

THE 12TH ARMORED DIVISION

1289 NORTH SECOND STREET
ABILENE, TEXAS

MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION



GOINGS ON AT YOUR MUSEUM

July 2011



World War II
MEMORIAL MUSEUM
ABILENE, TX

Mission Statment

The primary mission of the United States Twelfth Armored Division Memorial Museum is to serve as a display and teaching museum for the study of World War II and its impact on the American people. The Museum accomplishes its mission under direction of the Museum Board of Directors through exhibition and education programs using the Museum's owned and borrowed Historical Collection as a resource. This collection is chiefly 12th Armored Division World War II archives, memorabilia, and oral histories, along with selected equipment and material loaned or donated by others. The education plan focuses on the following five objectives:

1. Expand academic access to World War II historical materials, veterans, and their families,
2. Preserve the history of the 12th Armored Division for study, research, and investigations by future generations,
3. Develop and maintain a teaching museum for training in public history professions,
4. Create innovative new education programs for students of all ages, and
5. Establish a technology bridge between the 12th Armored Division Historical Collection and the rest of the world.



www.12tharmoredmuseum.com

Officers

Dale Cartee, President
carteeda@xanadoo.com
Colleen Durrington, Vice President
durringtonc@acu.edu
F, George Hatt, Secretary
fgeorgehatt@sbglobal.net
Robert F. Hoeweler, Treasuer
bobsr@alum-ext.com

John E. Critzas
the12tharmored@aol.com
Charles Fitts
cfitts@bellsouth.net
William McCarthy
bmccarthy@mc.com
Michael J. Woldenberg
geomike@buffalo.edu
Karolyn W. Rogers
Karolyn@JerryLRogers.com

Directors

James Shelton
manman51@yahoo.com
Julianne McCarty
jmccarty@gvtc.com
Tom Van Derhoff
vandy33@windstream.net
Peggy Anne Vosseler
sixtysixthaibn@yahoo.com

Curator

William Lenches
wilcomodels@hotmail.com

Curator Corner

The Hellcat Motor Pool: After a few years of burning my hands on hot fenders in the Texas sun... And having paint dry & blister as we tried to apply it to our vehicles... I decided that the only way to get some good vehicle work done would be to get us some permanent shade to work in! Have had good luck with Carolina Carports structures in the past, so I decided to do business with them and donate a little place so we could turn wrenches in comfort! Since putting up an actual building (with 4 walls and a door) would have brought about a zoning nightmare with the city, we finally settled on the next best thing: A carport with three of the four sides enclosed. For some reason, leaving the front wall off makes the structure subject to a lot less regulation! The building is located behind the Museum in our vehicle yard. It has already paid for itself, in my opinion. We are currently disassembling the Museum's WC-54 Weapons Carrier for sandblasting and restoration to running condition. On a side note, the Motor Pool also makes for a great place to park my 1942 Ford Jeep when I drive it to the Museum! The building is dedicated to the men of the 134th Armored Ordnance Battalion. Ordnancemen truly are the unsung heroes of any Armored Division, so it is only fitting!



Living History Going Strong! The Museum's Living History Program has been incredibly active this year! Besides helping to fulfill our mandate to be a teaching museum, it has also added that little dash of 'show-biz' that is sometimes needed to get people in the door! Our monthly presentations for the Abilene Downtown Association's "ArtWalk" program provide us the opportunity to demonstrate various aspects of the daily life of the American soldier during World War II, from weapons and rations to how soldiers stayed in touch with loved ones. Additionally, it gives us the chance to get out among the other businesses downtown and raise awareness about the Museum. Finally, our field trips to reenactments across Texas serve to get the word out about us! In March we participated in the annual Spring Reenactment for the Museum of the American G.I. in College Station. This reenactment features running Sherman and Stuart tanks, as well as halftracks and lighter vehicles. April saw us camping out at Abilene Regional Airport for the Big Country AIRFEST. We demonstrated bivouac and had two vehicles along; Ben Stone's Dodge Weapons Carrier and my Ford Jeep. Answered plenty of questions and handed out museum flyers to all who wanted them! Finally, on June 14th we were invited to Lackland Air Force Base to set up a display and demonstrations for the US Army's 236th Birthday Party hosted by the Joint Information Operations Warfare Center.



Gift Shop News: Jennifer King and Bill Lenches have upgraded the museum gift shop. This was a total renovation with newly painted walls, shelves and display cases. The renovation was completed the first of June. Since the reopening of the "Hellcat PX", we have seen a marked increase in gift shop sales. The sale of books has increased significantly. This can only be attributed to the enhanced display of our books in the shop. We have increased the models we offer for both collectors and children and we have had some success in selling these items. The bronze statue is displayed in a glass case with spot lighting. We hope this will result in the sale of the remaining statues. As the attached pictures show, it is an attractive gift shop and it has definitely drawn the attention of our visitors.



More on next issue

Spring Cleaning! A very sincere ‘Thank You!’ goes out to Volunteer Bennett Stone for some remarkable work this Spring and Summer cleaning and reorganizing in some of the Museum’s forgotten nooks and crannies! Thanks to his hard work, we now have a paint storage shelving unit in what was previously a cluttered, disused stairwell closet. In addition, he has removed a large number of plumbing fixtures left over from the remodel and has found them a home with Habitat for Humanity.

Diorama Update: Our first diorama depicting the Steinwald Wood engagement is now completed and sealed! And now, on to the Waterworks! Model-maker Dan Joplin is completing American & German armored vehicles and buildings at a dizzying pace for use in successive displays (see pictures below). Projects Coordinator Jennifer King has literally been working overtime researching specifics of the remaining engagements, designing layouts, forming groundwork and sculpting brickwork & stone walls in scale. The Waterworks will be the largest and most challenging of the dioramas; great care is being taken in its construction. Stay tuned for updates!



School Tours: We have made a few significant changes to how we conduct school tours recently, and they have paid off handsomely! Rather than conduct a regular walking tour with large numbers of students, Projects Coordinator Jennifer King hit upon the idea of splitting the Museum up into four sections for larger tours, with each section being assigned one or two Volunteer docents and Living Historians. Instead of listening to one person



talk all day, the children would get to hear from four different sets of guides, each with their own delivery style and content. Every twenty minutes, the small groups would migrate to the next station. We tried it and it worked like a charm! Groups as large as 70 children proved easy to handle and, more importantly, the children participated enthusiastically in the interactive parts of the tour. Tailored areas include: The Home Front & How the War Changed American Society ; Concentration Camps, the Holocaust & Prisoners of War; Daily Life of The American Soldier (including equipment, Rations and Weapons), and Military Vehicles used by the US Army (as well as how American production might was instrumental in winning the war).

Museum Gets a Security Camera System: The museum obtained an eight camera REVO security system. It has been installed by the staff and provides the following coverage: Three cameras on the first floor cover the three entrances to the building and include the front desk and the gift shop. One of the three cameras on the second floor covers the elevator/stairway doors and the German artifact area. One covers the door to the office with a view toward the elevator. The third covers the infantry battalion areas. The remaining two cameras are installed on the roof and cover the vehicles and air conditioning units. We can add additional cameras to the system to cover the basement and the diorama when that display is completed. The recent spike in theft of copper from air conditioning units prompted the decision to obtain this additional security system and it made sense to cover other areas of the museum as well.

Know your History German G43 Semi-Automatic Rifle

Germany's quest for a semi-automatic infantry rifle to compete with the United States M-1 Garand, resulted in two designs - the G41(M) and G41(W), from Mauser and Walther arms respectively. The Mauser design proved unreliable in combat when introduced in 1941 and at least 12,755 were made. The Walther design fared better in combat but still suffered from reliability problems. In 1943 Walther introduced a new modified gas system with aspects of the G41(W) providing greatly improved performance. It was accepted and entered into service as the Gewehr 43, renamed Karabiner 43 in 1944, with production amounting to just over 400,000 with production only lasting from 1943 to 1945.

The Gewehr 41 was never mass produced. The official list of issued units was to be "one in every platoon", issued only to designated marksman/engineer. Despite the Gewehr being a good



improvement over the problematic Gewehr 41, and being a more effective combat rifle over slower bolt-action rifles, the Gewehr 43 was never as reliable or as robust as the Allied rifles, like the M1 and SVT-40.

The G43 was more complicated to produce than Allied rifles, and was not as mechanically reliable as American and Soviet counterparts. For every 1 Gewehr 43 the Germans produced, the Americans produced 50 M1s and the Soviets produced 20 SVTs. The M-1 was the primary American service rifle since 1936 and the first semi-automatic to be generally issued to any force.

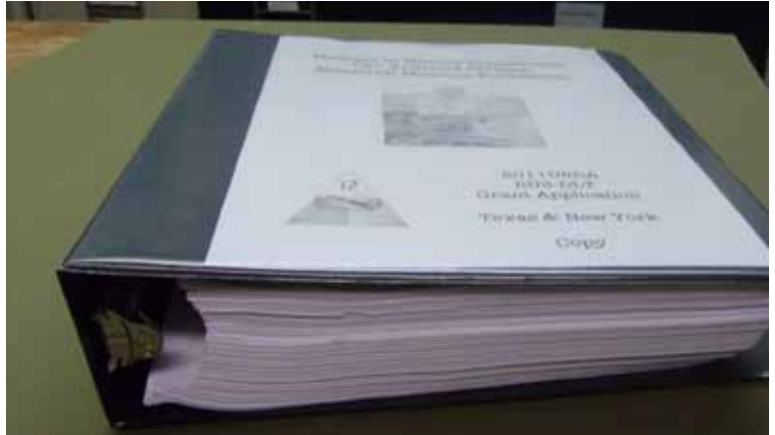
As the Germans were fighting against the tide of war, the G-41 and G-43 were produced much more crudely and primitively than the Allied weapons. Since the G-43 was never mass produced, it was never a decisive factor in the war, or a big competitor among nations with general issue semi-automatic rifles like the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Distance Learning Grant Application

The museum submitted an application for a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund the purchase of equipment required to produce and transmit distance learning programs to school classrooms. We plan on presenting three programs to fifth graders and three programs to eleventh graders. The programs are on the Holocaust and the role the 12th Armored played in the discovery and liberation of the concentration camps, how the Allies won WWII from the perspective of the 12th Armored, and how WWII affected American Society. We have eight Texas schools and one New York state school as partners in this project. Cisco College has joined in collaboration of the application.

Cisco College is in the application to receive funding for a dual high school – college credit distance learning project, and has contributed matching funds to the project.

The museum has received pledges of \$13,000 in matching funds from local foundations. The 2 inch thick, “Hellcats in History”, RUS DLT Grant application was submitted to the USDA on April 25, 2011.



We should know if we are successful in the request in October, 2011.

MUSEUM BOARD POSITION ON ASSOCIATIONS BY LAW CHANGE

The Association has proposed an addition to the by-laws to be as follows:

Article IV - ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Section 4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST- Elected and appointed officers/directors of the 12th Armored Division Association, Inc. shall not be eligible to hold office in the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum Foundation, Inc., simultaneously. This change will become effective immediately upon passage.

Our position is we have already worked synergistically with the 12th Association, Therefore we recommend that members of the association vote **AGAINST** this proposed change, as we feel it would prevent us from working together.

Having people that are board members of both organizations is not a bad thing. It's a good thing and helps with communications and cooperative endeavors. Many board members of organizations are on more than one board.

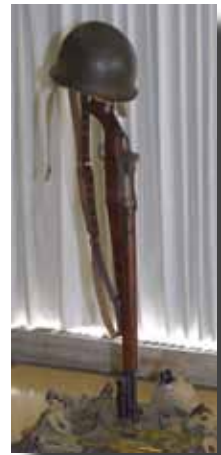
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/boardofdirectors#citenote-about.come-8>.

We are not competing in a business sense and so there is no conflict of interest.

Current Financial Status

Currently the financial status of the 12th Armored Museum is in good standing. The museum has received approximately \$1,300,000 in funds, over the last eleven years, generated from gifts, grants, and the generosity of 12th Armored Division veterans. The Directors of the 12th Armored Museum were entrusted with the task of building a museum that would survive long after the last Vet has joined his buddies, as well as extending our history to future generations. It is the boards desire to do this in its own words, to describe the affects the war had on the 12th Armored Division, the Nation, and the world. The directors take the responsabilites entrusted to them very seriously and have done a good job of maintaining financial stability for the life of the museum, as stated in the following:

1. Current cash on hand is \$294,000.
2. The Museum is indebted to no one.
3. Commitment to finish the 6 dioramas, for a cost of approximately \$15,000.
4. The Museum currently operates at a loss of \$10,000 a year. At the present level we can operate for another 28 years. Any increase in expenses or reduction in revenue shortens the life of the museum. To stay financially sound, the Directors feel they must continue to maintain and promote the monetary policies of the last 11 years.



Please help us keep our museum healthy and alive, by becoming a sponsor today!!

Bob Hoeweler, Treasurer

Museum Sponsorship

I WANT TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE MUSEUM.

NAME _____

CO/BTN _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

YEARLY CONTRIBUTION \$30.00 _____, \$50.00 _____, \$100.00 _____, Other _____.

SEND CHECK TO:
12TH ARMORED DIVISION MUSEUM
1289 N – 2ND STREET
ABILENE, TX 79601



World War II
MEMORIAL MUSEUM
ABILENE, TX

Order a signed and numbered print of Rick Reeves
"Spearhead to the Rhine"
All proceeds go to the operation of the museum and are tax deductible.
To Order go to <http://www.12tharmoredmuseum.com/>



THE 12TH ARMORED DIVISION
MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION
ABILENE, TEXAS 79601
1289 NORTH SECOND STREET