MUSEUM CORNER

For the month of November the museum will honor those who served our country in the military. The museum has collected many stories from our military veterans and they are on display in two binders. We'd love to expand the collection. Any veteran with a story is asked to stop and share his or her experience.

Following is the third of four installments of "The Military Life of Harold Slade (1941-45)." Slade was instrumental in the establishment of the museum and served as head docent until his death in 2013.

MY MILITARY LIFE 1941-45

On another Sunday afternoon we were getting close to New Guinea. We planned to go ashore on Monday. Off in the distance we saw a dark cloud. By 3:00 it was all over us, and it was as dark as pitch.

We had just cleaned our quarters expecting to leave the ship the next day. This big cloud turned out to be a volcanic ash storm from an eruption some place in that area. As this ash settled on our ship, probably a ¼ inch deep, our ship that we had cleaned from one end to the other was now a complete mess.

We viewed this from on deck for awhile but soon went down to our quarters. Down in our little room I had a top bunk. I was sitting on the edge of my bunk.

Since we were nearing the shore of New Guinea we were in shallow waters. We were running at reduced speed and moving along in the dark. Suddenly there was a big bump. I almost fell out of my bed. The uprights going to my bed were now leaning and they stayed that way. Soon we were ordered to report on deck.

We began to gather things we thought we might need, checked our canteens, if we had an apple or an orange we stuffed that into our pocket. We were expecting the worst. Up on deck some moves were being made to abandon the ship, the ropes were over the side.

After some investigations it was found we had hit a coral reef. We were stuck, but it was decided the troops were not in any immediate danger and we were allowed to go back to our quarters for the night.

The next day we watched as they tried all day to pull us off the reef. It was well into the night when it was decided to unload the troops.

We filed down the hall to a small door that was in the side of the ship. A big rope was tied above this door and it was anchored to a small boat far below. We put on our leather gloves, tossed our duffel bags to the boat below and slid down the rope to the little boat. This little boat took us to a cargo ship that was waiting nearby. This wasn't a transport, but just an empty cargo ship that was standing by to help if we needed it. We boarded this ship by climbing up a rope net that was put over the side for us.

When daylight came this ship took us on to within sight of New Guinea. The army ducks, trucks with boatlike bodies, came out to get us. This time we climbed down the rope nets into the ducks.

When the ducks reached shore they just drove right up to high ground. We were now in New Guinea. Our experience had begun two days before and we thought for sure we would get very, very wet, but it turned out to be a dry operation after all.

Our life in New Guinea wasn't too bad, but there was no place to go. We did a little training but played a lot. We were just waiting for our time to come.

Late in November we were loading up again. We ate our Thanksgiving meal on board our ship.

Our troops had gone back to the Philippines on October 20. This was on the island Lyete. We were headed there to help out.

Before we got to there the Japs came to greet us. Some Jap planes went down, but one crashed into the boat carrying our Third Battalion. We had a heavy loss, but our convoy continued on and we went ashore on Leyte.

Our First Battalion went to the Buri Airstrip to take care of Jap paratroopers that had landed there. After a few days my group was sent north to the Tacolban Airstrip. I would be there during Christmas, 1944.

The Japs would fly over each night. They flew by moonlight. Each night as the moon came up a little bit later the Japs would come a little bit later. There would be just a small group or maybe just a single plane. Most of the time they were on their way to some other place, but sometimes they came to see us.

In mid-January 1945 we left the airstrip and moved south to a staging area about midway of Leyte Island. Late in January we went aboard our ship and made our way through the many islands of the central part of the Philippines. We were headed for Luzon.

Our landing area was on the west coast just a bit north of the Bataan peninsula. We were expecting a big bombardment, but word was received the Japs had withdrawn from the coast.

So landing was rather easy. I spent my first night near the beach. Most of the Japs had withdrawn to what was known as Zig-Zag Pass. This was a mountainous road that cut through northern Bataan.

The Japs put stiff opposition in the pass and were very well dug in. The Second and Third Battalions of the 149th were given the job to make an end run around the Japs so we could come in from behind. This route led us through the mountains and parallel to the mountain road.

All through my army life I had been on many hikes of all kinds, but this one was by far the worst I'd ever been on. Of course this was no place for our trucks and guns so they were left far behind. We were helping out anyway we could.

I had a load of mortar ammunition on my back. We were lead through the mountains by Negrito guides. These were little black people and this was their home. We were in the mountains four or five days and before we got out. We were on half rations because all we had was what we could carry with us. We were a very hungry bunch when we got back to flat ground.

Even then the only way they could supply us was by air. Ammunition was dropped to us by parachutes. Food and other supplies were just kicked out of low flying C 47 planes. Much of this would be busted up when it hit the ground, but anything is good when you were as hungry as we were. We let the Filipinos pick all this debris for us. After the supply became more plentiful we let the Filipinos keep the busted up cans and boxes, and we would keep those that were still fairly good.

I think most of us have events or a few words that stand out in our memory through the years. A few words were spoken this day that have often floated by me, even to this very day after more than 58 years.

While a small supply of busted up cans of food and other debris was being divided among the troops, I thought the few cans I had received for my squad wasn't enough. I complained to our lieutenant.

He said that was all we could get so I went directly to Colonel Macky, who was in charge of dividing the food. I told him my men were still very hungry.

Colonel Macky pointed to the pile on the ground and told me to get what I thought I needed.

When I returned to my squad with my armload, George Copeland from Albany, NY said, "Ain't that something, our lieutenant said we couldn't have anymore but our sergeant got us more."

I think all of us want to be respected by those under us, so those words by George way back in 1945 have meant a lot to me throughout all these years, and I remember them often.

To view other veteran memories, visit the museum at 124 South Walnut Street on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Of Thee I Sing

BY BRUCE FLORENCE
COLUMNIST

I think it was Mark Twain who said, "Elections are the darnest in our country." We elect presidents who swing wildly from super popular Eisenhower to barely acceptable, fill in the blank.We swing from red waves to blue waves and something less than a brief nod in either direction.

There are few policies that unite us and many problems that divide us. All in all it is almost impossible to forecast what the voting Americans are going to do when they arrive at the polls.

To the delight of this yellow dog Democrat, this year's mid term was no exception. In fact, it might be leading the pack on unpredictability. Who would have thought that Georgia and Texas would turn blue? Or that Congress would be flipped in both houses from one party to the other? Or that a determined gerrymandering effort would fail? Or even that having millions in one's war chest was not decisive?

In this country we brag that we are multi-cultural and this particular election went about proving it to the world. Race, religion, sex, age, experience—none of these traits defeated good candidates. As a result, our leadership in Congress looks pretty much like the population of our country—mixed and merged into a body that depends on the Constitution, the rule of law and the power of the vote. Wow!

This election will probably go down in the books as exceptional in a country where elections have always mattered.

But now that the people have spoken and sent to Washington and state houses folks who have promised to set our ship aright. For them and us there now rests a mountain of work to do. We must mend fences with our maligned neighbors like Canada and Greenland. Also, renewing our commitment to world peace through the NATO alliance could go a long way toward assuring the rest of the world that democracy is back.

For almost a century this country bound itself to those countries that needed help. We need to restore the aid that is so critical to the very lives of starving children, continue disease prevention among populations and assist with climate catastrophes. And by the way, we must continue protecting our beautiful wild places for the benefit of us and our children's children.

Voting rights for each and every eligible person needs to be made so rock solid they cannot be weakened with the stroke of a pen, judicial fiat or sheer negligence. Each citizen needs to pay fair taxes—rich or not so rich. It is our solemn duty for each and every one of us to support the work of democracy.

So today as we begin to look ahead at the possibility of recapturing the best that our country offers us and the world, it would be good for us to realize that good judges, dedicated marchers, committed poll workers and determined political warriors have reopened doors that were slammed shut. As we walk through them once again in this Thanksgiving season, it would be prudent for us to stop for a moment to give thanks for the gifts of freedom we must always protect or else risk losing them.

WAY BACK WHEN

10 YEARS AGO ... NOV. 24, 2016

- The 11th annual Harvest of Hope, headed by Unity Christian Church, will be held in the high school cafeteria on Thanksgiving Day, offering free hot, traditional meals. Last year 989 meals were served and all but 75 were deliveries.
- Members of this year's Teen Court have been trained and sworn in.

25 YEARS AGO ... NOV. 22, 2001

- Births announced this week: Andrew Dean Utley Franklin was born to Cindy (Utley) and Chris Franklin on Nov. 6; Tyler Blake Robinson was born to Glen and Jennifer Robinson on Nov. 10.
- Former telephone operators held a reunion at Biancke's on Nov. 17. This was the 39th year that they have met since Bell South went to the dial system Nov. 18, 1962.
- Maroon and White Madness is scheduled for Tuesday, kicking of the winter season for athletes with a battle of the sexes between the Breds and Fillies in a variety of contests.



Veterans Day was celebrated with a bang at the courthouse as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars conducted the traditional cannon-firing. From left: Cecil Wohlwinder (WWII), Roy Bruce (WWII), Riffle Turner (WWII), ALbert Humphrey (WWI), Eli Simpson (Vietnam), John Simpson (no war to date) and three-year-old John Simpson. Turner is commander of the Cynthiana VFW.

50 YEARS AGO ... NOV. 18, 1976

- Births announced this week: Nathan Keith Fields was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald K. Fields on Nov. 5; Brent Lee Martin III was born to Mr. and Mrs. Brent Lee Martin on Nov. 5; Stephen Tyler Lane Staggs was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Staggs on Nov. 5; Jennifer Lee Groves was born to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Groves on Nov. 8.
- Steam is the likely culprit for the blast that caused an explosion at Harrison County High School, destroying the band room.
- Work in underway on the $100,000 renovation of the courthouse.
- The University of Kentucky Wildcat basketball team, coached by Cynthiana native Joe B. Hall, was to have held a Blue-White scrimmage in the Harrison County High School gym Monday night, but following last week's boiler room explosion the event was moved to Bourbon County.

AMID

FROM PAGE A5

trying to silence that and then Flock cameras going hand in hand really puts things into perspective," he said.

Kumar said he learned only a month ago that UK has installed license plate readers, which are also widespread across Lexington.

The University of Kentucky installed license-plate reader cameras from Flock in 2022, the same year Lexington first installed its cameras.

Lexington currently has 125 cameras. The campus has 18 cameras, according to UK's website.

In addition to the UK Police Department, UK Transportation Services also has 58 license plate reader cameras, but those are used to monitor parking at its various lots.

Phoebe Haverstick, organizer of DeFlock UKY and a senior in writing, rhetoric and digital studies, said the university should expect more of these protests.

"The University of Kentucky does not like it when there's student backlash because we're the clients, and if we are generally unhappy, which I believe that we are, they will listen to that," Haverstick said.

Lindsay Travis, a UK spokesperson, said on Nov. 13 the university takes privacy concerns seriously.

"The university takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard both public safety and individual privacy," Travis said. "ALPR technology is used only for authorized law enforcement or parking/transportation purposes, and departmental policy and established controls govern access to associated data. Misuse of the technology is not tolerated and alleged misuse is subject to investigation and possible corrective action."

For the cameras used by UK, Flock data is retained for 30 days unless the images are needed for ongoing investigations. Audits of the system are scheduled every 90 days, UK policy shows.

Use of the cameras by the Lexington Police Department has come under fire as several cities in Kentucky have stopped using them.

Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton recently appointed an independent panel to review Flock cameras after multiple people questioned the use of the cameras and who has access to that data.

The Lexington Police Department frequently credits Flock cameras for helping them find stolen vehicles and find suspects in high-profile crimes. But the cameras have also led to some high-profile mistakes. In September, the Lexington Police Department surrounded a man's home whom they believed was involved in a road rage incident after Flock cameras showed a truck similar to the one the man drove.

The man was not charged after he proved to Lexington police he was not involved in the incident.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing

The Harrison County Board of Adjustment will hold a special meeting on November 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor of Courthouse at 111 S. Main St. to hear the following:

A. #2026-HB-08, Jim Kerns- Request for Variance to the side yard setback of the property lines for a building at 4001 Grays Run Rd. Zoning: Agricultural One (A-1). (Art. 10 Sec.10.0.D.5)