



CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON ASSOCIATION, INC.

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The AMPHIBIAN NOV/DEC 2024

November and December are the holiday season, and many people spend their winter holidays on the Forgotten Coast. The weather is generally pleasant, and holiday events are held in Apalachicola, St. George Island and Carrabelle. The Museum hosted a total of 535 visitors during this time.



Featured Serviceperson:

Originally from Hoboken, N.J., Tony Castellano grew up across the street from Frank Sinatra before leaving home for the Army in World War II. Castellano and his three brothers, Francis, Joseph and Louis, all became soldiers shortly after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Tony Castellano was assigned to the 562nd Engineer Boat Maintenance Battalion in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945, and he served on amphibious vehicles.

Featured Artifact: M1917 "Brodie" helmet.

During the First World War, the U.S. Armed Forces began using a modified version of the British Mk 1 steel helmet which was still in use when the United States entered World War II in 1941.

This helmet was replaced in military service by the iconic M1 helmet in 1942.

The M1917 helmet continued to be used by civil defense personnel throughout World War II.



The last two remaining survivors of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor both died in 2024:

- **Lou Conter**

The last surviving member of the USS Arizona, Conter died at the age of 102 on April 1, 2024. Conter was a 20-year-old quartermaster on the back decks of the battleship when the attack occurred. He later became a naval aviator and was assigned to Patrol Bombing Squadron 11, also known as the "Black Cat" unit. Conter was a regular at Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremonies and often said that he wasn't a hero.

- **Warren Upton**

The last surviving member of the USS Utah, Upton died at the age of 105 on December 27, 2024 after contracting pneumonia. The USS Utah was moored at Pearl Harbor when the attack took place.

THE LAST PANTHER



**WOLFGANG
FAUST**

Featured Book: The Last Panther by Wolfgang Faust
This is an astonishing first hand account of the desperate attempt by both German Military and civilians to reach the Elbe River and surrender to the Americans, rather than to fall captive to the Soviets that were surrounding them.

Mark Your Calendar!

**Saturday
March 8, 2025**

**CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON
Veterans Parade**

And

Dice Run

**CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON
ASSOCIATION'S**

30th Annual VETERANS PARADE

Honoring All Veterans

SATURDAY AT 10:45 AM ET
MARCH 8 THRU DOWNTOWN CARRABELLE
ALONG HWY 98

For Parade info:
www.CampGordonJohnston.com or
DButler@campgordonjohnston.com

**6th Annual
DICE RUN**

Start at CGJ Museum
End at American Legion Post 82
11:30 am - 4:30 pm
SAT, MARCH 8

QR Code Here

For info: Camp Gordon Johnston Museum
CampGordonJohnston.com
850-697-8575



Current Exhibit: (until Feb 1): The Nurenberg Trials. Learn about the individuals prosecuted for war crimes and atrocities in the post war trials and their fates.

Coming February 4: In commemoration of Black History Month, we will be presenting the work of Charles Alston, whose artwork helped educate and inspire the nation to end segregation in the military and set the stage for the Civil Rights Movement.

Did you know?

Some of the accused in the German High Command never faced justice, as they escaped Germany at the end of the war or were killed in the final days. The most notorious was Joseph Mengele, who escaped to South America in 1949, and eluded capture despite intense efforts by Nazi Hunters and Israeli Intelligence. He died in 1979.

