ and you want to get out to something bigger. But that is what has made this so great,” explained Sharon McKinnon a resident of Colquitt, Ga. who was waiting in line for the Georgia Air National Guard’s disaster relief mobile kitchen trailer in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

“We’ve all been taking care of each other.”

The DRMKT allows Guardsmen to provide cooked food for those in need as well as service members in the event of a disaster.

McKinnon and her family had only had one hot meal prior to the arrival of the DRMKT, almost a week after the storm. Without power, clean water, and gas, residents impacted by the storm had little to no means to store and cook food. Prior to the arrival of the DRMKT, McKinnon and her family received water and Meals-Ready-to-Eat from Airmen and Soldiers of the Georgia National Guard at the designated point of distribution.

Airmen and Soldiers at the POD had been working side-by-side with the community.

“We had one gentleman that lives across the street. He has lost almost everything. Despite that, he let us use his forklift, and he worked with us for nearly six hours unloading trucks,” said Tech. Sgt. Lauren Swanson, a vehicle operator at the 116th Air Control Wing.

“The firefighter’s wives have been cooking for us and doing our laundry,” said Swanson. “They’ve done so much for us and all they have asked for is tarps and baby food.”

When Airmen and Soldiers returned from delivering tarps and baby food to the fire department, they saw something moving in a tree line. They discovered an elderly man, who was struggling to stand. They pulled over to see if the man needed assistance.

“His house was crushed, his car was crushed,” said Swanson. “It was so bad it was hard to imagine anyone was living there.”

The Guardsmen gave him ice and cold drinks and decided on calling emergency medical services to come take care of him.

While Guardsmen distributed supplies to the community, Airmen from the Georgia Air National Guard’s 165th Airlift Wing and 116th Air Control Wing Civil Engineering Squadrons were the first in the region after the storm. The Civil Engineer Airmen worked in coordination with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and local authorities to conduct route clearance.

“At first, my mission was to get in contact with the local public works,” said Maj. Bjorn Helgeson, the Deputy Base Civil Engineer for the 165th Airlift Wing. “The public work crews were in survey mode since they know the area better than we do; they tell us where they



need us - and we will go there.”

Because the county consists of mostly rural areas, the majority of the highly traveled routes were dirt roads.

“There were times we couldn’t even tell there were roads in front of us,” said Helgeson. “There were just trees on top of trees; it just looked like woods. Had the public works teams not told us there were roads, we never would have known.”

Airmen recounted eighteen large trees down in less than half-a-city block. Although many of the roads were dirt roads, they are considered high-traffic areas for the locals, sometimes closing off several households to main roads in the area.

“At one point we had a prior-service Marine come out and visit us on-site because he lived up the street,” said Helgeson. “He invited us over to his house and he cooked up hotdogs and hamburgers for everyone working.”

In addition to the POD, DRMKT, and route clearance operations, the 283rd Combat Communications Squadron was activated to support the local law enforcement entities with their communication channels, as most of the 911 capabilities were not functioning as a result of the storm.

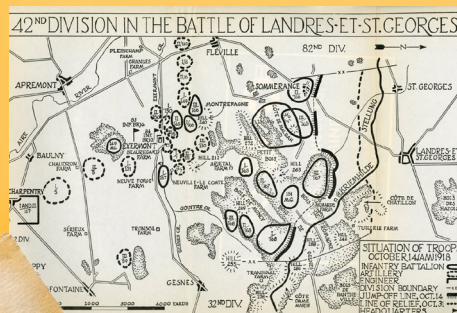
“I’ve just generally been amazed with everyone. I’m so impressed with how everyone is coming together and how kind everyone is,” said McKinnon.



BLAST FROM THE PAST: WORLD WAR I

STORY BY: MAJ. WILLIAM CARRAWAY | MILITARY HISTORIAN | 161ST MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT

ROBERT GOBER BURTON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GA. GUARD HISTORY ARCHIVES

FROM THE OURCQ TO THE RHINE: THE LAST MONTHS OF WWI

Editor's Note: This article is a condensed summation of three chapters of the Georgia Guard History Blog. For more historic letters, images and original research visit the blog at www.georgiaguardhistory.com

AUGUST 13-SEPTEMBER 27, 1918, SAINT MIHIEL: "GERMANY CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER"

On Aug. 17, 1918, elements of the 151st MGB began movement from La Ferte sur Marne by rail and by road march to Sauville, a commune in the Ardennes Department in northern France. Rather than their customary field camp locations, the men were comfortably billeted and provided with the opportunity to clean clothing and equipment.

Just two weeks into the expected five-week training period, the 151st MGB received orders to move out. After scrambling to assemble men and equipment for transport the battalion departed Sauville at 9:30 P.M. August 29 in a driving rain. Arriving in Gironcourt September 3, the 151st received more than 200 replacement Soldiers.

After a series of movements, the battalion reached the village of Siecheprey. The attack in which the 151st MGB would participate was the first great offensive of the 1st U.S. Army. The attack would fall upon the Saint Mihiel Salient, a protrusion of the Western Front which was created by successful German advances during the Battle of Flirey in the fall of 1914.

The Americans would attack the salient with three corps while a French Corps would help to fix German forces near the town of Saint Mihiel. The order for the attack was fifty pages and was augmented by ten annexes covering the use of artillery, tanks, air corps and other combined arms assets.

During a heavy rain on September 11, the battalion moved into the trench positions at the jump-off point for the assault arriving just before midnight. About this time Cpl. Robert Burton returned to the battalion from his

hospital convalescence. He would not reach his battalion until after they had "gone over the top."

At 1:00 a.m. September 12, the Americans initiated the assault with artillery fire. At 5:00 a.m. The infantry moved forward with tank and air support under cover of an overhead barrage supplied by the 64 Hotchkiss machine guns of the 151st. As the infantry approached their first objective, the 151st displaced forward as a unit in order to establish a second firing position to cover the second wave. From this position Maj. Winn could direct concentrated fire on points in the German line of resistance. During this phase of the attack two Soldiers of Company D were killed as German machine gun fire raked the 151st position. Corporal Frank Cramblett was struck down and Pvt. G. J. Reemsnyder was shot through the temple while putting his machine gun into action.

The assault continued the following day. During the fighting three Soldiers of the Macon Volunteers, Pvt. Madie Ware of Abbeville, Ga; Pvt. Rich Gussie of Union, Ky. and Pvt Otis Cook of Griffin, Ga. were killed in action.

The 42nd Division resumed the attack at 6:00 am September 13. By noon, the assault had reached its terminus with all objectives gained.

Whereas the 151st MGB had suffered terribly while moving with assaulting Infantry units at Croix Rouge Farm and Hill 212 in July, the massed fire concept employed by Maj. Winn greatly reduced the casualties suffered by the battalion while vastly improving its combat effectiveness. In addition to the five Soldiers killed the battalion suffered nine wounded.

The Battalion remained in defensive positions in what came to be called



the Essey-Pannes Sector. German gas attacks wounded five on September 14 and 15 and a German artillery barrage on September 22 wounded five more. Private Thomas Whitaker of Company B, the Macon Volunteers, was killed the next day.

On September 27, the 151st MGB and infantry regiments of the 84th Brigade were relieved by the 83rd Brigade. Three days later, the entire 42nd Division was relieved by the 89th Division. They would have but a few days rest before entering the Meuse Argonne offensives.

SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 16, 1918, MEUSE ARGONNE: "WHAT IS DEATH FOR YOUR COUNTRY, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY?"

On 25th Sept. 1918, Cpl. Robert Gober Burton was promoted to sergeant.

Writing home on September 29, 1918, Burton apprised his family of his situation.

I am sending a shoulder strap from the coat of one of the famous Prussian Guards. We have run into this same regiment four different times and at four

different places and it was one of these that said that there were only two American divisions over here.

The boys from Monroe were certainly lucky. Only two of us were hurt and one not seriously. Guthrie and I were the only ones hurt.

I was made a Sergeant soon after I came back to the company. "Slowly but surely."

As I told you we are quartered in some German barracks. The boys are singing and talking and laughing so that you can hardly hear yourself think. It is surely a relief from duties in the lines and we are taking full advantage of it.

Well I don't write much more and get all the souvenirs and the envelope too so will close.

*As ever,
Your devoted son,
Gober*

Burton wrote home three days later. The tone of this letter was darker than any of his previous correspondence.

**France
October 2, 1918
My dearest Mother**

Mother dear, you know I have been thinking lately of what about getting killed over here for my country. It wouldn't be so bad. I would merely have made the supreme sacrifice. That is about all that the American Soldier can ask for. What is death for your country, for God and country?

This is not a pessimistic letter. I was just thinking about it. So, I should happen to "go west," over here, hold your head high with the realization that I only made the supreme sacrifice. It will have been for you and Auntie and Ida and all the rest, and rest assured that I have given it gladly.

After what I have seen what



the Germans have done in Northern France to a peaceful country, and to the womanhood and to the homes of these people I have heard somebody say that they would fight when it came to our country but would rather that it would be kept where it is.

Well mother, this will do for this time. Am waiting for a letter.

*Your devoted son,
Gober*

On October 4, 1918, the 151st MGB resumed the march and on October 6, 1918 bivouacked in the Bois de Montfaucon. The Soldiers were once again subject to German artillery and machine gun fire. Private Carlton Barton of Company C was wounded October 6 and on October 10, Sgt. William O Williams of Company A received his second wound of the war. That same day, Pvt. Scott Cook of Company C was severely wounded. He would remain hospitalized until December 10 before shipping home. He was discharged February 17, 1919 with 25 percent disability.

From October 11 to 12, the 42nd Division relieved the 1st Division, then occupying a position in the line running northeast from the Côte de Maldah just east of Sommerance, France through the Bois de Romagne. As part of the



relief, Maj. Cooper Winn and his company commanders conducted a reconnaissance of the machine gun positions of the 2nd Brigade. They found that the previous machine gun battalion had been parceled out to the brigade's infantry regiments. Rather than assuming these positions, the 151st MGB established a firing line just east of Hill 263 on October 12, 1918 while under heavy fire. This line had barely been established when the battalion received orders to support an infantry assault on the Bois de Romagne and Hills 288 and 243 as well as the Cote de Chatillion which served as an important observation point for German defenses on the Kriemhilde Zone of the Hindenburg Line.

On October 13, the four companies of the 151st MGB occupied position on the forward slope of Hill 263. Before them was an open valley over which the infantry regiments of the 84th Brigade would have to cross. At the base of the Cote de Chatillion, 1,200 meters from the Musarde Farm, a two-story stone farm house which would provide shelter for German firing positions. To the rear of the Musarde Farm, circling the Cote de

Chatillion were a network of reinforced German trenches which ran from the nearby town of Landres et St. George over the Cote de Chatillion and to the crest of the neighboring Hill 288. Between the latter two heights was Hill 242.

On October 14, 1918, at 8:15 am, the 84th Brigade began its assault. The 151st MGB provided an overhead fire barrage which suppressed the German trench positions so effectively that the 167th Infantry Regiment was able to traverse the valley all the way to the base of the Cote where their forward progress was checked by barbed wire. Simultaneously, the 168th Infantry Regiment surged forward and, despite heavy casualties, seized the crest of Hill 288. The following day, the 167th was unable to advance their position, but the 168th succeeded in driving Germans from Hill 242.

On the evening of October 15, Col. Douglas MacArthur met with Maj. Gen. Summerall, commander of the 5th Corps. Summerall ordered MacArthur to take the Cote on October 16, or report 5,000 casualties. MacArthur replied that he would take the hill or report no brigade.

At 10:00, on the morning of October 16, with fire support from the 151st, the 168th Infantry breached the German defenses, their assault carrying them to the crest of the Cote de Chatillion. The 168th was unable to hold this position and was forced to retreat to the base of the hill. Taking advantage of the progress of its sister regiment, the 167th Infantry shifted right, into the area of advance of the 168th, cleared the barbed wire obstacles, and at 2:00 pm attacked with the 168th. This coordinated attack carried the men to the crest of the Cote de Chatillion.

Casualties for the 151st MGB were relatively light compared to previous engagements. The battalion suffered 13 wounded. Miraculously, none were killed in action. The attacking infantry regiments had suffered fewer casualties than anticipated. The 167th suffered 117 killed and 554 wounded while the 168th lost 143 killed and 566 wounded.

The role the 151st MGB played in the reduction of the Cote de Chatillion and Hill 288 so impressed Summerall that he called for a conference of his machine gun battalion commanders where the newly promoted Lt. Col.



Winn briefed his battalion's actions in the assault. MacArthur cited the 151st MGB for their role in the assault and recommended Winn for the Distinguished Service Cross.

OCTOBER 17-NOVEMBER 17, 1918, THE DRIVE FOR SEDAN: "CAN IT REALLY BE THAT WE HAVE WON THE WAR?"

October 28, 1918
(Exermont) France

*My Dearest Mother,
Ed (Sgt. Augustus Edward Williamson) has been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross and I hope he gets it for he certainly deserves it. He is Mess Sergeant now. He has all the feeding to look out for and he does it in great style. We get lots to eat.*

Well mother dear, this will make the third Christmas from home but I am quite certain that war won't be the cause if I am away Christmas a year from now. For the war will finish before then and peace will be in the world.

*Your ever devoted son,
Gober
Sgt. R.G. Burton
Co A 151 M. G. Bn*

The 151st Machine Gun Battalion

remained in position near Exermont through Nov. 1, 1918 and supported an assault made by the 2nd Division on that day. At the conclusion of the assault the battalion was relieved. Transferred to the First Corps, the battalion began movement towards Sommerance the next day during a pouring rain. With German resistance rapidly collapsing, the Americans maintained a rapid pursuit driving north.

On Nov. 7, the 151st reached Thelonne, a small village set among hills just south of the Meuse River and the supply hub of Sedan. The battalion was once again subjected to severe German artillery fire. The next day, Cpl. Charles B Long of Company B died of wounds. The 28-year-old native of Macon, Ga. was the last battlefield casualty of the 151st.

The battalion was relieved from their front-line positions Nov. 8, 1918. On Nov. 11, 1918, the day the armistice went into effect, the 151st was on the march from Grand Armoises to Germont.

It would be six days before Burton was availed of the opportunity to write home for the first time since the armistice.

November 17, 1918
East of the Meuse River
My dearest mother,

Well will write you for the first time since the war has finished. Can you realize that the war has actually finished? For the first day or so I could not grasp that we would not have to go back up and fight some more. I am becoming more convinced each day that it has finished.

Long lines of Frenchmen pass each day and all day long coming from Germany. Most of them have been prisoners for four long miserable years. And they tell some horrible tales of those four years.

We will probably have to go into Germany and quiet down the population

so that they can distribute food and the like. But that won't last always and Mch 1 will see us in the U.S. if not at home. Just to be in the U.S. will surely be a relief from war-torn France. Even now, the work of restoration has started and in 5 years there will be little signs of war for France is an energetic country and thrifty too. I am real sorry that it could not be that I could be home for Xmas. But I thank our Heavenly father each night that he spared me so miraculously through the year of the war. We have only been over here only a year but we have certainly had some experience, one that I will ever forget.

Can it really be that we have won the war and that we won't have to go up and fight any more? That the Germans won't shoot us anymore?

Great have been the celebrations in France since the Armistice was signed. Frenchmen coming back to their homes and the meeting of brothers and fathers and mothers and old friends. The Americans were certainly warmly received in the towns which they liberated. They have liberated many French towns and many thousands of the inhabitants.

*Well mother dear, will close for this time. Am waiting for a letter from you.
Your ever devoted son,
Gober*

NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 1918: "WE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO GO INTO GERMANY"

On Nov. 17, 1918, the 42nd Division was designated to take part in the American Army of Occupation. Three days later, the division was on the march. Passing through Belgium, the 151st reached Septfontaines, Luxemburg Nov. 23, 1918 where they would remain for the next seven days.

While in Luxemburg, Burton wrote to his father and related some of the exploits that he could not previously share due to censors.

SEPTFONTAINES LUXEMBURG
NOV 29, 1918

My dear papa,

As the censorship has been lifted so will write to tell you what I have been doing since I left home and the U.S.

We sailed from New York on the 31st of October and came in sight of land on the 12th of Nov. On the night of the 9th of Nov, one of the ships in the convoy ran into us and we had quite a scare.

We landed at Brest France Nov. 17. We then went in to training around Chaumont France at a little village called Viller sur Suize.

We left Viller sur Suize and went into the trenches in the Luneville sector. The exact place was a little place called Ancerville. The first time in we stayed 10 days. The scariest 10 days of my life. We stayed in this sector for four months.

From Lorraine we went into the sector Champagnes, before Chalaus. Here, we helped to stop the great German offensive of July 14. We stayed here from July 4 to the 18.

We moved from the Champagne to the Marne Salient. Here we threw the famous Prussian Guards. It was here north of Chateau Thierrey that I was wounded on July 31.

I stayed in the hospital about a month and 1 days. I then went back to

old A. Co. and it was like going home again almost.

I came to them just after they had started the drive in the Saint Mihiel Salient. So, I got into that also.

From here we went to the Argonne forest. Thru there was tough going and the weather was bad.

From the Argonne we went into the (final) drive, the one that ended the war. We were in the front line when the armistice was signed.

I haven't missed a single big fight that the Americans have been in.

Christmas has come again, and I can't be at home which makes the third, but I think that next years' Xmas. I think that we will come home by March 1.

I certainly will be glad to come back to the U.S.

Well, here's hoping for you and all a Merry X Mas. I hope to be with you for the next one.

Write me a letter soon.

*Your Devt son,
Gober*

*Sgt. R.G. Burton
Co. A. 151 M. G. Bn.*

The 151st marched into Germany on December 3. They arrived in the towns of Kripp and Bad Bodendorf five days before Christmas and received new clothing and billets among the

civilian population.

Writing home the day after Christmas, Gober related his experiences spending Christmas on occupation duty.

Kripp Germany
December 26, 1918

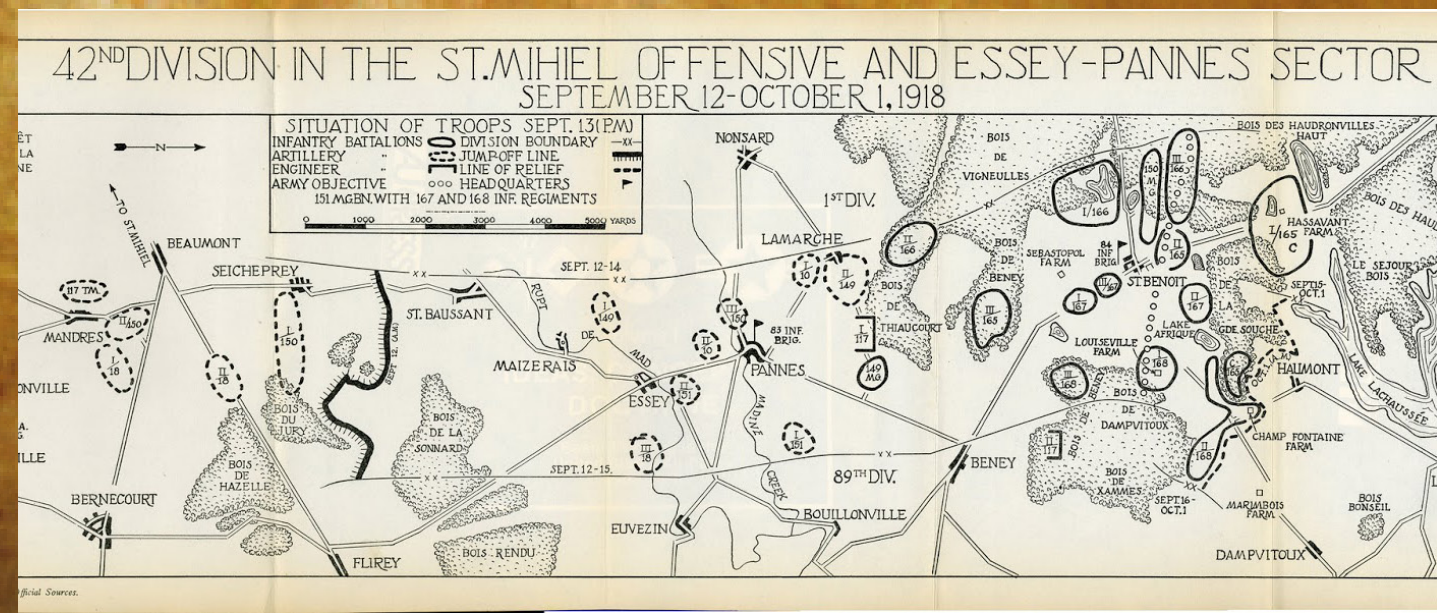
My dear mother,

Well, it is the day after Xmas and all is quiet along the Rhine tonight. I spent a very nice Xmas and enjoyed myself lots better than I did last year.

Our mess (the Sgts) had quite a nice diner. We had light wine as an appetizer, soup, chicken, chicken soup, dressing, fried rabbit, potatoes, apple sauce, tapioca pudding, coffee and cigars. I think that considering everything it was quite a nice dinner. We have our mess in a pretty villa overlooking the Rhine.

The Y gave us an Xmas tree yesterday and each of us got some smoking tobacco, chocolate and cookies. They were certainly appreciated. Our Christmas boxes haven't come in yet, but we are expecting them every day. I had about as soon have a letter from home as the box. When I have received the box, I will write Miss Griffin again and thank her for this candy. I certainly do appreciate her sending it.

*Your ever-devoted Son,
Gober*



AROUND THE GEORGIA GUARD



STEEL RAIN

Soldiers of the Georgia Army National Guard's Battery A, 118th Field Artillery Regiment fire live rounds from their M777 Howitzer at Fort Stewart Dec. 11, 2018. The 1-118th, and other units of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are preparing for their fourth combat deployment since September 11, 2001.



SUNRISE PT

Command Sgt. Major Courtney Edwards, senior enlisted advisor for the Georgia Army National Guard's 78th Troop Support Battalion, throws a medicine ball during a sunrise training session at the Clay National Guard Center in Marietta. The training, overseen by State Command Sgt. Major Shawn Lewis and conducted by the 12 command sergeants major assigned to the CNGC incorporates events from the new Army Combat Fitness Test.



NATIONAL GUARD'S 382ND BIRTHDAY

Georgia Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Fkreysus Mesfn assists World War II Veterans and retired Georgia Army National Guard Master Sgts. John and Al Quante in cutting the cake celebrating the National Guard's 382nd birthday. Dec. 13, 2018 at the Clay National Guard Center. Observing the cutting ceremony are Senior Master Sgt. Lanitra Lacey and Brig. Gen. Randall Simmons.

FINAL FLIGHT

U.S. Air Force fire trucks wait to ceremoniously spray a C-130H3 Hercules of the 165th Airlift Wing in Savannah, Ga., December 17, 2018 during Maj. Gen. Jesse Simmons final flight. Simmons and members of the Georgia Air National Guard were returning home after supporting the 50th Anniversary of the Argentine Air Force. The Georgia National Guard established a state partnership with Argentina in 2016.



POTUS AND FIRST LADY VISIT

U.S. President Donald J. Trump speaks to service members deployed in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) during his troop visit to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Dec. 26, 2018. CJTF-OIR works by, with, and through partner forces to defeat ISIS.





GEORGIA GUARDSMAN

★★ SERVING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND STATE DEFENSE FORCE OF GEORGIA ★★

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