



**ARMY SERVICE FORCES**

*Training Center*



# AMPHIBIAN

*Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla.*

SPECIAL EDITION

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association

January February 2015

## Camp Gordon Johnston Days Moved to May 8-9, 2015



The Camp Gordon Johnston Days have been moved to the week of May 8-9, 2015. This was done, in part, to accommodate better weather and the partnering with the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, 1st Florida Division, to hold their quarterly meeting in Carrabelle. They will be bringing vehicles similar to the above which were in the Springtime Tallahassee Parade and will set up downtown after the parade to sell, buy and swap items. Other vendors will be located at that area as well and will be displaying their wares including radio controlled model airplanes, dog-tag making machine, uniforms, military memorabilia, etc.

The parade will be held as usual on Saturday with re-enactors, honor guards, band, and civic and military/veteran organizations included. See more on page 4.

## 2014 "Salute to Veterans" Golf Tournament Nets over \$4,000.00 to help Cover the Museum's Annual Advertising costs



**Port St. Joe, Florida:** The Fourth Annual Salute to Veterans held at the St. Joseph Bay Golf Club in November brought out 16 teams who competed for total prize money of \$950.00. Also, all players received gift bags, at registration and additional prizes at the drawings during the luncheon. The Silent Auction on Friday evening was a great success with many valuable gift items going to the attendees. Local popular "New Boyer Band" performed for the fourth consecutive year and was better than ever. We were very fortunate to have such great musicians in the house. Weather was perfect for the Saturday Tournament. At the opening ceremony VFW Commander Rodney Herring told of the significance of that training that occurred at Camp Gordon Johnston during WWII as well as an excellent description of the American people from that time.

## A Tribute to Veterans of Camp Gordon Johnston Florida

They came from everywhere. Commercial fishermen from California, axe men from the Northwest and farmers from the plains and mid-west. Coal miners came from West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Alabama. New York cab drivers, subway transit workers. Tennessee plowboys and Texas cowboys. From Maine to Arizona, from Florida to Oregon, from Seattle to Savannah they came to answer the call to defend this Land of Liberty!

They came dressed in overalls, pants with a rope belt, Zoot suits and Business suits. They were of all races, religions and Creed with one united cause, FREEDOM!

They came to Carrabelle. They came by rail aboard the "Gopher-Frog and Alligator Railroad" aka The Georgia- Florida and Alabama Railroad. They came by bus, boat, and their own cars to this jungle wilderness to be terrorized by yellow flies, dog flies, deer flies, gnats, mosquitos and any and all stinging critters. Rattlesnakes, moccasins, Coral snakes along with alligators and wild hogs made these men wonder, "What in the world have I got myself into now?" But these men were toughened by the hard times they had grown up in. The depression was still going strong in small remote places like Carrabelle. Many men from all over the nation joined the military just for "three hot's and a cot!" And by joining up, they removed an empty belly from the already meager dinner table back home.

The "Dastardly attack" by the Japanese on Oahu, Hawaii brought all these men together here and at other quickly sprung up training camps around the nation, but none were harsher and had the name "Hell by the Sea!" as Camp Carrabelle was called.

General Omar Bradley, Commanding the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division brought that Division here for Amphibious Warfare training said, "The man who chose this place ought to be court martialed!"

The US Army had six Amphibious Engineer Brigades, known as Engineer Boat and Shore Regiments. The EB&SRs served with Honor and Courage in Europe and in the Pacific, assaulting Japanese held strongholds and on "Fortress Europe."

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association proudly commemorates these great heroes each year.. We unashamedly thank GOD for their sacrifice and service!

*Sid Winchester,*

*Past President and current Board Member*

### New Volunteer at Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum

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 all of Martin's collection of WWII models, many still in the boxes as they came from the store.

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

We are fortunate to have Bonnie join with our efforts.



## SOUVENIR "CHALLENGE COINS" ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GIFT STORE OR ON-LINE



The coins are available for a donation of \$10.00 plus shipping. Many Museums, military units, civic clubs and other groups have begun using these types of coins to promote themselves by gifting them to relatives and friends or simply as a way to promote their organization.

1 3/4 inch diameter these coins are finely etched and made of brass with finely enameled colors for each divisions patch and honors our WWII veterans. They make great gifts for families, friends, as well as people who collect these coins when visiting in our area.

The Musuem will have them avaiable during the CGJ Days events, also.

## Flack Jacket added to the Viet Nam exhibit

Revently discovered in storage from our old location on Marine Street this item is immediately recognized by soldiers who served "in Country". While our true mission is preserving WWII history, the Museum has small displays honoring Korea, Viet Nam and the Middle East conflicts.



## Need a Uniform?

The Museum has many duplicate uniforms in storage and will be placing some of them in the gift shop. Stop in when you visit but keep in mind one thing: The are original WWII uniforms coming from a time when the average soldier, sailor, airman or marine wore a size 34 or smaller! Donation amounts will be labeled on each one. Ideal for children or framing.



Westminster Oaks Active Living Retirement Community in Tallahassee braved the rains on Friday and traveled to the Camp Gordon Johnston World War II Museum in Carrabelle. The Museum opened early to accommodate their arrival.

The group of 24 enjoyed the tour led by curator Linda Minichiello, who is a fountain of knowledge and had much to share. The group all remembered so much from seeing the memorabilia and swapped many stories. It was a very enjoyable trip.

Westminster Oaks has a very active Veterans group made up of about 75 residents. They meet once a month and also help to sponsor programs for Memorial Day, Flag Day and a big bar-b-que on Veteran's Day. In addition, the veterans collect books to send to the troops and have had several of their Veterans participate in the Honor Flight which carries WWII veterans to the National WWII Memorial in Washington D.C., free of charge, but The Oaks is most proud of the "Wall of Honor" where they proudly display pictures of residents or residents spouses who served in any branch of service.

After the visit the group had reserved lunch at the Seineyard Restaurant at Summer Camp.





# Scaled - down Higgins Boat construction begins

Using actual plans from the Andrew Higgins 1942 construction plans, Mr. Martin Benbaruch has begun to build our 18 foot scale model higgins boat which will be placed on the Museum property across from Carrabelle Beach.

The model will be placed under cover with kiosks explaining the history of the units who trained in beach landings before moving overseas and will be the center piece of our memorial to those soldiers.

The boat will be weatherized and painted in true WWII colors and numbered. An expensive undertaking,, we have committed ourselves to completing this long planned project and ask all like-minded to donate whatever amounts they can afford. We need to raise \$10,000 for the boat alone. You can donate on line through the web page or by mail.

*We Want You in Our Parade!*

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual** 

**Camp Gordon Johnston Days**

**★ May 8 and 9, 2015**

We invite all who wish to show their support for our veterans to participate in the Camp Gordon Johnston Days parade in Carrabelle, Florida. The parade will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2015. The parade line-up begins on 10th Street West at 9:30 a.m. EST with the parade starting at 10:45 a.m. EST.

Our event kicks off this year on Friday, May 8, with a veterans social at the Camp Gordon Johnston American Legion Post 82 in Lanark Village. The social is open to all veterans with one guest or widows of WWII veterans.

On Saturday, May 9, the Masonic Lodge will be serving breakfast at 7 a.m. This breakfast is free for all active duty and WWII veterans—all others pay \$6.00 per person. We are also planning a dinner/dance for Saturday evening.

This year, for the first time, we will be partnering with the Military Vehicle Preservation Association (MVPA), First Florida Chapter, so we look forward to an extended parade lineup of military vehicles. At the end of the parade the military vehicles will be placed on display on Hwy 98 at the old Gulf State Bank. There will be plenty of parking available and the “meet and swap” groups will be able to set up shop at that location. There will be no vendor charge this first year of partnering with the MVPA, which we hope will become an annual event. For all MVPA members, meal tickets will be provided for a \$15.00 discount to approved area restaurants to be used during CGJ Days. These will be included in a packet you will receive when you register.

The Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum will be auctioning off an M-416 ¼ jeep trailer at the swap meet (see photo bottom right). The museum operates on donations and we encourage you to visit the museum located in the Carrabelle Municipal Complex. There will be transportation provided at the display area to carry visitors to and from the Museum.

Carrabelle is 100 miles east of Panama City on Hwy 98, and about 60 miles south of Tallahassee.

Both vendors and parade participants can register for the event online at: [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com) by clicking on the “Events” tab, or by calling (850) 697-8575.

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

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association • P.O. Box 1334 • Carrabelle, FL 32322 • (850) 697-8575  
(A 501 c (3) non-profit corporation operating the CGJ WWII Museum)






