



ARMY SERVICE FORCES

Training Center



AMPHIBIAN

Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla.

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JULY, 2016

Camp Gordon Johnston RFP's (request for proposal) are out as we seek contractors to bid on the new building!

Inovia, LLC has prepared the bid package for interested builders to bid on phase one of the project. The building will be located on 1.3 acres of museum property at 1873 US Hwy 98 west, across from Carrabelle Beach. Upon completion of this building the museum will relocate from its current location at the old Carrabelle School.

During WWII, practice beach landings and combat training were conducted all along the beach area where the building is to be located. The structure will have 4,000 square feet with the interior arranged to display a large portion of the photographs, artifacts and displays and is intended to be the first phase of a two-phase construction project, which will ultimately have a second building and memorial park.

The Franklin County Tourist Development Council, in the form of a grant, is providing funding with matching funds from the Camp Gordon Johnston Association and private donations collected over the past 17 years.

Donations to Building Fund are flowing in.

CGJ has lost Michael Horvath, an intricate part of the daily operations of the Association as well as in planning and execution of the new museum facility. Michael involved himself in many other areas of the Association from fund raising, community awareness, communications, lobbying and increasing museum visitor growth. We cannot stress enough the contributions he made for the Camp Gordon Johnston Association and Museum.



In memory of Michael Horvath, contributions to our phase-one building fund have grown to over \$11,000.00. The efforts of Michael were the catalyst necessary to move this building project along.

If you would like to make a donation to the building fund in memory of Michael, you can do so by writing a check. Due to PayPal operational problems, we suggest your donation would arrive much sooner if you mailed it or stopped by the museum.

Make checks payable to
Camp Gordon Johnston Building Fund
C/O Camp Gordon Johnston Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1334
Carrabelle, FL 32322

The CGJA is an IRS 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation. Your donation is tax deductible

CGJ MUSEUM HELPS RAISE FUNDS FOR HONOR FLIGHT

On April 23rd, the CGJ Museum joined the displays with the Tallahassee Antique Automobile Association and the Florida Lottery in helping to raise funds for the "Honor Flights".



Were they brought from Camp Gordon Johnston in the belly of the DUKW's?

The State of Oregon wildlife department attempted three times unsuccessfully to establish Chinese pheasant game stock. However, only then did they discover the cause of their failures were the existence of opossums which were left behind by the crews of landing craft staged there prior to Pacific deployment during WW 2.

These opossums, or "Possums" as we say in the South, were kept by crewmembers as "pets" while training in the Gulf and were brought along when deployed to the west coast. They could not be taken into the pacific islands and combat as they would certainly perish if carried "across the pond".

So, this non-native species was released and thrived to where they now occupy most restaurant refuse cans while still depleting the ground nesting bird population.

Submitted by: Ward 1 guns, LLC

Elections held for new Board of Directors

At the July CGJA board meeting, the following officers were elected:

President: David Butler

Vice President: Randel Usher

Treasurer: Paul Marxsen

Secretary: Lisa Munson

Board Members: Tony Minichiello,
Jim Newton, John Booth, Robert Dietz,
Wayne McDaniel, Greg Kristofferson an-
Val Frailey

Terms will run until June 2017

We get e-mails. . . .

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association keeps rosters of units who trained here. Unfortunately our information is incomplete, due to the complete records being unavailable to us and incomplete or missing Unit Rosters. We rely on the existing units, their families and friends to supply us with the information. We are placing these information requests on our face book page in the hope someone will be able to provide information for both Bruce, Scott and the CGJA.

Can anyone help this man?

We are trying to locate information about his father. Also, John Mitchum passed away in 2001, one wonders if, in fact, the man serving in the 361st was Robert Mitchum's brother.

My father, Robert Patterson, was with the 361st Harbor Craft unit training at Camp Gordon Johnston in December 1944. His Army buddy Ed Stahl and also actor John Mitchum (brother of Robert Mitchum) were also assigned to 361st Harbor Craft at Camp Gordon Johnston. I have also come across some other names such as Cpl. A. F. Parsons ASN 4208678, 361st Harbor Craft Co. Camp Gordon Johnson, Fla. in a letter to the Mexico Independent newspaper from Fulton, NY on December 21, 1944. Other names I have found were Claude Edward Bowery, William James Forey, and Lt. Merlin R. Jennings.

I did not see the 361st Harbor Craft Co. listed in your Unit Rosters page.

Regards,
Bruce Patterson
Herndon, VA

e-mail us at:
campgordonjohnston@fairpoint.net

Also this e-mail came to us.....

Subject: Museum

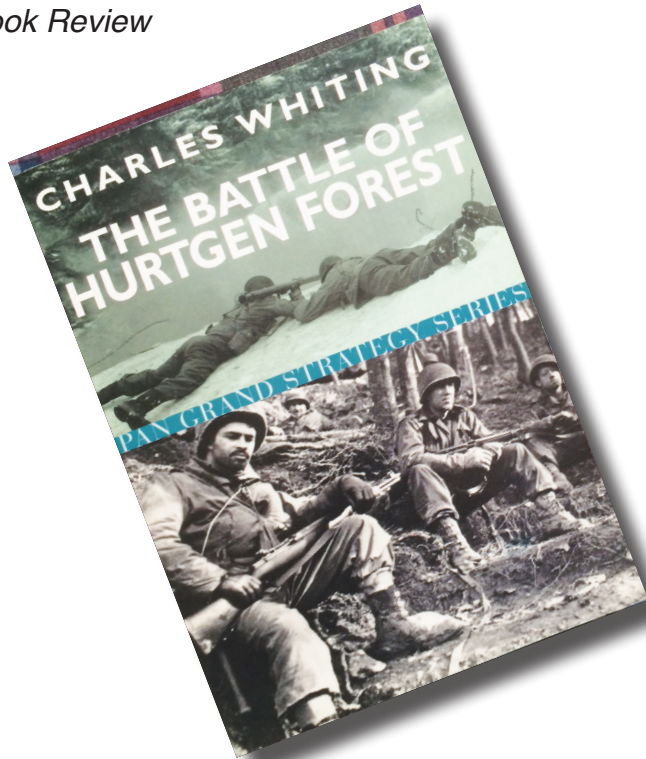
Name: Scott

Email: Scottplen1@comcast.net

Comments: Hello seeking info on 1462nd EBM and 543rd EBSR

Also info of Wayne R Wright MIA March 8 1945
Scott

Book Review



The Battle of Hurtgen Forest (Non-fiction) By Charles Whiting

The 28th Infantry Division trained in Amphibious warfare at Camp Gordon Johnston from January-March, 1943. From September 1944 to February 1945 the 28th participated in the longest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army. Thirty thousand American GIs were killed or wounded in this battle. Ignored for more than 50 years, This was a battle that should never have been fought.

The "Green hell of Hurtgen" fifty miles of thick, rugged, hilly woods on the Belgian-German border, full of German soldiers in a deadly network of concrete bunkers, the butcher's bill ran high: casualty rates ran to 50 percent and more for most companies. Refusing to admit they had made a mistake, the High Command continued pouring troops in and the slaughter continued.

The Battle of Hurtgen Forest is a classic account of the price fighting men must pay for the blunders of their commanders.

The Amphibian Engineers

*By Capt. Herbert Glodt
2d Engineer Special Brigade*

Ride the surf on blunt-nosed barges,
Guns and fighting men our charges.

Hit the beach at crack of dawn,
Land them safely calm or storm.

Fight on shore 'till beach-head's won,
Then the task is just begun.

Clear the sands, blast a road,
Return to bring another load.

Set the range lights. Mark the reef.
From D Day on there's no relief.

Creep her in....rough approach
Big waves high....apt to broach.

Man the fifties! Get that plane!
Keep on shooting 'spite the pain.

Strange jargon for Army men
"Ramps" and "Props," "Swing Ship at Ten."

Lines and pumps, decks to swab,
Coxswains, seamen on the job.

Tell me of these men I pray thee
Bastard child of Army, Navy.

Are they soldier? Or Marine?
Mayhap something in between.

"In between" is right, I'd say,
'Tween wet night and scalding day.

"Tween the near shore and the far,
'Tween the rough sea and the star.

"Tween the yellowman and freeman,
Stands this half-breed soldier-seaman.

They liked us at the Monticello Watermelon Festival

Kevin Visloky, MVPA and CGJA

On Saturday, June 18, 2016, members of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association participated in the 2016 Jefferson County Watermelon Festival Parade. The parade was well attended by local residents all enjoying the beautiful weather and the watermelon festivities. The parade passed in front of the Monticello Court House building and a reviewing stand where a description of the vehicles was provided to the attendees. MVPA members showed their pride in their vehicles and the military history behind them. Bill Grimes drove his M151 jeep, Robert Grimes drove a real crowd pleaser with the WWII DUKW belonging to the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum, John Booth drove his WWII M6 Dodge bomb truck and Kevin Visloky and his son Will drove their M998 AMG Humvee. After the parade, everyone met at the local chicken restaurant for a fine fried chicken lunch.



The Military Machines of American Freedom **JOIN NOW!**

Military Machines of American Freedom, Inc. is a non-profit IRS approved 501 (c) (3) charitable organization based in Quincy, Florida. Our mission is to educate the public as to the use, contribution and history of the vehicles and aircraft used by our American military forces with emphasis on recognizing our military veterans for the sacrifices they made and continue to make for the freedoms cherished in the United States.

Visit us at: MilitaryMachinesofAmericanFreedom.org

Contact us at: Headquarters@MilitaryMachinesofAmericanfreedom.org





AMPHIBIAN is the official newsletter of the Camp Gordon Johnston Association, Inc. a 501 c (3) not for Profit Corporation and is published annually for the benefit of our veterans, members and all interested parties.

AMPHIBIAN welcomes editorial, technical and historical articles. Send to:
Editor, AMPHIBIAN, P.O. Box 1334, Carrabelle, FL 32322. AMPHIBIAN assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to material. Material may also be e-mailed to: campgordonjohnston@fairpoint.net

Upcoming Events.

9th Smithsonian National Museum day at the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum. this year will also feature the Polka Accordions of Sal and Tony with Mike on drums. Harold Hollinshead will play and sing country songs. Finger food and real diversity of music, **hard to beat!** September 24th, 2016.

In November the St. Joseph Bay Golf Club will host the 7th Annual "Salute to Veterans" Golf Tournament in support of the Camp Golf Johnston WWII Museum.

Become Museum Supporter!

Renew or join the Camp Gordon Johnston Association!
June is when our annual \$20.00 membership is due.

As a member of the Camp Gordon Johnston Association, you are supporting our on-going effort to preserve the history of America's efforts in World War II in the most accurate form possible. Our intent is to let present and future generations get a sense of true history through the use of photographs, artifacts, videos, displays and arrangements that allow visitors to actually "feel" the atmosphere of that era. You can learn more by taking the "video tour" of the museum on our home page. We welcome any helpful comments or suggestions you may have. Again, you can e-mail us through the home page. ***You can mail your \$20.00 membership dues to:***

Camp Gordon Johnston Association
P.O. Box 1334
Carrabelle, Florida, 32322

Membership

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mail Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

I am a returning member _____ I am a new member _____

E-mail address (optional) _____

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association does not sell or release member e-mail addresses and only uses them for informative newsworthy items of Museum or Association value.

As a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation all donations are tax deductible. Please check with your accountant for appropriate tax benefits.

Date: Tue, 21 Jun 2016 13:12:33 -0400

To: CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON ASSOCIATION

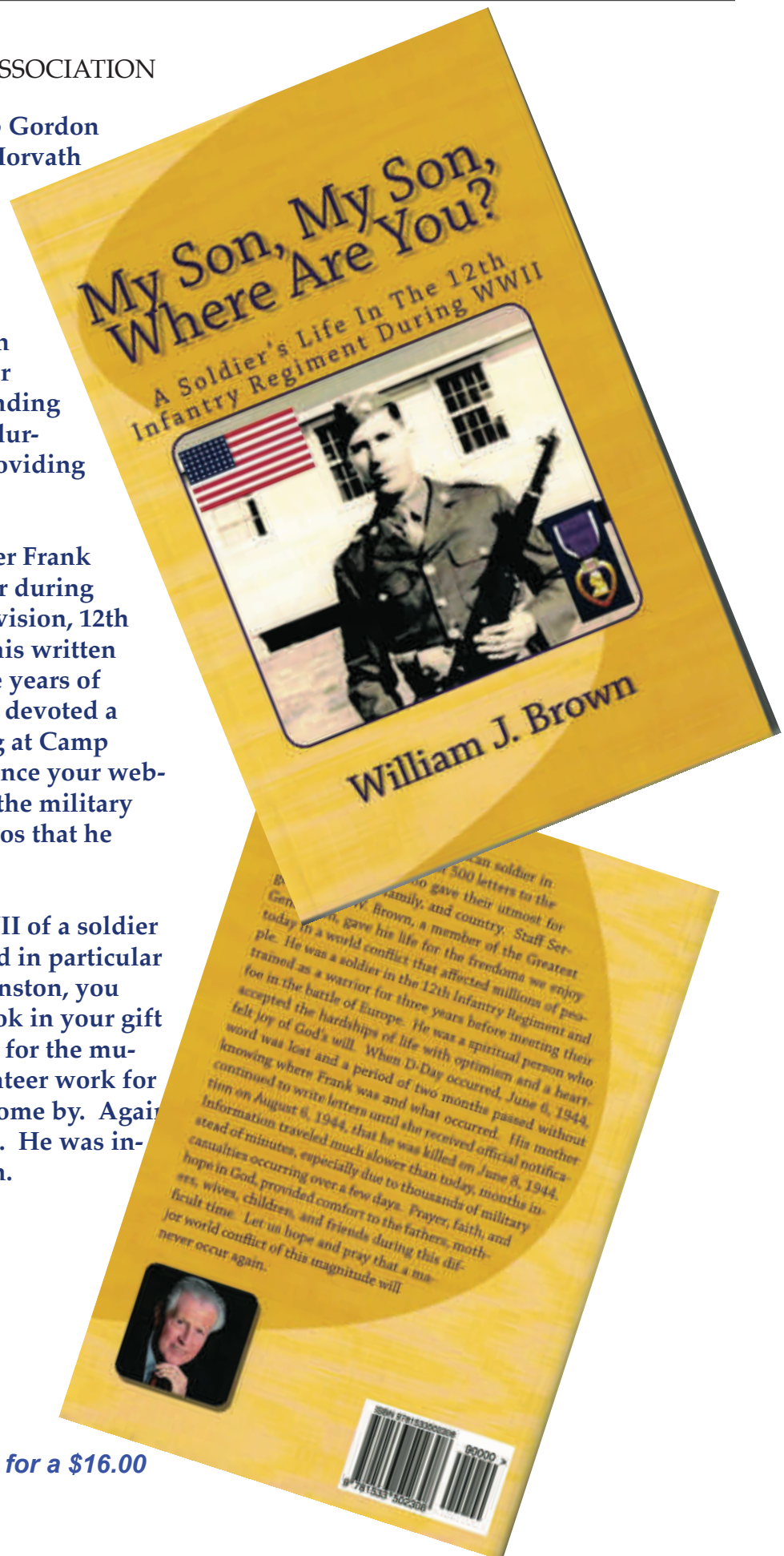
I was just on Facebook at the Camp Gordon Johnston page and read that Mike Horvath passed away in May. I am so sorry to hear the news. I have been in contact with Mike the past several months in reference to a book I was writing about my brother Frank W. Brown who trained at Camp Gordon Johnston from October to November 1943. Mike was very gracious in sending me some photos taken at the camp during the amphibious training and providing some other references.

I had informed Mike that my brother Frank wrote about 500 letters to his mother during three years of training in the 4th Division, 12th Infantry. I have based my book in his written words on what life was like in three years of training in the 12th Infantry. I have devoted a chapter to his two month of training at Camp Gordon Johnston and therein reference your website. The book also displays life in the military through his written words and photos that he took during this period.

Since the book offers a view of WWII of a soldier in the infantry in his own words and in particular while training at Camp Gordon Johnston, you may be interested in placing the book in your gift shop to serve as a source of revenue for the museum. I have in the past done volunteer work for non-profits and revenue is hard to come by. Again I am truly sorry for the loss of Mike. He was indeed a kind person and a gentleman.

God Bless,
Bill Brown

Available in the museum gift shop for a \$16.00 donation.



Letter from the President.....

I am honored to serve this very important organization that will live beyond those of us: Our mission has always been: 1) Building a permanent museum to honor our Amphibious Soldiers
2) Collect the history of CJG and those who served here, and
3) For evermore continue our mission to educate future generations about CGJ's role in training soldiers to fight for our freedoms as Americans have done in the past and will be called upon in the future to maintain these freedoms.

To the latter, CGJA is moving swiftly to construct a permanent museum facility to better protect our artifacts and locate on the site of practice beach landing which fronts on Highway 98 in the vicinity of Carrabelle Beach.

This year will focus on constructing this museum. Past President, Tony Minichiello, will continue the execution of the building plans that he has tirelessly worked on for the past several years. Tony will be assisted by other board members of the building committee.

The Curator, Linda Minichiello, and staff will be busy maintaining the museum while planning the move into the smaller display area.

As there is much to be accomplished, any help you may provide would greatly assist the monumental transition to the permanent CGJ Museum.

More progress will be reported in future editions of the AMPHIBIAN, so look for the next newsletter.

David K. Butler



To:

the Camp Gordon Johnston Association
P.O. Box 1334
Carrabelle, FL 32322