

The Miami Valley Military History Museum



SCUTTLEBUTT

Third Quarter 2013



CURATOR'S CORNER

In addition to Patriot Day marking the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks, there's National POW/MIA Recognition Day, observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. This day was established by an Act of Congress, with passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act.

America's POW/MIAs should be honored and recognized, rather than memorialized, with the focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. Strong, united support by the American people is crucial to achieving concrete answers - the American people can make the difference.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Our country endures because in every generation, courageous Americans answer the call to serve in our Armed Forces. They represent the very best of the human spirit, stand tall for the values and freedoms we cherish, and uphold peace and security at home and around the globe. Today, we pay tribute to the service members who have not returned from the battlefield, we stand beside their families, and we honor those who are held captive as prisoners of war. We will never forget their sacrifice, nor will we ever abandon our responsibility to do everything in our power to bring them home.

America remains steadfast in our determination to recover our missing patriots. Our work is not finished until our heroes are returned safely to our shores or a full accounting is provided to their loved ones. We must care for the men and women who have served so selflessly in our name, and we must carry forward the legacy of those whose fates are still unknown. Today, and every day, we express our profound appreciation to our service members, our veterans, our military families, and all those who placed themselves in harm's way to sustain the virtues that are the hallmarks of our Union.

On September 20, 2013, the stark black and white banner symbolizing America's Missing in Action and Prisoners of War will be flown over the White House; the United States Capitol; the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs; the Selective Service System Headquarters; the World War II Memorial; the Korean War Veterans Memorial; the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; United States post offices; national cemeteries; and other locations across our country. We raise this flag as a solemn reminder of our obligation to always remember the sacrifices made to defend our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 20, 2013, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I urge all Americans to observe this day of honor and remembrance with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

Once again, this quarter saw a number of donations that will help us tell the story of the defenders of our great Nation. We're also gaining more recognition in the surrounding areas – we have at least one event or presentation scheduled every month for the next 8 months – including 4 in October and 3 in November! Preparations are well underway for the 10th annual Patriot Freedom Festival – we hope to see you there!.

Veterans Day will soon be upon us – Originally established as Armistice Day to memorialize those who died in World War I, it was changed to Veterans Day in 1954.



In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. Weeks led the first national celebration in 1947 in Alabama and annually until his death in 1985. President Reagan honored Weeks at the White House with the Presidential Citizenship Medal in 1982 as the driving force for the national holiday. Elizabeth Dole, who prepared the briefing for President Reagan, determined Weeks as the "Father of Veterans Day."



This picture epitomizes Veterans Day: Joseph Ambrose, then an 86-year-old World War I veteran, attends the dedication day parade for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982, holding the flag that covered the casket of his son, who was killed in the Korean War.

To all our Veterans, "Thanks" for your service...and to our brothers and sisters who served in Vietnam...

WELCOME HOME!

Respectfully,

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

DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:

- We were fortunate to receive a rare artifact from World War I courtesy of American legion Post 395 – a Model 1914 Hotchkiss heavy machine gun! Chambered for the 8mm Lebel cartridge, it was the standard machine gun of the French Army during World War I; it was manufactured by the French arms company Hotchkiss et Cie, originally founded in the 1860s by American industrialist Benjamin B. Hotchkiss. Due to a lack of heavy machine guns, the American Expeditionary Forces in France purchased and used in combat 7,000 of the Model 1914 between 1917 and 1918 (also in 8mm Lebel). The gun and tripod each weigh (officially) 54 pounds, but carrying them in to the building they seemed to weight much more than that! We were also able to locate an original 24 round feed strip for it.



DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP (Continued):



Shown here is the feed strip in place, as well as the wheel used to elevate and depress the muzzle. The tripod is made to collapse in several positions, so that the gun can be made to “kneel” and fire downward; it also has a provision for an axle and wheels to be added for pulling it. The weapon was made with simplicity in mind; it has 30 parts which can be disassembled without tools, and each part is made so that it can't be reassembled incorrectly.

- We received a rare Army Air Force uniform from the Darke County Veterans Commission. It was worn by Staff Sergeant John Milton Ruh of Greenville, OH while serving in the Army Air Force Eastern Command. The Eastern Command, based at Poltava Air Base in the Soviet Union, was responsible for Operation FRANTIC - bombing missions against the Germans and their allies. SSgt Ruh's unofficial - and unauthorized - shoulder sleeve insignia, a stylized AAF “winged star” superimposed on a red Soviet star reflects their service in Russia.



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*):

Council on America's Military Past (Nation-wide)
Vince Dec (Ohio)
Gloria and William Hendrickson (Ohio)
Gwendolyn Giuliani (Ohio)
VFW Post 3288 (Ohio)
Carolyn Talbott (Ohio)
*Margaret Kruckemeyer (Ohio)
*Linda Andrews (Florida)

Fran Ingram (Ohio)
Anonymous Donor (several from Ohio)
American Legion Post 395 (Ohio)
Shawn Shaffer (Ohio)
Michael Jones, MSG, USA (Ret) (Michigan)
Warren County Genealogical Society (Ohio)
Carolyn Burns (Ohio)

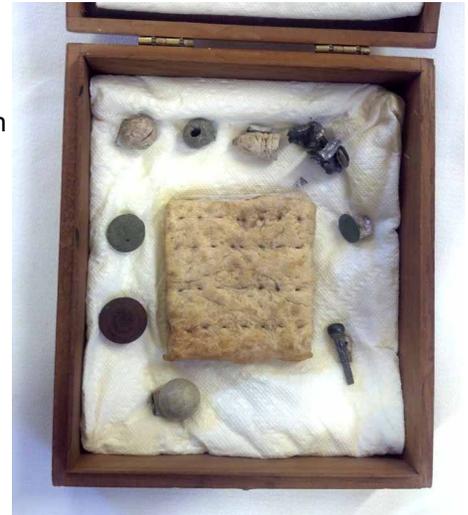


FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): Civil War hardtack

We received a small donation of items relating to Battery Lamar, South Carolina from Mrs. Carolyn Talbott. She was given them some years ago by Steve Burt, a Civil war buff who was heavily involved in the Friends of the (CSS) Hunley restoration project. Carolyn met Steve when he was dying from cancer, and when he found out she loves Civil War history, he gave her these items, along with a handwritten description of where they were found. Among the group was a piece of hardtack with the annotation that it was found in the basement of a house in Gettysburg.

Hardtack (or hard tack) is a simple type of cracker or biscuit, made from flour, water, and sometimes salt. Inexpensive and long-lasting, it was and is used for sustenance in the absence of perishable foods, commonly during long sea voyages and military campaigns. The name derives from the British sailor slang for food, "tack". It was also known by other names such as ship's biscuits, sea biscuit, cabin bread, sea bread (as rations for sailors) or pejoratively "dog biscuits", "tooth dullers", "sheet iron", "worm castles" or "molar breakers".

During the Civil War, 3-inch by 3-inch hardtack was shipped from Union and Confederate storehouses. Some of this hardtack had been stored since the 1846–8 Mexican-American War. With insect infestation common in improperly stored provisions, soldiers would break up the hardtack and drop it into their morning coffee. This would not only soften the hardtack but the insects, mostly weevil larvae, would float to the top and the soldiers could skim off the insects and resume consumption. Another way of removing weevils was to heat it at a fire, which would drive them out. Impatient troops would eat it in the dark to avoid seeing what they were consuming.



For those of you who are adventurous, here's the original Civil War recipe to make your own hardtack:

Ingredients:

Three (3) cups flour
One (1) cup water
Two (2) teaspoons of salt

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Mix flour, salt, and water together in a bowl. Place the water and salt in the bowl, and slowly add in flour while stirring constantly, until the mixture becomes too thick to stir, at which point enough flour has been added.
3. Knead dough and roll out until it is 1/2" thick.
4. Using a pizza cutter, cut the dough into 3"x3" squares.
5. Poke four rows of four holes in the cracker using a skewer stick.
6. Lay the crackers out on an ungreased cookie sheet.
7. Place in oven and bake for 30 minutes.
8. Remove from oven, flip crackers over, and bake for another 30 minutes.
9. Take crackers out when they are a light golden brown.
10. Let the crackers cool for 30 minutes (or save for several years) before eating. *Bon Appétit!*



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.

During the past quarter, we've helped more than a dozen veterans or their families request their records and/or replacement medal sets – all at no cost!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Friday, October 11, 2013, 12:00PM: Presentation at echoingU.
- Monday, October 14, 2013, 12:00PM: echoingU field trip to the museum.
- Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 12:00PM: echoingU field trip to the museum.
- Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 7:00PM: Presentation for the Beavercreek Historical Society at Peace Lutheran Church on Dayton-Xenia Road.
- Sunday, November 10, 2013, 2:30PM: 2nd annual Veterans Day 5K Run/Walk/Roll at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Registration begins at 1:00PM.
- Monday, November 11, 2013, 9:00AM to 4:00PM: Open house in conjunction with the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Veterans Day observance.
- Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 7:30PM: Presentation for the Richard Montgomery Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution at the Dayton Masonic Temple.

2014 Events:

- Spring 2014: Presentation at the Lincoln Society of Dayton.
- Thursday, May 01, 2014, 9:30AM: Group tour for the Ramey AFB Historical Association
- Saturday, May 10: Presentation for the Montgomery County Historical Society
- May 2014: Daughters of the Union 102nd Congress
- Saturday and Sunday, May 24 - 25, 2014, 11:00AM to 6:00PM: 10th annual Patriot Freedom Festival - call 267-7628 for more details or to participate.





HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES!

**August – September
Every Tuesday from 12:30PM - 4:30PM**

**October – December
Every Thursday from 11:00AM - 3:00PM**

**During "Share and Care" days
2nd Thursday of each month
10:00AM – 3:00PM**

(All days are weather permitting)

**Sign up inside The Miami Valley Military History Museum
(Building 120)**

**Historic tour of the VA campus also available by reservation only,
call (937)776-0999**




**10TH ANNUAL
PATRIOT
FREEDOM
FESTIVAL**

FREE ENTRY - FREE PARKING!

May 24-25, 2014

**Memorial Day Weekend
Dayton VA Medical Center Campus
4100 W. Third Street, Dayton, OH 45428**



Food, Vendors, Non-profits
5K Run/Walk/Roll
Reenactors & Living History
Free children's activities & rides
Period Military Displays
Guided Historical Tours
Miami Valley Military History Museum

Live Music & Entertainment Including –

- NoT ThaT BaD
- Troupe Roja
- Wayne Seibert & Company
- Columbus Dance Troop
- Military Periods Fashion Show
- 4 Freedom Equestrian Team



for more information call **937-267-7628**

www.americaveteransheritage.org

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 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:

July 1, 1863: Battle of Gettysburg begins.

July 1, 1971: Viet Cong proposed the return of all American and Allied prisoners held in North and South Vietnam by the end of 1971 if all US troops were withdrawn within that same period.

July 3, 1898: The Spanish fleet is destroyed off Santiago, Cuba.

July 9, 1943: Allied forces land in Sicily.

July 15, 1918: Second Battle of the Marne.

July 16, 1779: Battle of Stony Point.

July 18, 1950: US Cavalry lands at Pohangdong

July 22, 2003: Uday and Qusay Hussein are killed by American forces.

August 1, 1914: Germany, an ally of Austria-Hungary, declares war on Russia and demands the neutrality of Russia's ally France, beginning World War I.

August 2, 1990: Iraq invades Kuwait.

August 2, 1964: US Navy destroyers "Maddox" and "C. Turner Joy" are reported attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin

August 4, 1950: Pusan perimeter established in southeastern Korea.

August 7, 1942: US forces begin landing on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

August 16, 1780: Battle of Camden, South Carolina.

August 17, 1961: East Germany begins construction of the Berlin Wall.

August 29, 1862: Second Battle of Bull Run.

September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland, starting WWII.

September 3, 1969: Ho Chi Minh dies.

September 5, 1917: Riga captured by the Germans, using new tactics based on lightning assault.

September 8, 1781: Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina.

September 11, 2001: Terrorists launch attacks against the United States.



THIS QUARTER IN MILITARY HISTORY: (continued)

September 14, 1990: United Kingdom and France announce deployment of 10,000 troops to Gulf.

September 15, 1950: United Nations forces land at Inchon.

September 22, 1862: President Lincoln issues preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, to be effective January 1, 1863.

TRIVIA

Last quarter's trivia question was:

"General of the Armies of the United States" is a rank commonly considered to be the equivalent of a 6-star General. Only two individuals have ever been awarded this title; His Excellency General Washington is one – who is the other recipient?? The other recipient was General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing in 1919 to honor his service in World War I. General Douglas MacArthur was considered for the rank, both during and after World War II, but a formal promotion order was never issued.

This quarter's question is:

What is our country's oldest continuously awarded decoration, originally established as an award for enlisted men to "further promote the efficiency of the Navy"?

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Putnam Library / Building 120
4100 West Third Street
Dayton, OH 45428

Office phone: (937) 267-7628
Office fax: (937) 267-7629
Curator phone: (937) 902-8001

E-mail: curator@mvmhm.com

Website: <http://www.mvmhm.com>



Facebook



Website



YouTube

