Pennsylvania National Guard
Military Museum
Building T-8-57, Fort Indiantown Gap
Annapolis, Pennsylvania 17063 (717) 861-2402

PNG Military Museum
Bldg. # 8-57
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annapolis, PA 17063-5003

You may also contribute in person by visiting the museum during any of the operating hours posted in this newsletter. The goal for the current fund drive is $25,000, which will support the museum.

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Membership
Membership rolls and “Friend of the Museum” contributions continued since our last newsletter. In addition to the membership fees, we are very grateful to the many who submitted generous extra donations for use by the museum. These extra donations are greatly appreciated.

There are currently 129 memberships for the museum. The Board extends its sincere thanks to these members and donors, and we continue to solicit additional participation.

- Individual $10 per year
- Family (3 or more) $25 per year
- Business/Organization $50 per year

If you have not already joined or donated to the PNG Museum, the Museum is a non-profit organization under 501 (C) (3). You can do so by sending your tax-deductible dollars by check to:

Board of Directors/Staff/Membership..... Page 1
News from the Archivist .................. Page 2
The Generals are coming!!! ............... Page 3
2006 Visitor List.......................... Page 4
Volunteer Muster.......................... Page 4
Wish List .................................. Page 4
History Crossword........................ Page 5
PA New Stryker Bde ....................... Page 6
Retiree Day ................................ Page 7
2ND BDE Combat Team.................... Page 7
28th ID Reunion............................ Page 7
Donations to the Museum................ Page 8
Items Purchased for Museum............. Page 8
Captain Wood E. Chuck .................. Page 8
News from sister museums ............... Page 9
News from FTIG .......................... Page 9
Answers to Puzzle ....................... Page 10
Hours/Directions ........................ Page 10
News from the Archivist

On the second floor of our main museum, the small room formerly used by the company cooks during World War II is jammed packed with reference material covering the history of the Pennsylvania Guard from the time of the Civil War to the present, including both Army and Air Guard documentation. These historical materials are very extensive and are fully accessible to researchers. Scholars interested in the Pennsylvania National Guard have found a treasure trove of material that is especially rich for the World War II era history.

Surprisingly, and perhaps not so surprisingly because of the vast wealth of this historical material, these important artifacts are frequently used by individuals conducting research. Some of these researchers have come from as far away as Virginia, Texas, Arizona, and California. Some of these individuals are doing research for books, historical papers or use as college essays and term papers.

As the word spreads about our museum and this collection of historical material, our curator Charles Oellig receives many written and telephonic inquiries. Because of his extensive knowledge of the history of the Pennsylvania Guard, he is capable of accomplishing research and providing answers whenever possible. The archives materially assist in developing and verifying the answers. For example, several inquiries are received each week, ranging from requests such as, "My father died last month but never talked about his service in World War II. Now, I've found some medals in his files—one called the Bronze Star and another called the Purple Heart—do you think you could look that up about his service?" I know he was a member of this 28th Division, and I think he joined a Guard unit in his hometown before the war. Can you help me?"

Based upon these sketchy facts, our curator, with considerable knowledge about the 28th, realized the unit must have been the father's local unit, and he proceeded to research the roster of that unit to determine if the father had been assigned there. Having determined that he was, further research revealed that the father had served with the 28th and he had been awarded the Bronze Star for heroic action during the Battle of the Bulge and had been wounded in that battle thereby receiving the Purple Heart.

Another request recently received was even more "far out" and it seems worthwhile to quote in view of the great amount of research involved by our curator. "I am interested in finding information about my great-grandfather. He was a member of the Guard in the late 1800s. During the Spanish-American War, he enlisted in the army and was commissioned as a Captain in Company E of the First Pennsylvania Infantry. After the war he left the service but then re-entered the Guard as an officer. I would like to find where he served during the war and what his rank was after he re-entered. Any information you are able to provide would be greatly appreciated. His name was Charles Percival Smith and he was 24 upon enlisting."

In his own inimitable fashion, our curator Charles did the research and provided the answer to his request. Sometimes, he said, it is even possible to find a photograph of the soldiers in a particular unit and if practical, a copy can be furnished to the person making the original request.

Another more recent inquirer asked if we could furnish a roster of all the soldiers who processed through Fort Indiantown Gap during World War II. This request could not be answered other than to say, we are not aware of the existence of any such roster, and that is very doubtful that any such list ever existed. Based upon our previous research, about 250,000 soldiers passed through the Gap on their way to Europe during the war and from June 10, 1945 to March 23, 1946 over 449,569 troops spent their last days as a soldier at the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. If rosters exist, they would most likely be for a particular unit but not of all the soldiers who were stationed at the Gap. We did add, however, that many of the World War II units have formed associations and many hold periodic reunions so that if the inquirer wanted to pursue this matter, it might be possible to collect data by getting in touch with these retiree associations.

These examples are mentioned to illustrate the breadth of the value of our museum and its importance in perpetuating the history of our Pennsylvania National Guard. In accordance with museum policy, there is usually no charge for this research unless there might be a large reproduction cost involved in which case we'd ask for that cost to be reimbursed. We do appreciate donations because it is costly to maintain our museum.

It is significant to mention that these documents in our museum's library include a vast array of photographs, magazines, books and video tapes that have been collected over years through donations from Guardsmen interested in preserving the history of the Guard in visual form and the written word.

Although all the material is property safeguard, the library area is becoming more crowded as additional historical items are received. A project is underway by volunteers to inventory all of the archives to make them more easily assessable and to insure that they are properly stored in acid-free file folders and boxes to preserve them for future generations. Inventories created of the collection will help guide researchers through the materials. Grants and donations are being sought by the museum to continue the cataloging project.
The Generals are coming!!!

We were delighted that our Adjutant General, Major General Jessica Wright, could take time from her very busy schedule to visit our museum on May 12th. She was escorted on a tour of the museum by Curator Charles B. Oellig and was very pleased with the diversity of Pennsylvania National Guard artifacts on display. She expressed appreciation to all the dedicated volunteers for their professionalism, in which the museum could not succeed without. General Wright was especially interested to see the special new exhibit of Major General Anthony J. Drexel Biddle’s uniforms and unique decorations that his widow, Mrs. Margaret Robbins, has donated to the museum.

In addition, Brigadier General Richard B. Posey, retired, former Deputy Adjutant General, came for a visit and donated a number of personal items including an artist sketch of him drawn during World War II and some official records of the transfer of Olmstead Air Force Base to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Another former Adjutant General, Major General William B. Lynch, donated a number of uniforms including several flight jackets and a flight suit.

Recently, Brigadier General Peter R. Phillipi, retired, former commander of the 171st Air Refueling Wing, visited the museum and viewed, for the first time, the F-84F ejection seat and flight suit that he donated several months ago and is now on display in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard section of the museum.

(Mr. Oellig, curator; MG Wright, TAG; and Maj Gen Smoker, Ret., Board of Directors President)

In addition to the hundreds of museum visitors during the past year, we have been pleased to welcome a number of retired general officers who made personal donations for display in the museum.

Former Adjutant General, Major General Nicholas P. Kafiolas, retired, toured the museum and donated his ceremonial sword which is now on exhibit.

(The General with his Chair)

The museum is also the recipient of uniforms of former Adjutant General Richard Snyder donated by his widow, Mrs. Miriam Snyder and her son, Lt. Colonel Wilbur Snyder, US Army retired.
2006 Visitors List

Since our last newsletter, visitors continue to stream in to the museum for a number of various reasons. Thanks to the hard work of our curator, Charles Oellig, and manager of exhibits John Schreffler and other volunteer assistants who helped with the various tour groups. There were 502 visitors in the museum from 1st Jan 2006 to the 30th Jun 2006. This includes 11 tour groups. We are currently on pace to break our number of visitors from last year.

Volunteer Muster

The Museum would like to thank all our volunteer staff who had helped with cataloging, repairs, tours, exhibits and research in the past three months. We would like to especially like to thank Sgt Rick Roberts’ Adventure group who did several jobs around the museum including raking the yard, cutting dead branches from trees, and spreading mulch around trees and shrubs.

Sgt Damian J. M. Smith, our military historian and researcher completed the repairs and final coats of paint on the handicapped access ramp to the museum. The ramp received three coats of paint in October and three more coats when the weather broke in the spring.

The PNG Museum welcomes volunteers, as our upkeep and administration requires many hands to insure continued growth and success. If you have some time and talent to contribute, in any amount, please contact us by phone at 717-861-2402 or 717-861-8415 or in writing to the museum. It’s the people who make the museum projects come alive and ensure that the story of the Pennsylvania National Guard is told.

Wish List

- Air conditioners, no less than 10,000 BTUs
- Archival Boxes
- Archival Sheet Protectors (Heavy Weight)
- Metal bookshelves for storage of our various historic books and military manuals
- Flat showcases for books and patches
- Large showcases (6' or 8') for Range House
- Several large map drawer cabinets for storage of guidons, regimental colors, and military maps
- Various Pennsylvania DUs (unit crests) and military patches of our different units. There is a great need to bring our military patch collection up to date especially in our aviation history. This includes our Army aviation and the many various Air National Guard squadrons and detachments. We are looking for both current and past/obsolete items for our collection.
- HP Ink cartridges: #27 Black (C8728AN) and #28 Color (C8728AN).
History Crossword

ACROSS

A disease caused by a deficiency of Vitamin C.
To terminate a mission for any reason other than enemy action.
A machine used by Germans to encode strategic messages.
A barrier of wooden posts or a military prison.
An underground chamber in which a guided missile is kept ready for firing.
A hostile nation or its armed forces or citizens, especially in time of war.
The term of the Third Reich was adopted by Adolf Hitler, however, the Second Reich was created by this man.
The point of intersection of two direction finding lines of bearing; or a pathway thru a mountain by a road, railroad, or power line.
A group of ships sailing together.
A person who advocates an aggressive or warlike policy, especially in foreign affairs.
A thing providing concealment or protection, or a detachment of troops or ships detailed to cover the movements of the main body.
An embankment built to prevent the overflow of a river.

DOWN

When you're on your own.
The science of projectiles and firearms.
This U. S. President developed his famous Fourteen Points as a framework for peace.
An inhabitant of New England or a Union soldier during the Civil War.
This was the name of the Operation of Allied Landings in the French Riviera during World War II.
The nickname of the B-25 medium bomber made famous by the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo during World War II.
Abbrev. of service personnel who died while engaged in combat.
A French military cap with a horizontal bill also used for soldiers during the American Civil War.
A military aviator who has shot down more than five enemy aircraft.

ALL ITEMS TAKEN FROM THE OXFORD MILITARY DICTIONARY
PENNSYLVANIA’S NEW 56TH STRYKER BRIGADE

The Pennsylvania National Guard’s 56th Combat Stryker Brigade became the first and only National Guard unit to welcome the Stryker light armored vehicle to its fleet during a rollout ceremony held at Fort Indiantown Gap on June 10, 2006. The other six SBCT units are all active duty Army.

(A Stryker Vehicle busts through during the ceremony.)

(General Richard Cody, Lieutenant Governor Katherine Baker Knoll and U.S. Congressman John P. Murtha, Jr.)

(Some of the 10 different Stryker vehicles on display for the general public.)

(VIPs and members of the general public)

Fielding the Stryker Brigade is the largest program undertaken by the Pennsylvania National Guard in modern history. It is a $1.5 billion dollar program that includes 85 construction projects across the Commonwealth and more than 1,000 wheeled vehicles including 300 Stryker Vehicles. The Department of the Army’s decision to field the Stryker Brigade in Pennsylvania recognizes that the 28th Infantry Division has achieved the highest levels of strength and readiness.

(As well as the many vehicles and UAV displays outside, inside there was museum, GWOT, environmental, and economic impact displays. The display above was from our museum featuring captured Iraqi medals.)
Retiree Day

On May 17th, the Adjutant General, Major General Jessica L. Wright, hosted a retiree day at Fort Indiantown Gap. Directors and key staff briefed the former members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The briefings included an update on National Guard benefits, Army & Air National Guard Force Structure, the Global War on Terrorism and Fort Indiantown Gap.

(IMG Wright and her staff at the luncheon)

High Risk Entry Facility and simulators used by the soldiers for training. The museum was also open for visitors in which several small groups stopped by and visited.

2nd Brigade Combat Team
Returns Home

The Pennsylvania Army National Guard units began to return home to their home armories from Camp Shelby, MS after their year-long tour in Iraq. The units were part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team stationed in the Al Anbar Province in Iraq. The 2nd BDE had over 2,300 PA soldiers with soldiers attached to it from over 22 states bringing the entire 2nd BDE force strength for Iraq up to over 3,500 soldiers. Some of these units include:

- HHC, 2nd BDE
- 1-109th Infantry
- 1-110th Infantry
- 1-104th Cavalry
- 2-103rd Armor
- 103rd Engineer
- 876th Engineer
- 728th Main Support Battalion
- 228th Forward Support Battalion

We hope that all the soldiers enjoy their 90 days off before reporting back to their respective armories for drill.

28th Infantry Division
Reunion Planned

The 28th Infantry Division is making progress on a few different fronts. First, they have a new 28th Infantry Division Association Website. The new webpage is as follows:

http://28thinfantrydivisionassoc.org/index.html

Secondly, the 28th Division Association will be having an upcoming division reunion in September. Events include tours, speakers and dinner functions. For those people that are interested in attending this year’s event, Walt Chmiola can be contacted at the Association’s number at 717-787-9385 for more details.

Finally, for all those that have not yet visited the museum, this could be an ideal time to do so.
Items Donated to the Museum

Frank Horton - A large multipurpose first aid kit filled with medical supplies.

Walt Chimola - A 28th ID Commemorative Plate from 1979 and a 28th ID Veteran Association overseas cap.

Chris Ruff - WWII swimming trunks and uniform parts.

Douglas M. Day - A Fort Indiantown Gap souvenir badge dated September 1940. Mr. Day works in the FTIG Police Department.

HHC, 28th Personnel Service Battalion - They donated an old scale that fits perfectly in our medical display in the museum.

Eugene Turaski - 2 pair of miniature LGMR souvenir panties and 46 excavated relics.

Thomas McCabe (Col., Ret.) - A toy US artillery piece and a German tin armor car.


Wayne & Sue Miller - Post cards, photos, documents, newspapers and patches.

State College Police Department - Donated a 1943 German Mauser. Before the weapon was to be destroyed, the police contacted us to see if we were interested, of course we were. Thanks to those officers, a Mauser would make a fine addition to our German collection.

Michael Sema - Air National Guard weather flight uniform and several weather forecasting instruments.

Items Purchased for Our Collection

Mount Gretna Compact

The female makeup compact was discovered and purchased from museum funds for our collection. The compact dates back from the 1920's to the early 1930's. The original owner is unknown. However, it is reasonably believed that it belonged to one of the unit commander's wives that served at the Mount Gretna training area.

Captain Wood E. Chuck Has 5

If you visit Fort Indiantown Gap, you will see that the base houses one of the largest populations of groundhogs in Pennsylvania. Our own resident Captain Wood E. Chuck (3' 4") most famous groundhog behind Phil from Punxsutawney and Gus from the PA Lottery) and his wife who reside at building T-8-56 ½ (underneath) recently had five little ones. Three of their offspring can be seen enjoying a lunchtime salad on the museum grounds. We sincerely hope that these youngsters will not do too much damage to the museum grounds in their youthful stage.
News from Our Sister Military Museums

-Jackson Barracks Military Museum
Jackson Barracks located in the 9th Ward in New Orleans continues to make strides in recovering and progressing in their cleanup efforts. Almost all the historic items and artifacts have been removed to Camp Beauregard, LA. Building repairs to the Powder Magazine continue as well to the rest of the military post. We wish Mrs. Pugh the director and Mr. Stan Aimerski the curator the best of luck.

-Fort Douglas Military Museum
This year's 2006 Army Museum System Training Course and Conference were hosted by the Fort Douglas Museum and the Utah National Guard in Salt Lake City, UT. Under the direction of Colonel Robert S. Voyles (Ret.), the conference was a huge success. Attendees visited several museums, got to meet the Governor of Utah as well as a delegation from Morocco, which is Utah's partnership country. The main theme of this year's training focused on disaster preparedness, recovery as well as artifact accountability thru the new Army Historical Collection Accountability System (AHICAS).

-June 2006 Flooding
As the rivers and streams rose, the northeast of the United States began to have severe flooding issues. Pennsylvania, hit hardest activated more than 1,000 members to help law enforcement, and conducted over a thousand rescues. The museum was well above the flooding waters. The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey under CW5 Judith McCabe reported that they were safe as well as Delaware National Guard Museum under Major Wiley Blevins. The Center of Military History at Fort McNair was also reported fine by Jeffrey Kimball. However, Mr. Kimball did tell us that the National Archives did receive water damage but no artifacts were damaged.

News from Fort Indiantown Gap

-Tank Exchange
Our M69 tank exchange is slowly moving forward. The welds on the tank have been cut and we are awaiting the exchange of our tank for a M46 "Patton tank" with VFW Post 537 from Eiters, PA.

-3rd Armored Division
The 3rd Armored Division was one of the divisions that trained at Fort Indiantown Gap. There monument located next to Muir Airfield was recently painted by the maintenance department at Fort Indiantown Gap, which did an excellent job as seen below.

-28th Infantry Division Memorial Chapel is demolished.
Due to an infestation of termites, the building could not be saved. However, the museum did manage to save the chapel sign.
Answers to Puzzle

Hours

Hours are 10:00-4:30 (Monday & Friday). To schedule an appointment to visit the museum at a time not listed, call 717-861-2494, the museum Monday & Friday at 717-861-2402 or 717-861-9415.

Directions

From I-81, take exit 85B, Fort Indiantown Gap exit, and proceed north on Route 934. At the first red light on post, turn right onto Service Road. The museum is located at the corner of Service Road and Wiley Road, building number T-8-57. Look for the Civil War Cannon and museum signs on the right hand side.