

The Miami Valley Military History Museum



First Quarter 2013 Newsletter



March 1945 – Iwo Jima secured



CURATOR'S CORNER

Over the past quarter we've received a number of donations that have helped us fill gaps in our collection of artifacts – many from the families of local veterans. Additionally, we've been busy with requests for presentations and artifact displays; in February, we were the guests of a local Lions Club, which led to a sizeable donation of artifacts of an officer who served on the Mexican Border and both World Wars. At the end of March, we provided a number of artifacts for the State of Ohio commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Thanks to that publicity, we were contacted by a former Scout Dog handler who donated a very nice drawing made by a combat artist in Vietnam as well as some scarce Scout Dog artifacts. One of our upcoming projects is to help the town of London, Ohio with their July celebration honor veterans from all of America's wars.

Memorial Day will soon be here, which means another Patriot Freedom Festival (PFF). Now in its ninth year, the PFF will be held on May 25th and 26th, with plenty of historical and family activities. See the schedule of events later in this issue for even more free activities!

Respectfully,

Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET
Curator

DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:

- Thanks to Mrs. Cyndy Slone, we received a sizeable grouping of uniforms, insignia and photographs from the service of her father (Ora Howell) and uncle (Luther Howell) who served in World War II, and her cousin (William Howell, pictured at right), who served during Vietnam. One of the unique artifacts is a Japanese Army bugle taken by her father while fighting on Guadalcanal.



- The family of Lt John Fossen sent us their items from his career in WWII. He enlisted in mid-1941 and was promoted to Sergeant by early 1942. In 1943 he attended Officer Candidate School and served the remainder of the war as an artillery officer, serving in the European Theater.

- We received an amazing group of artifacts from the family of Colonel Walter Leroy Abrams, that spans his service on the Mexican border, WWI and WWII.

- I was contacted by SSg Mike Linscott, a Scout Dog handler who served in Vietnam. He'd seen the advertisements for the Vietnam commemoration, and had some items he'd been trying to donate to several US Army museums - all who turned him down. He met me at the Statehouse with this drawing done by a combat artist; he bought the drawing and mailed it home, where his parents had it framed.



- The local newspaper ran an article about a Chaplain recently returned from Afghanistan - we've got uniforms from an Army and Navy Chaplain, so I sent him a letter asking if he had an extra one to donate so we'd have a Chaplains top from each service. He called me Wednesday and we agreed to meet when I came back from setting up the Vietnam display in the State capitol. Not only did he bring a multicam top, but a complete uniform - blouse, pants, hat, riggers belt, t-shirt, socks, hat and boots! AND, one of his older Chaplains Combat Kits! The multicam uniform with Air Force insignia is uncommon in itself, but to be from a Chaplain and to receive the Combat Kit is the icing on the cake!



DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP (Continued):

We've been helping the 4 Freedom Equestrian Team with some of their displays that showcase the history of military horses for their monthly *Share and Care Program* for the patients at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center – one thing they'd been looking for was an original McClellan cavalry saddle. Luckily, a former veteran donated a saddle, which the team has graciously allowed us to display in between their programs.

Space doesn't permit an individual listing of all the donations we've received, but we want to thank the following groups and/or individuals (*an asterisk indicated multiple donations*):

John and Robin Fowler (Ohio)	Linda Shirkey California)
Susan Honour (Virginia)	*The Church Family (Washington State)
Casey Bauer (Ohio)	The Pittstick Family (Ohio)
Pearl Hissong (Ohio)	Debbie Tucker (California)
*Cyndy Howell Slone (Ohio)	Minnie Roth (California)
*Bo Duncan (Alabama)	Donna Stump (Ohio)
Georgina Marek (New York)	Daniel and Roberta Kvenvold (Ohio)
Mike Linscott (Ohio)	Chaplain (LTC) Jon S. Trainer (Ohio)
Marc and Stephanie Weiss (South Carolina)	

FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): World War II medals of Colonel W. L. Abrams

These medals are among the many awards earned by Colonel Walter Leroy Abrams (1895-1952). Colonel Abrams originally served as an enlisted man in the New York 2nd Artillery regiment and saw service on the Mexican Border in McAllen, Texas in 1916. In 1917, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the 105th Artillery Regiment, part of the (New York) 27th Infantry Division. He served in Europe during World War I and was cited for bravery. He continued to serve in various assignments during World War II, receiving the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and, in 1947, the New York Conspicuous Service Cross. He received a promotion to Colonel in September 1952, but died less than 3 months later. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. (*Donated by Daniel and Roberta Kvenvold*)



SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

We now offer an on-line Veterans Roll of Honor, which can be found at: <http://www.mvmhm.com/vroh.htm>

To submit a veteran for the Roll of Honor, email their full name, rank, branch of service, service history and awards and decorations (these are optional), to our Curator at curator@mvmhm.com. You may submit only a name, or you can also include a picture; if no picture is available, the appropriate service emblem will be used. Note that we reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar and spelling.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Saturday, April 27, 2013, 10:00AM to 2:00PM: Military history authors book signing in The American Veterans Heritage Center and Miami Valley Military History Museum (Building 120).
- Saturday and Sunday, May 25th and 26th, 2013 beginning at 11:00AM daily: Join us for the 9th annual Patriot Freedom Festival. Enjoy military reenactors and other historical figures, family and children's activities, and plenty of free entertainment. Admission and parking is FREE!
- Thursday, June 6, 2013: Council on America's Military Past, USA, Inc. (CAMP) annual reunion.
- Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 7:00PM: Presentation for the Beavercreek Historical Society at Peace Lutheran Church on Dayton-Xenia Road.
- Monday, November 11, 2013, 9:00AM to 4:00PM: Open house in conjunction with the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Veterans Day observance.

MISCELLANEOUS:

There are still a number of people on the VA campus who don't know we're in Building 120; I asked the VA Director, Mr. Costie, if we could get some display space in the patient tower, and was able to get some artifacts on display, as well as literature promoting the museum and the American Veterans Heritage Center. There are a couple of WWI items, as well as ODS/OEF/OIF things, but the majority are from WWII, Korea and Vietnam, since those are the largest patient groups there. If nothing else, the sign has to catch people's eye, even if the artifacts don't.



How YOU can help preserve our veterans history

Each day, more and more of our veterans are passing away - the last veteran from World War I passed away in February 2011, and our World War II veterans are dying at the rate of approximately 1,000 a day. Unfortunately, many times when a veteran dies all of his or her history dies with them, and the mementos they kept end up in yard sales, or worse, the garbage. We've witnessed this first hand: We were able to acquire a WWII Army Captains' footlocker with some of his souvenirs and other paperwork from his service time, along with literally hundreds of V-mails sent between him and his family. The entire lot was going to be thrown away after his widow moved into a nursing home. On another occasion, a neighbor gave us several hundred photographs and some insignia that had belonged to her neighbor's father. Again, they were going to be thrown out because no one wanted "that junk". Another time, a group of documents from a man killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge were being sold off piece by piece. Fortunately, we were able to convince the seller not to break up the group so that we could keep it together. Our veterans' history deserves a better fate than the trash heap or the auction block!

Your donation will ensure the museum's continued growth, preservation of our veteran's memories, and support exhibiting traveling displays. For many younger people, even conflicts as recent as Vietnam seem just to be "old war movies". We want to bring to life the stories of those people who served in America's wars and provide a tangible link to our veterans. All donors will be credited on the museum's web site. [Click here](#) to see the list of contributors.

What types of things can you donate? We're always seeking new and unique items to add to the museum or for use in traveling displays and educational trunks. We're also trying to expand the amount of coverage for each of the conflicts represented, to include the addition of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. We always need items such as uniforms, insignias, medals, photographs, newspapers, captured trophies, etc. - anything that will help tell our veteran's stories, especially those from Ohio. Nothing is too small or insignificant. We can also use items that you may feel are too damaged or worn out, to restore other pieces.

THIS QUARTER IN MILITARY HISTORY:

January 1, 1863: President Lincoln issues his Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War.
January 16, 1991: Coalition air strikes open the campaign to liberate Kuwait.
January 17, 1781: Colonial Army and Militia forces defeat the British at Cowpens, S.C.
January 25, 1951: U.N. launches counteroffensive to drive North Koreans and Chinese from South Korea.
January 30, 1968: The Tet Offensive begins.

February 9, 1861: Jefferson Davis elected President of Confederate States of America.
February 11, 1951: Chinese counteroffensive begins north of Hoengsong.
February 12, 1955: President Eisenhower sends the first U.S. advisers to South Vietnam to train their Army.
February 15, 1898: Submarine mine sinks U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor, 260 killed.
February 19, 1944: US Marines land on Iwo Jima.
February 24, 1991: Allied ground assault against Iraq begins.
February 27, 1776: North Carolina militia defeat Loyalist Scots inflicting heavy casualties at Moore's Creek bridge.

March 3, 1991: Iraq accepts conditions for a permanent cease fire.
March 7, 1945: U.S. 9th Armored Division captures the Remagen bridge intact.
March 8, 1862: Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas.
March 15, 1781: Battle at Guilford Courthouse, Guilford, NC.
March 18, 1951: United Nations forces retake Seoul.
March 19, 2003: Operation Iraqi Freedom begins.
March 30, 1972: North Vietnamese launch a major offensive across the DMZ.

TRIVIA

December's trivia question was:

At the Battle of the Little Big Horn in June 1876, three brothers were killed; what were their names?

The three brothers were Lieutenant Colonel (*Brevet Major General*) George Armstrong Custer, Captain Thomas Custer (recipient of two Medals of Honor), and Boston Custer. Also killed was their 18-year-old nephew Henry Armstrong "Autie" Reed.

This quarter's question is:

What is the codename for the General Dynamics F-111?

The Miami Valley Military History Museum is co-located with the American Veterans Heritage Center (a 501c3 organization), located in Building 120, the historic Putnam Library, in the Historic District of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Please note that although we are located on federal property, we receive NO funding from the Veterans Administration - we operate entirely "out of our own pockets" and with the help of unpaid volunteers.

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