April 1, 2021
Volume 1, Issue 1

ZMMH NEWS

President's Comments by Cliff Moffett

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Welcome to our first newsletter!! It is our desire to provide you with the latest happenings at the enhanced Zephyrhills Museum of Military History. A lot has happened in the past several years. Our visitor attendance has increased substantially. This can easily be attributed to the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and the many unselfish contributions from donors. During the past year our volunteers contributed over 2,111 hours. According to the Independent Sector, one volunteer hour in the state of Florida is worth $20.08. That converts to $42,388.88 in volunteer value. That's a remarkable figure for only being open Saturday's with two additional special events. Our desire is to be open on Sundays so we are actively seeking volunteers. If you are interested in becoming part of a growing museum, with friendly cohorts, please contact any of those identified under Museum Management. Training will be provided. As we look to the future we envision the Museum being recognized as "the place to visit" in Zephyrhills. We continue to upgrade and change our displays as we pay tribute to those that have served this country and gave the ultimate sacrifice …. their lives.

Being discussed for future events is Vietnam Remembrance Day, recognition of Purple Heart recipients, Veterans Coffee Days, Volunteer recognition event, Swap meets, etc.

In closing I want to invite everyone to provide us with recommendations for this newsletter. Or, if you have a question, please contact me at cprmpf1@aol.com





Zephyrhills Museum of Military History

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Announcement

Our annual D-Day remembrance event at the Museum will be June 5th and 6th. This a free event. Re-enactors, multiple WWII military displays with a myriad of military vehicles will be on display. Hours are from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.



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Exhibits

During the last several years a huge effort was put forth to develop new and upgrade exhibits to museum quality. Especially unique for this area is a display memorializing the attacks of 9-11-2001. The somber memorabilia on loan from Mr. Steve Spelman of Wesley Chapel, who participated in rescue operations, is emotionally moving. Personal equipment used during rescue operations are on display as is hand-written "Thank You" messages from school children

Through donations by Mr. Cliff Moffett, the Museum now has an exceptional display of Civil War original memorabilia. These unique items cannot help but make one wonder in awe of the many hardships endured by both the Union and Confederate soldiers during this conflict. Adding to this display is a complete Union uniform.



Museum Calendar

April 2021

April 1— Board Meeting — 11:00 AM

April 3 — Open 10:00 AM to 4 :00 PM

April 10 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

April 17 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

April 24 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 2021

May 1— Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 6 — Board Meeting—11:00 AM

May 8 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 15 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 22 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 29 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

June 2021

June 3— Board Meeting—11:00 AM

June 5 — D-Day Event

Open 10:00 AM to 4 :00 PM

June 6 — D-Day Event

Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

June 12 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

June 19 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

June 26 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Legacy Brick Program

The Museum is about to embark on a Legacy Brick Program as a Museum fundraiser. This is an ideal way to permanently memorialize parents, relatives, or friends. Your personalized brick will be featured at the Museum flagpole.

Cliff Moffett
U.S. Navy
1983—1991

One will also have the opportunity to secure a duplicate brick to display proudly at home or office. Details for this program are still being worked out so check in frequently on our Facebook Group page for status.

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Donation News

This is a WWII German Sports armband. It was earned by individuals that complete a series of tests. In order to maintain the award, the person would have to retake the test every year. It was worn on the left shoulder of the uniform.

The design of the armband consisted of two-piece construction. Where the main body was of red color and made of cotton. A white circle is sewn to the center. The sports emblem is embroidered directly into the circle consisting of a wreath with a sword through the center. A swastika is placed behind the blade of the sword.

The armband featured here also has the RZM issue tag on the inside. Paper RZM tags were placed in multiple types of armbands as a means to certify that the item complied with the standard manufacturing practices set by the Reich. The tags were glued to the inside of the armband.



Vehicle of the Quarter



Recently acquired by our president is an M29C Weasel, a World War II tracked vehicle (similar to that shown), built by Studebaker. Initially introduced to serve as part of a secret commando operation in Norway in 1942, the M29 Weasel was designed to overcome difficult surface conditions, the first and foremost being snow.

Even though the vehicle was amphibious to some extent, the later version–called the Water Weasel–improved on its amphibious capacity, and was useful during the British-Canadian attack on the Belgian port city of Antwerp. On the other side of the world, in the Pacific Theater, the M29's ability to cross sandy beaches without getting stuck proved irreplaceable during the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

YANK

The following excerpts is taken from YANK magazine dated June 30, 1944. It is titled "From a Coast Town". It takes place in Britain as troops gathered from all over Britain waiting for embarkation on D Day.

The assembly areas covered 300 square miles – as big as Fort Bragg, N.C. and more than four times as big as the district of Columbia.

The GIs arrived for the big event stripped of all clothing and equipment except bare combat essentials. They rolled up their shelter halves and blankets with extra shoes and tent poles, pins and rope and loaded the rolls onto ducks, which were to dump them on the sands of France after the beachheads were established. Back in the billets, they had packed their blouses, overcoats, go-to-hell caps, and everything else connected to garrison formalities into barracks bags and kissed them goodbye .

Each man wore OD pants, woolen shirt, field jacket, leggings, GI shoes with hobnails and steel heelplates, helmet and gas mask. His combat pack contained his raincoat, toilet articles, mess gear and rations.

YANK
June 30, 1944

He also carried a shovel or pick and on his belt his canteen and cup and a first-aid packet with an envelope of sulfanilamide, a package of sulfadiazine and a morphine surete

Every infantryman carried 80 pounds of ammunition and three grenades tucked into an extra canteen carrier attached to his rifle belt. Most of the men were armed with M1s. Others had Springfield's with grenade launchers, BARs, bazookas, flame throwers or TNT pole charges. Every BARman carried 240 rounds of ammunition.

All the money the GIs had was taken away from them, and each was given instead 200 *francs* of French money. Most of the *francs* changed hands in crap games before the men left Britain.

The Americans in this town outnumbered the British civilians 20 – 1 during the week before D-Day.

There were soldiers from all branches of the service and plenty of sailors. A lot of the sailors were dressed in Army OD uniforms with a big "N" insignia. They belonged to beach battalions. Other sailors, from landing craft and combat vessels, stuck to the customary blues.

The soldiers began to disappear from the streets as D-Day drew nearer. Those who had been briefed on their particular assignments were restricted to their camp areas and strictly forbidden to speak to civilians or unbriefed GIs. Security patrols and Military Intelligence operatives were everywhere.

As a matter of fact, security all over Britain before the invasion was so strong that Maj. Gen. Henry J.F. Miller, commander of the Ninth Air Force Service Command , was reduced in rank to lieutenant colonel by Gen. Eisenhower and shipped back to the States because he told somebody at a London cocktail party that D Day would come before June 15.

Even after they were cut off from outside communication and trained in the pronunciation of German words for "Halt" and "Put up your hands" and the French for "Which way is the boche?", GIs were slightly skeptical about the whole thing. They wondered if it was just another dry run like the ones that sent them through the same routine from A to Z several times during the spring. On those deals , they had been awakened during the night and shipped hurriedly to an assembly area , such as this one, drawing ammunition and leaving all their personal belongings behind. They had boarded the landing craft , feeling sure that they were going to France; then it turned out to be a practice landing on the English coast, and a few days later they were back in their old camps.

But this time they found out, it was no dry run.

Jelly Belly
The original gourmet jelly bean.
MISSION BBQ
PIZZA PAPA JOHN'S

Community Partners

Community Partners are partnership businesses that want to assist the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History by becoming involved in community affairs. Having them on the team with their in-kind support of our functions makes a huge difference and is deeply appreciated. We urge our visitors and friends to support them.