

MAY/JUNE 2020





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STAND AT EASE By John H. Tidyman, Editor

If God meant to get our attention, coronavirus did it

By John H. Tidyman, editor

othing has so dominated headlines since World War II. The war and this pandemic have several

Coronavirus is killing friends, neighbors, and strangers. We worry it might kill us. It will.

The disease confounds and challenges us. The battle is frantic to destroy the disease and settle the havoc it causes. Most of us have no experience, and politicians spout all manner of predictions, none based on fact.

Listening to politicians pontificate on epidemics is like asking a refuse worker to wash his hands and perform brain surgery. No good can come of it.

At the front lines are ambulance drivers, nurses,



nurses' aides, physicians, and all manner of health care professionals.

In the rear are researchers, scientists, manufacturers, the maintenance workers who sanitize and make health facilities safe (likely the lowest paid on any list,) and those who put up the tents, unfold the cots, and take down the information of those who will lie on them.

Zipping around and through them all are providers of boxed meals, mail carriers, those checking through windows on their neighbors, the tireless men and women who fill out our unemployment forms, the brave people working in

markets or driving trucks.

Will this pandemic change us? World War II changed us, didn't it?

A Universe of Wonder

By Rev. Richard J. Watts, Chaplain, DD214 Chronicle

o you wonder, as I do, why God has splashed great parts of the Earth with Coronavirus? Some people believe and argue God is angry with us, that floods, famines, wars, and droughts are His way of expressing that anger. I can't believe that. Volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, hurricanes, landslides, and typhoons have always been part of life.

In addition, to preach God is angry with us, is to presume we know 1.) God has the same emotions He gave us, and, 2.) God has a temper we cannot

That is presumptuous of us and diminishes the respect we have for God. I have long thought religion begins with the wonder of God. To see the rivers and valleys, to marvel at the sun and moon, to delight with uncountable stars, to stand next to oceans and seas. To love and be loved. If religion never went beyond those thoughts, we would be better for it. I remember my late uncle's idea of



God's best wish for man: "Be kind to each other."

Uncle Ernest never went to Sunday School. A local judge married him and my Aunt Beth. When he died, the instructions in his will called for his ashes to be spread in his vegetable garden. Uncle Ernest had a Bible. He used it for a doorstop. He was the kindest man I've ever known.

I once had a student in Sunday School who read aloud, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over

the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

The student then said the verse didn't sound like anything God would say. "I doubt God would say anything like that. It sounds to me like a guy who wanted to own everything, so he said God gave him

I thought the student was correct.



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PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Terence J. Uhl

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

John H. Tidyman (216) 789-3502 forgedironstidyman@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Ann Marie Stasko (216) 704-5227

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

William J. Donohue (440) 669-0994 wjdonohuejr@aol.com

ART DIRECTOR

Matt Kuhns

SENIOR WRITER

Jerri Donohue

BOOK EDITOR

Nancy Peacock

SPORTS EDITOR

Barry Goodrich

HISTORY EDITOR

J.C. Sullivan

CHAPLAIN

Rev. Richard J. Watts

DD 214 CHRONICLE IS PUBLISHED BY

John H. Tidyman 3280 Glenbar Drive Fairview Park, Ohio 44126

For subscription information

call (216) 789-3502

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DD214 Chronicle is committed to its readers: Veterans of every generation and all who love them. The printed newspaper is delivered across northern Ohio without charge to more than 500 locations: libraries, colleges and universities that welcome veteran students, VFW and American Legion posts, city halls, Veteran Administration offices and health care facilities, organizations in support of veterans, advertisers, political offices, and Veteran Service Commissions. DD214 Chronicle also maintains dd214chronicle.com and DD214 Chronicle/Facebook.

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John H. Tidyman, editor 198th Light Infantry Brigade **Americal Division** (216) 789-3502 forgedironstidyman@gmail

DD 214 Chronicle May/June 2020

MAIL CALL

Fair winds and following seas ...

Dear Sister and Brother Veterans and Friends,

I write with deep sorrow for the loss of our dearest friend and gifted sculptor of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Glenna Goodacre, 80 years old passed away on April 13, 2020.

She is a heroine to Vietnam veteran women for designing and sculpting a monument honoring them and for assuring that their service and bravery be an inspiration for generations to come. This first monument in our nation's history honoring military women, and civilian women serving in support of our Armed Forces, was dedicated on the National Mall on Veterans Day, 1993.

Glenna has left us with these words:

'My desire to create a lasting tribute to the American women serving during the Vietnam war is founded upon my deep respect for each of them, and my heartfelt prayer for their "hope and healing." I have been humbled by the enormity of such a task yet incredibly honored by the overwhelming gratitude of the veterans. The emphasis of this tribute is centered on their emotions; thier compassion, thier anxiety, their fatigue, and above all, their dedication. ...That my hands can shape the clay which might touch the hearts and heal the wounds of those who served fills me with humility and deep satisfaction. I can only hope that future generations who view the sculpture will stand in tribute to these women who served during the Vietnam era." Glenna Goodacre

And now we stand in tribute to Glenna: honoring her legacy with our heartfelt gratitude for creating a lasting monument to help heal the wounds of war

Joseph Galloway



Cowboy Russian Pilot Blamed for 25-Foot Inverted Buzz of US Navy Recon Aircraft

Military.com | By Richard Sisk



AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili

A Russian Sukhoi SU-35 performs during the Dubai Air Show, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Nov. 13, 2017.

he 25-foot buzzing of a Navy recon aircraft was more likely the result of the "unprofessional" conduct of the Russian fighter pilot acting on his own rather than a deliberate attempt by Moscow to provoke an incident, Air Force Gen. Tod Wolters said Thursday.

Wolters, who doubles as NATO Supreme Commander and head of U.S. European Command, said he had looked at the camera footage of the incident in international airspace over the Mediterranean Sea on Wednesday, April 15.

"My conclusion at this point is that it was probably something more along the lines of unprofessional as opposed to deliberate," he said.

He added that the U.S. Embassy in Moscow had lodged "our dissatisfaction" with the Russian government.

For the moment, however the dangerous flyby has "been characterized as unsafe, unprofessional, and that's exactly what it looks to be at this point," Wolters said in a telephone conference from Europe.





www.dd214chronicle.com DD 214 Chronicle May/June 2020

COVID-19 Emergency Fund

visit CommunityWestFoundation.org/Donate to give



Community West Foundation Grants \$100,000 to Cleveland Clinic COVID-19 Response Fund to Support Fairview Hospital Caregivers

ommunity West Foundation is issuing a \$100,000 grant to the Cleveland Clinic COVID-19 Response Fund to help Fairview Hospital employees who are on the front lines of the pandemic. The grant will cover expenses like temporary housing for caregivers, many of whom are staying away from home to reduce exposure to their families, gift cards for meals, and comfort stations. Access to these self-care resources will support them as they care for current COVID-19 patients and prepare for any potential surge to come.

Formerly known as the Fairview/ Lutheran Foundation, Community West has been supporting these Cleveland Clinic hospitals as well as many community non-profit agencies since 1997. "Many people don't know about our deep history with Fairview and Lutheran Hospitals," said Marty Uhle, President and CEO of Community West Foundation. "We are responding to COVID-19 emergency needs to support all of our partners during this crisis. Supporting Fairview Hospital is a no-brainer for us," he said.

"The gift from the Community West Foundation is significant and meaningful to us. We are grateful for the foundation's support of our Fairview Hospital caregivers at this time when our caregivers are giving so selflessly to our community," commented Lara Kalafatis, Chair, Cleveland Clinic Philanthropy Institute.

Since the pandemic struck, area non-profits are feeling the financial pressure that comes with increased demand, volunteer shortage and canceled fundraising events due to physical distancing requirements.

In addition to establishing its own emergency response fund, Community West joined as a voting partner in the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund to make emergency grants available to area non-profits. They also joined a similar collaborative being led by the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

"We need to be responding to community needs during this crisis. As a funder, that means providing as many grants as we can, as quickly as we can. Joining these larger community efforts allows us to leverage the giving power of many funders," Marty commented.

Under the guidance of the Board of Directors, Community West has grown its giving exponentially over the past 20 years. In

2019, the foundation distributed \$7M in grants. Community West Foundation staff and Board of Directors are guided by the words in Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

For more information, contact Community West Foundation at 440-360-7370 or visit communitywestfoundation.org



"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. --- '



Shot Down Airmen Held Cleveland Reunion—Before WW II Ended!

by Jerri Donohue

n August 1945, Cleveland newspapers were still printing casualty lists and covering the homecomings of emaciated American ex-prisoners of war from the European Theater.

Speculation about Japan's anticipated surrender dominated the headlines.

Perhaps as a welcome diversion for war-weary Clevelanders, all three of the city's major dailies featured the reunion of the "Escadrille Soixante-Neuf" at the Hotel Cleveland from August 12 through 14.

One of the first fraternal organizations to result from World War II, the Escadrille consisted of forceddown Allied fliers who evaded capture by hiding in the Fréteval forest southwest of Paris.

For attendee Jack Pearson's often hilarious account, Google "Fréteval Reunion Report – Cleveland 1945." It sometimes reads like a frat boy's fond recollection of a boozy party. In today's parlance, that first reunion was "epic."

The newspapers took a more sober tone.

"These men - most of them are youngsters - who have brushed close to death on war missions have taken on a peace mission," wrote the *Plain Dealer*'s George Scofield. "The theme of their convention will be cementing more friendly relations among the Allied nations."

As many as 150 downed fliers from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Canada, Belgium, Poland and the United States waited out the final months of the war in the French forest. According to newspaper coverage, 44 people attended their first reunion. These included Commandant Pierre Benedictus of the French Air Mission and the U.S. Fifth Armored Division's Captain Karl Roth, who helped liberate the evaders. Pearson counted 11 Canadian and 10 American fliers at the reunion. All wore their uniforms in newspaper photographs, and a reporter commented on the slate blue Canadian garb spotted

...these young men traveled considerable distances and even crossed an international border to spend time together.

The evaders constructed a makeshift golf course, used tree branches as clubs and whittled jumbo-size golf balls.

among American khaki.

In that era before interstate highways, these young men traveled considerable distances and even crossed an international border to spend time together.

Some arrived days early and others departed late. According to evader Pearson, at least one went AWOL to attend. Another made the trip even though his first baby was arriving any minute.

As a group, they celebrated Japan's official surrender on August 15. Sadly, the sole Clevelander, Lt. Ralph Hall, missed the reunion because he couldn't leave Turner Field, Georgia.

The oldest evader in attendance was 33-year old Sgt. Emmett Bone, of Port Arthur, Texas. Two days after he was shot down in early February 1944, Bone contacted underground members, who then shuttled him around France. On June 2 they moved the American to one of the Fréteval camps where he remained until liberation on August 13, 1944.

Newspaper accounts gave a peek at the conditions in which the men had lived. Lt. Max Harrell of St. Charles, Louisiana compared their forest home to a "hobo jungle."

They slept on the ground, did assigned KP duties and laundry chores, and posted sentries day and night to watch for the enemy. Sometimes the British air-dropped them food and such necessities as shoes, shirts and rum.

The evaders constructed a

makeshift golf course, used tree branches as clubs and whittled jumbo-size golf balls. (During their first reunion, the men played golf at the Lake Shore Country Club.)

At one point, a German company unknowingly camped across the road from them, restricting their activity.

Flight Sgt. Sam Dunseith, a tail-gunner from Woodstock, Ontario, told a reporter about his escape from a burning Lancaster. As he exited the plane, Dunseith's foot caught in the door. He dangled in the air, repeatedly slamming against the aircraft before finally breaking free. The Canadian's face was badly burned, and he was temporarily blind when a French farmer rescued him the following

morning and delivered him to the Maquis.

The underground then hid Dunseith in a forest. Two weeks passed before anyone could treat his burns; his "medic" was a Belgian air-gunner. Dunseith was still blind when he arrived in the Fréteval camp. His face was badly scarred, but he eventually recovered his sight.

Reporters noted the evaders' eagerness to speak of the heroism of their helpers. Without identifying individuals, Dunseith and other interviewees praised the civilians who risked everything to keep them out of enemy hands.

One newspaper quoted Flight Lieutenant William F. Bender of Kitchener, Ontario.

"Our folks at home must be made to realize what we and countless other airmen owe to the French," Bender said.

The men determined to maintain warm relationships with their Allies.

"We've learned that life's too short to waste any of it hating our own kind of people," said Flying Officer William Brayley of Montreal, the group's international secretary.

"There are important hates that we've decided to concentrate on – tyranny, dictatorships and the way of life that goes with them."

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Sailor from Carrier *Theodore Roosevelt* Dies of COVID-19

Military.com | By Gina Harkins

A sailor who was moved to an intensive care unit in Guam last week has died from the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, the Navy announced Monday morning.

The sailor, whose identity has not been released, died Monday at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. He was assigned to the aircraft carrier *Theodore Roosevelt*, which has seen cases of COVID-19 sweep through its crew.

At least 550 sailors, more than 10% of the roughly 4,800-person crew, had tested positive for the illness as of Monday.

The sailor had been removed from the ship and placed in isolation with four other *Roosevelt* sailors after testing positive for the virus March 30. His name is being held for 24 hours following family notification, per Pentagon policy.

Once in isolation, the sailor received medical checks twice a day from Navy medical teams, officials said in a news release. At about 8:30 a.m. April 9, the sailor was found unresponsive during one of those checks.

Other sailors and an on-site medical team in the house where the isolated carrier personnel were staying attempted life-saving aid. He was then moved to the hospital's intensive care unit, where he later died.

The *Roosevelt* has been in Guam since March 27; thousands of sailors evacuated from the ship as coronavirus cases began spreading among the crew.

The Navy's handling of the

health crisis onboard the *Roosevelt* has been surrounded by controversy. Late last month, Capt. Brett Crozier, the ship's former commanding officer, wrote a candid plea for help as coronavirus cases began to spread.

Crozier urged Navy leaders to evacuate most of the *Roosevelt*'s crew to prevent further spread. He sent the letter to at least 20 people, including some outside his chain of command.

The letter was later published by the San Francisco Chronicle, putting a spotlight on the Navy's response to a serious situation affecting the crew of a deployed aircraft carrier. Then-Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly was reportedly livid about Crozier's letter ending up in the paper, The New York Times reported.

Modly removed Crozier from his position, in part to appear tough in order to please President Donald Trump, according to the *Times*. That was a day after Modly stood in the Pentagon press briefing room, telling reporters Crozier wasn't wrong to raise concerns about the health of his crew. He indicated that the captain would be punished only if the Navy determined the commanding officer himself had leaked his letter to the press.

Crozier's relief was unpopular with rank-and-file sailors, who could be seen in cellphone videos shared to social media gathering to see their ousted leader off as he walked off the ship. They applauded the skipper, chanting "Captain Crozier" as he left.



U.S. Navy sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) and embarked staff listen as Vice Adm. William Merz, center, commander of U.S. 7th Fleet, answers questions during a visit to the ship April 7, 2020.

As health leaders across the U.S. issued warnings that young, healthy people were getting seriously sick from COVID-19, Navy leaders said the first hundred-plus cases on the Roosevelt were "mild or moderate."

"We believe that their relative health and youth is in their favor," said Rear Adm. Bruce Gillingham, the Navy's surgeon general. "We're not assuming that they won't become more ill but, so far, indications are that they will continue to be mildly symptomatic and recover without sequela."

Modly then flew to Guam, where he addressed the *Roosevelt*'s crew. In his speech, which was later ripped by lawmakers, retired flag officers and others, Modly disparaged Crozier. He called the captain "too stupid" or "too naïve" to command the ship.

Crozier, by then, had also become infected with COVID-19.

Modly quickly stepped down from his position of acting Navy secretary following calls for his resignation from members of Congress.

The Navy has since continued testing *Roosevelt* sailors for COVID-19 and moved thousands of them off the carrier as the ship is cleaned and disinfected.

Gina Harkins can be reached at gina.harkins@military.com. Follow her on Twitter @ginaaharkins.



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William J. Gleason, Soldier and Patriot

By J.C. Sullivan

Born in 1846, William J.
Gleason's parents Patrick,
from County and Margaret,
from County Tipperary, brought
William to life in Vermont and soon
after, moved to Cleveland. The city
on the banks of Lake Erie plenty offered plenty of work in the growing
manufacturing town.

What sort of childhood Gleason had isn't clear, but he clearly loved his adopted country. He was a child when Confederate forces bombarded Fort Sumter.

Game on!

The Civil War would begin in 1861 and end until 1865. Many Southerners still refer to it as, The War between the States.

Young men on both sides were champing at the bit for battle and

glory. No one knew how long the war would last, and many wanted to get in action before a white flag was hoisted.

Once such young man was William Gleason.

At 15, he left his job at a newspaper and bought a drum. He lied about his age and was assigned to 160th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

He drilled for a week before his parents showed his commanders legal documents that allowed them to bring him home.

His parents somehow understood his grit and determination and allowed him to join the Ohio National Guard. He was a drummer boy. While in the Guard, he returned to work at the *Plain Dealer* and stayed until he turned 17.

For William, the calendar

allowed him to join the 150th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In the summer of 1864, his unit was ordered to join in the defense of Washington,

As Major Gleason, he led his troops and battled to the end of the war. He came home and in 1870, married Margaret Cogan, another immigrant from Tipperary. They filled their house with seven children: Agnes Mary, Katherine, Alma, Florence, Charles, Edward, and William.

How he had time for all he did is a mystery for the ages: He worked in the insurance business, returned to the print trade, served on the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, and was secretary to the Cleveland Public Library Board.

William served Cleveland as its

controller, president of the Irish National League, and staff member to the commander of the Grand Army of the Republic.

He was the first president of the Soldiers and Sailors Commission and finally left Earth in 1905 for his well-deserved rewards.

William is buried in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery.

His monument is impressive, as it should be: It is inscribed:

AUTHOR-ORATOR; SOLDIER-PATRIOT; EVER FAITHFUL TO GOD TO COUNTRY AND HUMAN LIBERTY.

Sullivan, DD214 Chronicle's History Editor, is an Army veteran who served in the U.S. and Europe with the 2nd Armored Division.







Auschwitz History an Incendiary Tale for Then and Now

Review by Nancy Peacock, Book Editor

Just when history-conscious readers think they have read every detail of Nazi Germany's deviousness and cruelty, Heather Dune Macadam writes a book entitled 999: The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport to Auschwitz (Citadel Press, 2020).

This year marks the 75th liberation of the death camp where between 1941 and 1945, one mil-

lion men, women and children were murdered. Macadam takes us back to the very beginning of this atrocity when 999 young, single Jewish women from Slovakia were rounded up in March, 1942, and told that they would be working for a few months in government service in recently occupied Poland. Some of the girls were as young as 16 years old.

It is telling that the "Super Race" would pick on defenseless girls to initiate its master plan of senseless genocide. The girls were told they would be able to send their wages home to help their families. And the duplicity was only beginning.

Once they arrived at Auschwitz, the only girls who "found work" were those who could withstand the brutality of what awaited them—overcrowded barracks with no heat or running water; soup made from stringy bits of dead horse meat and tiny rations of bread; lice and flea infestations; rampant illness and barbaric working conditions clearing swamps with no tools; and hauling the corpses of the thousands who came after them but were immediately sent to the gas chambers.

That any of this initial group survived speaks to the courage and determination of the young women. Macadam's research began with the records archived in Yad Vashem in

Israel, the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual Archives and the Slovak National Archives. Her impressively painstaking work recreates the lives of the girls and their families from before deportation to their daily struggles in the death camp. By employing everything from physical characteristics to personalities and relatives, Macadam uses a novelist's narrative to take us on each step of their journey.

It is especially enlightening

to read of

the women's

struggle in

the context

of this year's worldwide

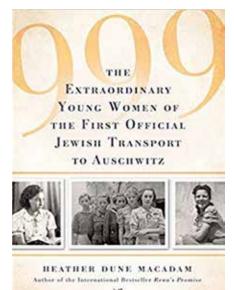
pandemic

The girls were instructed to send postcards home, praising the working conditions and lying about the welfare of other prisoners. It is hard to imagine an era when the lack of communication made it possible to fool those still at home, waiting for news of their loved ones. The girls became adept at slipping information into the cards that only family mem-

bers could interpret to learn the truth. For example, when a family member back home would inquire about a specific girl, the writer would reply that she had gone to be with a relative known only within the family to be dead.

Along the way, Macadam shows us the despair, suffering and death of those who were not able or even lucky enough to stay alive until the camp was liberated by Russian soldiers on January 27, 1945.

It is especially enlightening to read of the women's heroic struggle in the context of this year's worldwide pandemic. While many people will succumb to the coronavirus, many more of us will survive. The world in 2020 allows us to electronically remain in touch with each other while we grouse about daily inconveniences, ones for which the young women of Auschwitz would have gladly traded places with us.

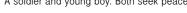


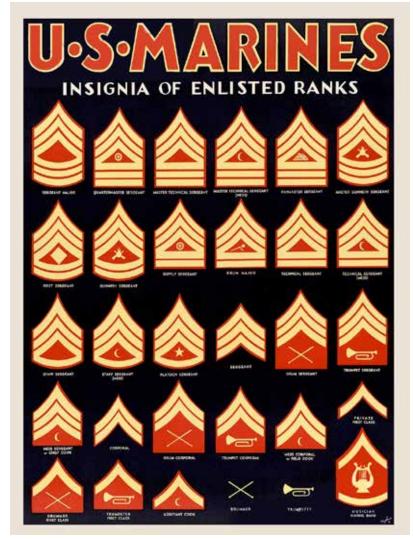




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www.dd214chronicle.com DD 214 Chronicle May/June 2020

Lorain County Community College Helps Navy Veteran Pave Way to Nursing Career

orain County Community
College (LCCC) student and
Navy veteran Heather Richard
credits the college's Veteran and
Military Service Member Center in
helping pave her path toward earning an in-demand nursing associate
degree and ultimately a bachelor's
of science in nursing through the
University Partnership.

Richard, 29, knew she wanted to work as a registered nurse her entire life. She wanted to take after her mother, a nurse, but first she wanted to follow in her father's footsteps and contribute to the country by joining the Navy.

"I chose to go into the nursing field because I used to help my mom study while she went through the nursing program at a community college," Richard said. "Ever since then I wanted to be a nurse."

"My dad was in the Navy for 14 years and my brother also joined out of high school," she said. "I remember going to his boot camp graduation in 2007 and I knew I wanted to be a part of that someday. Five years later I joined at the age of 21."

The Elyria resident served in the Navy as a hospital corpsman third class petty officer for six years of active duty and is currently part of the reserves.

Richard chose LCCC because of its reputation and location, but the main draw was that LCCC's nursing



program is number one in the county.

"I really enjoy how friendly the college is to veterans," Richard said. "A lot of colleges still lack the support that veterans need. Our office offers a lot more for veteran students than most colleges across the country. The fact we are so veteran friendly is a really great thing and wonderful for the students."

Since 2010, LCCC has served nearly 1500 veterans with 616 veterans earning 898 degrees and certificates. The Veteran and Military Service Member Center helps veterans with questions, job connections, financial aid, G.I. bill

benefits and more.

Richard said two people in the Veterans Services office were especially helpful. "They live for helping other veterans and bringing new opportunities to them" Richard said. "Every time you've got a question or concern, Epsy (Correa) is there to help."

"Michael Weston is knowledgeable and passionate about his job," Richard added. "Between those two, they'll help with any question or concern. They are so knowledgeable and helpful to figure out whatever your issue is."

The 2009 Midview graduate joined the Navy in 2012 and was

stationed at the Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida before going to San Antonio, Texas, for training where she learned to do physical therapy for the Navy, which gave her an introduction to the healthcare field.

"Physical therapy was a way for me to work hands-on with patients and further educate myself in the Navy," Richard said. Her last station was in Newport, Rhode Island. In December of 2017 she separated from active duty before joining the reserves upon moving back to Ohio.

Richard plans to graduate in May 2021 with her associate of nursing before starting a bachelor's degree in nursing through the LCCC University Partnership with Ohio University. Through the program, LCCC collaborates with 14 colleges and universities delivering more than 100 bachelor's and master's degrees—saving an average of \$74,000.

Richard has already earned the credentials for her associate of the arts and applied science degrees from credits earned previously from LCCC combined with her recently completed classes.

For more information on Veterans Services, visit www.lorainccc.edu/ veterans. For more information on nursing programs at LCCC, visit www. lorainccc.edu/nursing.

Lorain County Community College is located at 1005 N. Abbe Road, Elyria.

Swarm of Iranian Boats Harassed US Ships in Persian Gulf, Navy Says

Military.com | By Gina Harkins

lose to a dozen vessels from the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' navy spent an hour making repeated "dangerous and harassing approaches" near American ships operating in international waters on Wednesday, according to Navy officials.

The 11 vessels carried out the aggressive moves in the Persian Gulf, Naval Forces Central Command said in a news release. The U.S. ships, including four Navy vessels and two Coast Guard, were conducting joint operations with Army AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, the release states.



J.S. Navy

Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) vessels cross the bows and sterns of U.S. Military ships while operating in international waters of the North Arabian Gulf, April 15, 2020.

In Their Words:

World War Veterans on the Loss of Brothers—and Brothers-in-Arms

by Jerri Donohue

uring World War II—an era before email or text messages—American servicemen and women learned about the deaths of brothers through letters, and sometimes from eyewitnesses. As Memorial Day approaches, it seems fitting to relate their experiences here, and to include accounts by veterans who lost buddies. These poignant stories are taken from some of the 200-plus interviews I conducted for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

Drafted in December 1942, **Amos "Andy" Cambron** was a tank driver

in the Fifth Armored Division.

"We were a close bunch," Cambron said of the crew. They stayed together from basic training on, and eventually shipped to England to await the invasion of France.

One night in a pub, another customer noticed Cambron's armored patch and advised him to ensure he could use the tank's floor escape hatch. The next day, Cambron took his tank to the motor pool to loosen and grease its heavy hatch door. Then he practiced exiting through it, feet first.

"My tank got bazookaed in

France or Belgium—you didn't really know where you were," Cambron said.

The assistant driver was sick and had not gone out with the crew that day. The gunner, tank commander and loader/radio operator scrambled out the turret. Cambron alone escaped through the floor hatch.

"That's why I'm not dead. They got killed jumping out of the tank, machine-gunned. I crawled out into grass and weeds and water. I could hear the Germans talking. I just laid there, just hoping and praying I wasn't going to cough or sneeze. Finally American tanks came."

Cambron described himself as "a nervous wreck" after his rescue. His captain sent him to visit a buddy in another company for several days, which helped him calm down. His grief-stricken assistant driver refused to return to tanks.

"I got a new crew. I never did get acquainted with them, because you get too close. You get as close as you do with your own brothers."

Interviewed August 23, 2008 at the 62nd Reunion of the Fifth Armored Division, Louisville, Kentucky. In 2012, Cambron attended the last official reunion of the Fifth Armored Division, held in Bangor, Maine. For the first and only time, he brought an album filled with pictures of his lost crewmates.

Cornelius ("C.P.") Chima completed his required 25 missions as a pilot in the 8th Air Force, but volunteered for more when his brother Nicholas arrived in England. Nicholas was a navigator in another squadron.

Their youngest brother, Virgil, a co-pilot, came later.

He was shot down on September 22, 1944 during a disastrous raid on Kassel, Germany.

Virgil's close friend, an infantry officer, was stationed in Germany after the war. Everywhere he went, he asked if there were any Americans buried nearby.

"This is a coincidence almost incredible to believe, but it happens," Chima said. "He was in a little bar I guess and he asked, and the fella

said through an interpreter, 'yeah, down the road here, they know that there's a fella buried ... so Dan went down to a farmhouse with a little old couple."

They had found Virgil's body in the woods, buried him in their yard, and marked his grave with a cross with his name burned into it. Later, Virgil's bombardier investigated further.

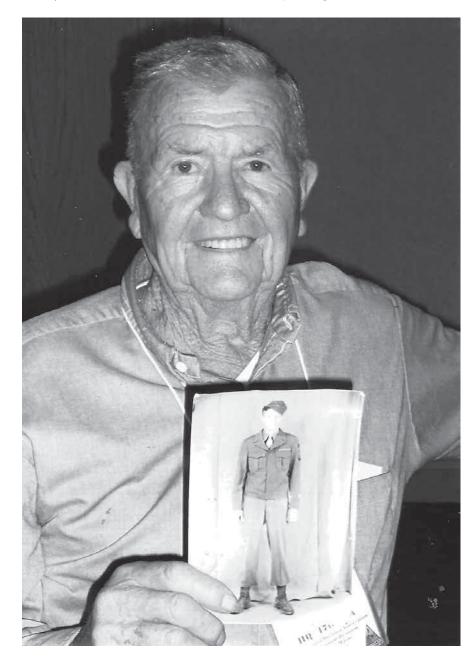
"My brother was shot down on the twenty-second of September," Chima said. "We got an official death certificate from the Germans eleven days later. According to the story that the bombardier got and from these people, he [Virgil] had let out his parachute all right. He had landed. His parachute shrouds were cut, all the lines were cut off ... They took the parachute ...the only thing we can surmise is which happened often—is that the German farmers, the people there where he landed—instead of taking prisoners, they beat the hell out of him and killed him."

Interviewed November 1, 2007 in his office in Fairlawn, Ohio



Although he spent most of the war as a combat engineer, draftee **Robert C. Scanlan** became an infantryman during the Battle of the Bulge, during which he suffered a personal loss.

"My brother Jack was killed. He was with the 17th Airborne Continued on next page



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IN THEIR WORDS Continued

Division... They were unloading a truck and artillery hit the truck and killed all the soldiers there, and he was one of them. I wish I could have seen his grave but I didn't know where it was at. My mother was the one that wrote and told me. She said her heart was breaking as she wrote the letter ... I hadn't heard from him and I knew something had happened to him."

Earlier, Scanlan had seen Jack in England.

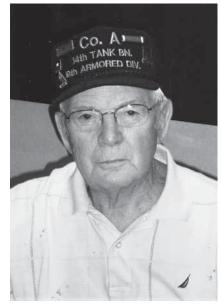
"I had to take a train to their Army camp. And the thing that hurts, too, is he came to visit me once but I went to town..he couldn't find me."

Interviewed September 5, 2010 at the reunion of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Columbia, South Carolina

A paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division, enlistee **Guadalupe Flores** fought in Operation
Overlord in Normandy and
Operation Market Garden in the
Netherlands, but his worst wartime experience was the death of a buddy during combat in the Battle of the Bulge.

"After the battle was over, I went back to look for him. And you could tell he had enough time to take that wallet out of his pocket and take out the picture of his wife ... and he died with that picture in his hand."

Interviewed September 13, 2008 at the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge reunion, Columbus, Ohio



A tank gunner, enlistee **Robert Janos** also learned about a brother's death through a letter from home. Before fighting at Salerno, Italy, his brother served in England and North Africa.

"He was hauling ammunition for the anti-aircraft," Janos said. "After the German air force got knocked out so bad, they put these guys in the infantry. They made him a Browning automatic rifleman, which was the worst thing you could be, and for about six months. And on April 17, that's about two weeks before the war was over, he got shot in the head by a German machine gun. It was house-to-house fighting, in the northern part of Italy. My mother had his body brought back and buried in our hometown."

Interviewed September 18, 2010 at the reunion of Company A, 14th Tank

Battalion, 9th Armored Division, Middleburg Heights, Ohio

Ira Mullins, a member of Janos's company, saw his brother Oscar for the last time while they were training in the Mojave Desert. They served in different armored divisions.

"He pulled out before me to go overseas, he'd been in a little longer," Mullins said. Oscar was a sergeant in the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The brothers' paths didn't cross in Europe, but Ira later discovered they were only four or five miles apart when Oscar was killed on December 26, 1944.

"I talked to his tank driver and two or three people in the division, one of them used to come to see us," Mullins said. "The war was going on when I found out ... I've talked to people who were with him."

Sixty-five years after the war, Mullins still could not bear to discuss the circumstances of his brother's death, except to say that Oscar didn't exit his tank and that he posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross. Oscar's remains were not recovered. He is listed on the Tablets of the Missing in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.

Interviewed September 18, 2010 at the reunion of Company A, 14th Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division, Middleburg Heights, Ohio

Army nurse **Frances "Mame" Scherrman Smith** worked in American military hospitals in

England. Her unpleasant duties included removing blackened fingernails from the frostbitten hands of airmen. Smith's younger brother, Paul, was stationed at an airfield in England. They met occasionally and even survived a London air raid together.

"He would call me after every mission," Smith said.

One day Paul didn't check in with her. When she called his base, she was told to come immediately. Smith took a train, got off at the wrong stop and had to hitchhike the rest of the way. Not finding Paul in the hospital, she went to headquarters and learned he had been shot down. Someone gave her a note directing her to another flier. He reported that he had seen Paul's bomber explode.

"Three got out. But he was the pilot [usually the last to jump]. He's not alive," the man told her.

Earlier, Smith's brother Bob had flown out of Italy, completed his missions and returned to the States to train bombardiers in Texas. Smith quickly wrote him a letter, relating what had happened to Paul. To hasten its delivery, a patient who returned to the States by airplane mailed it for her there.

"I said, 'Get home before they ring that bell.' He got home the night before.'"

Interviewed January 12, 2009 in her home in Hudson, Ohio

Drafted into the Army in September 1941, **Samuel Logiudice** served with the 2nd Battalion, 43rd *Continued on page 17*

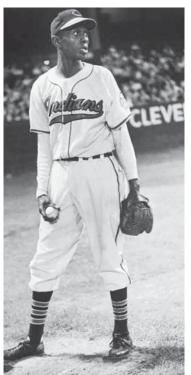
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The 1948 Cleveland Indians were a team for the ages

By Barry Goodrich

n Oct. 11, 1948 in Boston, Cleveland Indians outfielder Bob Kennedy caught the final out in what still ranks as the most memorable season in Tribe history. With ace Bob Lemon on the mound in Game 6, the Indians edged the Boston Braves by a 4-3 score to capture the second World Series title in franchise history.

While Clevelanders of a certain age remember one of the best teams in Major League history (the 1948 team was ranked as the ninth-best all-time club by the Sporting News in 2011), the road to the championship was not nearly as easy as it may have seemed.

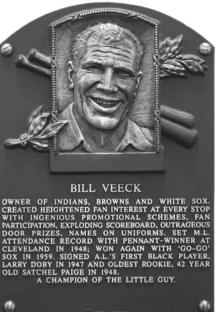
Amazingly, the only two games the Indians lost to the Braves came at the expense of legendary hurler Bob Feller, who had a superb effort in a 1-0 loss in the Series opener at Boston and started on the mound during an 11-5 Boston beatdown in Game 5 at Cleveland.

Four of the games in the 1948 Series were decided by two runs or less. The Tribe won Game 3 in Cleveland by a 2-0 count behind starter Gene Bearden and came back with a 2-1 victory in Game 4 despite managing just five hits.

But none of those games would have been played were it not for the Indians' one game playoff win over another Boston team, the Red Sox, to win the American League pennant. Ken Keltner's

single, double and three-run homer at Fenway Park sparked the Tribe past the Red Sox in what began as a pressure-packed game but turned into an 8-3 rout.

The 1948 season was memorable for many reasons. It was the first season the team's games



were broadcast locally on WEWS-TV. On July 7, eccentric team owner Bill Veeck signed 40-yearold Satchel Paige one year after integrating the American League by bringing Larry Doby to the team. And the city fell head over heels for its baseball team, packing the cavernous Municipal Stadium.

Crowds flocked to the stadium by the lake that summer—on

Aug. 3, the Indians drew a then record 72,562 fans for a night game against the Washington Senators. On Aug 20, 78,382 watched the ageless Paige toss a three-hitter against the Chicago White Sox.

Overflow crowds were on hand for Game 4 of the Series, when

81,897 turned out and again for Game 5, when the team set a World Series single game attendance mark of 86,288.

The Indians had balanced hitting with outfielder Dale Mitchell leading the Tribe with 204 hits, shortstop-manager Lou Boudreau hitting .355 with 106 runs batted in and second baseman Joe Gordon clouting 32 homers and driving in 124 runs. Boudreau was named American League MVP and Associated Press Athlete of the Year.

Cleveland's pitchers were a force as well—Lemon finished 20-14 with a 2.82 ERA, Feller went 19-15 with 164 strikeouts and Bearden compiled a 20-7 record and 2.43 ERA. Reliver Russ Christopher had 17 saves with a 2.90 ERA.

Just how good were the 1948 Indians? The team produced a staggering six Hall of Famers – Feller, Lemon, Paige, Doby, Gordon and Boudreau.

More than seven decades later, the Indians are still looking to recapture the magic that was 1948.



DD 214 Chronicle May/June 2020 www.dd214chronicle.com

IN THEIR WORDS
Continued from page 15
Division in the Pacific theater.

In the Philippines, he participated in the bloody battle for Ipo Damn, the main water supply for the recently liberated city of Manilla.

"One of my best friends was from Alabama," Logiudice said. "He was just 21 years old a week before he got killed. Earl Brake."

Brake volunteered to go out on point during what Loguidice described as a "night of terror. The Japs threw everything they had at

In the morning, his captain ordered Sgt. Logiudice to organize a party of GIs and Filipino volunteers to retrieve the dead and wounded, draping the dead with ponchos on their stretchers.

"These two Filipinos were carrying Earl Brake. But I didn't know it was Earl Brake ... They were squatting, smoking cigarettes. I saw his leg hanging—and I put it on the litter and covered it up. Then I looked at the dog tag ...

"That was the second friend. George Curley from New York, he was shot in the head standing next to me. A sniper shot him in the head. Part of his flesh landed on my backpack. And so then, when I saw Brake, I just came unglued." [Chokes up] "The moral of the story is that people don't know the hell we went through. I had people telling me, 'you should forget it.' I screamed at one person, 'you tell me how to forget it, and I will."

Interviewed July 12, 2006 in his home in Akron, Ohio

Mike Pachuta enlisted in the Army in 1942. He was a platoon sergeant by the time he landed in France with the 30th Infantry Division.

During a bombardment in Normandy, he assisted a medic from Winston-Salem, North Carolina with a soldier whose legs had been severed. The medic had returned to the front two days earlier, after spending two weeks in the rear. "He had cracked up one time," Pachuta explained.

After Pachuta helped him, the medic asked a favor.

"He took his wife's picture out of his pocket, with her address on the back. He said, 'If something happens to me, and I think it will, I want you to look her up and tell her what happened to me."

The men returned to their

respective foxholes.

"And the Germans threw another barrage of artillery on us," Pachuta said.

When it was over, a GI came looking for the medic, and Pachuta led him to the foxhole.

"A shell had hit him and his buddy and just blew them both into small pieces, scattered them all around ... I went back to my foxhole and got the picture out and I looked at it. A beautiful woman. Long blonde hair ... I took that picture and pushed it down in the dirt ... I wasn't going to go and tell her what happened to him."

Interviewed March 28, 2009 at the reunion of WW II Veterans of the 30th Infantry Division, Charleston, South Carolina

John Orris enlisted in the Navy while still a teenager. From the U.S.S. Pierce, he ferried soldiers and Marines ashore on LSTs during the invasions of Tarawa and other islands. He also transported wounded men back to the ship. While performing this dangerous duty, he witnessed the death of his friend, Kelly, another coxswain.

"He was trying to lift up the door, the ramp, and he got shot ...

I brought him ashore and I told our officer, 'Are we going to bury him at sea or on land?' And he said, 'If he was killed on land, he couldn't be buried at sea.' So we buried him at sea."

Interviewed June 25, 2008 in his home in Independence, Ohio

A second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps, **Bud Wisnieski** was assigned to a weather reconnaissance squadron operating on the east coast. His wife and two sons joined him when he was stationed in Manchester, New Hampshire. Because of the housing shortage, Wisnieski and his family rented a bedroom in the home of his friend, Doke Walker, a B-25 pilot.

"A B-25 had been worked on and repaired and had to be test flighted. So Doke took it up for a test flight. He had some members of his crew with him. While flying over Manchester, it caught fire. And so Doke ordered his crew members to bail out ... and Doke stayed with the aircraft and flew it to an area where there was not population and went down with the aircraft. And he had a wife and three young sons."

Interviewed June 16, 2018 in his home in Richfield, Ohio.

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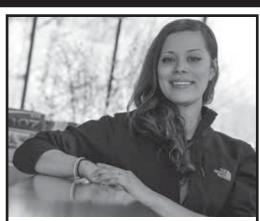
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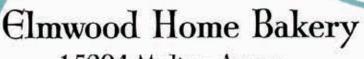


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Anna Lupson, Navy veteran and LCCC psychology student who is using her veterans benefits to attend school. She plans to continue her education through LCCC's University Partnership program.







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