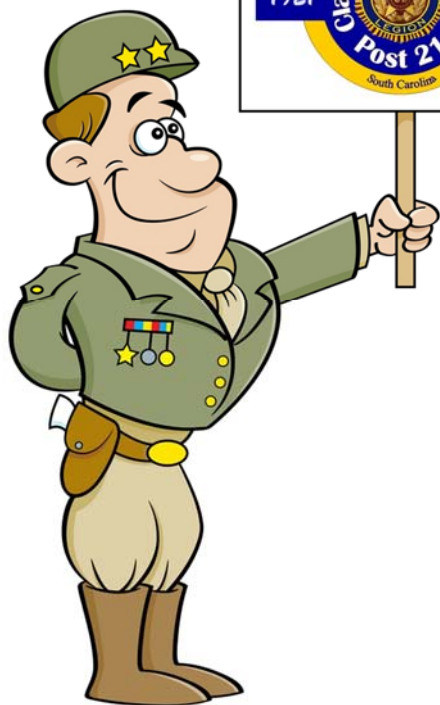




Volume 4, Issue 4

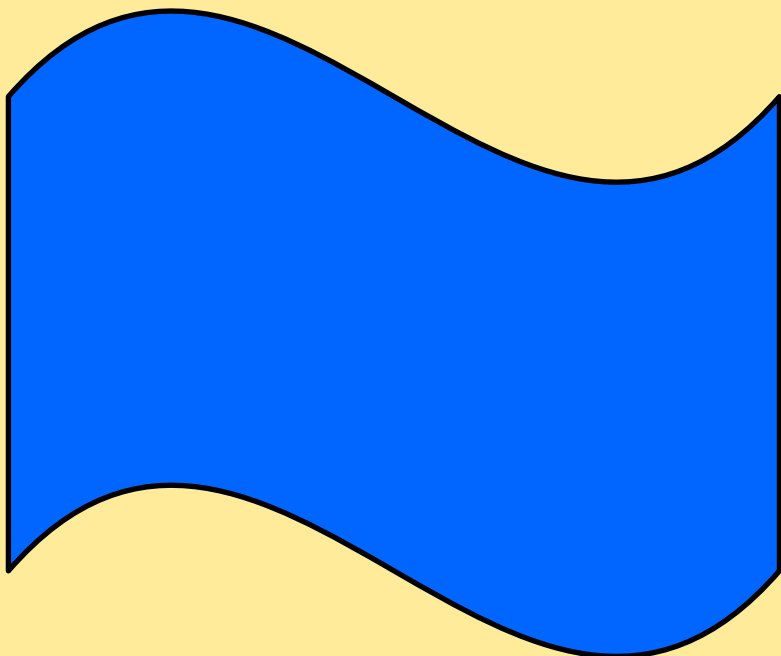
105 Sumter Ave. Summerville, SC 29483

April, 2026



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**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, April 8,
6:30 pm.**

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

Summerville Post 21



Position	Officer
Commander	Ken Thompson
First Vice Commander	Kim Shultz
Second Vice Commander	Bill Schmitz
Finance Officer	Brian Ponder
Chaplain	Karl Naugle
Sergeant at Arms	Bill Dutour
Historian	Dave Corvino
Post Adjutant	Bob Ticknor
Judge Advocate	Steve Smith
Webmaster	Ken Thompson



Post Website: <https://summervillepost21.org/>

American Legion Post 21 - Clarence A. Dunning - Summerville, SC

Empowering heroes through community
and resources.

JOIN US

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



MEMORABLE DATES AND MILITARY OBSERVANCES IN APRIL

April is the Month of the Military Child (Began in 1983)

April 5: Gold Star Spouses Day

April 6: Army Day/US Entered WWI (1917)

April 9: National Former POW Recognition Day

April 11: Desert Storm Cease-fire (1991)

April 12: Civil War Began (1861)

April 14: Air Force Reserve Birthday (1948)

April 23: Army Reserve Birthday (1908)

April 25: Spanish-American War Began (1898)

April 29: Silver Star Service Banner Day (2010)

April 30: National Military Brats Day





WAR IS DECLARED!

World War I: On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany. Entrance of the United States into the war was precipitated by Germany's submarine warfare against neutral shipping. President Woodrow Wilson asked a special joint session of the United States Congress for a declaration of war on April 2, 1917, which passed in the Senate on the same day and then in the House of Representatives four days later on April 6. Wilson signed it into law the same day, making the United States officially involved in the First World War. Despite heavy opposition to the war initially, several incidents resulted in the United States public largely turning against Germany and its allies by 1917. In his speech to the Congress, Wilson cited the German Empire's decision to resume unrestricted submarine warfare as an attack on not only Europe, but the United States as well.

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA
5:30 A. M.

VOL. LXIV...NO. 20,923. *****

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1915.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

ONE CENT In Greater New York, January 1, 1912 and March 1, 1913. Elsewhere, TWO CENTS.

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stirred by the Loss of American Lives.

BULLETINS AT WHITE HOUSE

Wilson Reads Them Closely, but is Silent on the Nation's Course.

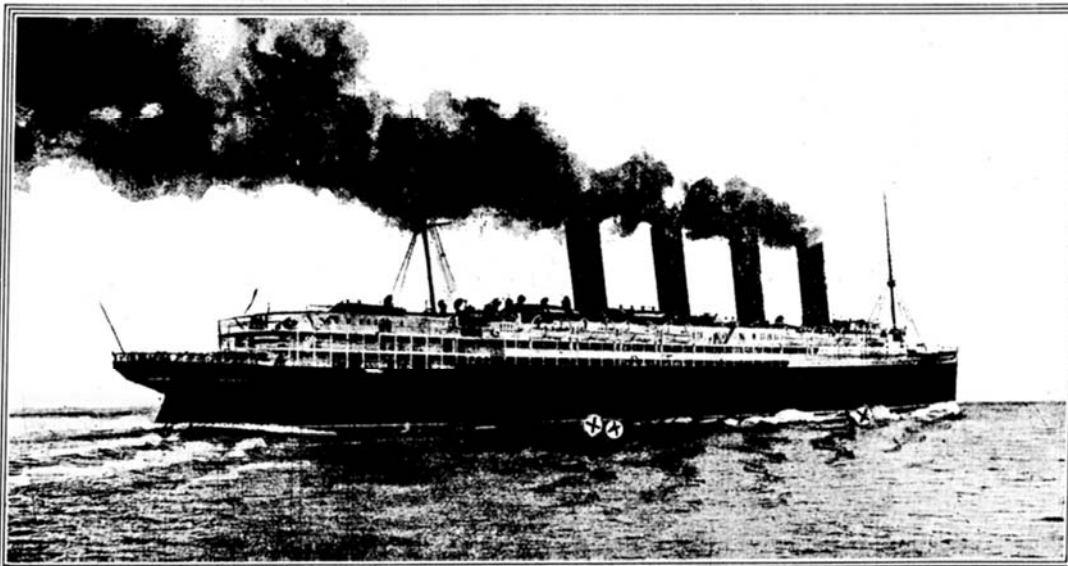
HINTS OF CONGRESS CALL

Loss of Lusitania Recalls Firm Tone of Our First Warning to Germany.

CAPITAL FULL OF RUMORS

Reports That Liner Was to be Sunk Were Heard Before Actual News Came.

Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, May 7. — Never since that April day, three years ago, when word came that the Titanic had gone down, has Washington been so stirred as it is tonight over the sinking of the Lusitania. The early reports told that there had been no loss of life, but the relief that these advices caused gave way to the greatest concern late this evening when it became known that there had been many



The Lost Cunard Steamship Lusitania
X Where the First Torpedo Struck. XX Where the Second Torpedo Struck

SOME DEAD TAKEN ASHORE

Several Hundred Survivors at Queenstown and Kinsale.

STEWARDESS OF DISASTER

One Torpedo Crashes Into the Doomed Liner's Bow. Another Into the Engine Room.

SHIP LISTS OVER TO PORT

Makes It Impossible to Lower Many Boats. So Hundreds Must Have Gone Down.

ATTACKED IN BROAD DAY

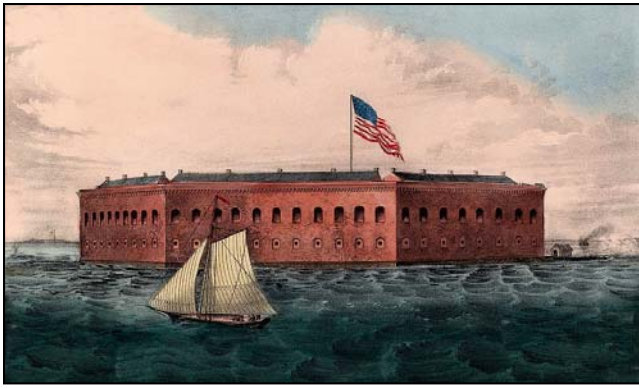
Passengers at Luncheon—Warning Had Been Given by Germans Before the Ship Left New York.

Only 650 Were Saved, Few Cabin Passengers

QUEENSTOWN, Saturday, May 8, 1:28 A. M.—Survivors of the Lusitania who have arrived here estimate that only about 650 of those aboard the steamer

March Meeting Photos





History Lives Here

The Summerville Guard

The Confederate bombardment of South Carolina's Fort Sumter in April of 1861 kicked off the bloodiest war in U.S. history.

In Summerville a detailed diary kept by Charles Vedder, a pastor of the early Summerville Presbyterian Church, revealed that 18-20-year-old militia men composed war camps near the railroad. Men from the countryside created an infantry company known as the Summerville Guard. The unit was formed to defend the area, and after the initial mobilization, members were involved in the defense of the South Carolina coast

The company was part of the Confederate forces in coastal South Carolina, with records showing it as Company C, 11th South Carolina Infantry, mustered in July 1861. The unit was involved in defending the coast, and Summerville itself served as a refuge for people fleeing Charleston. The Commanding officers were Capt. Josiah S. Bedon, and Capt. Thomas D. Ledbetter.

Besides protecting the local Summerville area, The Guard engaged in the Battle of Port Royal where Southerners defended against a Union blockade at Hilton Head.

Not much more is known about the Summerville Guard. In some historian's notes they were also listed as the Summerville Rifles.



CLARENCE A. DUNNING AMERICAN LEGION POST 21

COFFEE WITH A VET

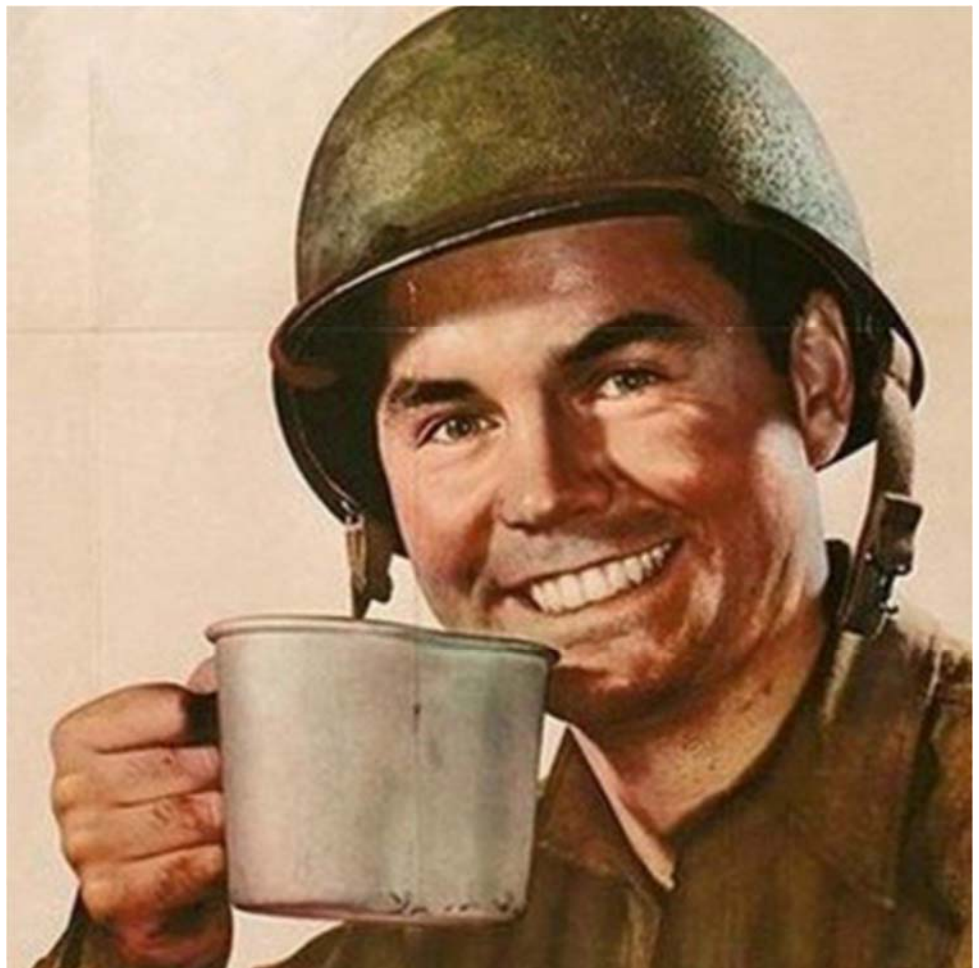


SUNDAY MORNINGS, 8:30 TO 12:00



AT POST 21

Come to Post
21 between
8:30 am and
12:00 Noon
every Sunday
and enjoy a cup
of coffee and
camaraderie!





Did You Know?

The Sinking of the USS Leopold

I came across several stories online, one from the American Legion website, and wanted to share what I found with our Post members.

On March 22, 1944, survivors of USS Leopold arrived in Ireland. Their ship had been torpedoed late on March 9, and they'd been left in frigid Atlantic waters for hours. Leopold's sister ship USS Joyce had tried to help, but she'd been forced away. As Joyce departed, Captain Robert Wilcox grabbed a bullhorn and yelled over his shoulder: "We are dodging torpedoes. God bless you. We will be back." But



The USS Leopold (DE-319) being launched in June 1943;

those at Leopold were having a hard time. Some men were still hanging on to the stern or the fantail, which wasn't under water yet. Others were trying to get away from the boat before they were sucked under. Some men had found rafts. Others hadn't. Everyone was very, very cold. Ocean temperatures were then hovering just 15 degrees above freezing. Staying awake was critical. Men who slept would die. Those who died were jettisoned from rafts to make room for the living. In the meantime,

Joyce had been looking for the German submarine, but its sonar was plagued by water leaks. She finally edged closer to Leopold again by about 9:20. Its crew had spotted two survivors, and Joyce circled to retrieve them. The survivors were being hoisted up on a rope when Joyce's sonar picked up that awful sound again: a torpedo. The two Leopold survivors were ripped from the ship as Joyce abruptly



The USS Joyce, another sister ship to the Leopold. She picked up all 28 of the surviving crew;

turned to avoid it. The survivors in the water watched Joyce leave—again—and many lost hope. At roughly 10:30, the last of Leopold's stern and fantail finally went under. Joyce's crew was still fighting its own battle. Where had the torpedoes come from? When was it safe to go back? They never found the German submarine. Finally, a little bit before midnight, Joyce returned and began pulling men out of the water. The rolling seas complicated efforts,

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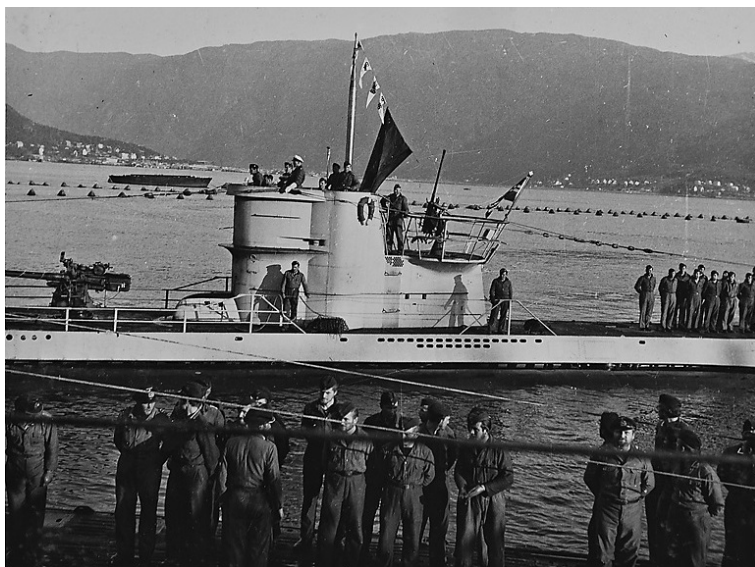
forcing a drastic measure: Volunteers from Joyce would have to lower themselves into the water, tied to the ship with ropes. The last man was finally pulled out of the water at 2:48 a.m. That might seem to be the end of the story, however,, in 2020, a member of American Legion Post 166 in Goose Creek came across a box containing four World War II medals, including a Purple Heart, and brought them into the post. When they saw a name engraved on the back of the



Lt. William Spencer and wife Ester

Purple Heart, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Junior Grade William E. Spencer, curiosity and a sense of duty prevailed and thanks to Post 166's efforts, Spencer's medals were returned to his family. A relative living in Wilmington, N.C., attended the ceremony at the post, where she was presented with Spencer's medals in a shadowbox. Through the research of Post 166 Legionnaire Michael Wolf, a genealogist, historical researcher and author of two Civil War books, it was found that Spencer served aboard the USS Leopold, which served as an escort to merchant ships in the North Atlantic during World War II. On March 9, 1944, German submarine U-255 torpedoed and sunk the Leopold; Spencer was found frozen to death in a lifeboat the next day. Wolf was able to locate the grand-niece of Spencer's widow, Esther Cornelia Spencer, living in Wilmington. Debby Appleby visited Post 166 on Veterans Day

to receive the medals on behalf of both sides of William and Esther's family. On that day the post hosted a ceremony to present the medals. Including in the schedule was the reading of the history of Spencer by Thomas, the presentation of the medals by an active-duty U.S. Coast Guard officer, a two-bell ceremony by Fleet Reserve Association Chapter 269, the presenting of the colors by Post 166's honor guard, the playing of taps and the singing of "Amazing Grace." Spencer's relatives were escorted to the post by Chapter 166's American Legion Riders. Locating the family members came out of what Wolf called a sense of duty. "Post members were adamant that we do everything within our power to return the medals to family members," he said. "I jumped all over it. I said 'if there's



German Sub U-255 sunk the Leopold

something I can find that will help, I want to do it.' It was a sense of duty from every person that saw the medals and had anything involved in it." Being able to reunite Spencer's family with his medals "was as rewarding of an experience as I've ever had," Wolf said. "He died in North Atlantic 76 years ago. And finally, he received a memorial service. That is absolutely rewarding. To have played a part in it, it's humbling. Really, heart-warming all the way across."

(Continued on page 10)

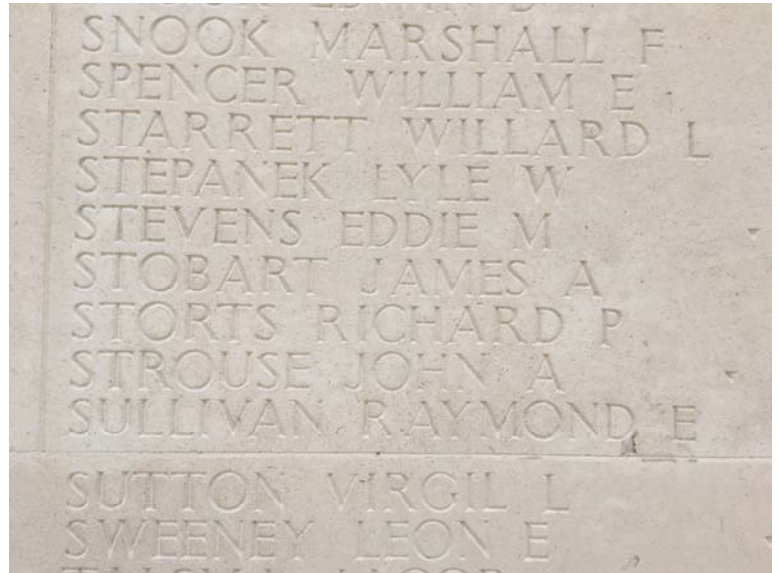
(Continued from page 9)

Posted in The State paper, Friday June 2, 1944

Orangeburg, June 1- A memorial service for Lieut. (jg) William Ennis Spencer who lost his life March 9 while serving with the Coast Guard, will be held at the Reevesville Baptist Church Sunday at 4 p.m. Lieutenant Spencer enlisted in 1931 and advanced through the ranks until he was commissioned lieutenant, junior grad, in June 1943. He is survived by his widow, Mrs Ester Cornelia Spencer of Reevesville.



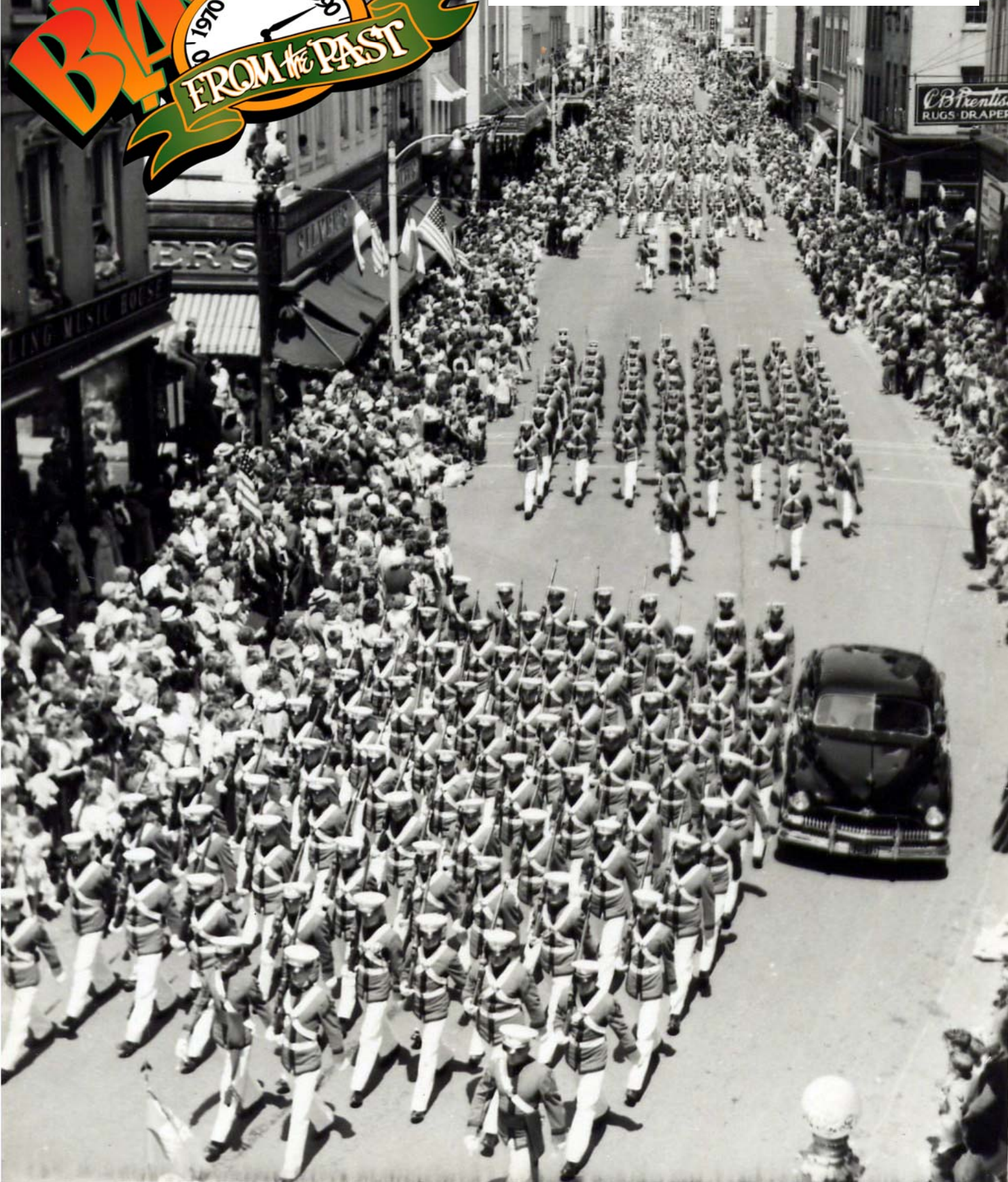
Cambridge American Cemetery is one of fourteen permanent military cemetery memorials established on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission to honor the dead and missing in action of World War II. The site is the only permanent American World War II military cemetery in the British Isles and was dedicated on July 16, 1956. The Portland stone Memorial Wall containing the Tablets of the Missing is 427 feet long and just under 12 feet tall. On this wall, running from the entrance to the Memorial chapel, are inscribed the names of 5127 Americans who were either Missing in Action or Buried at Sea. The name of Ltjg William Spencer is engraved on this wall.



US Coast Guard Destroyer Escort USS Leopold



The Citadel Corps of Cadets parade on King Street, 1981. Photo credit: The Citadel Archives and Museum.





The Rifle Raffle is sponsored by the American Legion Department of South Carolina. For each ticket sold by our members the Post keeps \$10, so this is a great opportunity to put some money in the Post coffers. Bill Dutour is our point man and he could use your help. Please contact Bill by phone: (843) 819-2729 or email: wjdutour@earthlink.net.

The Rifle Raffle is doing very well this year with almost \$2000 collected for the Post so far, with 2 months to go.

It couldn't have been done without the help of Volunteer's like yourselves. I want to thank everyone who's been able to come out for a couple of hours and help.

We are scheduled to sell at two venues in April, Palmetto State Armory and Bulls Eye Bill's and once again I'm asking for volunteers.

Here at the dates & locations along with the time slots:

Saturday	4 April	Bulls Eye Bill's, 1340 College Park Rd, Ladson
Saturday	18 April	Palmetto State Armory, Summerville

1000 to 1200
1200 to 1400
1400 to 1600

If you have the time to come out for a couple of hours and help it would be greatly appreciated. Just respond to Bill Dutour at wjdutour@earthlink.net

Sounds on the Square

Friday, April 10, 2026

Come out and enjoy a FREE community concert!



The first in a series of free community concerts hosted in Hutchinson Square. Each event will feature local food trucks and live music. We ask all attendees to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets so they can sit down on the lawn to enjoy the show.

This show will feature local Rock band - Fat Alice.

Date: April 10, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: Hutchinson Square



THIRD THURSDAYS

📅 5:30p-8:30p (unless otherwise listed)

EVERY Third Thursday of the Month

📍 Hutchinson Square, W. Richardson & Short Central



- EVERY Third Thursday of the month
- 5:30 PM-8:30 PM – Rain or shine (unless otherwise listed)
- Hutchinson Square, W. Richardson & Short Central

On the third Thursday of each month, Historic Downtown Summerville transforms into a special marketplace featuring local entertainment, craft vendors and artisans, to complement the extended hours of our eclectic shops, boutiques and restaurants.

Third Thursday traffic is rerouted from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM from the following streets; Little Main Street, W Richardson to Central (closed for traffic). There is plenty of FREE parking throughout the downtown including the town garage behind Town Hall.





SUMMERVILLE
SOUTH CAROLINA

Fireworks and Freedom Festival

The Town of Summerville Fireworks and Freedom Festival is held annually on July 4 at Gahagan Park. You won't want to miss out on this FREE family-friendly event with live music, food, fireworks, a kid's zone, and loads of fun!

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, umbrellas, and water. Attendees can bring small lunch box-sized personal coolers.

What NOT to bring:

No large coolers.

No pets, tents of any size, personal fireworks, grills of any type, alcohol.





Backpack Buddies

We supply Summerville Elementary with food for children that might not otherwise have food over each weekend. This program feeds 36 children from Summerville Elementary. Please bring the following items to the Post meeting each month, or bring cash to donate.

- Breakfast:** Packages of instant grits
 Packages of instant oatmeal
 Mini-muffins (Little Bites)
 Small individual boxes of cereal
 Breakfast bars (such as NutriGrain bars)

- Drinks:** Sunny D (individual bottles)
 Orange juice (individual bottles)
 Horizon Organic
 Capri Sun juices
 Juice boxes of any flavor
 Yahoo chocolate milk in boxes or cans
 Nesquik Chocolate drink (individual bottles)

- Entrees:** Beanie Weanies (small cans that can be microwaved)
 Chef BoyarDee meals in cans (with pop tops)
 Individual boxes of tuna or chicken and crackers
 Vienna sausages
 Hormel Compleat meals (individual meals, available in packages of 3 at Walmart)
 Macaroni and cheese (individual servings that you can microwave)

- Snacks:** Applesauce in individual cans/plastic containers
 Cheez-its (individual bags)
 Rice Krispie treats
 Pirate booty (individual bags)
 Cheese or peanut butter crackers
 Boxes of raisins
 Popcorn (individual servings)
 Chocolate pudding cups
 Buddy Fruits (these look like drinks but they are fruit snacks)
 Little Debbie oatmeal cakes
 Pringles chips in individual containers



We try to put an apple or orange in the bags at least once a month, so a bag of fruit is also welcomed.

Dorchester County Veterans Affairs



Summerville

500 N. Main St.
Summerville, SC 29483

Please use the Main St.
Entrance.

Office Hours:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday - Friday

Phone: (843) 832-0050

St. George

201 Johnston Street
St. George, SC 29477

The St. George office is
located on the Raysor St.
side of the building, behind
DSS.

Office Hours:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday

Phone: (843) 563-0116

The Dorchester County Veterans Affairs Office assists veterans and their families who reside in Dorchester County in all matters that pertain to veterans and Veteran Benefits. You can contact the Veterans Affairs office at (843) 832-0050 to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment.

The Veterans Affairs office assists all ex-service personnel with financial compensation claims including but not limited to:

- Hospitalization
- Training
- Insurance Benefits

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of ex-service personnel.

If you need support for a specific mental health problem - or if you're having problems sleeping, controlling your anger, or readjusting to civilian life - you are not alone. You don't need to be enrolled in VA health care to get care. To access free VA mental health services right away:

- Call or walk-in to any VA Medical Center - anytime, day or night
- Call or walk-in to any Vet Center during clinic hours

If you have questions about enrolling in VA health care, please contact the VA via phone at 1-877-222-VETS (1-877-222-8387) Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST. Veterans with hearing loss are asked to use the TTY phone number 1-800-877-8339.

Newly separated service members can expect three calls from qualified VA Solid Start representatives over the first year of separation. VA will attempt to contact you several times around 90, 180 and 365 days post-separation, so make sure your contact information is up to date in eBenefits.

VA Solid Start representatives will not ask you for financial information and will only discuss topics you are comfortable with. Remember that phone scammers often target Veterans, so always be vigilant and protect your financial information when talking to someone you don't know over the phone.

For questions about VA Solid Start, call 1-800-827-0611, Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST.

VA Clinics

Trident VA Clinic

9237 University Boulevard
North Charleston, SC 29406-8908
Phone: 843-574-1010

North Charleston VA Clinic

6450 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406-4882
Phone: 843-818-5100

Charleston VA Clinic

2424 City Hall Lane
Community Resource & Referral Center
Suite B
North Charleston, SC 29406-6538
Phone: 843-789-6804
Mental health: 843-577-5011

Goose Creek VA Clinic

2418 NNPTC Circle
Goose Creek, SC 29445-6314
Phone: 843-818-6999, ext. 343100
Mental health: 843-577-5011

Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

109 Bee Street
Charleston, SC 29401-5799
Phone: 843-577-5011

Beaufort VA Clinic

1 Pinckney Boulevard
Beaufort, SC 29902-6122
Phone: 843-770-0444

