

March 22-28, 2021



### THROUGH THE LENS March 24, 1944

Lt. George Martin of the 37th Signal Company squats behind a jeep as he keeps radio contact to the rear during a Japanese infiltration of the 2d Battalion, 129th Infantry perimeter on Bougainville.

### 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.

### CONNECTING TO THE COLLECTIONS

SERGEANT JAMES JARDINE MEDAL OF HONOR

As a member of Company F, 54th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Sgt. James Jardine was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry displayed as he led a volunteer storming party during the Battle of Vicksburg on May 22, 1863. Jardine was later promoted to first lieutenant and was presented the medal in April 1894. Jardine was born in Scotland and came to the United States with his family in the 1850s. Jardine passed away in 1922 at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky and is buried in the home's cemetery.

His medal was donated to the Ohio National Guard in the 1980s. It is the 1904 design of the medal and the version currently in use. It is believed the original medal awarded to Jardine was stolen with other personal belongings when he spent some time in the western United States. The staff at the Ohio Veterans Home assisted him in obtaining the replacement medal after he obtained residency at the home in the early 20th century.

The medal is officially described as a gold, five pointed star, each point tipped with trefoils, 1½ inches wide, surrounded by a green laurel wreath and suspended from a gold bar inscribed "VALOR" surmounted by an eagle. In the center of the star, Minerva's head surrounded by the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA." On each ray of the star is a green oak leaf. On the reverse is a bar engraved "THE CONGRESS TO" with a space for engraving the name of the recipient.

