

The Miami Valley  
Military History Museum



# SCUTTLEBUTT

First Quarter 2015

## Operation Babylift 4 April 1975



**In loving memory of all those who perished on C5A 80218 on 4 April 1975.**  
Tưởng nhớ những người đã ra đi trên chuyến bay C5A 80218 ngày 4/4/1975.

*(Graphic courtesy of Aryn Lockhart)*



## **CURATOR'S CORNER**

Today marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crash of the C5-A carrying Vietnamese orphans out of Saigon. When it became apparent South Vietnam would fall, President Ford (himself an orphan) authorized the evacuation of American embassy staff members and orphans from Saigon. By the time the operation ended, more than 3,300 orphans had been evacuated to the United States and other countries.

On the first military flight of the operation on April 4th, 314 staff, dependents, and Vietnamese orphans were put aboard a C-5A Galaxy transport (the largest aircraft in the world at the time, and which had a history of the rear ramp doors malfunctioning). As the aircraft reached an altitude of approximately 23,000 feet, the ramp door pins failed, causing a catastrophic failure of the doors, pulling one crewman out of the plane, severely injuring another, and severing most of the control lines needed to fly the plane. By the skillful airmanship of the pilots, using only one working aileron and engine power, the crew managed to turn the plane back towards Tan Son Nhut, but approximately 2 miles from the runway the plane lost altitude and impacted the ground. It momentarily regained the air, crossed the Saigon river and then impacted again, breaking into its major components.

The people in the troop compartment (upper level) survived with only three casualties, while those in the cargo compartment (the majority being the older children) were all killed (except for three).

It was a sombering moment to stand before the display with Staff Sergeant Nance's uniform and Colonel Aune's wings and think about what they endured and their heroism that day. Please say a prayer for them!

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Spring is finally here after a very cold and snowy Ohio winter! With the new season comes new opportunities for you to enjoy the military history we have here as well as the historic Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus – serving our veterans since 1867!

In addition to our always growing collection of artifacts for you to enjoy, I encourage you to come out for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Patriot Freedom Festival. This year's event will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May and is jammed packed with military history, reenactors, nearly non-stop family and children oriented entertainment, as well as a number of memorial services. One of the Festival's mainstays, the *4 Freedom Equestrian Team*, will be back again to perform their mounted drama honoring our Prisoners of War and those who are still Missing In Action – if you haven't seen this moving performance, you're missing something special, and there's never a dry eye when it ends. Best of all, these activities are all FREE!

And speaking of the *4 Freedom Equestrian Team*...they'll be starting their free carriage ride program beginning with the first Tuesday afternoon on June (running through September, and always with weather permitting). Because this is Federal property, they can't ask for donations, so please, if you enjoy the ride, *drop a buck or two in the bucket!* You can contact the museum at 267-7628 for more information, or to verify the rides are being held that day. And don't forget to visit their website at <http://www.4freedomteam.com>, or look for them on Facebook and "like" their page!

Please, continue to help us "**spread the word**" - we've got a lot of great history here! You can help by forwarding this newsletter to people who have an interest in military heritage, or "Like" us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same – the more people that know about us the better!

Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you this summer!

Respectfully,

**Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET**  
**Curator**

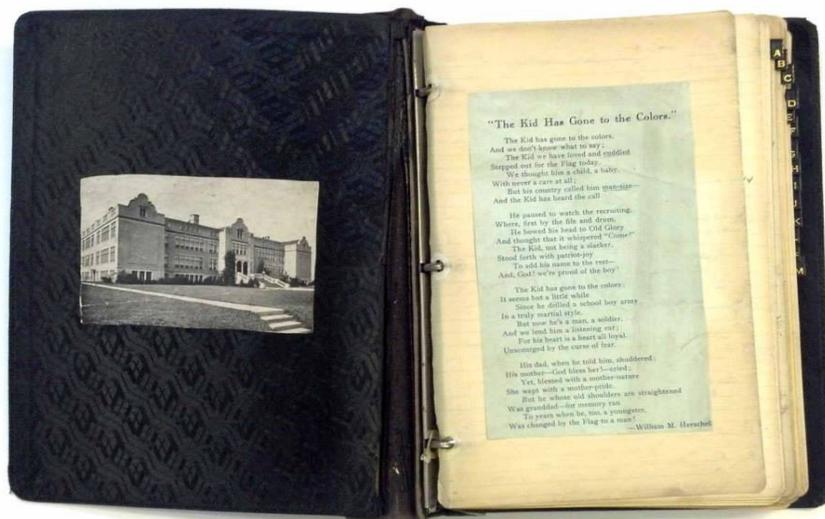


**DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:**

- This Viet Cong ladle/spoon was a war trophy of Staff Sergeant Mike Linscott, a dog handler in the 46th Scout Dog Platoon. He and his dog were searching a VC bunker complex that had been plastered by B-52s, and this caught his eye. It appears to be made from aircraft aluminum, and still has the food/mud on it from the day he picked it up. Thanks Mike!



We received a unique group from the grandson of Delilah Wikle - she taught at the Whittier School in Dayton during World War II. She tried to write every student who was serving in the Armed Forces, and kept an address book with names, units, addresses and noted those who were Killed In Action. After the war, she tried to return the cards and letters she'd received from her students and their parents. Some of "her boys" continued writing her well after war's end. We need more teachers like her! Thanks Lawrence!



Without the generosity of people interested in preserving our military heritage, museums like ours couldn't exist – 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 for helping us tell the stories of the defenders our great nation. (*an asterisk indicates multiple donations*):

Lawrence Dennis (Georgia)   Jake Dailey (Ohio)   Anthony McCall (Ohio)   Pamela Burkholder (Texas)  
\*American Legion Post 5 (Ohio)   Kim Carlson (Ohio)   John Moore (Nevada)   \*Brent Davidson (Ohio)  
Kevin Lakes (Ohio)   \*Kathy Hayes, Col. USA, Ret. (Ohio)

...and several anonymous donors.

(\* indicates multiple donations)

### **FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): Iraq Commitment Medal**

The Iraq Commitment Medal is a military campaign award that was created on June 11, 2011 by the Government of Iraq. The Iraq Minister of Defense, Dr. Saadoun Al-Dlaimi offered the medal to Veterans of the Iraq War in a letter to the United States Secretary of Defense. As of August 2014 the award has not been approved for wear for United States Iraq Veterans. The Department of Defense made a statement that it is waiting for the initial group of medals to be received from the Government of Iraq. A single award was presented to Vice President Joe Biden on Dec 1st, 2011.

The expected requirements are that one must have served for 30 consecutive days or for 60 non-consecutive days within the borders of Iraq, within its territorial waters, or within its airspace during the period of March 19, 2003 to December 31, 2011. Pilots and aircrew members who flew missions within Iraqi airspace will be credited for one day for each day of air operations. In addition, service members who engaged in combat during an armed engagement or were wounded or injured in the line of duty to a degree which required medical evacuation from Iraq qualify without regard to the number of days of service.



## **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](mailto: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 11, 2015, 9:00AM: Girl Scout Day at the Dayton VA.

Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 6:00PM: Presentation for Flight-9, Order of Daedalians at the Wright-Patterson AFB Club.

Saturday, May 16, 2015, 8:30AM: Armed Forces Day 5K Run, Walk, And Roll. Check-in and registration is from 7:00 - 8:00AM, with the race starting at 8:30AM. There will also be a pancake breakfast for registered runners! Call Rick Schoby at (937) 836-7346 for more details.

Saturday and Sunday, May 23 - 24, 2015, 11:00AM to 6:00PM: 11th annual Patriot Freedom Festival - Call 267-7628 for more details or to participate.

Monday, May 25, 2015: Memorial Day (observed).

Saturday, May 30, 2015: Memorial Day (actual).

Wednesday, June 3, 2015, 10:00AM: Presentation and tour for the Gilly Senior Center from Columbus, OH.

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Our "Wish List":** We're looking for some specific items to fill gaps in our displays/collection – if you have any of these items, please consider donating them!

**Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican Border Expedition:** *Anything!*

**Cavalry items:** *Anything!*

**World War I:** U.S. Air Service uniforms; U.S. Navy uniforms, any style; Model 1911 .45 pistol; Model 1903 Springfield rifle and parts; Model 1917 Enfield rifle and parts; Model 1914 Hotchkiss Machine Gun ammunition box; U.S. trench boots; German or Austrian uniform tunic; German "Kratzen" soft hat with insignia; German enlisted or officer's pickelhaube ("Spike helmet", Infantry or Artillery); German, Austrian, or Hungarian medals and insignia; German Model 98n/a ("Butcher") saw back bayonet with teeth intact; German Mauser Model 98 rifle; German P08 "Luger" pistol; German steel helmets; Imperial German or Prussian flags

**World War II:** German uniforms and headgear; German medals and insignia; German M24 stick grenade (inert only); German P08 (Luger) pistol; German P38 pistol; Italian uniforms and headgear of any type; Italian medals and insignia; Italian Carcano rifle; Italian Berretta pistol; Japanese uniforms and headgear; Japanese Imperial Navy helmet; Japanese "last ditch" bayonet and scabbard; Japanese medals and insignia; Japanese "Rising Sun" (rayed) flag; Japanese Nambu or Type 94 pistols; Japanese swords; US Marine herringbone twill uniform; US Marine M1 helmet with cover; Army Air Forces A14 oxygen mask; Army Air Forces leather flight gear; Any Pearl Harbor Purple Heart; US field gear; US medals and insignia; M-1 carbine; M-1 Garand; Model 1911 .45 pistol; 100 pound practice bombs.



## ***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.

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 expanding the coverage of Pre-WWI conflicts. 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 4, 1951: Seoul captured by Communist Chinese Forces (CCF).

January 15, 2002: Operation Enduring Freedom - Philippines begins.

January 17, 1781: Battle of Cowpens, SC.

January 17, 1991: Operation DESERT STORM begins at 0300 Iraq time.

January 20, 1862: General George H. Thomas defeats Confederates at Mill Springs, Kentucky.

January 26, 1942: First American forces arrive in Great Britain.

January 27, 1973: Official end of the Vietnam War.

January 31, 1915: The first use of poison gas in WW1, by Germany at Bolimow, Poland.

February 3, 1917: US severs diplomatic ties with Germany.

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's administration sends the first U.S. advisers to South Vietnam to train the South Vietnamese 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 21, 1918: Second Battle of the Somme begins.

March 30, 1972: North Vietnamese launch a major offensive across the DMZ.

## **TRIVIA**

Last quarter's trivia question was:

*What was General McAuliffe's reply to the German demand that he surrender the city of Bastogne, Belgium?*

General McAuliffe's answer was direct and to the point: NUTS!

This quarter's question is: ***Who was the first woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps?***



SAVE THE DATE!

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual**

# **Patriot Freedom Festival**

**MAY 23-24, 2015**

## **FREE ENTRY - FREE PARKING!**

- Freedom 5K Run/Walk/Roll
- Live Music & Entertainment
- Historical Military Renactors
- Food, Vendors, Non-profits
- Honoring Ceremonies
- Free Guided Historical Tours
- Miami Valley Military History Museum

**YOUR PERFECT MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!**

At the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Campus

[www.americanveteransheritage.org](http://www.americanveteransheritage.org)

937-267-7628

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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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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