



*To our Family and Friends,
Thank you for attending tonight's
Dining Out and for your continued
support of the 77th Sustainment
Brigade.*

Liberty Warriors...never forget

77th Sustainment Brigade "Liberty Warriors"



8th Annual Dining Out Commemorating the 77th Infantry Division's Activation in 1917

**Saturday, 9 September 2017
Tommy B's Community Activity Center
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**

Sequence of Events

Cocktail & Social Hour

Receiving Line—Mess Call

Opening of the Mess

Arrival of the Official Party *

National Anthem

Invocation

Opening Remarks

Toasts & Fallen Comrades Ceremony

Dinner

The 78th Army Band

Guest Speaker: Mr. Robert J. Laplander

The Irvington High School JROTC Drill Team

The Army Song

Retiring of the Colors

Benediction

Dancing

***Please stand and remain standing**

TOASTS:

1. "I propose a toast to the Commander -in -Chief"

RESPONSE: "To the President"

2. "I propose a toast to the Armed Forces of the United States"

RESPONSE: "To the Armed Forces"

3. "I propose a toast to the United States Army"

RESPONSE: "To the Army"

4. "I propose a toast to the 77th Sustainment Brigade"

RESPONSE: "Liberty Warriors, Never Forget"

5. "I propose a toast to the Friends and Families of the 77th"

RESPONSE: "To our Honored Guests"

6. "I propose a toast to the Ladies"

RESPONSE: "To the Ladies"

(Toasted after ladies have been seated)

FALLEN COMRADES TABLE

The small table located in the front symbolizes the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors.

The white table cloth represents the purity of their response to our country's call to arms.

The empty chair depicts an unknown face, representing no specific Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman, but rather all who are not here with us. The table is round to show that our concern for them is never ending.

The Bible represents faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as One Nation under God.

The black napkin symbolizes the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends.

The single red rose reminds us of the families and loved ones. The red ribbon represents the love of our country which inspired them to answer their Nation's call.

The yellow candle and its ribbon symbolize the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those yet unaccounted for.

The slice of lemon on the bread plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt upon the bread plate represents the tears of their families.

And finally, the wine glass turned upside down reminds us that our distinguished comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in the festivities this evening.

CSM: "To honor our Brothers and Sisters who gave their tomorrow for our today, please stand as I propose a silent toast to our Fallen Comrades." *RESPONSE:* Silence

Guest Speaker, Robert J. Laplander



Author and historian Robert John Laplander was born February 23rd, 1966 in Tucson, Arizona and grew up in Northern and Southeastern Wisconsin. The study of American participation in the First World War, and in particular the activities of the 1st Corps of the American 1st Army during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, has been a lifelong passion. His specific research into the 'Lost Battalion' of the 77th Division spans 20 years and is by far the most extensive ever done in their regard. His book on the subject, *Finding the Lost Battalion: Beyond the Rumors, Myths and Legend of America's Famous WW1 Epic*, has become the benchmark work on that event, for which he is recognized the world over. This work led to his being a featured figure in the television event 'The Great War'; a 6-hour, 3-part record of America's contributions in WW1 presented as part of the American Experience series for PBS in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the war in April, 2017.

He has also provided professional development lectures for the US Army to both the old 77th Regional Readiness Command and the 78th (Training) Division and still lectures to groups of all kinds on both the Lost Battalion and the American experience in WW1 in general. Mr. Laplander is also a partner in the US WW1 Centennial Commission, managing both Doughboy MIA, a site which tracks all missing US service personnel from the war, and The Lost Battalion portions of the Commission's massive web presence.

He is also currently engaged in several other written works, among which is a biography of the commander of the Lost Battalion, Charles Whittlesey. He lives with his wife, Trinie, and their three children in the small town of Waterford, Wisconsin where he is a semi-professional musician and songwriter.

"The Army Goes Rolling Along"

INTRO: March along, sing our song, with the
Army of the free
Count the brave, count the true, who have
fought to victory
We're the Army and proud of our name
We're the Army and proudly proclaim

VERSE: First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

REFRAIN: Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong (TWO!
THREE!)
For where e'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

Campaign Participation Credit

World War I

Oise-Aisne

Meuse-Argonne

Champagne 1918

Lorraine 1918

World War II

Western Pacific

Leyte (with Arrowhead)

Ryukyus

War on Terrorism

Campaigns to be determined

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered
IRAQ 2011

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17
October 1944 to 4 July 1945

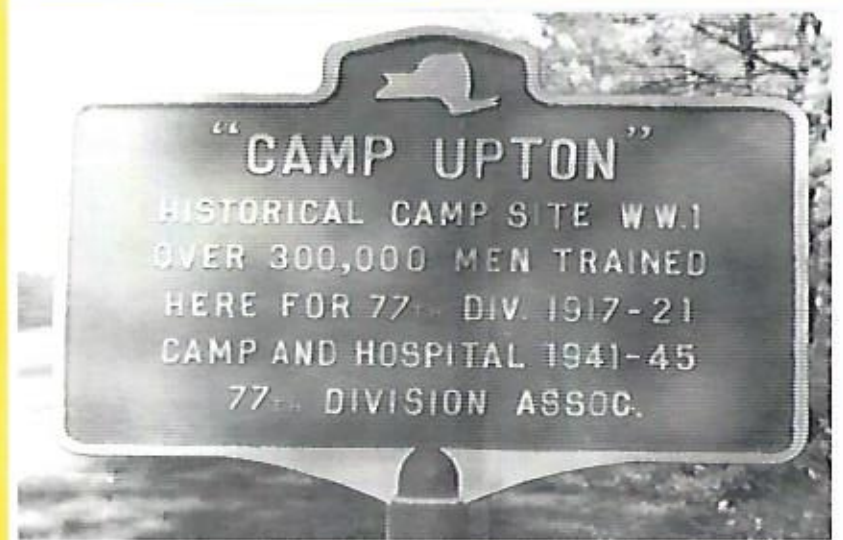


In September 1918, five hundred 77th Infantry Soldiers led by Major Charles Whittlesey were trapped in a small depression of a hill, surrounded by Germans in the Meuse-Argonne. After the first day, only two hundred of Whittlesey's "lost battalion" were left. As a result, they were receiving friendly fire from the Americans.

Whittlesey sent two homing pigeons asking for help, but both were shot down. The friendly fire continued until a pigeon named Cher Ami was released with the message: "We are along the road parallel to 276.4. Our own artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven's sake, stop it."

Cher Ami was wounded in his breast, blinded in one eye, and his leg dangled by a tendon. But the metal case carrying the message was still attached, and he enabled the men to get out of enemy territory safely.

The surviving 194 men ensured he received the best medical care and even carved a tiny wooden leg to replace the one injured. The French Army awarded him their *Croix de guerre* medal for bravery. Cher Ami became a famous hero, and he was personally seen off by General Pershing on his boat voyage back home. Cher Ami died less than a year later due to complications from his injuries. He was stuffed and is kept on display at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.



When the United States entered the First World War in 1917, there was no standing army. It was decided to build a base where they could train the New York area inductees. The proposed army base was to be named Camp Upton, after Civil War figure Major General Emery Upton. The recruits came from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut the heart of the 77th Division. Officially formed before the first draftee arrived in camp, the 77th was to gain recognition for its valor at the Argonne Forest in August of 1918.



RIFLE DRILL, CAMP UPTON, YAPHANK, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

202791

Statement of Service

Headquarters and Special Troops Battalion
77th Sustainment Brigade
(Statue of Liberty)

Constituted 5 August 1917 in the National Army as Headquarters, 77th Division

Organized 18 August 1917 at Camp Upton, New York

Demobilized 9 May 1919 at Camp Upton, New York

Reconstituted 24 June 1921 in the Organized Reserve as Headquarters, 77th Division

Ordered into active military service 25 March 1942 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Reorganized and redesignated 1 August 1942 as Headquarters, 77th Infantry Division

Inactivated 15 March 1946 in Japan

Activated 1 November 1946 at New York, New York

(Organized Reserves redesignated 25 March 1948 as the Organized Reserve Corps; redesignated 9 July 1952 as the Army Reserve)

Reorganized and redesignated 1 May 1949 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 77th Infantry Division

Inactivated 30 December 1965 at New York, New York

Redesignated 12 April 2006 as the 77th Sustainment Brigade

Activated 18 September 2008 at Fort Dix, New Jersey (organic elements concurrently constituted and activated)

Ordered into active military service 22 January 2011 at Fort Dix, New Jersey; released from active military service 26 December 2011 and reverted to reserve status

77th Sustainment Brigade Key Personnel

COL Pamela L. McGaha	Brigade Commander
CSM Brian R. Ladlee	Brigade CSM
LTC (P) Thomas Sullivan	Deputy Commander
LTC Keith Nason	SPO Operations
Mrs. Janice Santiago	Brigade SSA
LTC Richard Tea	Surgeon
CPT Peter Hartje	S-1
MAJ Bronislav Nudel	S-2
CPT Albert Tew	S-3
MAJ Vincent Tam	S-6
MAJ Michael Engel	CJA
SSG David Clemenko	PAO
CH (MAJ) Edward Paul	Chaplain
LTC Bruce Kish	STB Commander
CSM Keith Magee	STB CSM
CPT Joseph Leniart	HHC Commander
1SG Gregory Remenicky	HHC 1SG
LTC Aleksander Kask	354th MCB CDR
CSM Solomon Williams	354th MCB CSM
LTC Kevin S McGuire	389th CSSB CDR
CSM Carol Cox	389th CSSB CSM
LTC Charles Valdes	436th MCB CDR
CSM Craig Hyson	436th MCB CSM
LTC Diane Richburg	462nd MCB CDR
SGM Harrington Henry	462nd MCB CSM