

# Camp Gordon Johnston Days Will Be Held May 8-9, 2015!

*The first change in date in twenty years will better accommodate the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, First Florida Division, and allow a greater number of participants to come to the event.*

*Come to the...*  
**20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Camp Gordon Johnston Days**  
**May 8 and 9, 2015**

**In Carrabelle Florida!**

- Visit the WWII Museum either day
- Join the parade on Saturday
- Open to the general public
- Eat great seafood
- Enjoy the beautiful beaches
- View our vintage military vehicles
- Have fun at the Saturday evening dinner dance
- Family friendly atmosphere

For information, visit [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com) or call (850) 697-8575. Military vendors are welcome.

[www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com)

## Calling all Parade Entries!

The parade will begin May 9th at approximately 10:45 A.M. on Highway 98 in Carrabelle, Florida. It will feature both WWII vehicles and modern military equipment. ROTC units, civic groups, and re-enactors will participate in the parade festivities. This year the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, First Florida Chapter, will be bringing their restored vintage military vehicles to take part in the parade. Afterwards they will gather at the old Gulf State Bank location in Carrabelle to conduct their “swap” business. The public is cordially invited to attend this parade, paying tribute to veterans of all branches of service, from all past and current wartime and peacetime efforts. The public is also invited to come to the “swap” location to view the vehicles, purchase souvenirs and talk to the participants. If you wish to be in the parade, contact Mike Horvath at (850) 251-3928, or Sid Winchester at (850) 524-3927. You may also register on-line at: [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com).

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Days Schedule

On May 8 and 9, the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum will be receiving returning veterans, their families and friends as they return to the area where hard training was conducted during WWII.

**Friday Evening:** Low Country Boil. The American Legion Camp Gordon Johnston, Post 82, will host a Low Country Boil. See announcement on page four for details.

**Saturday Morning:** Breakfast at the Masonic Lodge in Carrabelle. All WWII vets and active duty may eat free. All others pay \$7.00.

**Saturday Morning:** Parade on Hwy 98 in Carrabelle. Vintage WWII vehicles, veterans, civic and patriotic entries will participate. All are invited to come and watch or join in.

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association, First Florida Chapter, will hold its quarterly meeting here and will be bringing their vehicles to our parade. After the parade they will set up their vehicles and displays in front of the old Gulf State Bank building on Hwy 98. All are welcome to come and view these historic military displays.

On Saturday after the Parade, visitors to the Museum can listen to live accordion music by Tony and Sal, playing songs from the war years to present.

**Saturday Evening:** A dinner Dance at the Senior Center in Carrabelle will be held. Tickets are on sale at the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum and Post 82 American Legion in Lanark village or by calling call Greg Kristofferson at (850) 320-8201. Complete details are online at [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com)

Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum will be open Friday until 5 P.M. and Saturday 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. Call 697-8575 for additional information.

## GET NEW DOG TAGS AT CGJ DAYS EVENT!

Military Vehicle Preservation Member Mr. Lamar Roland, from Samson, Alabama, will be bringing his dog tag machine to our event. All persons interested in having a historic or duplicate dog-tag will be invited to purchase one made on the spot from an authentic military machine. Mr. Lamar will be in the “swap” area in front of the Gulf Unmanned Systems Center located on Hwy 98 Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.





▲ *U.S Army Landing Craft at Carrabelle Beach training for D-Day.*

## Museum Boat Monument Honoring Amphibious Training is Closer to Completion

The Higgins Boat currently under construction at the Gulf Unmanned facility on Airport road will be displayed at Carrabelle Beach where the training for D-Day occurred. The property is owned by the CGJA and will also be the site for the proposed new building to house the WWII Museum, pending funding from county, state and private sources.

The boat will be built to 1/2 scale; 18 feet long, 4 to 5 feet wide, will be weatherized with epoxy and painted in the correct color scheme of that time period. The ramp will be functional and the interior will be as accurate as possible. The museum was given sets of original 1942 Higgins Boat Company drawings to use for reference. LTC David Butler, USA Ret. and CGJA Board Member, was responsible for securing the drawings.

Plans call for the boat to be placed on a concrete slab with a pole barn, informational Kiosks, walking path and lighted flagpoles. Executive Secretary Michael Horvath has applied to the Florida Department of State for a grant to help fund erection of an historic marker on the front of the property where the Higgins boat will be displayed.

The construction project will be costly even though we plan to utilize prison labor when possible. Our budget is set at \$50,000 and we are about \$10,000 short. Anyone wishing to contribute to this monument can send a check to Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum, P.O. Box 1334 Carrabelle, FL 32322. Be sure to mark your check "Monument Fund" You can also contribute online through Paypal at [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com).



▲ *Martin Benbaruch, of Martin Marine, leaning on the hull after positioning the screw.*



▲ *The hull following the first coat of primer.*



▲ *View from the Stern after the first coat of Epoxy*

Gulf Unmanned Systems Center, which tests, trains and manufactures unmanned systems, donated space at their Carrabelle facility for construction of the boat. CEO Bruce McCormick is also a 24-year Navy Veteran. The CGJA is especially grateful for his company's generosity and his support of our project.



**Join the Camp Gordon Johnston Association *online* today! Go to: [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com)**

## WWII Veteran Hugh Wallace relates his experience in WWII during visit to the Museum.



On March 7, 2015, the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum was visited by World War II veteran Hugh D. Wallis and his wife Susan. While visiting the museum, he recorded a twenty-five minute interview recounting his memories of World War II. The following is a small summary of that interview:

Mr. Wallis was born on a tobacco farm in Cadiz, Kentucky in June 1924. In April 1943, Mr. Wallis was drafted into the United States Army. After basic training he signed up to be a paratrooper and was assigned to the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne.

After completing his training, Mr. Wallis and his unit boarded a ship bound for Casablanca, Morocco. In early 1944, Mr. Wallis was sent to Italy. The 504th was the only regiment of the 82nd airborne to be deployed to Italy. The rest of the 82nd was deployed to England. While in Italy he was sent to Anzio where he first saw combat. He was wounded in the leg by debris thrown up when a German 88mm artillery shell landed near him. Shortly thereafter, the 504th was sent to England. Because of the significant casualties suffered in Italy, the 504th was withheld from the Normandy invasion to reorganize.

On September 17, 1944 Mr. Wallis and the rest of the 504th parachuted into the Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden—the largest airborne operation in history. One of the objectives of the mission was to seize control of several bridges near the town of Grave. Mr. Wallis was wounded in the arm while his unit was crossing the Maas-Waal Canal.

In December 1944, Mr. Wallis participated in the Battle of the Bulge where he got frostbite on his feet. Shortly after Christmas Day, he was evacuated from the front line and was sent back to the United States. He spent the remainder of the war in the U.S. and was discharged in August 1945. After his discharge, Mr. Wallis went to school on the GI Bill, got married and raised a family.

*An extensive interview with Mr. Wallis was videotaped for the Museum Archives.*

## Historic Marker to be placed at CGJ Museum Property Approved by Florida Department of State

A request for the Historic Marker was sent in by CGJA Secretary/Treasurer Michael Horvath in December of 2014 along with a request for a grant to pay for half of the \$1900.00 cost of the Marker. In July we will learn if we will receive that grant

## WWII Paratrooper recounts training at Camp Gordon Johnston

By Manuel Gass, Assistant Curator



On February 21, 2015, the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum was visited by an army veteran who did part of his training at Camp Gordon Johnston as a paratrooper. This was his first visit back to the Camp Gordon Johnston area since 1945.

Mr. Joseph Kellbeck was born in Clifton, New Jersey. He was still in high school

at the beginning of World War II. At first he joined the army reserve and was sent to engineering school under the Service Training Program at Syracuse University. After D-Day, the Service Training Program was shut down and he was sent to infantry training in Florida where he volunteered to be a paratrooper. After earning his jump wings, he was sent to radio school to learn Morse code and become a radio operator.

During a training jump, Mr. Kellbeck parachuted onto Dog Island with his radio equipment. Upon Landing he fell forward, his helmet slid down over his face and broke his nose when he hit the ground. Also, his radio equipment was damaged and was rendered useless. On a later training jump, Mr. Kellbeck's leg was broken in six places; that was the end of his time as a paratrooper.

After recovering from his injuries, he was transferred back to the Fourth Infantry Division during the summer of 1945 to train for the eventual invasion of Japan. The war ended before that invasion took place and he never saw combat. After being discharged from the army, Mr. Kellbeck attended college under the G.I. Bill and received a degree in engineering. For the next thirty-six years he worked for General Electric, traveling to many different parts of the country

*An extensive interview with Mr. Kellbeck was videotaped for the Museum archives.*

## The Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum Welcomes a New Volunteer

Mrs. Bonnie Greenblatt has volunteered to assist at the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum in Carrabelle, Florida. Mrs. Greenblatt is the widow of Martin Greenblatt, longtime supporter of the Museum. Bonnie has donated Martin's vast collection of WWII models, many still in their original packaging as they came from the store.

Bonnie will also be our official Holocaust historian and will be adding new features to the current memorial in the Museum.

We are fortunate to have Bonnie join in our efforts to preserve the history of WWII.



**Members:** You can now contribute to our Endowment through the Community Foundation of North Florida. Go to our webpage and click on: ***Findlearngive.org***



For further information e-mail  
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