



# THE POWDER BAG

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery

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May-June, 2017



"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation"

*George Washington*

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Commander:	Ed McCarty
Executive Officer:	Ed Powell, III
Adjutant:	Sydney Silverman
Finance Officer:	Marc Kantor
Logistics Officer:	Richard Tomasso

## THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

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## **COMMANDERS COMMENTS**

**Ed McCarty, Commander-CLAA**

We all had a great time at the Armed Forces Day Brunch in May and the 2017 Dining Out at Tavistock Country Club in June.

**BG Steven Ferrari** was in attendance at the Dining Out and gave us an update of his current assignments. He was recently named CG of the 42ID.

**BG Ferrari** surprised us with an award presentation of The Honorable Order of Molly Pitcher to his wife, **Tracy Ferrari**. She was shocked, very surprised and honored by the presentation and could not stop smiling.

Please plan to attend the 2018 Dining Out event. We are planning it at the same venue, since Tavistock has been very accommodating to us. We are looking forward to add additional entertainment to the evening and have tentatively planned on a mid-April 2018 time frame. Hopefully, our snow birds will be home from southern climates by mid-April.

There is significant progress being made on the Armory lately and maybe their time schedule is better than we thought, that would be great. We thought it was too optimistic for fall completion but maybe we will be in the Armory at least by the holidays, no promises I guess, we will see.

Let's plan another brunch for Patriot Day in September; we can discuss this further at the 2 August meeting.

Enjoy your July vacation, the 4th celebration and we will see you in Woodbury on 2 August 2017.

God Bless America and all the members and families of the Camden Light Artillery Association.

Yours in Brotherhood.

## **EDITORIAL ADDITION**

The last issue of this newsletter failed to recognize the addition of a new member. **CPT(Ret) Reuben Rosenthal**, a veteran of two tours in Vietnam, joined our unit to express his appreciation and support for our work and esprit de corps. His support is welcome. CPT(Ret) Rosenthal currently resides in Florida.

## **SUMMARY OF THE 3 MAY 2017 MEETING**

**Sydney Silverman, Adjutant**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

All present or accounted.

## **ATTENDEES**

There were no new or guest attendees present.

## **SICK CALL**

We prepared a card for Bob and Pat Constantine. Bob was in the hospital for a few day and is now doing much better.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Previous meeting minutes approved.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Available from the financial officer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

We are waiting for about 45 more member applications for the dining out. Please email your application with dinner choices and your ad book write up to Marc Kantor with your intentions. The final numbers have to be sent to Tavistock Country Club within three weeks. We also need to order near the correct number of gifts from the supplier and need a lead time for printing, ordering and shipping. It is possible that at this time of year people have other commitments; graduations, vacations and weddings etc., but we will be fine with the number coming. This begs the question as to what time of year should the Dining Out be most effectively held, for maximum participation and enjoyment; discussions to follow.

Ed McCarty asked for volunteers to phone the members as a reminder to get their reservations in for the dinner and ad book. The ad book publication is doing well. Marc Kantor created a call list to work from for member calling. The following people volunteered to make phone calls to speed up this process: Warren Strumpfer, Ronnie Powell, Frank Martino and Ed McCarty. Ed Powell suggested that we invite his friend Fred Buehler a 91-year-old WWII veteran, for a choice for our guest veteran. Everyone thought this to be a great idea.

Marc Kantor was it the Cherry Hill on Monday and reports that the new roof is progressing, but it rained into the armory building again. The trusses are due but haven't arrived yet due to delays in shipping. He spoke with the workers and they indicated that they didn't have the proper work permits in February for additional delays. Supplies started coming in late and half had to be returned because they were out of spec. When these came back half of them had to be returned because they were out of spec also. The old boilers are gone and new concrete platforms for the HVAC are installed on either end of building. The duct work is on schedule as well as the water lines for the heat, they are 75% complete and the electrical work is going well. The club room is stripped back to the walls and when it is built out, only the Camden Light Artillery Association and the 328th MP's will have access to the room. The old meeting room in the NCO area is gone and will be closed off to become the female locker rooms. If additional room is needed the civil air

patrol will be gone. The old range room is being used for supplies as well as the other supply rooms. The rest of the windows will be replaced and the asbestos caulk problems will be resolved.

We again thank CSM (Ret) Lum Harris and the state of New Jersey for the use of the National Guard Armory in Woodbury during the months of the renovation.

A discussion followed about where to hold our Christmas party, since there is a consensus that the Cherry Hill Armory Kitchen and classrooms most likely will not be ready for us in December. Suggestions include the American Legion posts; Chews Landing or other VFW/American Legion Post. It was suggested that it would be nice to hold it somewhere that we could be served as long as the expense is reasonable. Further discussion revealed that members actually prefer to have a "Pot Luck" style dinner where we all make or contribute a meal, salad or dessert. It makes for a more intimate affair and is also much cheaper, not having to pay a caterer or servers.

Our Armed Forces Day brunch will be held on Sunday May 21st at Kaminsky's in Cherry Hill at 10AM. A new place opened in Cherry Hill called Farm to Fork and this may be a viable choice also, but the commander visited the location and it is still under renovations.

May 5 through the seventh at Fort Mott World War One living encampment.

The 28th and 29th of May there is an air show at Millville airport.

June 3 Dining Out Formal Dinner Dance and reunion.

June 7 is our next meeting.

June 17 The sports club meets at Fort Dix, Fathers Day weekend Saturday.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The 112FA Sports Club met two weeks ago at the JBFD, a good time was had by all.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

None to report.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

none

The motion to adjourn was unanimous approval at 2030 hrs.

### **SUMMARY OF THE 7 JUNE 2017 MEETING**

Sydney Silverman, Adjutant

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm at the Woodbury Armory.

#### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

All present or accounted.

## ATTENDEES

There were no new or guest attendees present.

## SICK CALL

Al DeMasi is not feeling well enough to attend this evenings meeting.

Bill Groff has been in and out of the hospital three or four times with pneumonia and is home and feeling better.

Nick Marino is rehabbing at home after knee replacement surgery

Maria & Sigmund Honrycks are on the mend. They are back home. Sig is in rehab after knee replacement.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Previous meeting minutes approved. Motion by Lou Bovino, 2nd by Tom Monaghan

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Available from the financial officer.

## OLD BUSINESS

none

## NEW BUSINESS

Dining Out was a success.

Lou Bovino noted that there were very few people dancing at the dining out. Perhaps we should consider some sort of entertainment after dinner.

Tracy Ferrari was thrilled to be the recipient of the Saint Barbara Medal. This was a complete surprise to her. She and the General were happy to be with the CLAA at our Dining Out.

General Ferrari's change of command ceremony was held in Albany New York at the Empire Plaza. A very classy venue. Staff personnel and honor guards were present from the 42nd ID. The CLAA was represented by a number of our members.

Phil LoPresti, MD sent a nice note about the Dining Out and continues to support the event.

Ed McCarty thanked everyone who came early to help set up for the dinner.

We received a nice note of thanks from our guest Fred Buehler. He was overwhelmed by the whole thing and that the attention that he drew. His note is as follows: "Thank you very much for the wonderful recognition I received from your organization it was so appreciated and I will always remember this."

Ed McCarty mentioned the successful brunch at Kaminski's and a reminder that Patriots' Day is September 11 and that the brunch will be on Sunday, 10 September. We are currently looking for a location for the brunch.

Other events:

June 17 Range 14 at Ft Dix for the 112FA Sports Club.

Gun shows coming up at the North Philadelphia armory on July 22nd and 23rd; August 5th and 6th in Oaks Pa.

**Tom Monaghan** mentioned an event in Lumberton at the Centaur Fire House Co. on June 17 between 1 and 4 PM and located at 1603 Route 38.

The stand down at the Armory is scheduled for September 22. It is run by a group from the battleship New Jersey; however, there may be a problem because of ongoing construction work at our home.

The renovated clubroom will only be used by the 328MP and our group. It will be a dual purpose room. We are trying to develop a community outreach and display cases of our museum materials and media packages to help educate the public about our presence in The community. This may also be used as a recruiting tool for the RRNCO unit.

**Lum Harris** mention that the 114InfReg will be holding its annual golf outing on 14 September. As usual our unit will help support that program.

Our financial officer mentioned that we received a note from the state of New Jersey asking if we have insurance for the use The National Guard Armory in Woodbury. We will have temporary coverage for the 112FA in Woodbury. Since we are not meeting in our home there is no insurance premium for that location so the cost should be a wash.

**Warren Strumpfer** mentioned that the 328MP had some artillery people so we should coordinate with them to come to our dining out.

Our next meeting will be held August 2, No July meeting.

**Ed Powell** gave a copy of the declassified plans for the World War II invasion of the Japanese home islands and that it may be published over time in the powder bag.

**Warren Strumpfer** mentioned that we might consider having guest speakers at our meeting so that they are more eventful and informative.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

None to report.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

none

Meeting adjourned at 2020 hours.

#### **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN QUOTE**

Al DeMasi, Franklin Historian



**"Tis a shame that your family is an honor to you!  
You ought to be an honor to your family."**

**2017 DINING OUT**  
(see website for more pictures)













## **THE ERA OF STRATEGIC PATIENCE IS OVER**



**Vice President Mike Pence, on a 10-day visit to Asia, warned the U.S. wants North Korea to “abandon its reckless path” of developing nuclear weapons and testing ballistic missiles.**

**“The era of strategic patience is over,” Pence said April 17 as he visited the border between North and South Korea. “President Trump has made it clear that the patience of the United States and our allies in this region has run out, and we want to see change.”**

**Pence and his wife Karen made an Easter weekend visit to Korea, where his father served in combat as part of the 45th Infantry Division in 1953. “Like so many who have worn the uniform and come home, my dad didn’t think the heroes were the ones that came home,” Pence said.**

**His visit came as North Korea continued to ramp up tension by attempting to fire a missile that exploded seconds after launch. That attempt was “just the latest reminder of the risks each one of you face every day,” the vice president told troops during a visit to U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan.**

## **PERSONAL STORIES AND MEMORIES**

COL(Ret) Joel L. Leson is a friend of CPT(Ret) Marc Kantor since 1962 at Temple University



Memorial Day Address  
Overlea-Perry Hall American Legion Post #130  
May 30, 2017

### **COL(Ret) Joel L. Leson**

"Senator Klausmeier, Commander Poehler, officers of the Overlea-Perry Hall Post #130, officers of the post's supporting organizations, honored guests, and fellow Legionnaires.

As a 52 year member of the American Legion, it is a privilege for me to be here today. I bring you greetings from my post homes, the Archer-Epler American Legion Memorial Post #979, of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and The Lieutenant General Lewis "Chesty" Puller VFW Post #1503, of Dale City, Virginia.

I would like to thank the members of Post 130 for your support of our Yankee Rebels' Alumni Association. As a member of the Association, and the Yankee Rebels Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps, a corps, who in its competing hay day, won the 1969, '70 and '71 American Legion National Championships, I thank you for helping us keep our legend alive! It means so much to every one of us.

Ever since I was eight years old, I have been attending Memorial Day services like this. Back then, I would stand at parade rest in the ranks of my junior drum and bugle corps at cemeteries in and around Philadelphia, and listen to military men provide our post members with Memorial Day

remarks. Many of our speakers fought in World War II and Korea. Like me now, they had put on a little weight and needed eye glasses to read their remarks. In all honesty, as a kid, I hoped their speeches would be short, so I could get back to the post and enjoy a hot dog, a cold soda, and listen to their “war stories”.

Back in the late 1950’s, I didn’t know that I would choose to be a career soldier. But if ever there were role models to follow into the service, these great veterans were exactly that!

I’ve mentioned World War II and Korea, but this year is very special. This year we commemorate the centennial anniversary of America’s entry into World War I. More than 4.7 million Americans served during The Great War, representing more than 25 percent of the American male population between the ages of 18 and 31 at that time. We remember the more than 100,000 Americans who sacrificed their lives during “The War to End All Wars”, and who left behind countless family members and loved ones. We pause again to pray for the souls of those heroes who, one century ago, never returned home after helping to restore peace in Europe.

On Memorial Day we honor the final resting places of the more than one million men and women who sacrificed their lives for our Nation, by decorating their graves, as generations have done since 1868. We also proudly fly Old Glory at our homes, businesses, and in our community parades to honor their memory. In doing so, we pledge our allegiance to the great cause of freedom for which they fought and died.

Today, there is a tendency to throw around the term “Great American”. You hear it on radio talk shows and on TV. I can say, without reservation that the one million men and women who gave their lives for our country, and all of the veterans I grew up around, were indeed “Great Americans”. These are the men and women we honor here today. These are America’s finest; heroes who personify what the term “Great American” truly means.

I went to Vietnam in 1967. At that time the draft was still in existence. During the year of combat in South Vietnam, to include the Tet Offensive, I served with some of the most courageous men and women; service members of all branches, who came from throughout the United States. On this Memorial Day, I ask for your indulgence as I recognize three of those Great Americans: one who was a dedicated mentor and father-like figure, and two who were my friends before Vietnam...all three died over there.

The first was United States Marine Lance Corporal Joel Bernstein; a buddy from down the block in South Philly. He was an Infantryman, fighting with the Third Marine Division. He was killed in action, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1966, during his second tour-of-duty in South Vietnam. He was one tough cookie, who signed up early in the Vietnam War to be a career Marine because he believed in his Corps, his Country and his God. He was a friend and a true patriot. Rest in peace, Joel!

Then there was 1LT Geoffrey Lawrence Ham, US Army, Infantry. Jeff was killed in action June 28th, 1967, while a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. Jeff and I attended Temple University ROTC together. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate and an NCAA national fencing

champion. Jeff was the kind of guy who would readily give you his best advice, and who would brighten up your day, like a walk on Baltimore's 34<sup>th</sup> Street at Christmas time. Geoffrey, May the Lord be with you forever!

And then, on April 1st, 1968, we lost Lieutenant Colonel Mort O'Connor, US Army Infantry. LTC O'Connor died while leading his Infantry battalion, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, "The Big Red One". While I attended college, Mort O'Connor was my mentor and counselor. He was a West Pointer who came from an old Army Family. He was a bona fide scholar who held a PhD in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania. He was my friend. He would cut me no slack...EVER! We called LTC O'Connor "The Fighting Irishman", and he was all of that, and them some! God Bless You Mortimer Lenane O'Connor, for the "duty, honor, country" you taught your cadets.

Folks, I appreciate, and thank you for your time and consideration as I recognized these extraordinary Americans.

I'd like to talk about the young men and women I meet as I visit military installations around the country. Today's members of our Armed Forces are some of the smartest, most dedicated and courageous young men and women that I have ever met! They serve with enthusiasm, perseverance, and understanding of their mission. I don't say this as some kind of recruiting speech or rah rah pep talk; I say this because they are out there protecting our country at every turn. Young men and women manning nuclear powered naval vessels with rarely a mistake or problem; launching airplanes all over the world with ease and professionalism; using the most modern weapons and communications gear with efficiency and effectiveness. We are blessed to have them standing watch and prepared to face any threat on our behalf!

What some of us have done, and what the people who have gone before, and after us, have done, is very serious business. We know that so many of our comrades have not come home to their families. We are here today because we understand that we have an obligation to honor them! We know that this is the very least we can do to keep their memory alive. While others may have spent Memorial Day having a picnic, washing the car, or shopping, you are here to recognize those who have served, and those we have lost. For those of us who wear, or have worn our country's uniform, or support our Armed Forces, it means a great deal. To those who we honor here today and their families, its observance is an annual and important part of their lives.

Which brings me to a subject that I believe means so much to so many: "Patriotism". As a kid who grew up immediately after World War II, I learned respect for our Flag and love of our Country. If you were a son of immigrants, you understood how much your parents went through to come to a land that offered so much, and what the Flag meant to them. Our Boy Scout leader was a World War II Staff Sergeant in the Army's Second, "Indian Head", Infantry Division. He made sure that we knew what the Flag stood for, and how we should respect it, and our nation's values. Today, there are those who believe that being patriotic is, well, sort of corny. It's beneath them to stand as

the Flag goes by. Some of them believe that they should burn the Flag; not in a proper, reverent and dignified ceremony, but as if the Flag was some oily rag taken from the back of a garage. And then there are those, who at this very moment, have cases before courts to determine whether or not the Flag should be displayed in public schools.

To me that's unbelievable. It makes me angry as a wet hen, and if I may revert to my South Philly origins, it flat out pisses me off!!!The very essence of our being here today is found in that Flag. It represents why we have gone to war and defeated dictators, and those who would take ours, and others', freedoms away. It stands for a great nation to which so many of our forebears came. In my opinion it stands for the greatest country on Earth!!! And, without exception, it is all of this because of the men and women we honor here today, who understood the idea and ideals of patriotism!

With all of the nay saying and negativity we see and hear around us, it is our job to keep the spirit of our Founding Fathers, all of those who fought and died for our Country, and the outstanding men and women who are devoted to our defense, in the public's eye. As members of the American Legion, the preamble to the Legion's constitution spells this out. We have taken an oath to fulfill the preamble's purposes. By being here today, we are carrying out that oath!

On this Memorial Day, I want to thank everyone present for your attendance here this evening. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the honor and respect given our departed comrades. May God Bless Them, May God Bless You, and May God Bless the United States of America!"

with permission of COL(Ret) Joel L. Leson





## **FOUR VIETNAM VETERANS RECEIVE SILVER STAR**



**On the 45th anniversary of the action that earned them the military's third-highest award for valor, four Vietnam veterans gathered in Arkansas on Tuesday to receive the Silver Star, according to a release from an Arkansas congressman who helped get their medals approved.**

**Former Spc. Leonard Shearer, former Spc. John Deslauriers, former Capt. Robert Frank and former Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Monette flew a rescue mission in their UH-1H Huey into enemy territory on April 18, 1972, in response to a downed C-130 Hercules and managed to help save five survivors, according to their award citations.**

**Decades later, after a 2005 unit reunion, their former troop commander, retired Maj. Jack Shields, took up a campaign to put them in for awards, eventually landing at the office of his congressman, Rep. French Hill, R-Arkansas.**

**"Fourteen months ago, he reached out to Tom McNabb and David Carnahan in my office, and we were able to all work with the Department of Defense to get these four heroes their long overdue recognition for their actions," Hill wrote in a Tuesday post on Facebook, following a public ceremony in Little Rock. "We were honored to also be joined by three of the men who [were] rescued as part of that mission."**

**Forty-five years to the day earlier, the UH-1H Huey crew, assigned to F Troop, 9th Cavalry came upon the downed cargo plane during the Siege of An Loc.**

**It was a spontaneous rescue, according to the citations — the Huey crew had seen the plane go down without making a mayday call. Stars and Stripes published details of the crash, based on interviews with the Air Force C-130 crew, days later.**

**Monette was the pilot, Frank was the air mission commander, and Shearer and DesLouriers were the gunners. Shearer carried the most seriously injured of three survivors who were on the ground while DesLouriers provided covering fire.**

**When they learned that there were more crew members inside the burning plane, they maneuvered the helicopter closer and were able to save two more airmen.**

**Following the Silver Star presentation, the former soldiers thanked Hill and his staff for their help, spokesman Mike Siegel told Army Times.**

**"Bob Frank, on behalf of the four Silver Star recipients, presented Rep. Hill, David Carnahan and Tom McNabb each with a framed gift that contained a picture of the four men, a replica Silver Star, and a picture of the crash site to thank them for their help."**

## **100 YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR I** **WAR TO END ALL WARS SHAPED TODAY'S ARMY**

**World War I did not make the world safe for democracy, as President Woodrow Wilson hoped when he asked Congress to declare war in 1917. As we now know, the war with Germany that started for the United States on April 6, 1917, did not end all wars. However, it made the U.S. a leading world power and created five important legacies that continue to shape our Army. Among the war's lasting legacies:**

- 1. Compulsory military service and organization of state militias into an organized federal army deployable beyond the nation's borders happened because of the Selective Service Act of 1917.**
- 2. The concept of a planning staff, first introduced in the early 1900s by then-Secretary of War Elihu Root, matured under the leadership of Wilson's brilliant secretary of war, Newton D. Baker.**
- 3. Professional education and a systematic approach to training took root during WWI**
- 4. Divisions became the module for deployment and employment.**
- 5. Three generations of officers gained important experience during WWI, managing mobilization or fighting in France. Their experience, informed by education and reflection during the interwar period, enabled them to raise, train and lead the enormous Army that fought and won WWII.**

America went to war with the Army that it had in 1917 because Wilson wanted to demonstrate immediate commitment to the Allied coalition fighting the Central Powers, notably Germany and Austria-Hungary. After the United States declared war, delegations from the United Kingdom and France arrived in the U.S. as soon as ships could bring them, serving both as supplicants and advisers. Britain and France desperately needed help but as one British officer observed, the Americans were “quite unprepared.”

The U.S. Navy deployed vessels to Europe on April 24, 1917, but the French also asked for an American infantry division. Wilson agreed. Gen. John J. Pershing, selected by Wilson to command the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), formed the 1st Expeditionary Division to carry out the mission using the 16th, 18th, 26th and 28th Infantry regiments along with the 5th, 6th and 7th Artillery regiments.

The first elements of what would later become the 1st Infantry Division were marching through Paris in less than three months, but it was not until May 1918 that the first American operation was mounted. This first offensive and the first victory for the Americans occurred at the village of Cantigny and involved the 1st Division, which was led by then-Maj. Gen. Robert L. Bullard, an 1885 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy who started the war as a colonel. The 1st Division, chosen as the first to fight on the Western Front because it had the most experience, engaged in fierce fighting and suffered more than 1,000 casualties to seize Cantigny and hold it against German counterattacks. The AEF went on to earn its laurels at Chateau-Thierry, Saint-Mihiel, Soissons and Meuse-Argonne.



American soldiers use a 37 mm gun during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.  
(Credit: U.S. Army)

The battle at Saint-Mihiel was the first major offensive undertaken by the AEF. Of that fight, historian B.H. Liddell Hart wrote: “The achievement was not merely a good augury but a vindication—especially for Pershing.” The Americans had proven themselves.

By Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918, the AEF was both larger and held more of the line than did the British. Mobilizing, training, equipping and deploying 2 million soldiers to France in 18 months remains a great achievement. To do this, the Army built organizations including divisions, corps

and field armies. It fielded never-before-seen units such as squadrons of aircraft and battalions of machine guns. And it had help from Congress, which had authorized an increase in troop strength in 1916, established the Selective Service System in 1917, and organized state militias under an organization that eventually became the National Guard Bureau.

### Conscription Required

Without conscription, the Army could not have grown to the size needed for the war effort. Too few volunteers had signed up, so Wilson accepted the idea of a draft, something recommended by Baker, his secretary of war. The idea of what Wilson called “universal liability for service” was aimed at avoiding the easily corruptible and grossly unfair conscription of the Civil War during which the wealthy were able to avoid service by paying a substitute to take their place. Instead, mandatory registration and a prohibition on buying one’s way out of service enabled the country to raise an Army of 3.7 million men, according to sources including military historians Russell F. Weigley and Edward M. Coffman.



**Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, addresses 1st Division troops in France.**

**(Credit: U.S. Army)**

### General Staff Evolved

The Army was blessed with effective leadership during WWI. Baker remains among the very best to serve as either secretary of war or defense. Less than a week after the declaration of war, he overhauled the way the Army obtained supplies by bringing in able advisers from industry. During the course of the war, the General Staff and the War Department it served grew to produce organizations and systems that worked in WWI and, with further evolution, in WWII. Neither the War Department nor the General Staff had recent experience with combat operations beyond the Spanish-American War and the limited incursion in Mexico. Only 19 officers served on the General Staff at the outset of the war, so the scale and scope of the task must have appeared daunting. Nevertheless, the General Staff grew, built on the institutions it had that worked, and changed those that did not. Those it could not immediately change eventually changed under pressure.



**Soldiers of the 42nd ‘Rainbow’ Division  
take advantage of a quiet moment in the front-line trenches to eat.  
(Credit: U.S. Army)**

**Baker recruited civilian experts to help the soldiers confront logistics at the scale they now faced. For example, Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck & Co., headed the committee on supplies. Old War Department bureaus, which had held sway for decades, caved in. The chief of ordnance believed that at the start of the war, he should decide what weapons would be procured with little deference to the officers commanding the troops in the field. His successor, on the other hand, is widely quoted to have said, “If the fighting men want elephants, we get them elephants.”**



**A U.S. Army detachment leaves Le Havre, France, for the front.  
(Credit: National Archives)**

**In France, AEF staff built camps, developed transportation schemes, formed units and ultimately employed them. The War Department and the General Staff generated forces, while Pershing and his staff assumed the functions of what contemporary soldiers would understand as a theater and component command.**

### **Force Preparation**

**In 18 months, the U.S. Army inducted and trained nearly 4 million soldiers. To lead them, it commissioned and trained 182,000 officers, educating others to run battalion, regiment, division, corps and field operations. One officer-instructor spoke for a great many when he observed that**

he had to sit up all night with the manual in order to give the next day's instruction. To some extent, the entire Army had to stay up all night to be ready for the next day—and for the most part, the troops were willing to do so.



Phosphorous bombs explode during a night attack in Gondrecourt-le-Chateau, France.  
(Credit: U.S. Army/Sgt. J.J. Marshall)

The School of the Line and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., had prepared prewar students such as future General of the Army George C. Marshall Jr. to be able to prepare and employ large formations in France. In *America's School for War: Fort Leavenworth, Officer Education and Victory in World War II*, retired Lt. Col. Peter J. Schifferle argues that the effort of graduates in France sharpened the Army's appreciation for professional military education. Pershing supported an AEF staff school in France. Training for divisions began in the U.S. and continued on arrival in France, where it included field training supported by French and British advisers as well as acclimation in the trenches. The Army's commitment to training and education during World War I became central during the interwar period, despite lacking money to do what it would have liked. With occasional lapses, this commitment remains a hallmark of the Army.

### The 'Square Division'

An early and essential step to waging war in France was deciding how to organize units. Pershing led this effort. By the summer of 1917, he and his staff developed a plan for structuring a force of 1 million men. His vision was breathtaking, asserting a force of about 1 million was the smallest necessary for a complete, balanced and independent fighting force. The design effort went through several iterations but in the end, Pershing and his staff developed formations similar to those fielded by the French and British but with distinctly American features. At more than 27,000 troops authorized, the standard American division was a much larger formation than those in the French and British armies.

The square division, as it was called, became the basic tactical module of employment in Pershing's scheme. Square divisions organized with two brigades, each with two regiments. The regiments organized with three battalions, each based on three rifle companies. Only recently has

the Army moved to smaller brigade combat teams rather than divisions as the basic module for deployment.

### Learning by Doing

The leaders who learned by doing in France and the U.S. furthered their education during the interwar years. In World War I, then-Col. Douglas MacArthur served with distinction as a combat leader in the 42nd “Rainbow” Division. During the interwar years, he rose to the rank of full general and served as chief of staff of the Army in 1930. He was recalled from retirement to serve in World War II.

Gen. George C. Marshall, Jr. served on the staff in the 1st Division, First Army, and on Pershing’s staff in World War I. During the interwar period, he served as assistant commandant of the infantry school, where he influenced a great many of the senior combat leaders of World War II. He also served as Army chief of staff, and was one of the five five-star generals of the Army. He retired in 1947.

Another legendary World War II officer, Gen. George S. Patton Jr., was a captain at the start of the World War I. He rose to command the 1st Provisional Tank Brigade—known as the 304th Tank Brigade after November 1918—with a temporary promotion to major. Like many others, he reverted to lower rank after the war. Later he went to Leavenworth, where he learned how to command large formations and famously lent then-Maj. Dwight D. Eisenhower his notes.



**Gen. Douglas MacArthur**  
(Credit: ARMY magazine archives)



**Gen. George C. Marshall Jr.**  
(Credit: ARMY magazine archives)



**Gen. George S. Patton Jr.**  
(Credit: US ARMY)

Association of the United States Army, March 2017

### [Col. Gregory Fontenot, U.S. Army retired](#)

Col. Gregory Fontenot, USA Ret., commanded a tank battalion in Operation Desert Storm and an armor brigade in Bosnia. A former director of the School of Advanced Military Studies and the University of Foreign Military and Cultural Studies, he is co-author of *On Point: The United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

## **112FA PHYSICAL FITNESS**

**Brian Strecker, Chairman**

### **THE AMAZING AVOCADO**

While the debate continues if it is a fruit or a vegetable, soldiers shouldn't be surprised that a green colored food is good for you. The Avocado has more potassium than a banana, lowers cholesterol, and helps in weight loss due to its high fiber content.

## **112FA SPORTS CLUB**

**Ed McCarty, Chairman**

The 112FA Sports Club meets at Range 14 (<http://www.range-14.com/>) at Ft Dix, NJ throughout the year. Outings and events will be posted on our web site and sent to the membership via email. The next 112FA Sports Club meet at Ft Dix is Saturday, 17 June 2017. Watch your emails and the web site for additional Outings.

## **BEST RANGER COMPETITION 2017**





CPT Michael Rose and MSG Josh Horsager pose for the official winner's photo, holding the iconic Colt .45 M1911 pistol, at the Ranger Memorial. The duo achieved victory in the 34th annual David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition at the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, Ga. (Photo by Markeith Horace)

The team maintained the number one ranking going into the third day after a strong showing overnight and through the final day of events, which included the Darby Queen obstacle course, water confidence course and the final buddy run. CPT Rose was also a member of the 2014 winning team. "This competition was just as tough as the last one, my body is toast right now" said CPT Rose, a member of the 2-75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.

U.S. Army Ranger teams and 106 Rangers from round the world participated in the competition that has been compared to the Ironman and Eco-Challenge competitions.

**Rangers Lead The Way!**

Keith Boydston  
Public Affairs  
Maneuver Center of Excellence

### **TRICARE FOR LIFE PHARMACY**

A military pharmacy is the least expensive option for filling prescriptions. At a military pharmacy, you may receive up to a 90-day supply of most medications at no cost. Most military pharmacies accept prescriptions written by both civilian and military providers. Non-formulary medications generally are not available at military pharmacies. To check the availability of a particular drug, contact the nearest military pharmacy in person or by phone.

### **NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN**

**Announcer:** Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!

**Voices:** Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's **SUPERMAN!**

**Announcer:** Yes, it's **SUPERMAN**, strange visitor from another planet, who came to Earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Superman, who can change the course of mighty rivers, bend steel in his bare hands, and who, disguised as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper, fights a never-ending battle for truth, justice and the **AMERICAN WAY**.



## **WHY WE MISS RODNEY DANGERFIELD**

Once somebody stole our car. I asked my wife if she saw who it was. she said "No, but I did get the license number".

I came from a real tough neighborhood. Why, every time I shut the window I hurt somebody's fingers.

I was born in a small town. The population there never changes. Every time a kid is born, some guy leaves town.

I came from a real tough neighborhood. I put my hand in some cement and felt another hand.

I tell ya, I was so ugly my mom tied a pork chop around my neck to get the dog to play with me.

On Halloween, I had to trick or treat over the phone.

Last Halloween a kid tried to rip my face off. He thought it was a mask. Now it's different when I open the door the kids hand me candy.

## **JUST SOME OF REASONS WE MISS RODNEY DANGERFIELD** **MORE NEXT MONTH**



## **RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/new-jersey-state-veterans-benefits.html>

The online information contained at this site can be very important to the membership. Please visit the link above and review your options. You may wish to subscribe to the "military.com" web site. It always has interesting and current information on the country and all branches of the military.

## **TRICARE**

TRICARE is adding new services and screenings. Effective Jan.1, 2017, TRICARE will cover annual preventive office visits for all Prime beneficiaries 6 years of age and older. TRICARE Standard beneficiaries can receive preventive services with no cost-share or copayment through disease prevention examinations. Also, the annual well-woman exam will continue to be covered for all Prime and Standard beneficiaries under age 65 with no cost-share or copayment. If you have recently received any of these services, please be sure to save your receipts and file a claim. The regional contractors will be ready to process claims for the new preventive benefits on Nov. 14, 2016. (<http://www.tricare.mil/Resources/Claims>)

## **TRICARE FOR LIFE**

TRICARE For Life (TFL) is a Medicare wraparound coverage for TRICARE beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B, regardless of age or place of residence. With TFL, you have the freedom to seek care from any Medicare-participating or nonparticipating provider, or at a military hospital or clinic on a space-available basis. Enrollment is not required, but you must pay Medicare Part B premiums.

TFL is available worldwide, in the U.S. and its territories TFL pays after Medicare, in all other OCONUS areas TFL is the first payer. (<http://www.tricare.mil/tfl>)

## **HOW TO REQUEST A COPY OF YOUR DD214 or NGB22**

The process starts at the National Archives website:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Simply follow the directions found on the website for online application or click on the SF 180, complete the 'fillable' Adobe version, sign the document and mail to the appropriate location.

(suggested by Frank Brown)

## HOW TO REQUEST NJ RIBBONS AND AWARDS

<http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/>

NJ Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs

ATTN: DVS-VBB(Medals)

PO Box 340

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

For additional information contact:

Telephone: (609) 530-6868/7035

Fax: (609) 530-6970 State of New Jersey



## **NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERAN'S MEMORIAL**

**1 Memorial Lane  
Holmdel, NJ 07733  
(<http://www.njvvmf.org/>)**



The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center are located within sight of each other near the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ. The Memorial brings to New Jersey a fitting acknowledgment of the valor displayed by the New Jersey residents who never returned from Southeast Asia. It commemorates the courage shown by all who served in America's armed forces during the years of the Vietnam conflict. Its companion project, the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center, provides a means to present factual and unbiased information about the era. Using exhibits, audio/visual presentations, structured programs and guest speakers, visitors are provided with a forum for ongoing discussion and an opportunity to gain a better understanding of America's most divisive period since the Civil War. Supplemental programs, such as veterans' biographies, are intended to recognize and document the contributions made by New Jersey's veterans so that their service to our nation will be preserved for future generations.





**3-112FA MORRISTOWN, NJ**

**LTC Brian J Stramaglia  
Commanding Officer**



**3-112FA is currently on Annual Training**



**Past Battalion Commanders of 3-112FA  
LTC Henri Schepens and COL Rob Bryan  
at 2016 St Barbara's Dinner**



**RRNCO**  
**NJARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion**

**SSG Joseph A Cavanagh**

**609-519-6449**

**[www.njarmyguard.com](http://www.njarmyguard.com)**



**"Explore your path to honor and become a Citizen-Soldier"**



**PFC Aidan Curran and PFC Daniel Newkirk-Carpenter, both graduating seniors from Cherry Hill West High School, manning the NJ Army NG table at the 8th Annual American Collectors Insurance Car show at Camden Catholic High School on 10 June 2017. Attendees of the car show were able to meet soldiers from the NJ Army NG and sit in the M1165A1 Special Ops HMMWV.**



**328 MP COMPANY, CHERRY HILL, NJ**  
**1LT Domenico Lazzaro**  
**Commanding Officer**



**328MP Company at Ft Dix for live fire exercises**



## **2017 Monthly Meeting Dates**

All Meetings are temporarily at the  
**Woodbury Armory**  
**658 N Evergreen Avenue**  
**Woodbury, NJ**  
**7:00pm**

**No July Meeting**

**Wednesday, 2 August 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 6 September 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 4 October 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 1 November 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 6 December 2017 Christmas Party/Dinner - 6:00pm**

**See your emails and our web site  
for additional events and dates of the  
1-112FA and 1-112FA Sports Club**

### **REQUEST YOUR INPUT**

We remind you that this is your newsletter. You are cordially invited to submit any information you think appropriate for the good of the command to the Commander (e-mail address on the first page of this newsletter) to be edited for inclusion in the following months' publication.

**Dues are only \$30 per year and are payable 1 January of each year. Please send your dues to:**

**Camden Light Artillery Association Inc.**  
**National Guard Armory**  
**2001 Park Blvd.,**  
**Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2778**



The 1-112FA Camden Light Artillery Association is proud to be a Commemorative Partner. We held our first event earlier this year and are planning future events for the summer and fall seasons. Please watch for the announcements in your emails and on our website.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducted hundreds of events in VA facilities across the nation on March 29, 2016 to recognize, honor and thank U.S. Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices as part of the national Vietnam War Commemoration. VA, along with more than 9,000 organizations across the country, has joined with the Department of Defense as a Commemorative Partner to help Americans honor our nation's Vietnam veterans. By presidential proclamation issued on May 25, 2012, the Commemoration extends from its inaugural event on Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. To learn more about the Vietnam War Commemoration, visit the U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration website."

(<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>) by military.com 4 April 2016



## **OUR MISSION**

- To promote close association, friendship, understanding and cooperation between all member of the association.
- To foster and preserve the spirit, traditions and solidarity of the Field Artillery
- To provide various communicative means for keeping all members aware and involved in association developments.
- To conduct such social activities as may provide for a continuing close relationship and camaraderie among the membership
- To develop and maintain historical records on the lineage of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery ancestors and it successors.
- To promote and support the provisions of the constitution of the United States of America.
- To provide community service to local civilian and military communities in time of need.

## **WEB SITE**

[www.112FA.org](http://www.112FA.org)

## **E-MAIL ADDRESS**

[112FA.CLA@gmail.com](mailto:112FA.CLA@gmail.com)

## **FACEBOOK PAGE**

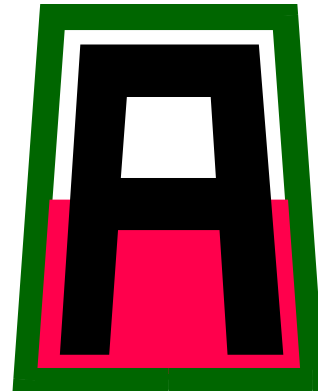
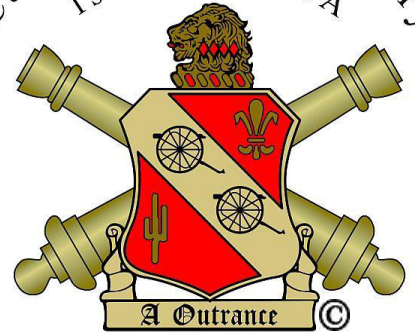
our name on Facebook is

**CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY**





Camden Light Artillery  
1st BN 112th FA





**2010 Afghanistan - M777**  
((courtesy-SPC Gallegos via COL George Bannon(USA Retired))