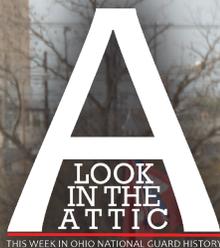


March 22-28, 2020



THROUGH THE LENS:

March 27, 2008: Lt. Col. John Dernberger leads the Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during a mobilization ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

March 24, 1942: The **216th Engineer Battalion** is constituted in the Army of the United States as Headquarters, 14th Ordnance Battalion.

March 25, 1863: The first Medals of Honor are awarded to six Ohio Soldiers by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. The Soldiers were members of Andrews Raiders, a group of 22 men who volunteered to conduct a military raid in northern Georgia.

March 27, 1911: Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion is organized in Cincinnati as Troop C, 1st Cavalry Squadron.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: The first Medal of Honor

"We then called on the Secretary of War, accompanied by our friends, Major General Hitchcock and J.C. Wetmore, Ohio State Agent. Generals Sigel and Stahl, with many other distinguished personages, were in waiting, but we were given the preference, and at once admitted.

The Secretary conversed with us most affably for some time. Then going into another room, he brought out six medals, and presented them to us, saying that they were the first ever given to private soldiers. Jacob Parrott, the boy who endured the terrible beating, received, as he well deserved, the first one.

He next presented us with one hundred dollars each, and ordered all arrearages to be paid, and the money and the value of the arms taken from us to be refunded.

This was not all. He requested Governor Todd to promote each of us to first lieutenants in the Ohio troops; and if he failed to do so, promised to give us that grade in the regular army. We then received furloughs to visit our homes, and left his presence profoundly convinced that "republics are" not always "ungrateful."

William Pittenger, 2d Ohio Volunteer Infantry and member of Andrews Raiders



Andrews Raiders monument erected by the State of Ohio at the Chattanooga National Cemetery in Tennessee.