

**STEELES BRIDGE
100 YEAR MEMORIAL
EVENT**



Remembrance Service
June 16, 2018
3:00pm
810 Bridge Mill Ave
Canton, GA 30114

Order of Memorial

Present the Colors	Cherokee County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard
Opening Remarks	Christian Stevens 82nd Airborne Ranger veteran
Prayer	Col. Blair Davis Georgia National Guard Chaplain 82nd Division veteran
Kaddish	Rabbi Barry Coffski USAF veteran
Pledge of Allegiance	Christian Stevens
Historical Lecture	Michael Hitt Roswell Police officer (ret), Army veteran
Laying of the Wreath	328th Inf., 82nd Div., WWI reenactment Honor Guard
21 Gun Salute Honor Guard	Cherokee County multi-agency
Taps	Don Ware, bugler, In Their Honor Transports
Amazing Grace	Scott McAliley, bag piper Cherokee Celtic Fife and Drum

In remembrance of former soldiers of the 82nd Division, part of the Gordon Expeditionary Force,
killed June 16, 1918.

Scott Abraham Marquisee
Corp. Samuel F. Smith
Pvt. Ernest Rhinesmith

One hundred years ago country patriotism and the anti-draft movement clashed. Some men deserted military training camps while others refused to report to duty when ordered. These men were known as "slackers."

In 1918, about fifty men were hiding out in the hills of southern Cherokee County to escape military duty. Ten of these men were deserters from Camp Wheeler. They took their government issued weapons with them and they banded together for security.

This number was too large for the US Marshall's office to go after, so troops from Camp Gordon, were called upon for help. Fifty volunteers, known for being "crack shots", were selected. Many of these soldiers were former members of the 82nd Division that had been left behind, for different reasons, when the division left for Europe.

On June 16, 1918, at 0100 hours, this army secret mission, known as the Gordon Expeditionary Force, moved north along the Canton Road, from Marietta. With this convoy were agents from the Justice Department, the IRS, the Deputy US Marshall's office, a Marietta Police Officer, two Selective Service majors, the personal secretary of Georgia Governor, Hugh Dorsey and newspaper men from the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution.

Several homes on the Cobb/ Cherokee County line were searched for deserters and other evidence. Personnel in the government convoy then cut phone lines between the two counties to prevent anyone from being warned of the army's mission.

When the convoy reached Steele's Bridge, the first three cars passed safely over. When the first truck entered the bridge, it fell through the flooring due to sabotage. Main beams had been cut all the way through, some partly through and then small boards were nailed over the cuts. This cutting created a "trap door". The truck fell forty feet into the Etowah River, spilling men and landing upside down upon them.

One of those that lost their life was the expeditions medic, Sgt. Marquiss. Corp. Smith, had put aside his ten day pass, to visit his parents, to be part of the mission. He would return home but only to be buried. Pvt. Rhinesmith would leave behind a young widow.

May we take the time to remember these men who had answered their country's, "Call to Duty".