

PENNSYLVANIA TRAIL OF HISTORY



28th DIVISION SHRINE

A Park with Monuments
Honoring a Famous
Pennsylvania Division

Administered by
THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

The 28th Division Shrine on the *Pennsylvania Trail of History* at Boalsburg commemorates the achievements and sacrifices of the men of America's oldest army division of modern composition, Pennsylvania's 28th.

This simple park has its meaning in the monuments and tablets which honor the valiant officers and soldiers who served their country in the 28th in World War I. Though its peaceful atmosphere contrasts sharply with the destruction and brutality of war, its memorials recall vividly the dedication of many who left their homes to serve in Europe, some never to return.

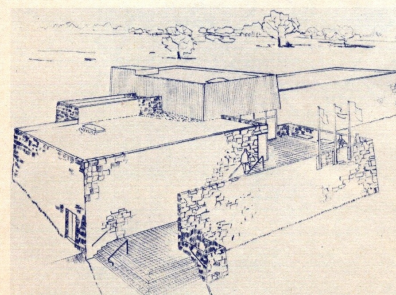
The 28th was created as a division of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen in 1878 by Governor John F. Hartranft. Several units which were incorporated in the division had their origin in the first years of American independence.



The division, designated the 28th in 1917, was sent to France in May, 1918. Assigned to a "quiet sector," it found itself in the path of the Germans' last big offensive, and stood its ground in the second Battle of the Marne. The 28th also served with distinction in the campaigns of Lorraine, Champagne, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, and Meuse-Argonne.

The 28th returned to France in July, 1944, six weeks after D-Day. It took part in the liberation of Paris and was the first division to invade western Germany. It fought in the battle of Huertgen Forest and, though outnumbered, stubbornly resisted the German offensive in the Battle of the Bulge. The 28th contributed more than 6,000 men to the Korean fighting; the division itself was assigned to the defense of western Europe.

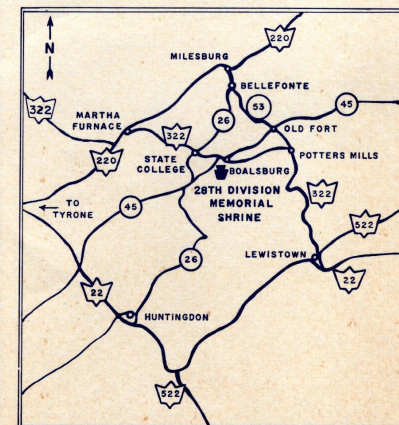
The first memorial to the 28th was erected by Colonel Theodore Boal, from whose family Boalsburg takes its name, and by his fellow members in the 28th Division Officers Club. Under Colonel Boal's guiding hand, and supported by his donation of land near his home, the shrine grew. In 1934 the Society of the 28th Division A.E.F. was organized and continued the development of the shrine.



Proposed Museum

One of its most prominent features is a stone wall containing tablets commemorating the officers of the division killed in World War I. Before the wall monuments have been placed memorializing its various units, these memorials being distributed in the same relative positions that the units held during the Battle of the Vesle River. In the center of the wall the Commonwealth has erected a monument to Colonel Boal. Other memorials dot the landscape. The men of the 28th Division who fought in World War II will receive a just tribute here also.

The Commonwealth purchased the site in 1931, and placed it in the custody of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1957.



Visiting Hours

Visitors may visit the shrine any time until sunset.
Telephone: Boalsburg, Code 814, 466-6263