



HEARTS VETERANS MUSEUM OF TEXAS

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REMEMBER THE MAINE

On 15 February, an explosion on board Maine occurred in the Havana Harbor. Later investigations revealed that more than 5 tons of powder charges had detonated, obliterating the forward third of the ship. The remaining wreckage rapidly settled to the bottom of the harbor. Most of Maine's crew were sleeping or resting in the enlisted quarters, in the forward part of the ship, when the explosion occurred. In total, 260 men lost their lives as a result of the explosion or shortly thereafter, and six more died later from injuries. On 21 March, the U.S. Naval Court of Inquiry, in Key West, declared that a naval mine caused the explosion.

The New York Journal and New York World gave Maine intense press coverage, but employed tactics that would later be labeled "yellow journalism." Both papers exaggerated and distorted any information they could attain, sometimes even fabricating news when none that fit their agenda was available. For a week following the sinking, the Journal devoted a daily average of eight and a half pages of news, editorials and pictures to the event.

The World indulged in similar theatrics, insisting continually that Maine had been bombed or mined. Privately, Pulitzer believed that "nobody outside a lunatic asylum" really believed that Spain sanctioned Maine's destruction. Nevertheless, this did not stop the World from insisting that the only "atonement" Spain could offer the U.S. for the loss of ship and life, was the granting of complete Cuban independence. Nor did it stop the paper from accusing Spain of "treachery, willingness, or laxness" for failing to ensure the safety of Havana Harbor. The American public, already agitated over reported Spanish atrocities in Cuba, was driven to increased hysteria.

The event and the subsequent news articles created enough public outcry that a peaceful solution became impossible. The Spanish-American War began in April 1898, two months after the sinking.

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Advocates of the war used the rallying cry, "remember the Maine! To Hell with Spain!"

An interesting development was that later investigation opened the possibility that the explosion may have been the result of the power from the coal fuel that was on board the ship and that the Spanish may have had nothing to do with the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine.

While the Maine's destruction did not result in a declaration of war with Spain. While the event focused national attention on the crisis in Cuba, it was not cited by the McKinley administration as a cause to go to war. It was cited by some already inclined to go to war with Spain over perceived atrocities and loss of control in Cuba.

Just for fun

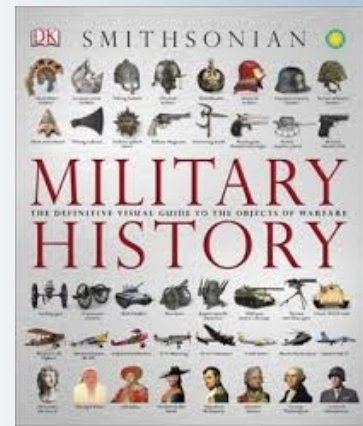
A newly commissioned Lieutenant was assigned to division headquarters. Trying his best to make a positive impression he made it a habit to stay late two or three days a week.

One evening as he was leaving he saw the Chief of Staff looking at the shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

“My clerk has left for the night and this is a very important and sensitive document. Can you make this thing work?”

“Yes sir!” He said with enthusiasm and promptly took the paper from the Chief’s hand and placed it in the machine. He turned on the machine.”

“Great,” said the Chief of Staff, “I only need one copy.



This Month in Military History

February 17, 1865. - During the American Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina was returned to the Union after nearly a year and a half under Confederate control.

February 23, 1942. - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California. The attack caused only minor damage

February 28, 1844. - During a demonstration of naval fire power, one of the guns aboard the USS *Princeton* exploded, killing several top U.S. government officials on the steamer ship, and narrowly missed killing President John Tyler

February 28, 1994. - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45 year history as four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone

Upcoming events....Mark your calendars

Feb 2	Ground Hog Day
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Feb 14	Valentine’s Day
Feb 20	President’s Day (Who remembers celebrating Lincoln’s and Washington’s real birthday’s)
Feb 28	Fat Tuesday

* Think about the movie “Ground Hog Day”

Museum Visitors

Last month we had 485 visitors from 14 states, Rico, 5 foreign Countries, Germany, Honduras, Canada, England, and Mexico.



Military Humor

Director's Notes

"Volunteer Page"

I am starting a new section in the newsletter this year. The "Volunteer Page" . While it probably will not be a full page, it will be a place you our volunteer's to communicate.

If you have something that you think would be of interest to our readers. Send it to newsletter@heartsmuseum.com. Please do not send copyright protected documents.

All submissions are subject to review and editing before printing.

VOLUNTEER PAGE

It is the soldier, not the minister,
who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the soldier, not the reporter,
who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the lawyer,
who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,
who has given us the freedom to protest.

It is the soldier, not the politician,
who has given us the right to vote.

It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Charles M. Provence, U.S. Army

Submitted by H.E.A.R.T.S. Volunteer

Volunteer Job Description

Job Title: Tour Guide/Docent

Purpose: The Tour guide serves as a host for anyone visiting the H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum. The tour guide represents the museum and all those who have served in the United State Military.

Key Responsibilities:

- Greet guests and directs them to other offices or locations.
- Direct guests to gift shop for admission and asks them to sign welcome book.
- Direct guests to fill out e-mail list if they want to receive our newsletter.
- Explains the layout of the museum and offers to guide visitors through the museum.
- Become familiar with the exhibits and artifacts in the museum.
- Answer questions that visitors have about museum exhibits.
- Assist with school/special tours when possible.

Length of Commitment: An initial commitment of at least 3 months is desired. After the initial time period tour guides are welcome to stay on as long as they desire.

Time Commitment: One day per week (Mon. thru Sat) preferably for 3 or 4 hours (10 am to 2pm and 2pm-5pm).

Qualifications: Familiarity with United States Armed Forces, Preferably a veteran or member of veteran's family.

Dress Code: Business Casual



**Want to Donate to
H.E.A.R.T.S.**

**Every Time you shop at
Kroger?**

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Info @ 936-295-5959**

VETERANS CORNER

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TUES, WED, THURS **8:00AM – 4:00PM**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY **KAY LEE** **936-539-7842**

MON thru FRI **8:00AM – 4:00PM**

TRINITY COUNTY **EUGENE PRATER** **936-594-8067**

MON & TUES **8:00 AM—12:00 PM**

V.A. Medical Center – Houston **1-800-553-2278**

2020 Holcombe Houston, TX 77030 **1-713-791-1414**

V.A. Appointment Center **1-800-639-5137** **1-713-794-8985**

Conroe V.A. Outpatient Clinic **1-800-553-2278 ext 1949**

690 South Loop 336 (FLOORS 3&4) **Conroe, TX 77304** **1-936-522-4000**

VETERANS CRISIS LINE **1-800-273-TALK** **1-800-273-8255**

PHARMACY **Refills 1-713-794-7648** **1-800-454-1062**

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READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES **1-866-644-5371**

WOMEN VETERAN'S SUPPORT GROUP **936-668-2151**

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