



CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON ASSOCIATION, INC.

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The AMPHIBIAN SEP/OCT 2024

Ouch! September and October are the peak of Hurricane Season in the Florida Panhandle! Because school has started and it isn't quite snowbird season, this is normally a slow time, even with a bump for Museum Day on Oct 5. We had 135 visitors for September, and 391 for October. Hurricane Debby (August) Helene (September) and Milton (October) suppressed travel to many coastal areas; although we were not heavily impacted by any of these storms, preparations are underway a week before landfall everywhere the storm may hit.

Luckily, Museum Day was not interrupted, and all three Carrabelle Museums participated, with the theme being "Pieces of History: Shells and Shards": the role of artifacts in preserving history. The Camp Gordon Johnston Museum featured an Artifact Trail, where 20 artifacts were mapped as being significant. This Trail will remain in place for the winter and spring.

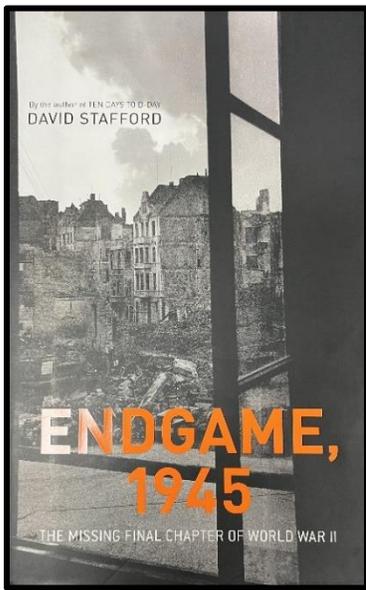


Featured Serviceman: (Don MacLean Jun 30, 1927 - Mar 30, 2015) was born in East Orange, New Jersey, and served in the US Navy in WWII.

A long-time volunteer at the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum, Don was the artist who created many of our models, including our large landing diorama on Carrabelle Beach.

Featured Artifact: Collins No. 1005 Engineer Bolo Machete. Donated by our featured serviceman Don MacLean, this machete was used by Engineers during both WWI and WWII. MacLean brought this home from the war, where he used it in the Philippines. Manufactured by Collins & Company of Hartford, CT, these were made from the Spanish American War until shortly after WWI. They were issued with a tooled leather scabbard.





Featured Book:
Endgame 1945 by David Stafford. The Missing Final Chapter of World War II: An incredible narrative of the situation in Europe right before and immediately after Germany's surrender, told from the points of view of Allies, Axis and civilians.



Current Exhibit: (until November 30): Native American History Month. Native Americans served in WWII in many capacities, the most famous of which were "code talkers". The 4th Infantry Division had a company of code talkers which trained here.

Coming December 3: Christmas in Wartime and Pearl Harbor: America Enters WWII. Come see artifacts from Christmas celebrations in WWII and learn about the "Day That Will Live in Infamy", December 7, 1941.



TRAINING CAMP MOURNS TRAGEDY AS DUTY CALLS TO SAVE OTHERS

Camp Gordon Johnston soldiers this week mourned the storm-accident death of 14 of their comrades, not by passive bereavement or ostentatious ceremony but by continuing their training—to finish this war the quicker that other lives may be saved and that never again may war snatch American boys to a lonely death away from home.

As verified by proper authority on the post, the accident occurred dur-

ing the night of March 5-6 during the violent wind storm which coincided with training maneuvers in progress in this area. One of the landing barges, containing 19 officers and men, grounded on an offshore sandbar and the crew was thrown into the sea. Fourteen of these men lost their lives.

All of the bodies have been recovered and identified. Their identities
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TRAGEDY

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are: 1/Sgt. John E. Johnson, Kane, Pa.; S/Sgt. Chester S. Domeracki, Erie, Pa.; Cpl. Joseph Corso, Blairsville, Pa.; T/5 Ernest Schwerha, McKeesport, Pa.; Pfc. James F. Campbell, Johnston, Pa.; Pfc. Martin B. McCormick, Chicago, Ill.; Pfc. Clay Hatch, Los Angeles, Calif.; Pfc. Henry C. Proffit, Boon, N. C.; Pfc. Ralph Risku, Deerton, Mich.; Pfc. Ulalio F. Soza, Tolleston, Ariz.; Pvt. Harold Adamski, Ripon, Wis.; Pvt. Stephen Cheddar, Centralia, Pa.; Pvt. Augustin Silvas, Del Rio, Texas; and Pvt. James P. Whitehead, Campton, Ga.

Did you know?

Service in a theater of war is dangerous, but so is training. The Museum was already aware that 14 men of the 28th Infantry Division lost their lives here in training, but we just learned that the 4th Infantry Division had four training casualties. We are working on an addition to our exhibits to remember these men.

