



HEARTS VETERANS MUSEUM OF TEXAS

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March 2017 93rd Edition

The Battle of the Bismark Sea

The Battle of the Bismarck Sea (2–4 March 1943) took place in March of 1943 in the South West Pacific Area during World War II when aircraft of the U.S. Fifth Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) attacked a Japanese convoy carrying troops to Lae, New Guinea. Most of the task force was destroyed, and Japanese troop losses were heavy.

The Japanese convoy was a result of a Japanese Imperial General Headquarters decision in December 1942 to reinforce their position in the South West Pacific. A plan was devised to move some 6,900 troops from Rabaul directly to Lae. The plan was understood to be risky, because Allied air power in the area was strong, but it was decided to proceed because otherwise the troops would have to be landed a considerable distance away and march through inhospitable swamp, mountain and jungle terrain without roads before reaching their destination. On 28 February 1943, the convoy – comprising eight destroyers and eight troop transports with an escort of approximately 100 fighters – set out from Simpson Harbour in Rabaul.

The Allies had detected preparations for the convoy, and naval codebreakers in Melbourne (FRUMEL) and Washington, D.C., had decrypted and translated messages indicating the convoy's intended destination and date of arrival. The Allied Air Forces had developed new techniques they hoped would improve the chances of successful air attack on ships. They detected and shadowed the convoy, which came under sustained air attack on 2–3 March 1943. Follow-up attacks by PT boats and aircraft were made on 4 March. All eight transports and four of the escorting destroyers were sunk. Out of 6,900 troops who were badly needed in New Guinea, only about 1,200 made it to Lae. Another 2,700 were rescued by destroyers and submarines and returned to Rabaul. The Japanese made no further attempts to reinforce Lae by ship, greatly hindering their ultimately unsuccessful efforts to stop Allied offensives in New Guinea.

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The Allied Air Forces also adopted two new innovative tactics “skip bombing and mast-height bombing.

To skip bomb the pilot would fly a few dozen feet above the sea toward his target, then release his bombs which would then, ideally, ricochet across the surface of the water and explode at the side of the target ship, under it, or just over it.

Mast-height bombing, the bombers would approach the target at low altitude, 200 to 500 feet (61 to 152 m), at about 265 to 275 miles per hour (426 to 443 km/h), and then drop down to mast height, 10 to 15 feet (3.0 to 4.6 m) at about 600 yards (550 m) from the target. They would release their bombs at around 300 yards (270 m), aiming directly at the side of the ship. Mast height bombing proved to be the more effective technique.

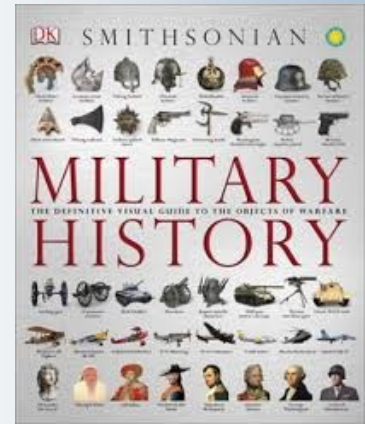
Director's Notes

Essayons

As an army engineer I became very familiar with the motto "Essayons". It is French for "Let us try." It is not referring to the half-hearted effort that some give. (It won't work but I will try). It alludes to a state of mind that says I will not admit defeat until I have given my last measure.

On a snowy, sleety, raining morning in October of 1993 I was wearing a garbage bag and standing on the street in Chicago. The high temperature that day was forecast to be 35, the wind chill that morning was 12. I was at the start line of the first marathon I would ever run. The training guide I had used had 18 miles as its longest run. Today, I was adding 8 miles to that. I had never run in weather this bad or this cold and, in my mind, there was doubt. Would I be able to finish? What I had going for me was "Essayons". I would not quit until I had given it my all. I lost count of the number of times I wanted to stop during that race but I kept saying to myself let's try to make it to the next mile marker, and then the next mile marker was 26.

I finished the race in 4 hours, 59 minutes, and 59 seconds. Six months earlier when I started training I had set a goal of under 5 hours.



This Month in Military History

March 3 1965. - U.S. Marines, landed on the beaches near DaNang at the request of the government of Saigon to protect DaNang Airbase. The old advisory role of the U.S. became a combatant role.

March 8 1863 - During the American Civil War, Confederate Colonel John Mosby captured Union General E.H. Stoughton at his headquarters in Fairfax County Courthouse, Virginia

March 13, 1943 - A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator

March 15, 1973 - The U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) closed its doors in Saigon.

Upcoming events....Mark your calendars

March 9	Panic Day (don't — it will be okay)
March 12	Girl Scouts Day
March 14	National Pi day (Pi = 3.14...)
March 15	Ides of March (Et tu Brute)
March 25	Waffle Day

Museum Visitors

Last month we had 389 total visitors from 16 states, and 5 foreign Countries, Switzerland, Denmark, France, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. 106 students visited the museum and volunteers conducted 3 group tours



MILITARY VISION

Some people see an obstacle,
Some see an opportunity.
You see a natural choke point with flank security

Military Humor

**Pull the string, and it will
follow wherever you wish.
Push it and it will go
nowhere at all.**

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Thank You

To everyone who stopped by to
say hello at the Trade Expo.

Thank you

VOLUNTEER PAGE

This list came through one of our volunteers.

We need to remember!

They were all heroes in their own right and made America great in its own right! Back then Hollywood went to war!

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Alan Hale | 32. Gene Autry | 63. Peter Graves |
| 2. Aldo Ray | 33. George Gobel | 64. Randolph Scott |
| 3. Art Carney | 34. George Kennedy | 65. Robert Altman |
| 4. Brian Keith | 35. Harry Carey Jr | 66. Robert Mitchum |
| 5. Buddy Hackett | 36. Harry Dean Stanton | 67. Robert Montgomery |
| 6. Burgess Meredith | 37. Harvey Korman | 68. Robert Preston |
| 7. Clark Gable | 38. Henry Fonda | 69. Robert Ryan |
| 8. Cesar Romero | 39. Hugh O'Brian | 70. Robert Stack |
| 9. Charles Bronson | 40. Jack Klugman | 71. Robert Taylor |
| 10. Charles Durning | 41. Jack Palance | 72. Rock Hudson |
| 11. Charlton Heston | 42. Jack Warden | 73. Rod Serling |
| 12. Chuck Connors | 43. Jackie Coogan | 74. Rod Steiger |
| 13. Claude Akins | 44. James Arness | 75. Ronald Reagan |
| 14. Clifton James | 45. James Gregory | 76. Russell Johnson |
| 15. Dale Robertson | 46. James Stewart | 77. Soupy Sales |
| 16. Danny Aiello | 47. Jason Robards | 78. Chuck Allen |
| 17. DeForest Kelley | 48. John Carroll | 79. Sterling Hayden |
| 18. Dennis Weaver | 49. John Wayne ¹ | 80. Steve Forrest |
| 19. Denver Pyle | 50. Jonathan Winters | 81. Steve Reeves |
| 20. Don Adams | 51. Karl Malden | 82. Ted Knight |
| 21. Don Knotts | 52. Kirk Douglas | 83. Telly Savalas |
| 22. Don Rickles | 53. Larry Storch | 84. Tom Bosley |
| 23. Earl Holliman | 54. Lee Marvin | 85. Tony Curtis |
| 24. Ed McMahon | 55. Lee Van Cleef | 86. Tyrone Power |
| 25. Eddie Albert | 56. Mel Brooks | 87. Victor Mature |
| 26. Efram Zimbalist, Jr. | 57. Mickey Rooney | 88. Walter Matthau |
| 27. Ernest Borgnine | 58. Mickey Spillane | 89. Wayne Morris |
| 28. Fess Parker | 59. Neville Brand | 90. William Holden |
| 29. Forrest Tucker | 60. Norman Fell | 91. William Conrad |
| 30. Frank Sutton | 61. Pat Hingle | 92. Audie Murphy ² |
| 31. Fred Gwynne | 62. Paul Newman | |

¹ Declared "4F medically unfit" due to pre-existing injuries. Attempted to enlist three times (Army- Navy and Film Corps.).

² America's most-decorated soldier. Became a Hollywood star as a result of his US Army service that included his being awarded the Medal of Honor.

How many of today's Hollywood elite, sports celebs and politicians put their careers on hold to enlist in the service of their country?

Service Members, Veterans and Families

PEER TO PEER

Support for PTS, TBI,
MST & other trauma

Trust

Camaraderie

Hope

MILITARY
VETERAN



PEER
NETWORK

He who sheds blood with me
Shall forever be my
Brother/Sister

You don't have to Apologize....
Peer Support for those with PTSD

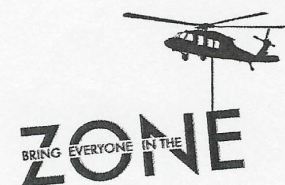
Peer Support Meeting

Where: CHSS 242 A

When: Beginning February, every Tues 6pm

Contact Information: Brandy Colvin

bcolvin@shsu.edu



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 States Military.

Key Responsibilities:

- Greet guests and direct them to other offices or locations.
- Directs 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, or 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?**

**Call Teresa for More
Info @ 936-295-5959**

VETERANS CORNER

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS:

WALKER COUNTY **GERALD NORWOOD** **936-435-2474**

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**

FREE LEGAL ADVICE **Every FRIDAY 2:00pm – 5:00pm** **1-713-228-0732**

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

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

HEARTS VETERANS MUSEUM **936-295-5959**

TEXAS/UNITED WAY HELPLINE **Dial 211**