



**OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM**  
**15300 SE INDUSTRIAL WAY**  
**CAMP WITHYCOMBE**  
**CLACKAMAS, OREGON 97015**  
Phone (503) 557-5359 Fax (503) 557-6713

# FRONT LINES

The Oregon Military Museum Monthly Report

August 3 – September 2, 2011

**Please note new address:**  
**Oregon Military Museum**  
**Camp Withycombe**  
**15300 SE Industrial Way,**  
**Bldg. 6101**  
**Clackamas, OR 97015**



## COMPLETED:

- We thank you for your continued support and interest in the Museum! Our progress toward reopening is going well!
- Curator Thoennes attended the National Guard Museums Annual Training Course, hosted by the Illinois State Military Museum in Springfield, Illinois. The Training Course covered everything from scanning photo collections to grant making, flags and colors preservation to weapons “Do’s and Don’ts.” At right, NG Museum staff from across the nation attended some of the sessions at the Old State Capitol, the site of Presidential candidacy announcements by Barack Obama in 2007 and Abraham Lincoln in 1858. Lincoln regularly visited the building as a lawyer, a politician, and during his service in the Illinois House of Representatives. He delivered the famous 1858 “House Divided” speech inside its Representatives Hall. The building was also the scene of the assassinated President’s final laying-in-state on May 3-4, 1865.
- We are very grateful that our database issues have been resolved. Backups and reindexes now take only minutes instead of a day and a half. Thank you to the Helpdesk folks!
- Together with the Historical Outreach Foundation, we met with two different fundraising consultants and received many good ideas and suggestions.



- The old cyclone fencing along the old gate entrance inside the new Historic Area has been taken down. Our sincere thanks to volunteers and staff for helping. It looks much nicer.
- Museum staff and volunteers attended the Environmental Branch’s annual spill training.

- Two different researchers came to the Museum to receive help in identification of their various artifacts, from an assortment of World War II German edged weapons to an Italian M1891 Carcano bayonet. **One remains a mystery: if you can help, please let us know! →**

It's a folding knife with an 11-inch blade, no markings, and a custom fit leather sheath. It was found in an ORNG's soldier's grandfather's estate. His grandfather was a WWII veteran who served with the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the European Theatre. His collection contains many German swords and daggers. Above, the 11-inch blade is unfolded. Below, it is folded, with approximately 6 inches still exposed.



- Another interesting identification request came in for this one inch "Over the Top, Portland, Oregon" pin. Our thanks to Museum volunteer John Mull who identified it. The Oregon National Guard issued these for World War I service. The pins came in three variations. The one at left is for Army service including the Infantry, Artillery, Coast Artillery, and Cavalry. The second variation is for the Navy, that has the disc superimposed over an anchor. The third variation is for the US Marine Corps, and has a globe and anchor. It is extremely rare and the Museum lacks an example of that one.



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- The Museum displayed two Vietnam Era vehicles at the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial in Canby on August 6<sup>th</sup>. →
- Scanning of 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division veterans' photo albums is complete for now.
- Gave a behind the scenes tour to John Koch, the curator/park ranger from the Fort Stevens Museum.
- Final restoration is completed on the Japanese Type 41 75mm mountain gun, and it has now been moved into the new AFRC building. From left to right: early work on the original wood wheels, the missing left seat's bracket is removed, a seat salvaged from a second gun is installed and painted, its ready for display, and finally its installed. Great job by SSG (Ret.) Mark Stevens and the rest of the restoration volunteers.



## **PENDING:**

- The Formations exhibit crew, as well as mount-maker Steve Short, “on-loan” from the Portland Art Museum, have been working for weeks here at the Museum making mounts for all artifacts going into the new building. They have set up a mobile shop outdoors and are very talented at what they do.



- Bidding on the HVAC project for the Museum building has closed, and meetings are taking place to “value engineer” lower costs and options.
- Bids are out for fencing across the Historic Area’s south side that will match the rest of the Camp.
- We are creating fundraising materials and developing an annual giving program.
- The [www.oregonmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.oregonmilitarymuseum.org) website is still under development. It will also have two new, public-use email addresses: [museuminfo@oregonmilitarymuseum.org](mailto:museuminfo@oregonmilitarymuseum.org) and [info@oregonmilitarymuseum.org](mailto:info@oregonmilitarymuseum.org).
- Museum’s Compound D clean up is ongoing.
- No updates on lighting research, as vendors who we met with last month have not responded. In order to lessen damage to textiles, plastics, paper, paint, etc., lighting options for the Drill Floor are being explored. The existing 35 metal halide high intensity discharge (HID) lamps have a dangerously strong UV output and filters for them do not exist. The standards for UV for preservation is 75 microwatts per lumen ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{l}$ ). Florescent replacement kits (that can be filtered), as well as LED replacement kits, are being researched.
- The Museum (and all of Camp Withycombe) will be getting new phone numbers, probably around September 30th. In all cases, the prefix 557 will become 683. 503-683-XXXX.
- DSCOPS is working on replacements for Museum Detachment positions.
- We have installed a new dehumidifier in one weapons vault (thanks to the State Shop!), but are still having issues with another one, that makes the vault too hot (at about 85 degrees).
- Curator has been invited to speak about Collections Management at the Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> Oregon Military Heritage Conference in Salem.
- We will begin preparing all the loan renewals for a November mailing.
- Our quarterly weapons inventory due.

## **JUST BY THE NUMBERS:**

Research Requests this period:	8 requests
Total donations since January 1, 2011:	48 artifacts, 3 for library and archives, 1 for education collection
Processed donations so far this year:	39 donations / 371 new objects catalogued / 52 TMs
Donations to be processed:	13 donations

## **CALENDAR / IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Sept 10 9-11 Dinner and Fundraiser
- Sept 16 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division AFRC building dedication
- Sept 17 41st Infantry Division Association Banquet, painting presented
- Oct 16-18 Annual Conference of the Oregon Museums Association, Curator has requested to attend
- Oct 28 Oregon Military Heritage Conference in Salem, Curator presentation

## **NEW DONATIONS HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- 25-pound BDU-33 practice bomb, of the type used at Boardman Air Force Bombing Range, in Morrow County Oregon.

- An early model U.S. Inland Division M1 carbine discovered during an archeological survey in central Oregon by the Oregon Department of State Lands, in an area once used for the 1943 Oregon Maneuvers.
- A Japanese Naval Type 99 short rifle was donated by World War II 41st Veteran and Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) recipient, Leonard DeWitt. SGT DeWitt did not allow his soldiers to obtain trophies and souvenirs during battles, as he had seen too many men killed trying to retrieve them. But after one battle, DeWitt's commanding officer told him to collect souvenir items to have available for VIP visitor Bob Hope. Eleanor Roosevelt had also recently visited, and the unit had shared souvenirs with her as well. After Mr. Hope and Mrs. Roosevelt had had the opportunity to take what they wanted, DeWitt decided to take a Japanese rifle. He took the rifle apart and placed it in a duffle bag. Soon thereafter, he didn't know what happened to the duffle bag, but apparently someone placed it in his footlocker before it was shipped home. A couple years after he had returned home, a footlocker was delivered to his residence. Inside were his dress uniform, the duffle bag, and the Type 99 rifle.



Below is his DSC story (as excerpted from the AFRC exhibit on Oregon's 41<sup>st</sup> DSC recipients):

“Sergeant Leonard C. DeWitt served with Company I, 162nd Infantry Regiment. On 28 July 1943, a large unit of Japanese attacked the perimeter of his unit. Sgt. DeWitt volunteered to take ammunition and supplies to soldiers in besieged foxholes. Discovering that those soldiers were wounded, he helped to evacuate them and took over holding that position. Using the rifle of one of the injured soldiers, he fired into a ravine in front of the foxholes until he ran out of ammunition. He used up all available grenades, then fired his Thompson submachine gun down into the ravine until he ran out of ammunition.

“When he saw a grenade coming, Sgt. DeWitt threw himself on the ground and rolled—into the ravine. Landing between two Japanese soldiers, he stuck one soldier with his bayonet, and hit the other on the head with his helmet. Both Japanese protested loudly, and slid to the bottom of the ravine. DeWitt crawled quickly to ground level and threw his helmet into the ravine. The Japanese apparently thought this might be a satchel charge, and left in a hurry. ‘I took off my helmet and slung it down the hill...because I was out of everything. I didn't have any more grenades and my tommy gun was lying up on the ground where I'd dropped it.’”

**DATA LOGGERS:**

**PERIOD: August 1, 2011 – August 31, 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 96, Low 55

**Quick Look:**

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

Collections:	3 of 31 days	Uncatalogued:	0 of 31 days	Vault 6101-2:	16 of 31 days
Art Storage:	5 of 31 days	Drill Floor Stage:	31 of 31 days	Vault 6410:	0 of 31 days
Garment Storage:	12 of 31 days	Vault 6101-1:	1 of 31 days		

August 1, 2011 – August 31, 2011							
LOGGER NO.	LOGGER LOC.	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	AV TEMP	HIGH RH	LOW RH	AV RH
2307219	Collections	78.27	71.17	74.39	49.48	40.50	46.22
2307220	Art Storage	75.31	70.48	72.81	54.88	43.71	49.29
2307221	Garment Storage	77.57	69.79	73.30	54.16	41.84	48.32
2307222	Uncatalogued	76.01	72.37	73.94	51.15	44.26	48.63
2307223	Drill Floor Stage	82.86	69.45	75.60	52.28	35.60	45.54
2307224	Vault 6101-1	74.62	71.00	72.60	47.00	39.10	40.41
2307225	Vault 6101-2	85.37	72.20	80.00	37.45	26.03	28.97
2307226	Vault 6410	79.00	72.89	75.28	47.12	44.52	45.87