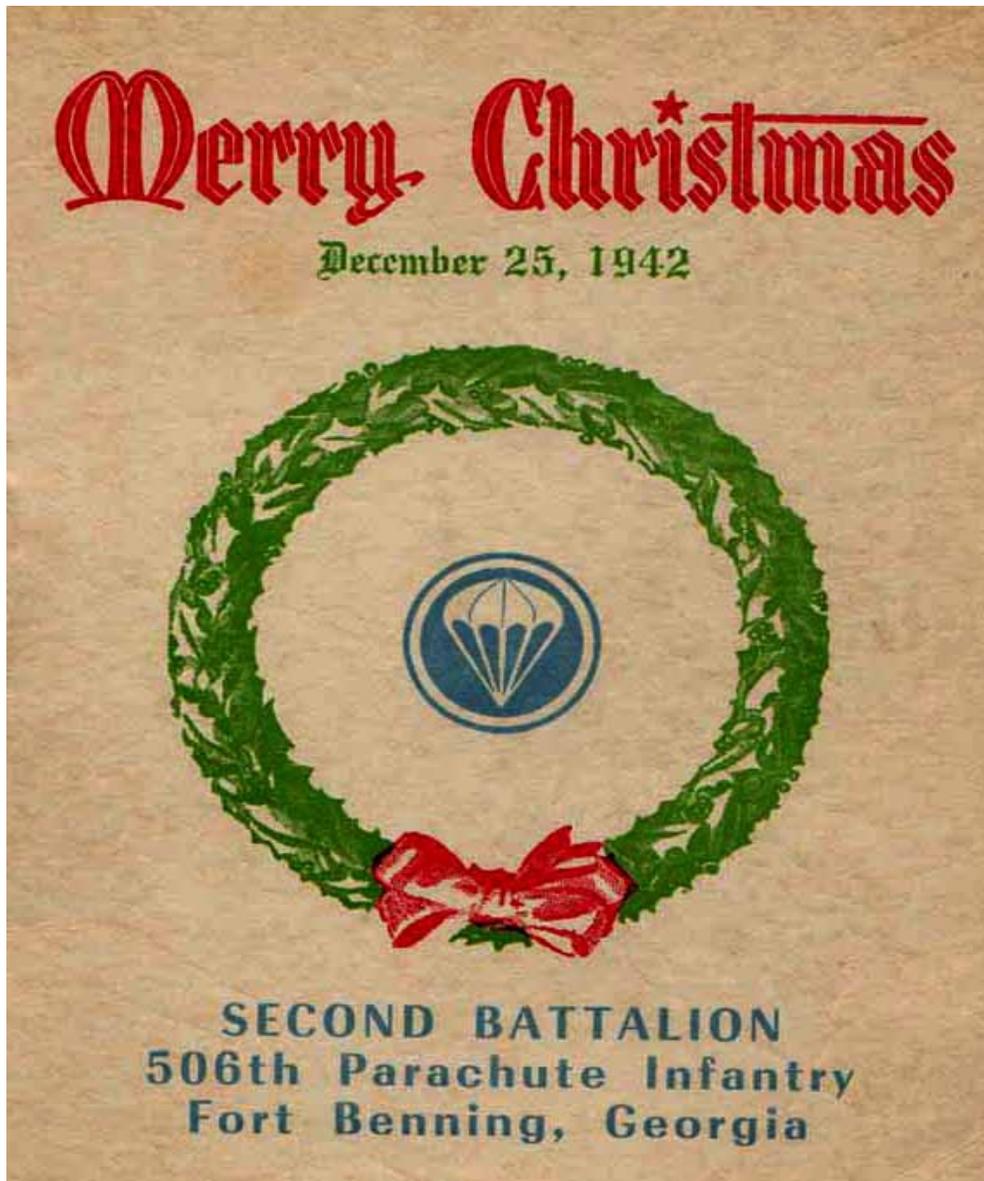


The Miami Valley  
Military History Museum



# ***SCUTTLEBUTT***

*Fourth Quarter 2014*



## **CURATOR'S CORNER**

As the year comes to a close, I'm pleased to report that we've seen a marked increase in the number of artifacts donated, requests for programs, tours and presentations, and most importantly, visitors. Here's a short "by the numbers" list:

Number of individuals represented in our displays: ~1,000

Individual uniforms on display: 130

Individual medals on display: ~100

Number of foreign countries we've received donations from: 6

Number of states in the U.S. we've received donations from: 31

Number of individual donors for 2014: ~150

Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2012: 19

Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2013: 22

Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2014: 46

Number of visitors registered in 2014: 774 (*typically less than 1/3 of people sign the visitor logs*)

As you can see, we're still growing at a rapid pace (now, if only the building would grow at an equal rate!) - but 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 in the months ahead!

Respectfully,

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



**DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:**

- One of the more unusual artifacts we received is this World War II baseball uniform, worn by Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Class Judson Benson Baker while playing for the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's "Mule Skinner's" at Camp Carson, Colorado. While many units fielded sports teams, it's rare to find a set that includes the jersey and pants. T5 Baker fought in Italy in 1944-1945, and received the Bronze Star Medal for action near La Grande, Italy on 20-21 April 1945. After the war he tried out for the St. Louis Cardinals.



*These were Honorable Men in their Generations  
- ECCLS:XLIV.7*

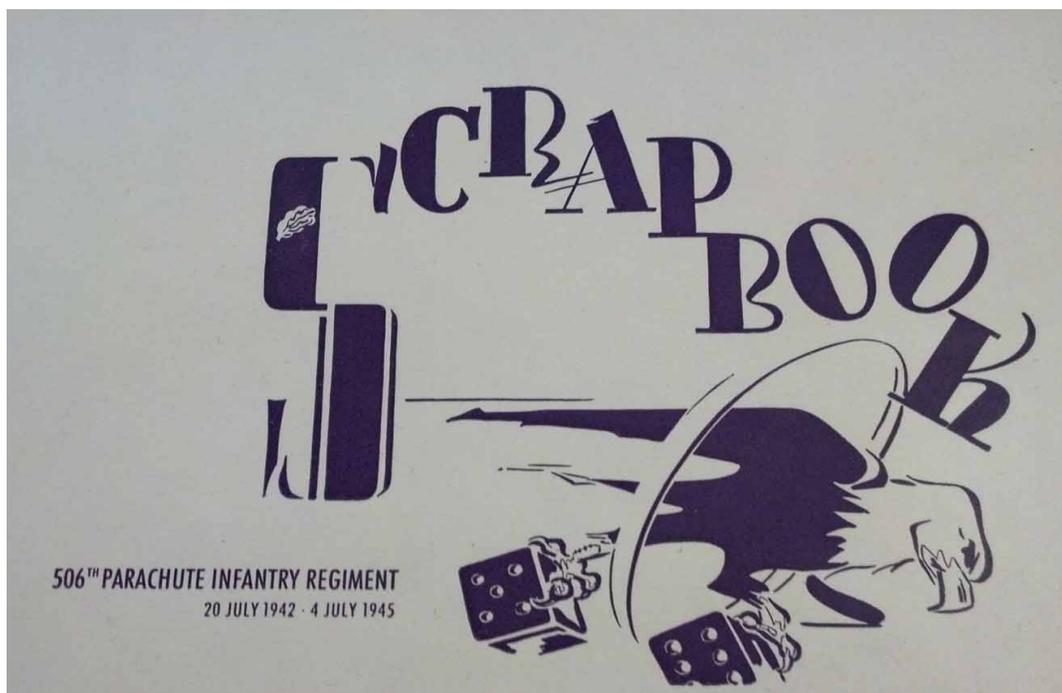


**Judson B. Baker Sr.**  
December 17, 1922 - September 25, 2014  
10th Mountain Division

Another "neat" item is this candid snapshot of Private Elvis Presley; our local GE plant encourages it's people to volunteer in the local community, and two of the ladies have been coming here on their volunteer days. Deb Williams brought in this 3 X 5 snapshot of Elvis that she found in her late step mother's effects... it was taken while he was in training.



Anyone who's seen the mini-series *Band of Brothers* knows the story of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment in World War II. The family of Staff Sergeant Donald Snyder donated a large grouping of his artifacts and war trophies – Don was also in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. His service is mirrored in *Band of Brothers*; he was also a Taccoa man, made the jump into Normandy on D-Day (and was wounded the next day) and into Holland for Operation MARKET-GARDEN, and fought into Germany. SSgt Snyder's final resting place is only a few hundred yards from our building, so the Miami Valley Military History Museum is certainly a fitting place for his things.



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*):

Leonardo Flores (California)	Dwain Hazelwood (Tennessee)	*Kent Snyder (Ohio)
Les Smorowski (Ohio)	Suzanne Mills-Wasniak (Ohio)	Debra Williams (Ohio)
Anna Brownlee (Ohio)	Bryan Mealy (Ohio)	Terry Hoops (Ohio)
Frank's Fruit Farm (Ohio)	Elaine Baker (Ohio)	Dennis L. Bishop, SSgt, USAF, Ret. (Ohio)
Herbert A. Friedman, SGM, USA, Ret. (Florida)		Germantown Historical Society (Ohio)
Nicole Kendall-Bishop, TSgt, USAF, Ret. (Ohio)		Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society (Ohio)

...and several anonymous donors.

### **FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): Japanese pottery grenade**

By 1944, war materiel of all types was scarce in Japan, forcing the production of “last ditch” weapons. The Type 4 pottery and ceramic grenade was produced as one of these “last ditch” measures to defend Japan; they were first encountered on Leyte in late 1944, and large numbers were discovered after the battles for Iwo Jima and Okinawa. When complete, they weighed about 1 pound and were carried by a piece of ribbon or string tied around the neck of the grenade. They typically had a 5 second fuse, and were purely concussive. They were also very fragile and would shatter if they hit a hard surface or were dropped. The grenades were produced with a brown glaze, or left in their natural off-white color - we have an example of each on display in the Pacific Theater case.



### **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:**

- TBD: Presentation for the Centerville Senior Center
- Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 12:00PM: Presentation for the Arabic Club at the Dayton Masonic Temple
- Friday, February 6, 2015, 10:00AM: WWI program at the Lifelong Learning Institute of Central Ohio Technical College, 8660 Broadstreet, 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 "Kratchen" 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:**

October 7, 1970: President Nixon announced a new 5-point peace plan for Vietnam.

October 12, 1917: First Battle of Passchendaele.

October 14, 1950: Chinese Communist troops cross the Yalu River into Korea.

October 16, 1918: Private Raymond J. France is killed in action.

October 19, 1781: British surrender at Yorktown, effectively ending the Revolutionary War.

October 21, 1861: Union defeat at the Battle of Ball's Bluff.

October 31, 1941: U-552 sinks the USS Reuben James, 115 die; first US ship lost in WW II.

November 2, 1783: His Excellency, General Washington, bids farewell to his troops from Rocky Hill, near Princeton, NJ.

November 9, 1918: Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany abdicates and flees to Holland.

11 November 1982: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington D.C.

November 12, 1991: President Bush extends call-up of Selected Reservists to active duty from 90 to 180 days.

November 14, 1864: Sherman sets out from Atlanta on his "March to the Sea": "Total War" begins.

November 19, 1969: Congress gave the president the authority to institute the "draft lottery" system aimed at inducting 19-year-olds before older men.

November 24, 1950: General Douglas MacArthur's final "Home by Christmas" offensive begins.

November 26, 1941: Admiral Nagumo's First Air Fleet leaves the Kuriles with 6 aircraft carriers, 423 planes, 2 battleships, 28 subs, 2 cruisers, and 11 destroyers. Destination: Pearl Harbor.

December 2, 1990: Six weeks before the United States and its allies initiate Operation DESERT STORM, Iraq test launches three Scud missiles from sites in eastern Iraq, which impact in western Iraq.

December 11, 1950: The 1st Marine Division fights through encircling Chinese Communist Forces to reach the 3rd Infantry Division in the Chosin Reservoir.

December 16, 1944: German Armies launch a surprise attack in Belgium which becomes known as the Battle of the Bulge.

December 18, 1972: The first Operation LINEBACKER II bombing raids against North Vietnam begin.

December 25, 1914: German and British soldiers in the Ypres sector hold an informal truce and celebrate Christmas together.

December 30, 1862: The U.S.S. Monitor sinks during a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. June 23, 1915: First Battle of Isonzo.

### **TRIVIA**

Last quarter's trivia question was:

*What is the purpose of the notch on a dog tag?*

The common myth is that the notch was to allow the dogtag to be placed between the teeth of a casualty and kicked into place for later identification (which is physically impossible due to the thickness of the dogtag). In reality, the notch fit against a pin on the pantograph (embossing machine) to hold it steady while being stamped. Pantographs used for modern dogtags do not require the tag to have a notch – consequently modern tags are smooth on all sides.

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



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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