



THROUGH THE LENS:

July 30, 1986: 1st Sgt. Kenneth Van Sickle of the 1484th Transportation Company squats below the company guidon while looking over a manual during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

July 28, 1918: The 166th Infantry, on the left of the 42d Division, attack German defenses along the Ourcq River.

July 31, 1876: **Troop C, 2d Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment** is organized in Hillsboro as the Scott Dragoons.

July 31, 1943: Pfc. Frank Petrarca of the Medical Detachment, 145th Infantry and Pvt. Rodger Young of Company B, 148th Infantry, are both killed during the Battle for Munda Airfield on the island of New Georgia. Both would be awarded the Medal of Honor for their final heroic deeds.

August 1, 1943: Lt. Col. Addison Baker, formerly of the 112th Observation Squadron, is shot down in his B-24 Bomber over Ploesti, Romania and is later awarded the Medal of Honor.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

PVT HERSCHEL F. PENCE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF PFC FRANK PETRARCA HEROISM

"I have personal knowledge of, and was an eyewitness to the following act:

On July 31, 1943, I was in a foxhole on Horseshoe Ridge, along with Private Nemcek. We were under very intense enemy machine gun fire coming from only 20 yards to the front. Our position was about 8 yards to the front of most of the adjacent troops. At 1430L Private Nemcek was hit and seriously wounded by hostile mortar fire. Private First Class Petrarca started to come to the aid of Private Nemcek, but when I noticed how exposed we were, and how intense the fire was, I shouted a warning to him to wait for a better opportunity. He did not heed the warning. From behind us, he raced up the slope of the hill to the crest, and started to work his way across the crest to where we were. He was fully exposed to the same machine gun fire which had pinned us down. He tried to get to our position, but was hit by knee mortar fragments when he was only two yards from us. Even after he had fallen, he got to his knees, yelled in defiance at the Japanese, and tried to continue to our positions. Unfortunately for us, as well as for the entire company, he had been mortally wounded, and was unable to go any further.

In many instances, Private First Class Petrarca worked ceaselessly to give us medical assistance; in this instance he gave his life in the attempt. His presence in our platoon was very much an asset to us. His loss was our greatest."

