



THROUGH THE LENS:

March 11, 1919: Soldiers from the 136th Field Artillery, 37th Division board the USS Connecticut at Brest, France for their return to the United States.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

March 8, 1927: The U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office approves the coat of arms for the 107th Cavalry Regiment.

March 8-11, 1944: On Bougainville, Japanese forces attack the 145th Infantry at Hill 700. After five days of bitter fighting, the attack is repulsed with the help of the 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry. The Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to four 37th Infantry Division units for their part in the battle.

CONNECTING TO THE COLLECTIONS: Uniform Coat, 1st Lt. Clinton McLaughlin



945th Engineer Company

Clinton McLaughlin was a member of Norwalk's Company G, 145th Infantry when the unit was inducted into Federal Service in October 1940. Following the battle of New Georgia, he was given a direct commission as a second lieutenant and was a platoon leader in Company G when the Japanese attacked the American perimeter at Hill 700 in March 1944. McLaughlin was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his courageous leadership in defense of a key sector along the perimeter.

McLaughlin's officer service coat is half of the famous "Pinks and Greens" uniform worn by Army officers from the 1920s to 1959. The brownish green four button coat ("greens") were worn with lighter colored trousers with a slight pinkish hue ("pinks") and is the inspiration for the new Army Green Service Uniform. McLaughlin's coat contains his insignia and decorations as worn when he returned from the Pacific in 1945 and includes his ribbons for the Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

