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## **105th Airlift Wing**

## **Airport adopts new identity: New York's budget flight hub: Small airports close to large metro areas are reinvigorated by commercial attention**

New York Times, april 17, 2018 :

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. - As the baggage claim area at New York Stewart International Airport filled with passengers arriving from Dublin last month, the airport's manager of business development, Michael Torelli, shook his head with delight.

Just two years earlier, the airport, 67 miles north of New York City, had 275,000 passengers, its slowest year since the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey began running it 11 years ago. This year, passenger volume is projected to more than double that as the region rediscovers an airport with more land than Newark Liberty International Airport and just a tiny fraction of its passenger volume.

"Where are you going to get the space to build a new airport now?" Ed Harrison, general manager of Stewart Airport, asked.

The grounds include woodlands and a reservoir, giving the airport a rural feel. But the property, formerly a military airport, also contains an industrial park, a U.S. Department of Agriculture animal inspection center, three air cargo operators, an Air National Guard base and a runway long enough to handle the largest jetliners.

"We have 2,500 acres that are strategically located at the intersection of I-84 and 87, that now we're advertising with access to New York City by bus for \$20," Harrison said, referring to a shuttle service outside the passenger terminal. "The sky is the limit."

Some of the optimism about the airport's future is attributable to Norwegian Air International, a low-cost carrier based in Ireland that offers flights to the United States with one-way fares that often dip below \$100. "Stewart has enormous potential to be a real gateway airport to the New York area," said Rick Cotton, the Port Authority's executive director.

The agency has spent \$200 million during the past decade to improve the airport, and an additional \$30 million has been set aside for the construction of a 20,000-square-foot hall for international arrivals. When complete in 2019, the hall will be able to process 400 passengers an hour.

By focusing on a low-cost carrier identity, Stewart is part of a growing trend among airports in the United States. It is following a pattern established in Europe and Asia, where budget airlines have reinvigorated smaller airports on the outskirts of major cities, said Matthew J. Cornelius, vice president of air policy at Airport Council International, an industry group.

"They've had the ability to strengthen their power, and now the Europeans are coming across the Atlantic," Cornelius said.

Cornelius added that the international airlines were seeking smaller airports like Stewart. "They're used to operating at secondary airports, so it's a natural."

Several former military airports on the periphery of large metropolitan areas in the United States have been repurposed. Their prime location, along with assets like long runways and underlying infrastructure, can help communities keep up with increasing demand for air travel.

Traffic jams are frequent on the sole highway leading to Seattle Tacoma International Airport, which has grown over the past few years to become one of the nation's busiest airports. Sea-Tac, as it is known, served nearly 47 million travelers in 2017, a 25 percent increase over five years.

But 12 miles north in Snohomish County, away from the congestion on Interstate 5, a former military airfield called Paine Field was being used by Boeing for test flights and general aviation. It was ripe for commercial flights, said Brett Smith, chief executive of Propeller Airports in New

York, which is developing a passenger terminal at the airport with county officials.

The Alaska Airlines subsidiary Horizon Air, United Airlines and Southwest Airlines have announced that they will offer multiple daily flights at Paine Field while continuing service at Sea-Tac.

"The fact they're splitting their operation shows how much Seattle needs this," Smith said.

<http://www.bendbulletin.com/business/6174772-151/airport-adopts-new-identity-new-yorks-budget-flight>

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## **369th Sustainment Brigade**

### **Sgt. Johnson named Officer of the Year**

**Fulton County Express , April 18, 2018 :**

JOHNSTOWN - Sgt. Caitlin Johnson, a Johnstown resident, has been named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year by the New York Army National Guard's 369th Sustainment Brigade.

According to a release, Johnson, who joined the New York Army National Guard in Jan. 2014, serves as an intelligence analyst and human resource specialist in the 104th Military

Police Battalion. She was selected for the honor following a competition held at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill, Feb. 23-25.

The competition tests a non-commissioned officer's military knowledge, their ability to complete tasks involving weapons and equipment, and their physical fitness, the release states.

Johnson is set to compete against other sergeants from around the state for the New York Army National Guard honors in April. The winner of that competition goes to a regional event as part of the effort to find the best non-commissioned officer in the Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

Johnson holds three Army Achievement Medals, the Non commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

She is currently assigned as a full-time Guard Soldier at the headquarters of the 104th Military Police Battalion in Kingston.

She is currently taking classes online with the State University of New York's Empire State College.

<https://www.fultoncountyexpress.com/sgt-johnson-named-officer-of-the-year/>

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## **Johnstown woman selected as top NCO**

**Times Union April 15, 2018 :**

Sgt. Caitlin Johnson of Johnstown, Fulton County, has earned recognition as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in the New York Army National Guard's 369th Sustainment Brigade.

The sergeant is currently assigned as a full-time Guard soldier at the headquarters of the 104th Military Police Battalion in Kingston. Johnson, who joined the New York Army National Guard in January 2014, serves as an intelligence analyst and human resource specialist.

She was selected for the honor following a competition held at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill.

The competition tested a noncommissioned officer's military knowledge, ability to complete tasks involving weapons and equipment, and physical fitness. She will compete against other sergeants from around the state for the New York Army National Guard honors later this

spring. The winner of that competition goes to a regional event as part of the effort to find the best noncommissioned officer in the Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

Johnson has earned three Army Achievement Medals.

She is currently taking classes online with the State University of New York's Empire State College.

Soldiers promoted:

Theresa Meltz of Columbiaville was promoted to colonel in the New York Army National Guard's Medical Command.

Lance Woodard of Averill Park advanced to major while serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction).

Keith Casserly of Rexford was promoted to major while on duty with the Medical Command.

Paige Brunschmid of Johnsonville advanced to captain while assigned to the Division Signal Company, 42nd Infantry Division.

Tucker Brown of Gansevoort was promoted to captain while on duty with Operations Company, 42nd Infantry Division.

Ryan Gonch of Albany advanced to captain while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 104th Military Police Battalion.

Jeremy Walkley of Castleton was promoted to captain while on duty with Company E (Forward Support Company Brigade Engineering Battalion) 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion.

Christopher Rodriguez of Watervliet was promoted to staff sergeant while on duty with the 2nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction). Other soldiers promoted include:

Sergeant: Corey Brown, Saratoga, 206th Military Police Company; Sarah Degnan, Slingerlands, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation; Geraldine Francis, Troy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 369th Sustainment Brigade; Ryan Hogan, Albany, Company C, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation

Regiment; Adam Hulett, Castleton, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation;

and Alexander Owens, Selkirk, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry.

Specialist: Neiko Bianchino, Selkirk, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; Faitholivia Brown, Rotterdam, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; Xavier Dixon, Rotterdam, Operations Company, 42nd Infantry Division; Sophia Mausert,

Niskayuna, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th

Infantry; Khalil Rivers, Albany, Company B, 101st Signal Battalion; Andrew Valenza, Queensbury, Joint Force Headquarters; and Ellery Ward, Nassau, Company E (Forward Support Company Brigade Engineering Battalion) 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion.

New airmen

Air Force Airman 1st Class Andrew W. Bailey of Scotia, Air Force Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Nathan D. Black of Charlton, Air Force Airman 1st Class Kirsten M.

Daley of Rotterdam, Air National Guard Airman Adrianna N. Goman of Cohoes, and Air Force Airman Casey E. Helf of Albany, and Air Force Airman 1st Class James C. Ronca of Ballston Spa have graduated from basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio.

<https://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Jonhstown-woman-selected-as-top-NCO-12836247.php>

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## **Counter Drug Task Force**

### **New drug collection kit in Corning (Video)**

**My Twin Tiers.com, Apr 17, 2018:**

CORNING, N.Y. (18 NEWS) - A local police department now has a new drug collection kit installed in its lobby.

The City of Corning Police Department received the kit to give residents a safe place to dispose of unwanted prescription medications. Individuals can also drop off their unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.

The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force and the Steuben Prevention Coalition were key factors in implementing the collection kit donated by CVS Health.

This is a good alternative to National Drug Take Back Day, a day where local agencies serve as drop-off sites a couple of times a year.

"What we're finding is that people are out of town or not available during the drug take-back times," Lt. Kenzie Spaulding said. "So this is nice because our lobby is open 24/7 to give more community access to be able to do this when it's easier and convenient for them (other than every six months, the hours between 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M., to try and do that."

The police department still supports take-back day and will be participating in it this spring.

Proper disposal also helps prevent the local landfills and water supplies from being contaminated by unused medication.

<http://www.mytwintiers.com/news/local-news/new-drug-collection-kit-in-corning/1127610876>

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## **Corning PD now offers medication disposal**

**The Steuben Courier Advocate, April 17, 2018 :**

CORNING - The Corning Police Department increased access to safe medication disposal Monday afternoon by installing a new drug collection unit in the police department lobby.

Lt. Kenzie Spaulding said the unit will provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.

The drug collection unit is a part of CVS Health's Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program.

"The department received a drug collection unit to help our community safely dispose of unwanted medications, including controlled substances," said Police Chief Jeff Spaulding. "Our drug collection program will help rid our community of unwanted medications that may otherwise be stolen, diverted, abused or contaminate our water supply by improper disposal."

Steuben Prevention Coalition Program Coordinator Norman McCumiskey and New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force SFC Kyle King were key in facilitating the implementation of the drug collection unit donated by CVS Health.

"Our goal is to get (a drug collection unit) at every police department in the county," McCumiskey said.

Currently drug collection units are local in Canisteo, Hornell, Hammondsport and Corning police departments and work is underway to install a unit at the Painted Post Village Police Department.

"We are pleased to be able to provide this convenient drop-off location for prescription drugs," said City Manager Mark Ryckman. "It will help reduce the amount of unwanted medications in the community."

The new drug disposal unit will help to reduce the amount of unneeded medicine in residents' homes and decrease the potential for prescription drug abuse, which has soared in recent years, especially among teenagers.

More than 70 percent of teenagers say it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a Partnership for Drug-Free Kids study, officials said. Proper drug disposal also helps to prevent the contamination of local landfills and water supplies from unused medication.

The Medication Disposal for Safer Communities program has donated more than 800 drug collection units to police departments across the country, which have collected more than 100 metric tons of unwanted medication.

CVS Health also assists law enforcement by supporting local drug take back events and promoting local drug disposal collection sites. CVS Pharmacy locations have taken part in more than 800 events sponsored by local law enforcement as part of National Drug Take-Back Day.

The Corning Police Department's new Drug Collection Unit site is open to the public and drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked. Residents can also inquire about the Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program at the toll free phone number 1-866-559-8830 or visit <http://www.cvs.com/content/prescription-drug-abuse>.

<http://www.steubencourier.com/news/20180417/corning-pd-now-offers-medication-disposal>

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## **ESGR**

### **National Guard/Reservists are key to national security (Commentary)**

**syracuse.com, April 17, 2018:**

Paul J. Geiss, of Syracuse, is Central New York committee chairman of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). He can be reached at [paulg@saltcityabstract.com](mailto:paulg@saltcityabstract.com).

Traditionally, National Guard and Reservist members have always been referred to as "Weekend Warriors" because of their mandatory weekend drill meetings. Today, their total involvement makes them "Citizen Soldiers."

These voluntary service members are everyday citizens who take their patriotism for our country one immense step forward than most citizens by putting on a uniform and going where they are told to go, to do the job they have been trained to do. When deployed and



placed in harm's way, it is extremely stressful for the service members, their families and their employers.

Over the past 15 years, almost 1 million of these volunteer National Guard/Reservist members have been deployed for active duty. On any given day of the year, there are 20,000 to 25,000 members on active duty somewhere in the world. Their voluntary involvement defines the real importance of

National Guard/Reservist members because they now make up 50 percent of our total U.S. military force.

The reasons for this are two-fold. First is budget. It takes a lot of money to maintain, equip and pay for full-time military. Second, there is no longer a draft system. Without these willing voluntary service members, the U.S. would have to reinstate the draft to maintain necessary quotas, thereby subjecting your sons, daughters, nieces and nephews to the requirements of the Draft System. To continually eliminate the threat of a draft, it takes the continued involvement of these volunteer service members.

These members are unique, compared to the other 50 percent of full-time service members in that they also have civilian employers to deal with.

These employers are vital in enabling these service members to serve our country. Their active support, understanding and cooperation ensure the viability of this all-volunteer force, and thus our national security.

Herein lies the real importance of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense volunteer agency/program formed in 1972, with 4,600 volunteers nationwide. We are the link between the service members and their civilian employers. We provide ombudsman services, information, resources and assistance to resolve job-related issues. We inform and educate service members/employers regarding their rights and responsibilities under the federal law Uniformed Service Employment and

Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA), enacted by Congress in 1994. The law applies to all public and private employers in the U.S., including federal, state and local governments, and regardless of size. The law covers the employment, re-employment timetable, employment benefits and retention in employment when service members are absent from their civilian jobs. The law further protects against seniority issues, health insurance, training, discrimination and retaliation against said military members.

Congress provided the statutory authority for investigating alleged violations of USERRA to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The ESGR ombudsman services are neutral, free resources for employers and service member employees, providing information, consultation and mediation concerning USERRA compliance.

We encourage all employers in our Central New York area to add their names to our mailing list of invitees for the various USERRA briefings and events our committee host during the year.

[http://www.syracuse.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/04/national\\_guardreservists\\_are\\_key\\_to\\_national\\_security\\_commentary.html](http://www.syracuse.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/04/national_guardreservists_are_key_to_national_security_commentary.html)

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## **New York Army National Guard**

### **National Guard soldier promoted**

**NJ.com ,4/16/18:**

Major General Anthony P. German, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announced the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Fenellah Kargbo of Jersey City, who is assigned to the 145th Maintenance Company, received a promotion to the rank of Private First Class.

[http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2018/04/new\\_nimbus\\_board\\_members\\_school\\_receives\\_award\\_jou.html](http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2018/04/new_nimbus_board_members_school_receives_award_jou.html)

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## **Lancaster County military news:**

**Lancaster Online April 17, 2018:**

Promotion

Tatyana Belousov, of Lancaster, who is assigned to the New York Army

National Guard Headquarters, 27th Finance Management Battalion, received a promotion to the rank of captain.

Re-enlistment

Sgt. Timothy White, of Narvon, has re-enlisted to continue service with the New York Army National Guard Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade.

[https://lancasteronline.com/news/community/lancaster-county-military-news-april/article\\_c69b3e1c-42ad-11e8-95e6-53368a2f0d2a.html](https://lancasteronline.com/news/community/lancaster-county-military-news-april/article_c69b3e1c-42ad-11e8-95e6-53368a2f0d2a.html)

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## **World War I**

### **Joining the battle: New York soldiers left for WWI in April 1918**

**Saratogian, April 16, 2018:**

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. >> The move from Camp Upton, Long Island to France was supposed to be secret, but when the U.S. Army's 77th Division left in

March and April 1918, everybody in New York City -- the hometown for most of the 23,000 men -- seemed to know about it.

"Although the troops invariably left camp at night or very early in the morning, the racket the men made was quite indicative that a departure was in progress," the New York Times reported in June of 1918, after the Army officially announced the division was in France.

"They made great fires of waste straw from mattresses and shouted and sang until they boarded the trains. The men had liberal furloughs just before they sailed and they were allowed to have their relatives visit them even on the days they were to leave," the Times reported.

The division's official history, published in 1919, also admitted that the operations security was not the best.

"Although the departure of the Division had been kept secret, New York seemed to know intuitively that her Division was on its way. The office buildings were alive with waving hand-kerchiefs, and thousands of whistles sounded their blatant greetings," according to the "History of the Seventy

Seventh Division, August 25th 1917, and November 11th 1918."

The 77th Division was the New York City division. The 27th Division represented the whole state, with "apple knockers" from Albany and men from Utica and Syracuse and Buffalo making up the bulk of the division. More than 400,000 New Yorkers served in the military during World War I, more than any other state.

The National Guard's 69th Infantry Regiment and 15th Infantry Regiment - better known as the 369th Harlem Hell Fighters- did come from New York City, but they were units of 3,500 men each and they had left earlier.

The 77th Division's 23,000 Soldiers were recruited through the draft. The division was part of the "National Army," which did not have roots in the Regular Army or the National Guard.

The 77th was the first National Army division to be sent to France, in the wake of Regular Army and National Guard divisions which had been arriving since the fall of 1917.

"The men who formed it were from all classes of life, from peddlers and laborers to professional men and sons of the rich," according to the New York Times. "But within a short time the fifty nationalities represented were melted into a solid corps of American soldiers with racial distinction eliminated."

The division's soldiers supposedly represented 50 nationalities and spoke 43 languages along with English.

From Camp Upton, divisional units moved to New York City, Boston, Brooklyn, Hoboken, N.J., and Portland, Me. to board troop ships heading for France and Great Britain.

The first elements left March 27. The bulk of the division's four infantry regiments moved out by April 16.

Men put signs on their barracks announcing they were "for rent for the summer. Owner touring Europe," the New York Times reported.

Three soldiers in the 305th Infantry Regiment got married at midnight just before the unit departed, according to the Times. A train carrying part of the 305th derailed on the way to the port and three men were killed and 30 injured.

The first wave of troop ships assembled in Halifax, Nova Scotia, before heading to Liverpool, England in a massive troop convoy. The soldiers landed there after two weeks at sea at the end of April and were then ferried from Dover to Calais.

The rest of the division - the artillery and support troops - sailed later and landed directly in the French ports of St. Nazaire and Brest in early May.

Most soldiers of the American Expeditionary Force - the name for the U.S. Army in France - landed in St. Nazaire and trained with the French Army. The 77th was one of five American divisions which deployed behind the British Army in northern France.

The American soldiers were shocked when they were told to turn in their American-made 1903 Springfield rifles for the British Lee-Enfield rifle and began eating British Army rations.

That meant, according to the division history, "tea and jam for breakfast; jam, tea, and meat for dinner, and jam, tea and cheese for supper." The Americans, according to the history, went looking in French shops for additional food, and prices soared when French shopkeepers learned Americans were paid \$1.10 per day.

The 77th and four other divisions - including the New York National Guard's 27th Division - trained with the British and deployed behind the British Army in order to take advantage of every vacant training area in France, army officials said at the time.

Another reason, according to the book "The AEF Way of War: The American Army and Combat in World War I," was a commitment to help the British Army, which had been hit hard by the German "Kaiser Offensive" in March 1918. Worried about the arrival of 1 million American soldiers on the battlefields

of France, the Germans launched a last ditch attempt to defeat the British and French. The American Divisions were there in case they had to backstop the British.

But the German offensive ran out of steam and only two of these divisions, including the 27th, fought with the British.

But the New Yorkers learned the British way of trench warfare from soldiers of the British 39th Division. They learned British Army bayonet drill and how to use British machine guns instead of the French machine guns the rest of the AEF used.

Video on the National Archives Youtube channel - seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJiwyjI3X38> -- records the soldiers of the

77th Division training with the 39th Division.

The American soldiers also visited the British front lines in small groups, where they were "most impressed by the vast amount of shelling" according to the "AEF Way of War."

But while the AEF leadership appreciated the British bayonet training, they were not as impressed by the British trench warfare combat drills the 77<sup>th</sup> Division learned.

The goal of the American leadership was to break out of the trenches and begin "open warfare" in order to defeat the German Army as soon as possible.

The 77th Division would have to unlearn some of the British lessons in June 1918, when they were brought back home to the AEF in June 1918 and sent to the front, the first National Army division to see combat.

The New York City troops would find a welcome friend when the 77th Division entered combat. It replaced the National Guard's 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division near Baccarat, France in June 1918 which included the New York City Irishmen of the 165th Infantry, the new name of the famous "Fighting

69th". But the American Army's operational security was still shaky. As the 77th moved in, German observation balloons across no-man's land displayed signs saying "Good-bye, 42nd Division- Hello, 77th Division."

On June 24, 1918, the Germans started their real welcome for the New York City division by shelling the new troops with mustard and phosgene gas. The enemy fired approximately 3,000 rounds, resulting in 180 casualties, about 100 of which were severe.

The New Yorkers were now in the fight.

Information contained in this story is from the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs.

<http://www.saratogian.com/events/20180416/joining-the-battle-new-york-soldiers-left-for-wwi-in-april-1918>

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## **N.Y. Guard Soldiers survived U-boats, crowded ships in 1918**

**National Guard.mil , and Army.mil April 18, 2018:**

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. - As April 1918 became May, the 27,000 Soldiers of the New York National Guard's 27th Division left Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina, and boarded trains and ships heading for France where World War I was raging.

The 27th Division, which included all but two regiments of the New York National Guard, left New York in August and September 1917. There had been a massive parade down Fifth Avenue when the division left, and then eight months of training began.

Led by Maj. Gen. John F. O' Ryan, the National Guard Soldiers built their own camp, dug practice trenches and lived in them, learned to shoot, and reorganized for war. An influx of 2,300 "national army" draftees from Camp Upton on Long Island brought the division up to strength.

First to leave was the 107th Infantry Regiment, the old 7th Regiment of the New York National Guard. The 7th was famous as the "silk stocking regiment" filled with socially prominent members.

The regiment turned in old equipment and drew new gear, including swapping their 1903 Springfield rifles for the M1917, an American-made version of the British Lee-Enfield rifle.

The headquarters left Camp Wadsworth on April 28. The rest of the regiment left on April 29 for Newport News Virginia.

On May 9 the regiment boarded the USS Susquehanna and the USS Antigone, former German ocean liners which were now put to work carrying American troops who would fight German ones.

Fourteen ships carried the 107th Infantry from Newport News, Virginia, to Brest, France. The 12 days at sea were broken up by abandon ship drills, and Soldiers were assigned the duty of watching for German submarine periscopes.

The 106th Infantry left Camp Wadsworth on May 6 and boarded the troop transport USS President Lincoln - which has also been called the President Lincoln by its former owner the German Hamburg-Amerika Line- in Hoboken, New Jersey, on May 10.

The enlisted Soldiers, according to one writer, were packed into the hold in long aisles of bunks made of wood and chicken wire with straw mattresses.

The bunks were three or four high. " The bottom man was almost on the floor while the top man was practically against the ceiling," a Soldier recalled.

The portholes were closed at night to black out the ships against submarines. In the stifling hold men got seasick and vomited when the ship rolled.

One of those on board the President Lincoln was a 42-year old private named

Edward " Monk" Eastman, a member of G Company. Because he was 20 years older than most of the men they called him pops, according to author Neil Hanson.

Eastman had been a New York City gangster and commanded an army of 1,200 "pickpockets, thieves, thugs and prostitutes." But he'd caught a lengthy prison sentence in Sing Sing and when he got out his gang was gone, but his enemies still remained.

So Eastman decided to leave town. To do that he joined Brooklyn's 106th Infantry.

While getting his induction physical, he amazed his doctors, according to Hanson, the author of "Monk Eastman, the Gangster Who Became a War Hero."

There were razor and knife scars all over his body, as well as bullet wounds. His ears had been shredded in fights and his nose was flat. What battles had he been in, a doctor asked.

"Oh, just a lot of little private wars around New York," Eastman replied.

Monk Eastman may have been older than the other Soldiers but he was tough, according to Hanson. In France he earned a reputation for being fearless in battle.

There were stories of him single-handedly wiping out machine-gun nests, saving wounded Soldiers, and leaving his hospital bed to rejoin his unit.

When the 106th returned from France in 1919, Gov. Al Smith restored his voting rights, which he'd lost as a result of previous felony convictions.

Eastman and the other 3,287 members of the 106th got off the President Lincoln in Brest on May 25.

The President Lincoln loaded sick Soldiers heading back to the United States, left the harbor, and was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine on May 31.

None of the ships carrying 27th Division Soldier was sunk by a submarine.

But on May 29 a convoy carrying the division's headquarters company was attacked at 5:20 p.m. by a U-Boat, according to Ryan in his book "The Story of the 27th Division."

The American ships fired back, destroyers dropped depth charges and the submarine was reported destroyed.

Quarters on the ships were tight, but the men were well-fed and many of them spent time catching up on sleep, Ryan reported. Soldiers who could sing or dance or tell jokes put on shows. Movies were shown.

Other Soldiers published shipboard newspapers.

On board the USS Calamares a paper called "the Sea Serpent" which was described as a "mid-Atlantic version of "The Gas Attack and Rio Grande Rattler," the name of the division paper printed at Camp Wadsworth.

The paper had been named The Rio Grande Rattler when the New Yorkers served on the Texas border in 1917. It picked up the additional title Gas Attack at Camp Wadsworth.

The April 20th issue included stories from each unit, reports on camp sporting events, a cover drawing of a Soldier kissing a pretty girl, and an ad for ink tablets that would turn into ink for a fountain pen when water was added.

Soldiers could also find out what medals they could win in France, which included the War Service Chevron and the Wound Chevron.

By the beginning of June the 27th Division was in France and ready to begin training. But while the bulk of the American Expeditionary Force would train with the French Army, the 27th Division was one of 10 divisions that would be trained by the British.

In March, 1918 the German Army's "Kaiser Offensive"-a last ditch effort to win the war before the Americans arrived in force-had fallen on the British Army. The British had held, but just barely, and they wanted American troops to fill their depleted ranks, just as Soldiers from Australia and Canada did.

British leaders figured if they sent ships to bring American troops over, and then trained them, they would fight with the British.



The 27th Division Soldiers got ready to learn the British way of war and moved into northern France behind the British Army.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1497223/ny-guard-soldiers-survived-u-boats-crowded-ships-in-1918/>

[https://www.army.mil/article/204046/ny\\_guard\\_soldiers\\_survived\\_subs\\_and\\_crowded\\_ships\\_deploying\\_to\\_france\\_in\\_1918](https://www.army.mil/article/204046/ny_guard_soldiers_survived_subs_and_crowded_ships_deploying_to_france_in_1918)

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