

Lieutenant General James C. Dozier, U.S. Army

First Lieutenant James C. Dozier received his Medal of Honor citation for World War I and service in 1918: "In command of two platoons, 1st Lt. Dozier was painfully wounded in the shoulder early in the attack, but he continued to lead his men, displaying the highest bravery and skill. When his command was held up by heavy machine-gun fire, he disposed his men in the best cover available and with a soldier continued forward to attack a machine-gun nest. Creeping up to the position in the face of intense fire, he killed the entire crew with hand grenades and his pistol and a little later captured a number of Germans who had taken refuge in a dugout nearby."

Biography: James C. Dozier was born on 17 February 1885, at Galivants Ferry, South Carolina (SC). The descendant of a long line of Palmetto State Citizen-Soldiers who had served from the American Revolution through the Spanish–American War, Dozier began his military career with Company H, 118th Infantry Regiment on 3 September 1904.

In August 1916, Dozier was sent with the 118th Infantry Regiment to El Paso, TX. There, they joined Brig. Gen. John J. "Blackjack" Pershing's Punitive Expedition to protect U.S. border towns from Mexican General Pancho Villa. Company H returned home to SC in December. Four months later on 16 April 1917, Dozier's unit was activated for World War I. While training at Camp Sevier, Dozier was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in July and 1st Lt. in November. His unit departed for France on 11 May 1918.

Between May and September 1918, the 118th Infantry Regiment trained and moved through the allied lines to become the first American force to face Germany's Hindenburg Line on 27 September 1918. Over the next month, the regiment advanced through 18,000 yards of enemy territory, 15,000 yards of which was made while the regiment was in the front line spearheading numerous attacks. However, it was at Montbrehain on 8 October 1918, Dozier became one of six SC National Guardsmen to receive the Medal of Honor.

On the morning of 8 October, G Company was ordered "Over the Top." The unit advanced approximately one mile before its commander was wounded and Dozier, who had already been shot in the shoulder by a sniper, assumed command. Soon after, the Germans sent out half a dozen machine gun crews in advance of their line. According to Dozier one was particularly well advanced. Locating the source of trouble, Dozier signaled his company to lie down and seek as much concealment as possible. He then ordered a machine gun crew to fire just over the heads of the German gunners so they couldn't look over the top of the pit in which they were concealed. Dozier and Private Callie Smith advanced on the left flank of the machine gunners until they were within 20 yards of the enemy. Dozier signaled his machine gun crew to quit firing and dashed upon the Germans in the hole. Dozier and Smith knocked out the entire squad of seven machine gunners in this advanced position. Dozier led his men until all the machine gun nests had been silenced and G Company's objective had been taken. He and the unit also captured approximately 470 prisoners. At this point, the "Great War" was over for Dozier. He spent the next three months in hospitals recuperating from his wound. On 21 January 1919, General Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force presented the Medal of Honor to Dozier.

Citizen-Soldier Returns Home: When the 118th returned to Camp Jackson (now Ft. Jackson) from overseas, the U.S. government was gearing up for a "Victory Liberty Loan

Campaign” to raise \$4.5 billion in war bonds to pay off the nation’s debt from World War I. Dozier’s achievement was selected by the government as one of the 12 most remarkable exploits during the war. He and 11 other Medal of Honor recipients spent three weeks touring the country and helping to raise \$5.2 billion in bond subscriptions.

After completing this mission, Dozier returned to civilian life. He also continued his courtship with Tallulah Little, whom he had corresponded with throughout the war. The two were married the following June in Laurens.

Dozier Honors a Friend: Dozier rejoined the SC National Guard on 1 December 1920, to organize the “Frank Roach Guards,” of Rock Hill in honor of Roach, a fellow Rock Hill Soldier from Company H who lost his life in Flanders Field. On 1 September 1921, Dozier was promoted to Major and assigned to command 3rd Battalion of the 118th Infantry Regiment. On 1 January 1923, he was appointed secretary of the State Board of Welfare, which he held until the unexpected death of Adjutant General Robert E. Craig. A week later on 22 January 1926, Maj. Dozier was appointed The Adjutant General (TAG) by Governor Thomas C. McLeod to fill the unexpired term of Craig. At the time, Guard strength consisted of 2,104 officers and men. The Guard had two armories, one in Columbia, and one in Beaufort. The annual budget was \$118,812.00.

Adjutant General of South Carolina: Shortly after becoming TAG, Dozier was asked by the War Department to take over custody of Camp Jackson (Ft. Jackson), which had been abandoned by the Army in 1922. He helped preserve the Camp and grew it between the World Wars and during the Great Depression (1929–1939). In fact, Dozier Hall at Ft. Jackson was dedicated in his honor on 15 May 1998 by Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, SC TAG and Maj. Gen. John A. Fan Alstynein, a past commander of Ft. Jackson.

In 1928, Camp Jackson was chosen as a training center for the 30th “Old Hickory” Division. Following the stock market crash the next year, non-farming jobs became scarce across the state. Dozier determined to help the unemployed by seeking Works Progress Administration (WPA) funding for Camp Jackson and construction of armories and Guard facilities throughout SC. Although it would take another four years to receive WPA funds for new armories, funds were allocated for Dozier’s new construction and maintenance projects at Camp Jackson and repairs at Ft. Moultrie’s Guard facilities.

In 1936, the Guard dedicated 23 new armories and received funding for seven more. Dozier’s efforts to help SC communities were so successful, the WPA awarded money in 1938 to construct 5 additional armories and another \$154,980 to improve and repair Camp Jackson. This put the camp in what Dozier called “first-class condition” for the more than 8,000 Guard Soldiers from the 30th Division who used the camp each year. These improvements proved tremendously beneficial when the Army’s 6th Division reactivated Camp Jackson following Hitler’s successful Blitzkrieg into Poland in November 1939.

In September 1940, the winds of war were again blowing across the nation and the 118th Infantry Regiment was activated. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, all 3,671 Guardsmen were activated for World War II. To ensure key logistical installations throughout the state continued to be protected, the SC Legislature adopted Act No. 54 establishing the SC Defense Force to serve in the absence of the Guard. Dozier immediately organized State Guard units in 80 towns, with a strength of 6,000 men.

After World War II, the National Guard had to be completely reorganized and rebuilt. In December 1946, the process began, and Dozier became an advocate for General George C. Marshall's plan for the post-war National Guard. Marshall believed a bigger, more powerful, well-funded National Guard would help deter future aggression by America's enemies. A good portion of the reorganization and rebuilding Dozier undertook in 1946, included the development of the SC Air National Guard. The Guard received 25 P-51s, one C-47, and 4 AT-26s at Congaree Air Base. By the following July, 94 of the 116 new Army Guard units were also organized. The number of personnel authorizations continued to increase, and by 1950, there were 12,683 SC soldiers and airmen serving.

In 1951, Dozier's 25-year effort to acquire appropriations from the SC Legislature for new armory construction came to fruition. The state provided \$350,000 under an agreement with the federal government, which provided 75 percent of the cost of building the armories. As a result, 14 new armories were built. In 1957, funding for 10 additional armories and the renovation of eight old ones was also approved by the Legislature.

By Dozier's retirement on 19 January 1959, he had received many awards and accolades from national leaders. The SC National Guard's budget had grown from \$119K in 1926 to \$6.2M in 1959. Dozier had accomplished the greatest and most permanent achievement ever accomplished during the term of office of any Adjutant General, the construction of permanent armories throughout the state. Appropriately, Dozier will forever be synonymous with the SC National Guard.

Military Awards: Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, Mexican Service Medal, World War I Victory Medal with three battle clasps, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Military Cross (UK), Chevalier of the Legion of Honour (France), and Croix de guerre with Palm (France).

Masonic History: Columbia Lodge #326 in Columbia, SC and National Sojourner