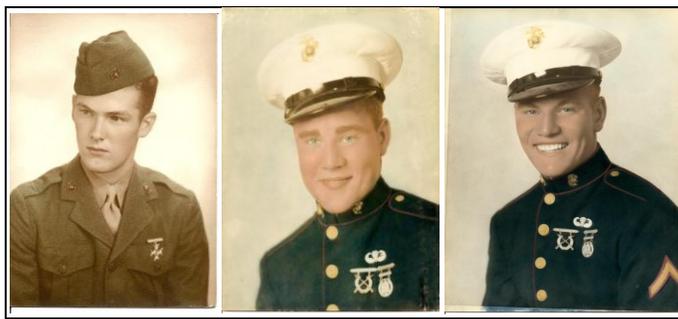


70th Anniversary of Iwo Jima

This February will be the 70th anniversary of the island invasion and campaign. The marines fought a hard fought battle with a battle hardened enemy. Three of the veterans in our museum participated in the battle, all Corporals. They are Luther Crabtree, Harold Crabtree and Richard Karn. Luther was a demolition man, his brother Harold was an assistant squad leader. Both fought with the 5th Marines. Richard was with the 3rd marines. Luther (won a Silver Star) and Richard (wounded) both survived, but Harold was killed in action on 26 February 1945.

Pictured below are (l to r) Richard Karn, Harold Crabtree and Luther Crabtree.



Dayton V.A. Freedom Festival

On Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 May 2015 the 101st AB 502nd Living History and the Central Ohio Military Museum (COMM) will set up at the Dayton, Ohio Veterans Administration. Displays will include AC patches, airborne patches, D-Day items, Handie Talkie, knives, uniforms of WWII veterans, weapons, T-5 parachute, posters, 30 cal machine gun, bazooka with rocket, 60mm mortar, ammo crates, grenades and sand table. The VA is open from 11:00am to 6:00pm daily.

We will be located adjacent to the museum. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will put flags on the graves to honor the veterans.

Poultry Festival - Versailles, Ohio

We will return to the Poultry Parade and Festival in Versailles, Ohio on Friday June 12th, Saturday the 13th and Sunday the 14th. Displays will include the sand table, a marker panel, the mortar, the camo netting and a 1942 GPW (jeep). In the tent we will have a weapons area, a display of infantry equipment, airborne equipment, uniforms on shirt forms (Army, Navy, Marines and Armor), a display case (with a map and edge weapons) and much more.

Fort Hayes Update

It was a three year process that ended without utilizing Building 66 on the Fort Hayes Campus. I had met with Carol Oshavsky. She is the Senior Executive for Facilities for the Columbus Public Schools in charge of the school properties. She got the ball rolling and soon after our meeting I was able to meet with the Real-estate Department to tour available buildings.



Building 66 was the old Reception Center with two floors and a full basement. It was approximately 18,000 square feet. It looked promising as a museum location. In my lease talks with the department I was told no weapons would be allowed at that location, even though Ohio law allows for it. It was a hard decision, but with no weapons I believed this would limit the ability to tell the story of our veterans.

Currently I am looking into land in Grove City, Ohio.

THE COMM

WINTER 2015

Corporal Luther Carl Crabtree
MCSN# 500560

4th Parachute Battalion

26th Marines 5th Marine Division Dog Company

Service: 09 December 1942 to 19 January 1946

Awards: Silver Star, Presidential Unit Citation w/one star, Good Conduct, American campaign, Asia Pacific Campaign w/one star, WWII Victory Medal and Occupation Medals.



Luther was born in Columbus, Ohio on 29 April 1924. Luther attended South High School and graduated in 1942. After graduation he and his brother Harold enlisted in the Marines. They took their boot camp on the west coast. On the completion of boot camp they joined the Paramarines. They trained for six months in which time they made their five jumps and qualified to wear jump wings.

In January of 1944 the Commandant of the Marines General Vandegrift disbanded the Paramarines and the Raiders. On 29 February 1944 they were officially disbanded. All Marines are equal! These two specially trained marine battalions would comprise the new 5th Marines. The 5th Marines would be trained especially for the planned invasion of Japan in November of 1945. So, in February of 1944 Luther and his fellow Marines were in the 5th Marines.

Luther completed training and was to take part in the invasion of Iwo Jima. During the action Luther lost his brother (Harold) to enemy fire. Luther's actions earned him a Silver Star:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Corporal Luther C. Crabtree (MCSN: 500560), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with a Marine rifle company on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from 19 February to 26 March, 1945. On 13 March, when the advance of his company was held up by rifle and grenade fire from a series of caves to the front, Corporal Crabtree, utterly disregarding his own safety, ran forward of the front lines and destroyed two cave positions with demolitions. Again on 15 March, disregarding enemy machine gun fire from caves to the front, he ran through the front lines and attacked cave positions with satchel charges, destroying three cave positions and making possible the advance of his company. His daring execution of these dangerous missions and his constant courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: February 19 - March 26, 1945

THE COMM

WINTER 2015

Corporal Harold William Crabtree

MCSN# 500556

4th Parachute Battalion

26th Marines 5th Marine Division Dog Company

Service: 09 December 1942 to 26 February 1945

Awards: Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation w/one star, Good Conduct, American campaign and the Asia Pacific Campaign w/one star Medals.



Harold was born in Columbus, Ohio on 26 November 1922. Harold attended South High School and graduated in 1941. After his brother Luther graduated high school in 1942 they enlisted in the Marines. They took their boot camp on the west coast. On the completion of boot camp they joined the Paramarines. They trained for six months in which time they made their five jumps and qualified to wear jump wings.

In January of 1944 the Commandant of the Marines General Vandegrift disbanded the Paramarines and the Raiders. On 29 February 1944 they were officially disbanded. All Marines are equal! These two specially trained marine battalions would comprise the new 5th Marines. The 5th Marines would be trained especially for the planned invasion of Japan in November of 1945. So, in February of 1944 Harold and his fellow Marines were in the 5th Marines.

On Iwo Jima Assistant Squad Leader Harold landed on the island on 19 February 1945. The fighting was heavy for days. The Japanese were dug in. The Marines were to eliminate the Japanese and take the four water holes. It was the only fresh water on the island. This was done in a week. They took the first air field on the 26th of February. Dog Company (Harold and Luther's company) was on the point. Luther's assault team was nearby to aid his company. At 1400 hours Luther's squad was called to destroy pillboxes. Dog Company was pinned down. Luther, a bazooka man, a loader and the flame thrower approached the pillbox. Luther was on the left. They fired 2-3 bazooka rounds into the pillbox followed by a 20 second blast by the flame thrower. Luther followed up by putting a satchel charge in the pill box. This effectively took out the pillbox.

On this assault Harold was in the lead with his squad. As Luther approached the pillbox he could see Harold 15 feet away laying face down with a pool of blood around his head. He had been shot in the temple. Luther said he probably didn't know what hit him. After the pillbox was eliminated Luther request to his commanding officer to retrieve Harold's body. That night Luther and several men under cover of smoke and heavy fire did get Harold back. Luther said he doesn't know how none of them were hurt or killed by the weapons fire and explosions all around them. That night Luther stayed with Harold and the next day grave registration took Harold.

Action Date: February 19 – February 26, 1945

THE COMM

WINTER 2015

Corporal Richard Lloyd Karn
MCSN# 986847

2nd Battalion 9th Marines 3rd Marine Division

Service: 30 June 1944 to 11 May 1946

Awards: Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation w/one star, Good Conduct, American campaign, Asia Pacific Campaign w/one star, WWII Victory Medal and Occupation Medals.



Richard was born in Columbus, Ohio on 15 October 1924. He attended South High School and graduated in 1944. After graduation he worked in the family Meat business until he entered the Marine Corp in June of 1944. He took boot camp at Parris, Island, South Carolina. Upon completion of boot camp he was sent to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in October of 1944. He then shipped out to the Pacific where he participated in the action against the Japanese at Iwo Jima from 22 February to 8 March 1945. He was wounded on 7 March and was sent back to San Francisco to recover. He was in Guam in September of 1945 where he received his Purple Heart from Colonel Howard Kenyon pictured below.



Richard was sent to China where he was from 6 January to 11 April 1946. He was discharged from the marines on 11 May 1946. He passed away in February of 2000.

Iwo Jima Action Date: February 19 - March 26, 1945
