The restoration work to return the Japanese Peace Garden to the Japanese architect’s original design is well underway and expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

After the end of the war, Admiral Chester Nimitz reached out to Japan by starting a fund to restore Admiral Togo’s flagship, Mikasa, and returning Japanese relics, such as ancestral swords, to their original owners. This earned the respect of the Japanese military and people, and in return, they presented the Peace Garden to the U.S. in honor of Nimitz. The garden was dedicated in 1976 with dignitaries from Japan and the U.S. present.

During the initial construction, many of the materials appropriate to a Japanese garden were not available in the U.S. Some of these items, such as black and white granite gravel used in depicting the ocean, are now available and will replace the old materials.

Other problems were that the stream and pond were leaking, and the water had to be shut off. The Koi fish have been placed in a temporary pool on site, while the stream and pond are being sealed.

Only a few plants and trees in the garden were accurate to the original design and will be kept. New landscaping will be brought in, and while appearing sparse for a short time, it will grow in quickly. One garden wall, which was bowing and possibly unstable, has been dismantled and rebuilt.

Duecker Construction is the General Contractor for the project.

The Japanese Peace Garden is a key component of the Museum’s complex. Since the history of the war was violent and destructive, the garden gives visitors a place for a respite and is a tranquil place for solace and reflection.
Annual Symposium: “In Stealth We Trust”

Summaries of Presentations:

In September, the topic of our annual Symposium “In Stealth We Trust: Special Forces and Their Origins in WWII,” was discussed by various WWII scholars. This was the second part of a two part series and focused on Special Operations in the U.S. Army and Army Air Corps. Short summaries of the presentations follow. To listen to the entirety of the Symposium presentations, please contact: Rollin’ Recording on (830) 537-5494.

RICHARD FRANK
Historical Overview of Special Forces

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there were three Special Operations units which originated in the Southwest Pacific Theater: the Filipino Guerrillas, which came about as an accident due to the Japanese victory in the Philippines, and the Alamo Scouts and 6th Ranger Battalion, which were deliberately created to fill critical gaps in combat capability.

The Filipino Guerrillas, formed through the efforts of Wendell Fertig, Russell Volckmann and Donald Blackburn, waged war for over three years. They often had to ambush Japanese occupational forces to get weapons and supplies. They mastered hit and run tactics and built an efficient network of intelligence and logistics. Leaders depended heavily on the secrecy of the indigenous people. The early efforts of these groups went largely unnoticed by General MacArthur and his staff. However, radio transmissions were finally deemed genuine, and by late 1942, it was decided to risk contacting the guerrillas who were ordered to gain intelligence and remain ready for MacArthur’s return.

Krueger’s 6th Army was made the spearhead of MacArthur’s drive. Krueger was frustrated at the lack of intelligence and ordered a unit be formed to provide him with key information to conduct complex amphibious operations. Small teams rigorously trained in amphibious reconnaissance and raiding and became the Alamo Scouts. Three hundred and seventy five Alamo Scouts were trained. They conducted 100 missions behind enemy lines with no fatalities.

Another unit was formed by Krueger to conduct larger scale amphibious raids, attacks and diversions. He ordered the training of the 6th Ranger Battalion in January 1944. A high priority was placed on jungle training, and the group excelled in small scale raids. It was heavily involved in preparing the way for MacArthur’s return. Working with the Alamo Scouts, the Battalion also seized other critical objectives which enabled the Army to continue its advance.

MIKE KRIVDO, Ph.D.
U.S. Army Special Operations Forces in the Pacific

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races of the origin of the Special Forces goes back to the early days of the establishment of the United States. Modern day Rangers identify with Robert Rogers who established the famed Rogers’ Ranger units in New Hampshire and fought for the British during the French and Indian War.

In WWII, a number of units provide lineage for the modern day Special Forces. In the Pacific, after the Japanese captured the Philippines in 1942, a number of Americans evaded capture and created guerrilla units. These formed spontaneously without the guidance of Washington D.C. or General MacArthur. One of these units was commanded by Wendell Fertig, a civil mining engineer who was in the Reserves, on Mindanao. Fertig had a great sense of vision and keen sensitivity to the Filipino viewpoint. He even included Catholics and Muslims in the unit. By February 1943, he had managed to make contact with MacArthur’s headquarters. By 1945, he commanded over 30,000 guerrillas and controlled 95 percent of Mindanao. He promoted himself to Brigadier General. On Luzon, Russell Volckmann and Donald Blackburn had similar operations which were equally successful. They converted their guerrilla units into conventional military units.

Lt. General Walter Krueger, Commander of MacArthur’s 6th Army, formed the Alamo Scouts to perform pre-invasion reconnaissance. The most famous of their exploits was the raid on the Cabanatuan prison camp on Luzon, where they liberated 522 POWs. They also concluded circa 108 missions and lost no individuals killed in action.

Other groups included the OSS’s Detachment 101, which operated in Burma with great success, and Merrill’s Marauders, who displayed amazing feats of endurance operating behind Japanese lines in Burma. There were also Rangers in Europe modeled after British Commandos who saw action in Africa, Northwest Europe, Italy and Southern France.
The story of how the 1st Air Commandos came into being begins with British Army Officer Orde Wingate who was interested in non-conventional warfare. During WWII, he became known for his organization of the Chindits, a long range British penetration force to fight behind Japanese lines in Burma. The first foray of Wingate’s men was not successful. Many were killed, others had to be left behind to die miserable deaths and a high percentage became gravely ill. Despite the results, Wingate wanted to try again.

British Prime Minister Churchill, a proponent of commando operations, took Wingate to the Quebec Conference where Wingate laid out plans to FDR for another long range penetration group. FDR spoke with Chief of the Army Air Forces Henry “Hap” Arnold and told him to put together a unit to abet the Chindits. Arnold chose two experienced fighter pilots to lead the group: Philip Cochran and John Alison. Both men were seasoned and colorful pilots – Alison was an Ace with the Flying Tigers, and Cochran was the inspiration behind the characters in the Terry and the Pirates and Steve Canyon comic strips. They set up organizational efforts in a room at the Hay-Adams luxury hotel in Washington. They called the unit “CA-281” (the 281 representing their room number). Among the planes and other equipment to be supplied to the Chindits were: P-51 Mustangs, B-25H bombers, gliders, L-5 Sentinel liaison aircraft, and helicopters. Operations included: transporting Chindits behind enemy lines, evacuation of casualties, and supply of food and equipment. In three days, they managed to haul 9,000 British into action. Casualties were high, especially for glider pilots, probably due to a lack of training. Wingate died in a plane crash three weeks after the first invasion.

The 1st Air Commando group is regarded by many as one of the most colorful units in U.S. military history. It should come as no surprise that its motto was: “Anyplace, anytime, anywhere.”

DENNIS OKERSTROM, Ph.D.
Birth of Project 9 and Air Force Special Ops

William Donovan, head of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), was a major proponent of Black Propaganda, and he had the backing of FDR and British Prime Minister Churchill. He drew brilliant and sometimes quirky people into the OSS. Many of his detractors were distrustful of his interest in unconventional warfare. This left the OSS poised to dominate psychological perception, deception and persuasion. No one else wanted the field.

By 1943, Allied forces were in a position to go on the offensive in the CBI Theater. Goals included the prevention of the arrival of additional Japanese to defend their territorial gains; the reopening of the Burma Road to get resources into China; and the weakening of the enemy psychologically. Much of this was to become the mission of the OSS’s Morale Operations (MO) group.

People recruited to serve in the MO were from varied backgrounds and often were people who could think outside of the box. They were all given training in Japanese culture, geography and military ideology. Burma occupied much of this effort. After training, the MO team in Washington analyzed intelligence from the field and then came up with ideas and schemes. Captured Japanese diaries, notebooks and similar material gave insights into the thinking of the Japanese soldiers. In November 1944, a small MO team went to India and another went to Ceylon -- with one typewriter between them (and no ribbon). The teams’ arrival coincided with the rapid reversal of fortune for the Japanese forces in Burma. They were basically on the run, and this presented the perfect target for demoralization. Thus, the real war in the area became that of propaganda. Intimidation and trickery were among the methods employed, as well as bribery. Did any of these schemes work? We may never know, but MO in CBI was a marvel of activity, and there is evidence from POW reports that some of these efforts were effective.

Recommended Reading:
See Page 9 to Purchase

Merrill’s Marauders
Gavin Mortimer
$30; Mbrs. $25.50

OSS in Burma
Troy Sacquetty
$22.50; Mbrs. $19.13

Dick Cole’s War
Dennis Okerstrom
$29.95; Mbrs. $25.45

Project 9: Birth of the Air Commandos in WWII
Dennis Okerstrom
$29.95; Mbrs. $25.45

ANN TODD, Ph.D.
OSS: Black Propaganda in the CBI Theater

DENNIS OKERSTROM, Ph.D.
Birth of Project 9 and Air Force Special Ops

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n Japan, the origins of suicide operations were probably a logical outgrowth of two main factors: First, Japanese culture which revered the emperor as a living god and the strong influence of Samurai warfare; and second, the threat environment Japanese military forces found themselves in which made it difficult to carry out missions.

By late 1944, the U.S. had amassed a huge defensive footprint that made just approaching assemblages of U.S. warships and aircraft tantamount to committing suicide. The Japanese soon realized that pilots had to deliberately sacrifice themselves to ensure hits on vessels. The initial attacks by Zeroes were promising as they sunk and damaged many ships. Therefore, Japan expanded these attacks because they worked, and capitulation never entered their minds.

After finding these tactics very effective in the Philippines, Japan decided to make a huge effort at Okinawa because it was so close to the homeland. It designated almost 2,000 combat planes for suicide missions and using night attacks, they inflicted great damage. However, the Japanese also were losing planes in great numbers. Thus, hits were going up, but efficiency was going down. In addition, the attacks were not influencing the overall course of the war.

At the end of the war, the U.S. was confronted by an enemy who could not admit defeat and bring the war to a close. Japan devised an array of suicide weapons and passed a law where the dividing line between military and civilian personnel went away (i.e., almost all civilians were special attack candidates -- meaning Japan was at the point of nationwide suicide). If the U.S. had had to take on the homeland, it is probable America would have won, but casualties would likely have been horrific.

n WWII, the use of Special Operations emerged largely from necessity and circumstance, as well as pragmatism. It is likely Special Operations will always be with us. It should be remembered that Special Operations are not possible without the willingness of brave people who will take great risks and be responsible for the dangerous kind of activity which is inherent to these kinds of operations. Heavy casualties are a feature of special operations, but there were always volunteers for such work, and that remains a constant today. The competition to get into the Navy Seals and Army Rangers is ferocious and includes women. Many of those who used to disparage Special Operations now have concluded they are essential.

Today, these difficult jobs are complicated by dramatic changes in technology, communications and weaponry. Thus, besides the rigorous physical training, the men and woman have to deal with sophisticated global communications and complex ordnance packages. All of this creates a whole new ballgame which is good because the situations they are facing are also new. The size of the task has forced the creation of a whole new infrastructure to sustain those who carry out irregular warfare and counter terrorism.

Earlier, special operations were specific to one’s own service. Today, it is very different. Emphasis is on what the Pentagon calls “purple suiters,” i.e., all on the same team. This is essential and usually under a unified commander. All this is very difficult to coordinate and an overall agency was needed to do it. Thus, a Special Operations Command (SOCOM) was created in 1980.
The Tom Lea exhibit: *LIFE and World War II* is now on display in the Temporary Gallery of the George H.W. Gallery and is an exceptional opportunity to see the WWII work of this accomplished artist, including a newly discovered original sketch from which one of the most famous paintings of WWII was painted.

Lea, a native of El Paso, was the first civilian artist hired by LIFE Magazine as a correspondent during World War II because of his ability to bring a sobering perspective of war to his audience. Lea found a great significance in being on the ground and experiencing the events he portrayed. He once stated that his job was to “keep from getting killed and try to memorize what I saw and felt.” This led to his often stunning and shocking works. Each piece began as a sketch while overseas and was later transformed into a painting in his workshop in El Paso.

One painting in the exhibit, which is considered by many to be the most evocative of World War II, is entitled: *The Two Thousand Yard Stare*. It is displayed with its initial sketch, which was recently found in a private collection of Lea’s work and loaned to Adair Margo, the founder and president of the Tom Lea Institute. Margo, in turn, alerted Museum Director Joe Cavanaugh of its existence and the opportunity to be the first to exhibit the painting and sketch side by side. On the sketch, written in the artist’s handwriting is “Down from BLOODY NOSE -- Too Late -- He’s Finished -- Washed Up -- Gone” which clearly shows Lea’s interpretation of what he saw on Marines’ faces at Peleliu. In the painting itself, the Marine stands staring straight through the core of the viewer. With a broken chin strap, his eyes show signs of what can only be described as horror, exhaustion and emptiness. In present day terms, it is easy to see he shows clear signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, a condition suffered by soldiers of all wars.

The exhibition is comprised of more than 26 paintings and drawings. Museum staff members worked with the Tom Lea Institute and Brown Foundation to bring these works to the public. Most of these works are on loan from the U.S. Center of Military History at Fort Belvoir. No ticket is required to view this exhibit.

*The Two Thousand Yard Stare: Tom Lea’s World War II* $40; Mbrs. $34

See Page 9 to Order

The author of this article was Erick Roy, who is seen standing beside the famous painting, *The Two Thousand Yard Stare*. He is the new Assistant Director of Development and Rentals at the Admiral Nimitz Foundation. He has a B.A. in History and is currently finishing his M.A. in Public History at Stephen F. Austin State University. Roy finds it particularly rewarding to work at this Museum because he has family members who served proudly in both the European and Pacific Theaters of WWII.
Dear Members,

All of us at the Foundation and National Museum of the Pacific War wish you and your families Happy Holidays and a great 2016. With your support and the work of our superb Foundation/Museum staff, we experienced another strong year in 2015. For those of us in Central Texas, the best recent news is the rain we received in the months of October and November!

As you have read in these newsletters, the renovations started this year at the Pacific Combat Zone and the Japanese Garden of Peace are proceeding well in spite of the wet weather. We still believe we will finish the Japanese Garden of Peace in the coming weeks and the Pacific Combat Zone by the end of 2016.

The temporary exhibit: Tom Lea: “LIFE and World War II” is a must see. I encourage you to visit if at all possible.

During the past year, we have had several significant plaque dedications in the Memorial Courtyard. These are always special events including friends, family and many times, the honoree(s). To me, these ceremonies go to the heart of what we are about: commemorating the service and sacrifices of our veterans, especially those who served in World War II, by helping to tell and share their stories.

As a reminder, if you have not had a chance to respond to the 2015 Annual Appeal Drive request, I urge you to do so. This end of the year appeal is important in helping us accomplish our important education mission.

With your continued support, we will continue to honor those who have served our country by preserving and telling their histories.

Best Wishes,

Mike Hagee

Celebrating the Marine Corps’ Birthday

On the occasion of the 240th Birthday of the Marine Corps, Marines 1st Sgt Ernesto Garcia, Major Benjamin Early and Sergeant Edward Gutierrez gave a commemorative cake to General (Ret) Michael Hagee, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, who shares in the celebration. General Hagee is President and CEO of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation.

Join the Admiral Nimitz Legacy Society

Our Admiral Nimitz Legacy Society seeks people like you who want to commemorate the service and sacrifices of those who fought in WWII.

Become a member by making a provision in your estate for the Admiral Nimitz Foundation and National Museum of the Pacific War and notifying the Foundation of your intent.

For more information or to receive a Letter of Intent for Estate Gift, please contact Marty Kaderli on 830-997-8600, x204 or kaderli@NimitzFoundation.org or visit our website www.PacificWarMuseum.org under “Get Involved.”

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation was recently rated Four Star by Charity Navigator -- the leading independent evaluator of non-profit charities in the U.S. A Four Star rating shows exceptional managerial efficiency exceeding industry standard.
Two Ceremonies Honor Veterans on 11 November 2015

Brigadier General James Bisson, U.S. Army, is shown greeting WWII Army Veteran Leo Itz, with WWII Navy Veteran Forest Rees sitting next to him. Bisson was the keynote speaker at the 2015 ceremony honoring veterans of all wars. Present were those who served in WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and the War on Terrorism. Bisson gave particular attention to Korean veterans since he said they are a group often underappreciated. He also thanked all veterans for their service and for keeping the nation free. Ambleside students sang patriotic musical selections, and Amber Royea and Emily Ashman sang the poignant Irish ballad, Danny Boy.

French Say “Merci Beaucoup” to Americans Who Fought in France

Later that day, France honored local veterans who served in one or more of the four main campaigns in France, Normandy, Provence, Ardennes and Northern France, by awarding them medals denoting membership in the Knights in the French National Order of the Legion of Honor. First bestowed by Napoleon Bonaparte in May 1802, the French Legion of Honor is the highest decoration presented by France.

The Honorable Sujiro Seam, Consul General of France in Houston, stated in French: “In the name of the President of the French Republic, we award you the medal of Knight in the Legion of Honor” as he presented the medals to the seven living recipients and a family representative of the five deceased honorees.

The veterans who were honored were: Leonard Edwards, U.S. Army; Darwin Harris, U.S. Navy; John Homyrighausen, U.S. Army; Paul Kent, U.S. Army/U.S. Air Force; Norris Miertschin, U.S. Army; Milton Pehl, U.S. Army; and William Scott, U.S. Army. Those who were awarded the medal posthumously were: William Alexander, U.S. Army Air Force/USAF (received by his widow Geneva Alexander); Alex Grote, U.S. Army (received by his son, James Grote); Monroe Heinemann, U.S. Army (received by his son, Daniel Heinemann); James Laney, U.S. Army (received by his son, David Laney); and Clarence Nixon, U.S. Army (received by his daughter Gail Nielsen).

In honoring the men, Seam commented that “today we celebrate soldiers, sailors and an airman who participated in the liberation of France. They fought for their brothers in arms and for their country, America, and also for France, as if it were their own. More importantly, they fought to defend the values of the free world, democracy and liberty, against tyranny and oppression. They fought to give a peaceful world to future generations.” He ended the impressive and moving presentation by toasting everyone with French champagne.
At tempting to find out what old Pacific War battlefields look like now can be frustrating at times since so many of the locations have changed names since the war. As former colonial possessions and mandated island groups gained their independence after World War II, they chose names based on their own language, culture, or history instead of retaining the names bestowed upon them by European mapmakers.

As the Japanese offensive in the Pacific began in late 1941 and early 1942, they quickly overran the British colony of Malaya, now Malaysia. They conquered the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia, on their way to New Guinea. The western half of New Guinea was part of the Dutch East Indies, but the eastern half, a former German possession, was an Australian protectorate. The eastern half of New Guinea is now the nation of Papua New Guinea and includes the islands of Bougainville, New Britain, New Ireland, and the Admiralties. Much fighting occurred in what is now Papua New Guinea, as well as on Bougainville and New Britain, where the major Japanese base of Rabaul was located. The other major Japanese base was at Truk, now known as Chuuk, in the Caroline islands, which are now part of the Federated States of Micronesia.

In August 1942, the American first offensive targeted the island of Guadalcanal, and follow-on offensives continued up the chain of islands which now constitute the country of Solomon Islands. Supporting the drives into the Solomons and Central Pacific were bases at Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides, now the country of Vanuatu; Western Samoa, now the country of Samoa; and in the Ellice Islands, now Tuvalu.

Admiral Nimitz’s drive into the Central Pacific began with the assault on Tarawa and Makin atolls in the Gilbert Islands, now part of the country of Kiribati which also includes the Phoenix Islands and most of the Line Islands. Following the seizure of the Gilberts, Nimitz’s next move was on the Marshall Islands which are now the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The main targets were Kwajalein and Eniwetok atolls. Eniwetok is now spelled Enewetak.

A final island, assaulted in February 1945, was Iwo Jima. Its name change is an interesting story. It was discovered by Spanish sailor Bernardo de la Torre who named it Sufre Island, after the old Spanish term for sulphur (azufre in modern Spanish). At that time, Iwo Jima and other islands were the limit between the Spanish and Portuguese Empires in the Far East. In 1779, the island was charted as Sulphur Island, the literal translation of its official name, during Captain James Cook’s third surveying voyage. The historical spelling Iwautau had come to be pronounced (approximately) Iwō-tō by the age of Western exploration, and the 1946 orthography reform fixed the spelling and pronunciation at Iō-tō. An alternative, Iwō-jima, modern Iō-jima, also appeared in nautical atlases. Tō and shima are different readings of the kanji for island, the shima being changed to jima in this case.

Japanese naval officers, who arrived to fortify the island before the U.S. invasion, mistakenly called it Iwo Jima. In this way, the "Iwo Jima" reading became mainstream and was the one used by U.S. forces during World War II. Former island residents protested against this rendering, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism’s Geographical Survey Institute debated the issue and formally announced on June 18, 2007, that the official Japanese pronunciation of the island’s name would revert to the pre-war Iō-tō. Moves to revert to the former pronunciation were sparked by the high-profile films, Flags of Our Fathers and Letters from Iwo Jima. The change does not affect how the name is written with kanji, only how it is pronounced or written in hiragana, katakana and rōmaji.
Spring Break Nimitz Jr. Corps Programs

There will be four Nimitz Jr. Corps programs during the month of March. Students, between the ages of six and thirteen, are invited to learn more about how people lived during WWII.

On 8 March, participants will hear about the inventions which came out during the war and also learn to make synthetic rubber.

On 10 March, students will learn about the impact of rationing and how many things had to be made by hand as industry focused on the war effort. Pressed card bookmarks and cards will be created.

There will be two other programs on the 15th and 17th of March, and their topics will be listed on the website.

Space is limited for these events. There will be a charge of $5 to cover the materials. To participate, please contact Stefanie Manee-Lebens on 830-997-8600 or manee@NimitzFoundation.org.

We are very grateful to Whataburger for their continued sponsorship of these Nimitz Jr. Corps Educational Programs for Youth.

Curators’ Cart is Coming Again
18 January 2016!

Come and stop by the Curators’ Cart in the Bush Gallery on 18 January 2016. The Curators have chosen some special artifacts currently residing in the archives for you to view and possibly handle. You will learn new stories and enhance your knowledge of some of the little known features of our collections.

The Curators will be there from 10am to 12pm that day and will be waiting to unveil some of their treasures. There is no charge so please come and have some fun.

Future Exhibits in Bush Gallery

Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow
Living with the Atomic Bomb, 1945 - 1965
29 April - 11 August 2016

Norman Rockwell in the 1940s:
A View of the American Homefront
16 September 2016 - 13 January 2017

More information on these two exhibits will be available in future newsletters and on the website.

To order the books
featured in this issue:
Call 830-997-8600, x252
On-Line: nimitz-bookstore.com
Shipping and TX Taxes Extra

The Living History re-enactments are expected to resume in March 2017 after renovations to the Pacific Combat Zone are completed. Please watch future issues of the newsletter or website for updates on renovations and the dates for the resumption of the re-enactments.
As the centerpiece for a large family reunion, a special plaque dedication ceremony was held in the Memorial Courtyard on 4 September 2015 for family members of Chuck Blake, one of our staff members. Blake honored his father and two uncles, all of whom served in the Pacific Theater.

Blake’s father was Lee Edward Blake, Jr., Yeoman, who served aboard both the YMS-123 and USS Freemont APA-44. He also was in the U.S. Air Force as a Tech Sergeant and went on to serve in both Korea and Vietnam. An uncle, Calvin Dean Wright, served from 31 December 1943 to 1 April 1946 as a Corporal, Rifleman, in the U.S. Marine Corps on Guam and Iwo Jima. Another uncle, Charles Madison “Matt” Rich, served from 22 June 1943 to 6 March 1946 as a Seaman First Class on the USS Memphis and USS Kasaan Bay.

A fourth plaque honored the YMS-123, Auxiliary Motor Minesweeper, on which Lee Blake served in the Pacific. The plaque was dedicated to all who served aboard her in WWII.

World War II Special Operations: Navy Beach Jumpers

Upon graduation in January 1944 from Midshipman School at Notre Dame University, John Max Munn and fellow classmate, Jack Carlton, volunteered for a new unit called the Beach Jumpers which was soliciting men for extra hazardous duty. The U.S. Navy Beach Jumpers were organized to specialize in tactical deception and psychological warfare. They were under the direction of Hollywood actor and naval officer Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. The latter had been inspired by the exploits of the British Commandos. Fairbanks approached Admiral Ernest J. King about the organization of a unit in the U.S. Navy, to be called Beach Jumpers, and in 1943, efforts began to recruit 180 officers and 300 enlisted men. Their identities and activities were highly classified as even the most trivial leak of information could impair deception operations.

Contributed by Jane Munn Bumpus, Daughter of John Max Munn

The early basic mission of the Beach Jumpers was “To assist and support the operating forces in the conduct of Tactical Cover and Deception in Naval Warfare.” To accomplish this, they learned to simulate large amphibious landings with limited forces. Using specialized deception equipment, a few dozen Beach Jumpers could make the enemy believe they were a 70,000 man amphibious landing force, when that force would be usually a great distance away.

In December 1944, a convoy of about 85 ships, including smaller vessels carrying Beach Jumpers, left Leyte Gulf to go to the Philippines. During the trip, they ran into attacks by kamikazes which managed to destroy ships and inflict massive damage, including the deaths of the Commanding Officer and others. It was during these attacks that Munn, who was aboard LCI 1006, tied a line to himself and with the assistance of others saved survivors while under fire from enemy aircraft circling above. For these actions, Munn was awarded the Bronze Star. In May of this year, his family sponsored a plaque in the Memorial Courtyard which also honored his bravery.
Our Partnership with the Texas Historical Commission:

Working together by agreement as a state agency and a non-profit organization, the THC and Admiral Nimitz Foundation formed a new public/private partnership created to preserve the historic resources of the National Museum of the Pacific War and guide the expansion of the Museum. It is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events in 2016:

- Living History Reenactments Canceled Due to Renovations to Pacific Combat Zone. They are expected to resume in March 2017.

- Tom Lea Exhibit Currently on Display
  - Bush Gallery
  - 15 January: Talks and Tours with Curators
  - 18 January: Curators’ Cart
  - 24 February: Admiral Nimitz’s Birthday
  - 8, 10, 15, 17 March: Nimitz Jr. Corps Programs
  - 20 May: Talks and Tours with Curators
  - 29 April - 11 August:
    - Exhibit: Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow
    - Living with the Atomic Bomb, 1945-1965
  - 30 May: Memorial Day Commemoration
  - 16 September - 13 January 2017:
    - Exhibit: Norman Rockwell in the 1940s: A View of the Homefront

Our Partnership with the Texas Historical Commission: Working together by agreement as a state agency and a non-profit organization, the THC and Admiral Nimitz Foundation formed a new public/private partnership created to preserve the historic resources of the National Museum of the Pacific War and guide the expansion of the Museum. It is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II.
The Admiral Nimitz Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation eligible for corporate matching grants. Foundation members may forward any forms for matching gift programs with their membership contributions.

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation
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American Bank of Texas
Atmos Energy Corporation
Century 21, Sunset Relators
Dick Stuewe Insurance
Fredericksburg Funeral Home
Fredericksburg Publishing Company
Frost
Grape Creek Vineyards
Hominick Custom Builders
Inn on Barons Creek
James Avery Jewelry
Joseph Financial Partners
Judy’s Liquor
Knopp Assisted Living Center, Inc.
Knopp Healthcare Services, Inc.
Opa’s Smoked Meats
Virdell Drilling, Inc.
VEI Consulting Engineers

Arrowhead Bank
Janie Atwell
El Dorado Ranch
Fredericksburg Dentistry, Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Lindsay
Fredericksburg Theater Company
Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools, Inc.
Gastehaus Schmidt Reservation Service
Theodore A. Hargrove, III, Attorney at Law
Barbara and Royce Hunter
Keidel Inn & Gastehaus
Legacy Suite on Main
Kent Myers
Johnny Odom
Palo Alto Creek Farm
Sage - Premium Texas Real Estate
Singing Water Vineyards
SS Texas Home Builder of Fredericksburg, LLC
Larry J. Stanley
The Inside Story
Vogel Tractors
Bobby Watson