



Message from the Editorial Team

In his secretary-general's message, Tony Bijkerk mentions "important news" that you will read elsewhere in this issue. I guess that's here. However, you'll have to be the judge of its importance. After this issue I will reluctantly step down as editor of the *Journal*.

For me it's a bittersweet move. Bitter because I enjoy helping to put out this magazine, working closely with Tony, who will resume his old role as editor, and Harry Gordon. Sweet because I am now under contract to write several books about New York City's National Guard regiments in World War One. (That's a far cry from Olympic history, I know.) The first book, "Duty, Honor, Privilege: New York's Silk Stocking Regiment and the Breaking of the Hindenburg Line," is done. Work on the second book will carry me through the next two years.

I wandered into Olympic history in the mid-1980s when my son was a track and field athlete in high school. He competed in the decathlon and while watching him I thought what a great event, there ought to be a book written about its history. Thus I began a decade-long Odyssey, collecting bits and pieces of information on these ten-event men. Along the way I discovered the International Society of Olympic Historians and worked with Bill Mallon, Tony, Harry. In fact, Bill and I first met in Atlanta where we were among a number of ISOH members to write, edit and serve as advisors for S.E.A Multimedia's CD-ROM history "Olympic Gold." I never wrote that decathlon book.

But for years I had this story idea tucked away in the back of my mind about New York City's old Seventh Regiment in World War One. (Paul Pilgrim, the 1906 400- and 800-meter champion, was a member of the Seventh.) My great uncle was a private in that regiment and I had read all his letters home from the Western Front. On 29 September 1918, the Seventh struck the center of the Hindenburg Line and lost more killed on a single day than any other United States regiment in American history.

In the meantime, I will keep a hand in Olympic history. I will stay on as the *Journal's* associate editor. And some day I just might write that book on the history of the Olympic decathlon.

Stephen L. Harris, Editor

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