

The Miami Valley
Military History Museum



SCUTTLEBUTT

First Quarter 2016



*Sergeant First Class Jack B. Beers
1934 - 1969*



CURATOR'S CORNER

The first quarter of 2016 has flown by! As of the end of March, we've had fifteen events (presentations, displays, etc), which means we've surpassed our annual goal of twelve events. And, we have a total of 52 events scheduled for this year, as well as a couple for 2017 and 2018. The word is getting out about us!

Nine years ago this January we brought in display cases and started dressing the building up. It was slow going at first, but in the last few years we've grown by leaps and bounds! These are pictures from May 2006 that will show just how sparse things were...table top displays that we'd previously driven around the state of Ohio doing traveling displays for anyone who would let us - what a difference between then and now!



Then and Now...

We continue to make changes to our displays...as we're a Commemorative Partner in the Department of Defense 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War, we're planning to have a semi-permanent display honoring our Vietnam Veterans, which will be located on our second floor. We'll also be doing some rearranging on the main floor – stop in and see for yourself!

A new addition to our webpage is the “Veteran of the Month” (<http://www.mvmhm.com/vroh.htm>). Each month we'll be highlighting one of the Veterans from our Roll of Honor. If you have a Veteran you'd like to see added to that roster, feel free to send us an email with as much information as possible and, if available, a photograph (in or out of uniform).

Memorial Day is fast approaching, and this year it's on the “actual” Memorial Day, May 30th. Sadly, this holiday has become better known as the beginning of summer and for the opening of swimming pools and store sales. Please take some time to honor the true spirit of Memorial Day - to honor the men and women who have died in the service of the United States.

With that in mind, our cover features Sergeant First Class Jack Blaine Beers, who was killed in action on April 7th, 1969 in Vietnam. SFC Beers, a veteran of the 101st Airborne Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade and 187th Airborne

Infantry Regiment, was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross. His DSC citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Sergeant First Class Jack Blaine Beers (ASN: RA-23877112), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 3d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. Platoon Sergeant Beers distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on the evening of 7 April 1969 during an attack by an estimated reinforced Viet Cong company on his platoon's night location near the town of Bao Loc, Lam Dong Province. Sergeant Beers moved through the initial barrage of rocket, automatic weapons and small arms fire to reach a section of the perimeter under heavy ground attack, and was painfully wounded by shrapnel from an incoming rocket when he arrived at a machine gun bunker. Despite his injury, he directed that position's fire against the aggressors and momentarily halted their assault. After hearing a rocket hit in the platoon's command post and a cry for help from his radio telephone operator, he started toward the stricken post, but was seriously wounded in the legs and stomach by shrapnel from enemy grenades and rockets as the communists began attacking from all sides. Disregarding his safety, he encouraged his men to hold their positions and crawled to a radio to call for artillery support. Although he was in an exposed location, he continued to adjust artillery strikes until he was mortally wounded by hostile small arms fire. Platoon Sergeant Beers' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



We also lost a good friend and museum supporter on April 1st. Raymond (Ray) Freeland was a Vietnam Veteran who routinely found items during his travels to donate to us. Always proud of his Native American heritage, Ray was the driving force behind the memorial to Native American Veterans in the Dayton National Cemetery. During the annual Patriot Freedom Festival, Ray was the organizer for a Native American ceremony in the cemetery, and could be found operating the sound system during the 4 Freedom Equestrian Team's performance. So long, Ray...we'll miss you!



We've got a lot of great history here! You can help by forwarding this newsletter to people who have an interest in military history, and "Like" us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same – the more people that know about us the better! And don't forget the 12th Annual Patriot Freedom Festival will be on Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29, 2016, from 11:00AM – 5:00PM each day. This year's theme is "*Honoring Women Veterans*"! Call our office at (937) 267-7629 for more information or if you'd like to volunteer or participate.

We appreciate your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in the months ahead!

Respectfully,

Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET
Curator

From Public Affairs:

What a busy quarter this has been! We've presented well over 1,000 flag star "Thank You"s, and approximately 500 Vietnam War Veteran lapel pins. The Vietnam War 50th Commemoration is a program that's near and dear to my heart, and it's a great privilege to present the pins with a heartfelt "Thanks for your service, and welcome home!"

In addition to preserving the history of our Veterans, we've become more involved in projects around the campus to serve our fellow Veterans. One great program we've joined is helping keep the "Comfort Carts" in the Hospice stocked. This is one of them; it's got drinks, snacks, and easily prepared meals for the families visiting their loved ones. We have a donation box available in the museum (at the Librarian's Desk) for people who want to donate to this very worthy cause.

Another Hospice activity for us is passing out cards and "Thank You" flag stars to all the residents. We're extremely fortunate to have the help of Beverly ("Ma Bev") Peyton and her team of Card Angels who keep us well supplied – thanks Bev!



This supply of cards for our Veterans came through the efforts of people in several towns in Ohio and Portland, Oregon.

A woman in Cape Coral, Florida sent us these "Pocket Hugs." These are handkerchief size, made from drawings children have done to thank our Veterans.



On March 15th, Mark and I were guests at the Dayton STEM school to be interviewed by students for a class project. While there, we ran into LTC Kathy Staiger (an Airman's Medal recipient), and Nadine Nagel, a WWII WASP. Nadine joined the WASPs after her husband was killed in WWII.



On February 17th, we set up a display of uniforms at the Salute To Valor concert at the Schuster Center in downtown Dayton; the uniforms covered the history of our Armed Forces since 1775. Attendance was really good, although with multiple entry points there were a lot of people who didn't get to see the artifacts, but we still got some good coverage as did the VA who had a couple of tables, along with AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Help Hospitalized Veterans.



Our "big" project this quarter was the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration and Pinning Ceremony that was held in the historic Protestant Chapel on March 30th. The Chapel was filled to capacity, and we presented 160 Vietnam War Veteran lapel pins to the Veterans and their families. The ceremony was preceded by a 30 minute video produced by Dewey "Rex" Maynard of the BuckeyeNest, and the guest speaker was former Prisoner of War Ed Mechenbier, Major General, USAF, Ret. We were fortunate to have two additional displays of Vietnam artifacts in the Chapel and Museum foyer courtesy of Alex Villalva, as well as several military vehicles from the Ohio Motor Pool. To all our Vietnam Veterans who couldn't make it to the ceremony - Welcome Home!



Respectfully,

**Catherine I. Beers, USAF Veteran
Public Affairs Officer**

DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:

This is one of the more unusual artifacts we received this quarter... a leather satchel made from one half of a cavalry trooper's saddle bag. These were made as a single piece with two bags and liners which were attached at the rear of the saddle. It wasn't uncommon after they were worn out for the bags to have a shoulder strap added and used as a satchel or knapsack. This example was dyed black and a nice leather handle added. It still has its original cloth inner bag attached. Thanks, Robert!



Catherine and I met Earl Fueston and his wife during one of our "Get To Know Us Campaign" tables in the VA Medical Center lobby. Earl served in the last horse cavalry unit to see action in World War II. The 124th was sent to the CBI with their cavalry equipment, but upon arrival they were told they would retain their cavalry designation but fight as infantry as part of the MARS Task Force (formerly Merrill's Marauders". During the fighting in Burma, Earl was shot in the ear and was awarded the Purple Heart. Thanks Earl!

Lieutenant Sue Getz served in the Persian Gulf aboard the hospital ship USNS *Mercy* during Operations DESERT SHIELD and STORM. She recently donated a large grouping of her uniforms and accoutrements, as well as photographs, papers and insignia. Lt. Getz is a recipient of the Navy Achievement Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Thanks, Sue!





Above is a portion of the insignia and uniform accoutrements in Lt. Getz' group, as well as a morale patch and two DESERT SHIELD / STORM bibles.



This invasion armband was worn by Corporal William Carroll during Operation DRAGOON, the invasion of southern France on 15 August 1944. Thanks, Lanny!



This near-mint conditioned AN/PRC-10 backpack radio was donated by Marine Corporal and Vietnam Veteran Lynn McKinley. The radio was introduced in 1951, and has a range of 3 to 12 miles depending on the antenna used and the terrain. It continued to be used in Vietnam up to about 1966. This example dates from 1951 and is complete with carrier, antennas, handset and manual. Thanks, Lynn!

Without the generosity of people interested in preserving our military heritage, museums like ours couldn't exist – space doesn't permit an individual listing of all the donations we've received, but we want to thank the following groups and/or individuals for helping us tell the stories of the defenders our great nation. *(an asterisk indicates multiple donations)*:

Earl Fueston (Ohio)
*Vince Dec (Ohio)
Mark Rindler (Ohio)
Susan Getz (Florida)

Walt Stewart (Ohio)
Jim Ludy (Ohio)
Lanny Carroll (Ohio)

Janice Jacobs (Ohio)
Robert Shawen (Ohio)
Erik Genalo (New York)

Marc Snow (Ohio)
Lynn McKinley (Ohio)
Rex Maynard (Ohio)

...and many anonymous donors.

FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): US Navy Chaplain's British uniform

A Catholic Padre, (Navy Commander) Father Benedict Brown was attached to the Royal Navy at the start of the War on Terror. In January, he brought his uniforms and beret, along with several other berets he traded from Allied soldiers. He was issued British DPM woodland and desert pattern uniforms in order to blend in with the British soldiers and not be seen as a preferential target. Commander Brown is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, Army, Navy and Coast Guard Achievement Medals and the Fleet Marine Force Badge. Thanks Padre!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **April, 2016:** Presentation and tour for the Vantage Career Center student group from Van Wert, OH.
- **Thursday, April 21, 2016, 2:00PM:** Presentation for the Veterans Social Command, Middletown, OH.
- **Monday, April 25, 2016, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us Campaign" table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **Saturday, April 30, 2016, 12:00PM:** Tour for the Riverside Historical Society.
- **Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us Campaign" table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **Saturday, May 7, 2016:** Girl Scout Learning Day.
- **Saturday, May 7, 2016, 1:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 quarterly meeting.
- **Saturday, May 21, 2016, 8:30AM:** Armed Forces Day 5K Run/Walk/Roll.
- **Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29, 2016, 11:00AM – 5:00PM:** 12th Annual Patriot Freedom Festival – Theme: *Honoring Women Veterans!*
- **Monday, May 30, 2016:** Memorial Day (observed and actual).
- **Wednesday, June 4, 2016, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us Campaign" table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **Tuesday, June 15, 2016:** Presentation and tour for the Eaton Senior Citizens Center.
- **Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 6:00PM:** 75th anniversary meeting, presentation and tour for the Bellbrook Gardening Club.

FREE SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

- Speakers Bureau
- Veterans Roll of Honor

- Veterans History Project
- Operation FOOTLOCKER
- Genealogy and research archives
- Awards and Decorations Replacement

The Veterans Roll of Honor can be found at: <http://www.mvmhm.com/vroh.htm>. To submit a veteran for the Roll of Honor, email their full name, rank, branch of service, service history and awards and decorations (these are optional), to our Curator at curator@mvmhm.com. You may submit only a name, or you can also include a picture; if no picture is available, the appropriate service emblem will be used. (Note that we reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar and spelling.)

MISCELLANEOUS:

Our "Wish List": We're looking for some specific items to fill gaps in our displays/collection – if you have any of these items, please consider donating them!

Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican Border Expedition: *Anything!*

World War I: U.S. Air Service uniforms; U.S. Navy uniforms, any style; Model 1911 .45 pistol; Model 1903 Springfield rifle and parts; Model 1917 Enfield rifle and parts; Model 1914 Hotchkiss Machine Gun ammunition box; U.S. trench boots; German or Austrian uniform tunic; German "Kratzen" soft hat with insignia; German enlisted or officer's pickelhaube ("Spike helmet", Infantry or Artillery); German, Austrian, or Hungarian medals and insignia; German Model 98n/a ("Butcher") saw back bayonet with teeth intact; German Mauser Model 98 rifle; German P08 "Luger" pistol; German steel helmets; Imperial German or Prussian flags

World War II: German uniforms and headgear; German medals and insignia; German M24 stick grenade (inert only); German P08 (Luger) pistol; German P38 pistol; Italian uniforms and headgear of any type; Italian medals and insignia; Italian Carcano rifle; Italian Berretta pistol; Japanese uniforms and headgear; Japanese Imperial Navy helmet; Japanese "last ditch" bayonet and scabbard; Japanese medals and insignia; Japanese "Rising Sun" (rayed) flag; Japanese Nambu or Type 94 pistols; Japanese swords; US Marine herringbone twill uniform; US Marine M1 helmet with cover; Army Air Forces A14 oxygen mask; Army Air Forces leather flight gear; Any Pearl Harbor Purple Heart; US field gear; US medals and insignia; M-1 carbine; M-1 Garand; Model 1911 .45 pistol; 100 pound practice bombs.

How can YOU help preserve our veterans history?

Each day more and more of our veterans are passing away. The last veteran from World War I passed away in February 2011; our World War II veterans are dying at the rate of approximately 1,000 a day. For many younger people, conflicts as recent as Vietnam seem to be "old war movies". Unfortunately, many times when a veteran dies all of his or her history dies with them -we want to bring to life the stories of our veterans and provide a tangible link to them. Donations ensure our continued growth, and preservation of our veteran's stories. (All donors are credited on the museum's web site).

What types of things can you donate?

Uniforms

Insignias

Medals

Photographs

Captured enemy trophies

Anything that will help tell our veteran's stories, especially those from Ohio.

Nothing is too small or insignificant!

We can also use items that you feel may be too damaged or worn to restore. Artifacts may be used to support our educational programs such as Operation FOOTLOCKER (a virtual field trip) and the Speakers Bureau.



Operation FOOTLOCKER

THIS QUARTER IN MILITARY HISTORY:

January 1, 1863: President Lincoln issues his Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War.
January 16, 1991: Coalition air strikes open the campaign to liberate Kuwait.
January 17, 1781: Colonial Army and Militia forces defeat the British at Cowpens, S.C.
January 25, 1951: U.N. launches counteroffensive to drive North Koreans and Chinese from South Korea.
January 30, 1968: The Tet Offensive begins.

February 9, 1861: Jefferson Davis elected President of Confederate States of America.
February 11, 1951: Chinese counteroffensive begins north of Hoengsong.
February 12, 1955: President Eisenhower sends the first U.S. advisers to South Vietnam to train their Army.
February 15, 1898: Submarine mine sinks U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor, 260 killed.
February 19, 1944: US Marines land on Iwo Jima.
February 24, 1991: Allied ground assault against Iraq begins.
February 27, 1776: North Carolina militia defeat Loyalist Scots inflicting heavy casualties at Moore's Creek bridge.

March 3, 1991: Iraq accepts conditions for a permanent cease fire.
March 7, 1945: U.S. 9th Armored Division captures the Remagen bridge intact.
March 8, 1862: Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas.
March 15, 1781: Battle at Guilford Courthouse, Guilford, NC.
March 18, 1951: United Nations forces retake Seoul.
March 19, 2003: Operation Iraqi Freedom begins.
March 30, 1972: North Vietnamese launch a major offensive across the DMZ.

TRIVIA

Last quarter's trivia question was:

In Military jargon, what is the meaning of "F-Hour?" F-Hour is the effective time of announcement by the U.S. Secretary of Defense to the Military Departments of a decision to mobilize Reserve units.

This quarter's question is: ***Who said "The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his"?***

SAVE THE DATE MAY 28-29, 2016
For our 12th Annual

Patriot Freedom Festival

Honoring Women in the Military
Dayton VA Campus



Free Entry – Free Parking – Free Entertainment!
Living History – Vendors – Food – Fun!

www.AmericanVeteransHeritage.org
(937) 267-7628



The Miami Valley Military History Museum is co-located with the American Veterans Heritage Center (a 501c3 organization), located in Building 120, the historic Putnam Library, in the Historic District of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Please note that although we are located on federal property, we receive NO funding from the Veterans Administration - we operate entirely "out of our own pockets" and with the help of unpaid volunteers.

Miami Valley Military History Museum
120 Ohio Avenue
Dayton, OH 45428

Hours of Operation: 9AM to 3PM

Monday through Friday
1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month
All Patriotic holidays
By Appointment

(Please note that opening hours are contingent on volunteer availability.)

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Official Partner in the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration, the Imperial War Museum World War I Centenary and a member of the Small Museums Association.
