

AMPHIBIAN

Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla.



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News Spots

The following was submitted (and sung)
by **Pete Hill**, Glouster, Ohio
544 EB&SR (4th Brigade)
at the 2012 CGJ Days dinner/dance.

Originally sung at CGJ, 1943, to the tune of
"From The Halls of Montezuma"

From the sands of Wasburn Island*
To the Swamps of Carrabelle
We have been in many places
But this one sure is hell
If the Navy and the Coast Guard
Ever look on Heaven's scene
They will find the fighting 4th Brigade
Digging 6 x 6 latrines.

*In Massachusetts-Cape Cod (First
Amphibious Engineers Training Location)

E-MAIL from Susan Remillard

My parents stayed at a boarding house in Apalachicola after WWII. The address was 95, 6 Street. We were there last weekend, and it was a vacant lot. Would love to find out more info. We went to Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum, but it was closed, but did get a brochure and found out my Dad was in the 4th Inf. Div. by the patch he has on his uniform. Have no idea how long they were in Apalachicola, but know they talked about how they liked it there. Any info would be appreciated. His name was Herbert Zieman. Must have been there in 1945, he was stationed in Alaska during the war.

Best Regards, **Susan Remillard**
E-mail: remihead@aol.com

The 18th Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Reunion Days

The Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Reunion Days were established to celebrate historic wartime Carrabelle and the service of our veterans from WWII to present. The Camp Gordon Johnston Association has announced the 2013 schedule. All veterans and their family, friends, and supporters are invited to Carrabelle from Thursday, March 7, 2013 through Saturday, March 9, 2013. *Our future reunions will not feature the Saturday evening dinner-dance, so join us this year for this last hurrah with a great meal, prizes and live music for dancing! \$17.00 per person. Active duty and WWII vets eat for free.*

On **Thursday, March 7th**, Veterans and their families can register throughout the day at the CGJ WWII Museum located at 1001 Grey Avenue, in the Carrabelle Municipal Complex. At 12:00 noon, there will be a formal dedication of the new addition to the CGJ Museum. Finger foods, beverages, and treats will be provided.

On **Friday, March 8th**, registration will continue throughout the day. Boat excursions to Dog Island, where many practice beach landings were held during WWII training, will be provided by Towboats U.S. Passage for each participant will cost \$25.00. There must be a minimum of three persons before the boat will leave. This is a sightseeing trip—we will not disembark on Dog Island. For reservations call: (850) 697-8909 or 697-3360. At 6 P.M., the Lanark American Legion Post 82, Camp Gordon Johnston, will host a southern seafood buffet. WWII veterans and active duty troops are especially invited to attend this event where they will be served first. Live music will add to the evening festivities.

On **Saturday, March 9th**, all participants are invited to begin the day with breakfast at the Masonic Lodge, 108 NE First Street, in Carrabelle. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 A.M. at a cost of \$6.00. Breakfast is free to active-duty troops and WWII veterans.

At approximately 10:45 A.M., on Highway 98 in Carrabelle, the parade will begin featuring WWII vehicles, tanks, and modern military equipment. Marching bands, active duty soldiers, civic groups, and re-enactors will participate in the parade festivities. The public is cordially invited to attend



Do You Know the Importance of June 14th?

June 14th is Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

Flag Day was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

June 14, 1775, was The Army's Birthday

When the American Revolution broke out, the rebellious colonies did not possess an army in the modern sense. Rather, the revolutionaries fielded an amateur force of colonial troops, cobbled together from various New England militia companies. They had no unified chain of command, and although Artemas Ward of Massachusetts exercised authority by informal agreement, officers from other colonies were not obligated to obey his orders. The American volunteers were led, equipped, armed, paid for, and supported by the colonies from which they were raised. This is thought to be the birth of the U. S. Army, on June 14, 1775.

Continued from page one, Reunion Days...

this parade, paying tribute to veterans of all branches of service, from all past and current wartime and peacetime efforts.

If you wish to register on-line to be in the parade, please go to: www.campgordonjohnston.com/parade_form.htm or call Sidney Winchester at: (850) 524-3927

In the afternoon, tentative plans include a re-enactment of the Normandy beach landing at the Carrabelle Beach Park, located west of Carrabelle on Highway 98, near the Crooked River Lighthouse. We'll keep you posted!

Saturday evening will feature a dinner and dance at the Carrabelle Municipal Complex auditorium, where prizes and awards will be given out. Live dance music will be provided. The meal will be your choice of either seafood or chicken at \$17.00 per person. The public is invited to attend this event and sponsor dinner for a soldier. All active duty and WWII veterans eat free.

The CGJ Museum will be open for visitors on Thursday 1200–1600 hours, Friday 0900–1600 and Saturday 0900–1500 hours. The Museum is closed Sundays.

News from The Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum

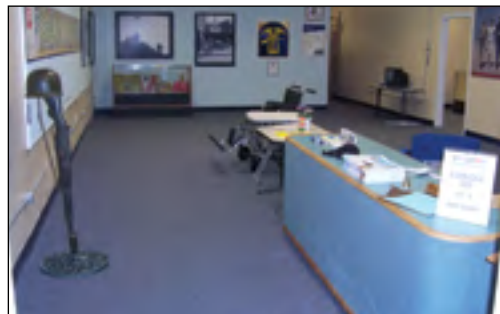
Veterans' Day Parade

On November 12, 2012, The Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum was well represented in the Veterans' Day parade in Tallahassee, as our Jeep and Leiferwagen were observed traveling in the parade. Association member **David Butler** was Dressed in a World War II military policeman uniform and, much to the amusement of the parents and children, he played his role by "instructing" the children to "stay on the sidewalk and off the street"! The jeep was driven by **Tony Minichiello**, president of the CGJA.



Museum Facility Modifications

The front entrance to The Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum has been changed! We recently signed a 25-year lease with the City of Carrabelle and at the same time acquired over 2000 additional square feet for the museum.



The Museum now has a covered entrance on the West side of the complex. As a condition of the lease extension, the museum committed and spent \$7000 to landscape the side of the building and entrance, with an additional \$2000 going to enhance the entry way and provide lighting to the flagpoles. On December 7, we dedicated two additional flagpoles that were given to us by the Woodmen of the World (*see photos of the plaques*). The Carrabelle artists Association painted a mural on the side of the building that is visible from the entrance parking lot.



Camp Gordon Johnston to Add Exhibits

The Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum has dedicated the movie room to include Korea, Viet Nam, WWI and Gulf war veterans. While still in the initial stages, anyone who wishes to donate articles or photos for scanning from these conflicts should contact Linda Minichiello or Bobbye Winchester at (850) 697-8575.

Please keep in mind that while photos will be scanned and the originals returned, due to special insurance requirements, all articles or items must be freely donated and will become the property of the Camp Gordon Johnston Association.

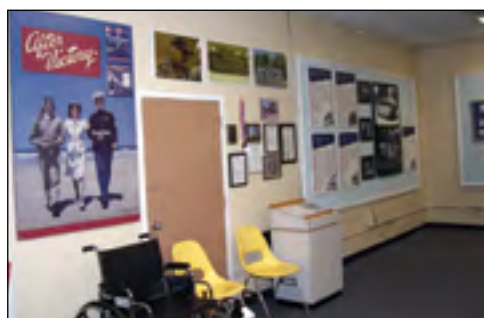
The museum has acquired tracings from the Viet Nam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. for the following Franklin County residents killed during that war: **Robert O'Neal Cato**, **James Henry Clay**, **Clifford G. Rhodes**, **Herbert Eugene Smith**, and **Robert C. Millender**.

Anyone knowing of additional Franklin County residents, who served in Viet Nam and paid the ultimate price, please contact the museum to have their tracings added to the exhibit. Names of Korean War veterans killed in combat

will also be added to the Korean War display, as well as the names of the victims of the other wars.

New exhibits under construction in the new wing include a mock-up of a mail room/office with an actual screen door (over 65 years old) from the Camp. All articles in the exhibit are period with the file cabinet also from the camp. This display is still in development. The second exhibit features an aide Station/Field hospital. All items were donated by veterans and are actual WWII supplied. Again, this exhibit is in progress.

The radio was donated by Mrs. Warren Roddenberry and is from the 1930's. It is used to demonstrate communications before the advent of T.V. and the internet.



American Legion Post 13 presents a Check for CGJ Museum

Val Fraily, Commander American Legion Post 13 in Tallahassee Florida, presented a check for \$250.00 to Tony Minichiello, CGJA Board member (and also a member of Post 13), to support the efforts of the Museum. The presentation was made during the Tuesday night weekly dance held at the Legion Hall.

In the background is the Tallahassee Swing Band, a 20-member orchestra including three vocalists. The band has a book of 498 songs and is known region-wide for its excellent musicians and true big band sound. They have been performing weekly at the Legion for more than 25 years and have played at the Camp Gordon Johnston Dinner/Dance during past reunions.



MURPHY'S LAWS OF COMBAT:

1. You are not a superman.
2. If it's stupid but works, it isn't stupid.
3. Don't look conspicuous – it draws fire. (This is why aircraft carriers are called, "Bomb Magnets.")
4. When in doubt, empty your magazine.
5. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
6. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
7. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
8. No plan survives the first contact intact.
9. All five-second grenade fuses will burn down in three seconds.
10. Try to look unimportant because the bad guys may be low on ammo.
11. If you are forward of your position, the artillery will fall short.
12. The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.
13. The important things are always simple.
14. The simple things are always hard.
15. The easy way is always mined.
16. If you are short of everything except enemy, you are in combat.
17. When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.
18. Incoming fire has the right of way.
19. Friendly fire – isn't.
20. If the enemy is in range, "SO ARE YOU!!!"
21. No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.
22. Beer math is: two beers times 27 men equals 49 cases.
23. Body count math is: two guerillas plus one portable plus two pigs equals 37 enemy killed in action.
24. Things that must be together to work, usually can't be shipped together.
25. Radios will fail as soon as you need fire support desperately.
26. Anything you do can get you shot – including doing nothing.
27. Tracers work both ways.
28. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
29. Make it tough for the enemy to get in and you can't get out.
30. If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will have more than your fair share of objectives to take.
31. When both sides are convinced that they are about to lose, they are both right.
32. Professional soldiers are predictable, but the world is full of amateurs.
33. Murphy was a grunt.

Hershey's Chocolate and The War Effort

Chocolate, produced mainly by the Hershey Company, was a familiar staple in US rations during World War II. It usually came in the form of three individually wrapped, four-ounce rectangular slabs intended more as an emergency ration than a confectioner's treat. Referred to originally as the Logan bar after Colonel Paul Logan, the Army Quartermaster officer who commissioned its production by Hershey in 1937. It became known as the D Ration among the millions of GIs who chomped on it, melted it down, shaved it into bits with their P38s or bayonets, traded it, or tossed it to begging urchins throughout Italy and France.



In 1937, Logan foresaw the need for expanded production of the ration and contacted Hershey officials to discuss what he felt would satisfy Army needs. He did not want a survival bar that tasted too good for fear that troops would eat it casually rather than carry it until an emergency arose. Accordingly, he told Hershey representatives that he wanted a bar that weighed four ounces, was high in food energy value, could withstand high temperatures, and tasted just "a little better than a boiled potato."

Hershey adjust its production methods to satisfy Logan's requirements, coming up with a thick hard slab of dark chocolate that withstood 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Three of the 600 calorie four-ounce bars were individually wrapped in foil and collectively sealed as a daily emergency ration that met the 1,800 calorie minimum sustenance requirement.

Hershey filled an original order for 90,000 of the D Rations and Army field tested them during the remainder of 1937 along the Texas border and in the Philippines and Panama. While the rations proved highly portable and had the highest caloric content possible in the smallest package, they were never as popular with the troops as the commercially produced Hershey bars. Still, they met the Army's expectations. Second Lieutenant Ernest Childers, who earned the Medal of Honor while fighting in Italy, noted in an interview, "These rations [D rations] are welcome after hard fighting. In a running battle where action is intense and the men are standing by their guns, packaged rations furnish the only possible food supply."

In 1943, Hershey was asked to produce a better-tasting chocolate bar that would withstand the extreme heat of the Pacific Theater. The result was the one-ounce sized Tropical Bars that were packaged along with K Rations and by war's end had replaced the Logan Bar. Although the Tropical Bar was sweeter and much more akin in shape to a normal chocolate bar, there's much anecdotal evidence that the troops didn't find its taste any more satisfying than the Logan. Nonetheless, it's been estimated that during 1940-1945, Hershey produced and distributed over three billion D Ration and Tropical Bar units for our forces around the world.

Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars will probably recall the Hershey Tropical Bar as part of the sundry pack included with their rations. Later, Desert Shield and Desert Storm warriors were treated to an experimental 144,000 unit run of Hershey's Desert Bar. Today's troops' Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) include the Hooah Bar, a nutrition dense energy snack in various flavors.



Small Flotilla of Brigade “C” Boats Making Enviably Record in South Pacific

After a stormy 1,000 mile trip down the coast of New Guinea in a 40 foot C-boat,

1st Lt. Agnew A. Talcott spoke heartily above the roar of the powerful Marine engine about the exploits of his little flotilla of ship-to-shore craft, which had made an enviable record of achievement for the Brigade in the SWPA.

“This is the second 1,000 mile voyage we’ve made with these three C-boats and we probably will make even longer hops as the Brigade moves nearer to Tokyo,” the lieutenant said confidently. “We usually break up our trips into jumps of 200 to 300 miles. On this last trip we successfully bucked a storm that tied up several 100 foot craft.

At one time through the storm we had to tow one of our boats while repairs were being made.” Lt. Talcott continued enthusiastically, “These boats have come a long way from Monterey, California to Noemfoer, New Guinea – and they are ready for anything that lies ahead.”

Of course, these C-boats were brought to New Guinea by Liberty ship, but before they left the states, the lieutenant had used them for navigational instruction on trips from Monterey to Mexico. At that time they were just motor and hull, the way they had been built for the Navy to carry dozens of Gobs from fighting ships to shore.

Originally these boats were to be used as the first amphibious landing craft, equipped with ramps for beach landings. After some experimenting, officials decided to give them up for beachhead work because of difficulty of taking them off the beaches.

Although Lt. Talcott is Regimental Navigation and Boat Officer, and his tiny fleet has the primary task of navigating missions and navigational surveys, they have hauled emergency supplies, evacuated wounded and served in

many other diversified ways to add to the growing list of services rendered by this Brigade to forces in the SWPA.

Radioman T/4 Homer T Hodge, on the lead boat, is full of interesting and humorous stories he has picked up all along the line. “We were anchored about 100 yards off-shore in a forward area playing cards while we could hear rifle and machine gun fire as Yanks chased infiltrating Japs into the jungle,” he related with a twinkle in his eyes as the rest of the crew nodded affirmatively. “Yes, it was just like one of these cartoons. One of us would look up between hands to watch an infantryman take aim, fire and run forward.”

Then there’s the story about the Amphib who conceived the idea of using an abandoned concrete-mixer for a washing machine. Until he decided to take out the cast-iron paddles and replace them with wooden ones, his supply sergeant had a headache salvaging dozens of ripped and torn sets of fatigues.

Members of the crews of the three globe-trotting C-boats are Bo’sun T/4 Daniel E. Greenwood; Coxswains T/4 Al P. Carlin and T/4 Edmund Fitzpatrick; Radiomen T/4 Homer J. Hodge, T/5 Dean W. Rothrock and T/5 Grenville T. Bridgman; Engineers T/5 Joseph L. Crooks and Pfc. Erwin J. Zenzen, and Seamen Pfc. John a Buttgereit, Pfc. Wylie A. Miller, Jr., Pfc. Robert J. Oldham and Pvt. Arthur E. Allen. The only passenger on the recent trip was CWO Joseph Chawatt, who is on a supply mission.

These Amphibs have lived aboard the C-boats almost all the time since coming overseas. They draw their own rations and cook their own meals, which they say are as good as any in New Guinea. Not having seen the other two C-boats, your RAMP reporter asked if they were different from the one he was on. Talcott answered with a smile, “Nothing radically different, except, possibly, the pin-ups in the crew’s quarters.”

The Second Annual “Salute to Veterans” Golf Tournament on Veteran’s Day weekend was a great success!

This year we, again, joined the St. Joseph Bay Country Club to raise money for the operation of the museum. The silent auction went over real well thanks to the Boyer Band, George, Cletus, and Tom for providing the wonderful music—it was great entertainment. Prior to teeing off, we had a dedication speech by CMSGT Wanda Warruck, Connecticut Air National Guard/US Air Force Retired.

The Port St. Joe High School Jr. Naval ROTC presented the colors. We had 54 people play in the tournament and everybody had a good time. It was really a nice experience working with the staff at the Country Club. They worked super hard to provide all the food, logistics and advertising for this event. They are professional and ardent supporters of the museum. We hope to continue putting on the annual tournaments with this great group of patriotic members.



A Letter from the President...

2012 was a hectic year for the Camp Gordon Johnston Association and WWII Museum. Starting out after the reunion, the board approved an expenditure of \$10,000.00 to upgrade the facilities and landscape a new entrance to the museum. This was all predicated on receiving extra space and a 25-year lease from the City of Carrabelle which was approved by the city commission. Now, when you visit the museum, you will find a mural painted on the wall featuring the soldiers of the 4th Brigade as shown on their history book cover.

We have also begun building new displays in the additional area. You will be surprised and pleased with all of the remodeling. At the same time, we need more medical items for the field hospital display, a WWII typewriter for the mailroom office and items one might find in a WWII era living room.

The board also approved construction of a memorial park on our property across from Carrabelle Beach and an RFP was awarded to Inovia Consulting Group for permitting. We will post information regarding this project online.

We had a successful Smithsonian Museum Day on September 29th (this was our 5th consecutive year participating) and our visitor's count continues to grow. We also had a December 7th Memorial Service and flagpole dedication.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 18th Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Days Reunion on March 7-9 in Carrabelle.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2013!

Anthony (Tony) Minichiello,
President, CGJA



Requesting items for latest displays

The CGJ Museum is looking for a 1930's typewriter for the new mailroom display—one that would have been used by the military. In addition, any items that would have been found in a WWII era living room would be appreciated. We have a radio, but would like to add a telephone and suitable pictures for the wall. Next, the field aide/hospital display needs more medical implements. Display cases are also needed.

And don't forget our Viet Nam Veterans display. We would also love to have more memorabilia from that time period.

www.campgordonjohnston.com

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