



OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM
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CAMP WITHYCOMBE
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FRONT LINES

The Oregon Military Museum Monthly Report
September 3 - October 3, 2011

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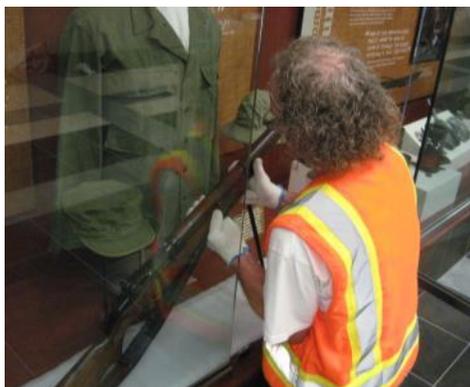
Oregon Military Museum
Camp Withycombe
15300 SE Industrial Way
Building 6101
Clackamas, OR 97015



The M7 Gun Carriage "Priest" and newly restored M42 Tank "Walker Bulldog" have moved into the "Historical Area."

COMPLETED:

- We thank you for your continued support and interest in the Museum! Our progress is going well!
- September was a very busy month for special events and new exhibits. Thanks to the staff and many volunteers whose extra efforts made it all look easy!
- Exhibit company Formations, Inc., working with the Museum curator and staff, completed three weeks of installation of the new exhibits on the history of the 41st Infantry Division in the new Armed Forces Reserve Center. Installing more than 150 artifacts required transporting, documenting, and making custom archival mounts for each. At times, design fine-tuning was necessary. The exhibits were all well received.





- ↓ One of the neatest parts of the install was recreating the acrylic dog tags that several 41st veterans wore during the war. Here are some excerpts from the exhibit, based on these soldiers' firsthand accounts:

“Staff Sergeant and Medic Frank Gehrman lost one of his dog tags in battle, he made a plastic copy. Gehrman salvaged the plastic from the windshield of a downed Japanese Zero airplane.”

“The 41st soldiers in Gerald La Haie’s company didn’t like how their metal dog tags jingled together while they were fighting. The sound could give away their position. On Hollandia, they salvaged clear plastic from the windshield of a downed Japanese plane, heated their metal tags, and pressed them into the soft plastic. Then they inked the recesses. To make their tags match the metal tags as closely as possible, La Haie and his buddies carved notches into their plastic tags as well.”

For us, using replica dog tags and new acrylic blanks, a few attempts by trial and error were made, just as I am sure the soldiers did in the field. ↓



- Special presentations were made to the Museum at the 41st Infantry Division Association 62th Reunion banquet dinner:
 - A “Time Capsule” of the 41st Association with objects and stories from their 65 years of reunions.
 - LTC (SDF) Ron Weil presented his painting “The Tank Battle on Biak” (acrylic on canvas) to MG Rees and the Museum. The painting will be displayed in the new Armed Forces Reserve Center. ➔
 - Several 41st veterans presented photographs, library materials, and artifacts to the Museum as well.

It is truly an honor to meet and work with these veterans and their families, and we thank them for their service and sharing their history with us all.



Mid-progress image of Biak painting



Forty-one 41sters Gather at 62nd Annual Reunion in Portland, Oregon September 15-18, 2011

This photo was taken following the Banquet Program and Installation of Officers on Sept. 17. In attendance at the reunion but missing from this photo are: Lionel Domreis HQ-218FA, Dale Fallon I-162, Joe Garcia B-163, Jack Marsh 41st Recon, Raymond Stange 41st QM, Logan Vermillion A-146FA, Ray Williams M-163 and Keith Wixson HQ-163



Photo credit: Cory Grogan, Oregon National Guard

Standing L to R: Glen McCall M-186, Calvin Young L-162, Bill Daniels PNP B-163, Carl Gangl B-163, Bill Curtis B-163, Bud Lewis PNP Svc-186, Dick Cody K-186, Earl Rose HQ-167FA, Al Phillips PNP E-146FA/B-167FA, Leonard DeWitt I-162, Charlie Ricks (National Treasurer) PNP C-218FA, Charles Cripps (1st VP) PNP L-186, Paul Schwertmann C-146FA, Dan Sokol (2nd VP) AT-162, Bill Brown Medics-162, Jerry Griffin A-146FA, Alex Friedt L-163, Orville Woiwod AT-186, Ed Bartlien PNP 41st Signal
Sitting L to R: Ignatius Evers I-186, Bob Sallee 41st Signal, George Timmons 41st Bands, Art Alsos L-186, Ken Buckingham F-162, Franc Wycoff C-162, Jim Marr D-162, Dick Katerndahl (Immediate Past National President) 2BnHQ-163, David Granum 41st Signal, Harold Lowe C-162, Harold Arkoff (National Secretary) Cn-162, Art Merrick B-163, Donn Church (National President) A-163

- The 9-11 dinner honoring regional first responders helped four organizations raise funds. The Museum Fund of the Historical Outreach Foundation (HOF) was one of them. The event was a great success with more than 1000 attendees! Our sincere thanks to HOF and the Command Group for designating the Museum as a funding recipient. And, we greatly appreciate the generosity of twenty sponsors. At each table, the sponsors occupied only two seats, allowing eight Oregon National Guardsmen and their significant others to enjoy the evening’s celebrations and thanks for their service. A wonderful display of the 102nd Civil Support team’s equipment at the event has helped in a small way by the use of two Museum mannequins.

- Fall cleaning of the Museum grounds took place. Staff and volunteers spent half a day pulling grass from parking lot cracks, weeding, picking up trash, and general “spiffing” up.



- Restoration of the Korean Era M41A3 Light Tank “Walker Bulldog” is now complete.

Both the Bulldog and the World War II era M7B1 Priest have now been placed in the Historic Area. Sincere thanks to the many folks who made this possible, for their support, assistance, expertise, and tight maneuvering skills.



- The very large Vinal T. Randall collection is now processed, thanks to the fact that our database is now operating smoothly and properly. Randall served in World War I in the 249th and 65th Coast Artillery Corps, and in World War II as a Seabee in the South Pacific.
- The mystery folding knife from August’s report was identified by Scott Hamric, Director of the Third Cavalry Museum at Fort Hood, Texas. The knife is called a folding hunter, and was made by the German company Gottlieb Hammesfahr. To see examples of circa 1940 folding hunters and learn more, visit <http://www.worldknives.com/info/folding-hunters-of-solingen-germany-gottlieb-hammesfahr-co-83.html>.
- The museum has received new garment Z-racks, giving us room for growth. (We are looking for volunteers to assemble these, if you are so inclined!) And we have a new digital camera to replace the one that continually had problems reading its battery.
- Three tours of the new 41st ID AFRC exhibits have been given to folks who missed the dedication event and wanted to see them. The exhibits are currently not available for public viewing without escort.
- Our thanks to LTC Mark Whitlock, new Center of Military History liaison for National Guard Museums, who was able to resolve a three-year-old property book issue. We look forward to working with him to continue to resolve all outstanding items.

PENDING:

- The HVAC project for the Museum building is expected to begin in early December.
- The processing of a large backlog of artifact donations continues to be a priority. In an effort to expedite the process, photographing each object will be temporarily suspended until all objects are minimally processed and safely housed before the HVAC demolitions begin.
- We are creating fundraising materials and developing an annual giving program. We will also be writing an Oregon Heritage grant for exhibits cases.
- The www.oregonmilitarymuseum.org website is still under development. It will also have two new, public-use email addresses: museuminfo@oregonmilitarymuseum.org and info@oregonmilitarymuseum.org.
- A major effort to clean out the Museum’s Compound space is ongoing.
- The M42 Duster’s restoration and new paint job has begun.
- Curator has been invited to speak about Collections Management at the Oct. 28th Oregon Military Heritage Conference in Salem.
- The battle continues with our dehumidifiers. Vault 6101-2 currently does not have a dehumidifier.
- We have begun preparing all the loan renewals for a November mailing.

- Our quarterly weapons inventory is due.
- New museum storage cabinets bid has been awarded. These cabinet will take several months to manufacture, and will be used to archivally store the majority of the collection.
- DSCOPS is working on replacements for Museum Detachment positions.

Research Requests this period: 13 requests

Topics included:

- Histories of Camp Abbott and Camp Withycombe.
- Where is the Eyerly acroplane simulator now?
- Could this World War II Oregon State Guard patch I found in my mother’s estate things have been hers – my dad never talked about any military service? (The answer is yes, women served in the State Guard in WWII.)
- How does a unit get its official lineage and honors certificate?
- Where can I get a photo of MG Richard Miller for my publication.
- I am a modeler and would like to come photograph details of the Walker Bulldog.
- We want to do a photo shoot and use a tank as a backdrop....

NEW DONATION HIGHLIGHTS (with our deep gratitude):

World War II 218th veteran Andy McDermaid’s collection from the Hollandia battlefield includes very rare Japanese cap of a thousand stitches, (known as Sennibari or thousand-person-stitches), personal Japanese flag, and Japanese photos and map. Senninbari is most typically a belt-of-a-thousand-stitches, but sometimes it was a vest or cap or flag. These



were given for good luck by women to soldiers on their way to war, as part of Imperial Japanese culture. The stitches are French knots, and each stitch was made by a

different person. Rarely are there exactly 1000 stitches sewn on, though it is usually close. When the donation’s processing is complete, we will seek translations.



World War II 41st Reconnaissance Troop (Cavalry) veteran Jack Marsh’s uniforms, photos, and rattan Filipino Salakot (hat). Jack’s photo album includes the sometimes lighter side of combat life. He even won the skinniest legs contest. ➔

Museum volunteer Mark Stevens for the Australian M1907 Bayonet.

Research came to light regarding the inspiring story of Corporal Leslie “Bull” Allen, the injured Australian stretcher bearer who carried twelve Americans to safety under heavy fire at Mount Tambu on 30 July, 1943. Allen received the U.S. Silver Star for his actions. To see the image, please visit google images <http://www.google.com/imghp>, and search his name (copyright held by the Australian War Memorial, photo number #044256). Allen’s biography and story may be found at: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/allen-leslie-charles-clarence-12130>.



JUST BY THE NUMBERS: -

Total donations since January 1, 2011: 59 artifact donations, 4 library and archives, 1 education collection
Processed donations so far this year: 47 donations / 412 new artifacts catalogued / 93 library books
Donations to be processed: 12 donations

CALENDAR / IMPORTANT DATES:

- Oct 12 Oral history of World War II 218th Field Artillery veteran about his donated artifacts.
- Oct 7-14 Ms. Daly out of the office.
- Oct 28 Oregon Military Heritage Conference in Salem, Curator presentation.
- Nov 11 Albany Veteran's Day parade – two Museum Vietnam era vehicles will participate.

DATA LOGGERS:

PERIOD: August 31, 2011 – September 29, 2011

Museum Standards:

- Stable temperature and relative humidity are needed to preserve historic artifacts, photos & documents.
- The goal is to maintain 68° F and 50% relative humidity (RH), except vaults' RH should be at 40%. Temperature and/or RH should not swing more than +/-5 within a 24 hour period, since these swings are what cause major deterioration.
- Green highlights indicate when and where **standards were met**. Yellow highlights indicate **violations** of standards during the time period listed, by being off goal (too hot or cold, too high or low RH).
- Outside Temperature – High 93, Low 47

Quick Look:

Fluctuations of more than 5° or 5% occurred within a 24-hour period this many times:

Collections:	4 of 30 days	Uncatalogued:	0 of 30 days	Vault 6101-2:	2 of 30 days
Art Storage:	10 of 30 days	Drill Floor Stage:	27 of 30 days	Vault 6410:	0 of 30 days
Garment Storage:	14 of 30 days	Vault 6101-1:	0 of 30 days		

August 31, 2011 – September 29, 2011

LOGGER NO.	LOGGER LOC.	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	AV TEMP	HIGH RH	LOW RH	AV RH
2307219	Collections	76.88	68.59	72.34	59.92	39.71	47.09
2307220	Art Storage	74.62	68.42	71.26	59.31	39.47	49.80
2307221	Garment Storage	76.53	67.05	71.26	58.76	39.59	49.65
2307222	Uncatalogued	80.21	70.14	72.34	52.25	40.16	48.30
2307223	Drill Floor Stage	82.15	66.54	73.09	59.43	29.89	46.48
2307224	Vault 6101-1	75.31	68.76	71.11	49.14	39.71	41.26
2307225	Vault 6101-2*	80.91	67.22	69.53	48.86	31.03	43.60
2307226	Vault 6410	77.92	70.48	73.80	48.84	44.68	46.45

*The dehumidifier in Vault 6101-2 was removed at the beginning of the month due to malfunction. It is unclear when it will be replaced.