

MUSEUM NEWS

YOU CAN USE

MUSEUM PROJECTS BENEFIT FROM ANNUAL HAMS GOLF TOURNAMENT

It was a perfect blue skied day in late June for the more than 150 golfers who teed up at the 2007 HAMS golf tournament. This is the only major annual fund raising event scheduled by the museum society, and it was our 26th tourney in a row. The very good news is this year brought in a total of over \$21,000 for future museum displays and exhibits.



As always, golfers had good fun and cheer on the course, great food for both lunch and dinner, plus cold drinks during the round of golf. Most everyone took home a prize of some sort, and HAMS is indeed thankful to all those who donated prizes of everything from candy and books to restaurant dinners and neighbor island vacations.

A special recognition was made by HAMS to an Army soldier who in 2006 was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions in Afghanistan. Sergeant Major Sarun Sar was born 41 years ago in Cambodia. He survived the bloody Khmer Rouge insurgency, but his father was arrested and his sisters and brothers separated from his family. In 1980 he obtained a visa to enter the U.S., where he graduated from high school in Maryland, became a citizen and joined the Army. For action during a battle against the Taliban in 2005, he was awarded two Bronze Stars for taking out an enemy group firing on him and his men. He's currently stationed with PACOM's Special Operations Command at Camp Smith in Aiea.



Mahalo to Our Great Tournament Sponsors: Without the financial support of many friends and companies in our community the Museum would not be able to offer the new exhibits and displays that we seek to offer our visitors on a regular basis. Here is a list of the key sponsors:

Title Sponsor, The Tawani Foundation of Chicago, Illinois.

GOLD SPONSORS: Army Family Housing, LLC; Englekirk Partners Engineers; Outrigger Enterprises, Inc.

SILVER SPONSORS: Central Pacific Bank; David & Judi Bramlett; Fred Weyand; First Hawaiian Bank; Hawaiian Airlines; Hawaii National Bank; H.E.W. Partnership; The Honolulu Advertiser; Pentagon Federal Credit Union; Thysson Krupp Elevator; TRI West Health Care; and Y. Hata & Co.

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LIVING HISTORY DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

Kids climbing on the armored personnel carriers, aircraft modelers displaying their vintage planes, and the flash-back to Revolutionary War days with a group of U.S. Army pipe and drummers were but a part of the six hours of fun, food and entertainment at the May 19th annual presentation of Living History Day at the museum.



Local TV camera crews were in attendance to cover the very patriotic performance by the Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps from Washington, D.C., **shown below**. Dressed in uniforms of the 1776 era, the group was a big hit with the crowd, and were here in Hawaii just a few weeks after entertaining for

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip of England at the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the first European settle-



ment in America. This premier Army band also performed for other military audiences while in Hawaii.



The purpose of the day long event is to com-

memorate, educate and present hands-on exhibits of weapons, equipment and insignia from ancient Hawaii to the present day. Among the organizations who took part in the event were the VFW, the 25th Infantry Division, the Hawaii Historic Arms Association, the Hawaii Military Vehicle Preservations Association, The Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii, The Civil War Roundtable, Ka Pa Lua Hawaii, and Birds of Paradise, air aircraft modelers.

A group of re-enactors in vintage military uniforms display what U.S. soldiers looked like in wars from the early 1900s to today's deserts of the middle east. Below, Uncle Sam, HAMS trustee Darrell Large, poses with other volunteers.



This year's Living History Day also featured a screening of classic military films shown in the newly renovated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Regional Visitor Center, on the second floor of the museum. In addition to movies like **From Here to Eternity**, the engineers offered both static and interactive displays of their history and role in the Hawaii Army family.



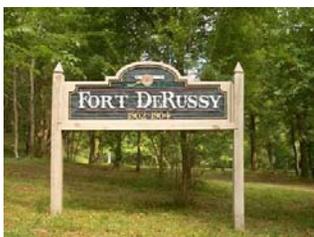
For your planning purposes put Saturday May 17th, 2008 on your calendar for next year's Living History Day. Work is already underway to make it another great Army day!

A school kid takes aim through the sights of a artillery piece, while a soldier stands by to answer any questions.

JUST WHO WAS THIS GENERAL DeRUSSY? HOW'D WE GET *FIVE* ARMY FORTS NAMED AFTER HIM? And, HOW WAS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INVOLVED?

Yes, there are actually five Army forts in the U.S. named DeRussy: two in Louisiana and one each in Kentucky, Hawaii and Washington, D.C. All were named for members of the same military family, the Mainland ones for two brothers, Lewis and Rene DeRussy, both graduates of the U.S. Military academy at West Point, a few miles up the Hudson River from New York City.

All but the Hawaii Fort DeRussy, which was built in 1915 as a defense for Honolulu and Pearl Harbor, were constructed during the Civil War and were abandoned by its end. The one in Kentucky is at Columbus, a small town of 2,000 people in the extreme southwest part of the state. The one in D.C. was built as part of the defense of the Capitol and is in the northwest quadrant of the city, now a part of Rock Creek Park. And the two in Louisiana are in the center of the state, on the Red River. It's shown below at the left.



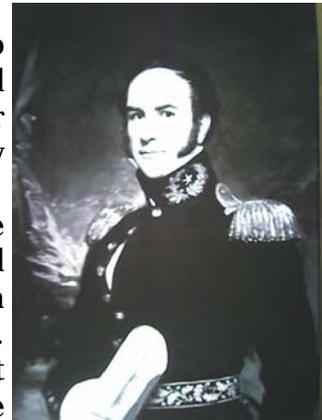
The two boys were the sons of Thomas DeRussy, a French citizen and an officer in the French Navy. He was recruited by Benjamin Franklin, while ambassador to France, and agreed to come to America and serve as a U.S. Navy officer under John Paul Jones. His sons were drawn to the military, like their father, and after serving in the War of 1812, Lewis Gustave attended West Point and graduated in 1814. His older brother Rene Edward was part of

the class of 1812 and immediately entered the active duty Army. Rene later served as Commandant of the Academy from 1833 to 1838. He went on to be a member of the Corps of Engineers and was later responsible for designing the defense of San Francisco in 1861.

Lewis originally served with units from New York State, and led soldiers in the Mexican War from 1847 to 1848. He later moved down to Louisiana where he was involved in politics and the military. During the Civil War he was a general in the Confederate Army. It was in his name that an earthen fort was built along the Red River, near Marksville, to block Union advances up that river and into the rest of Louisiana and Texas. Two major battles happened at the Louisiana Fort DeRussy, one in March of 1864 when U.S. General Andrew Jackson Smith led a force of nearly 10,000 men up the river, and was held off for four hours by a group of Texas volunteers. Two months later a group of nearly 20 U.S. Navy war ships and gun boats overwhelmed DeRussy and his men. It's interesting to note that in 1999 a group of Civil War historians got approval from his family to reinter the general in the area that was Fort DeRussy on the Red River. A photo of that ceremony is shown at the right.



There was one other and younger DeRussy. Brigadier General Isaac Denniston DeRussy, born in 1840 at Fort Monroe, Virginia. He was commissioned a lieutenant at the beginning of the Civil War and rose to captain (photo at left) within 10 months. He was promoted to major in 1865 in recognition of faithful and meritorious services during the war. He led the 4th, 11th and 14th Infantry Regiments, was commanding officer of the 11th, and later became commandant of Fort Huachuca in Arizona from 1891 to 1892. DeRussy was promoted to Brigadier General on April 1, 1902, and retired from the Army two weeks later. He died in 1923 at the age of 83.



Brigadier General
Rene E. DeRussy,
namesake of Fort
DeRussy in Waikiki



VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE MUSEUM VISITORS' FIRST IMPRESSION

By: Bill Bigelow



World War II Army veteran and 19-year HAMS volunteer Shiroku 'Whitey' Yamamoto shows a visitor where to sign our guest register.

There's an old expression that says: "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." That's the reality of the daily scene at the U.S. Army Hawaii Museum, where the first impression of our museum the visitors have is their contact with a HAMS volunteer. To the tens of thousands of visitors who monthly visit the museum, it's not just the exhibits or the historic gallery displays that are part of their memories. For many of them, the experience would not be as positive as it normally is without the extra help and direction they get from the men and women who serve as museum volunteers.

Nearly two dozen people give anywhere from a few hours a week to several days each month, manning the information booth, greeting visitors and getting them to register and sign the guest book, and then sharing with them some of the stories behind the displays they're about to see. It's the personal touch and involvement that these volunteers bring to the Army Museum that makes the visitors' experience positive and rewarding.

One of those volunteers is a man named 'Whitey,' and his story is representative of all the people who give so graciously of their time. Shiroku Yamamoto is our "Whitey." This 83 year-old Army veteran is a fountainhead of knowledge about the Museum and says he's been asked every question in the book over the years he's served as a volunteer. I recently chatted with him, and his wife, at their Waikiki apartment, with a "to die for" view over the Ala Wai Canal, the Yacht Harbor, the Hawaii Prince Hotel and Magic Island.

The first thing I had to ask him was how he ever came to get the nickname Whitey: "Simple," he told me. "Back on the Big Island, where I grew up, everyone had a nickname. Shiro, the first part of my Japanese name Shiroku, means white in Japanese. From small kid days, I was always called Whitey!"

Whitey grew up in a small town on the Hamakua



Coast, on the Hilo side of the Big Island. Like most of his parents' friends, they worked in the sugar cane fields. As a young student at Laupahoehoe middle and high schools,

Whitey met and fell in love with Motoyo "Amy" Yamamoto. They became sweethearts through school, during the war years, and finally got married in a Honolulu ceremony on June 2, 1951. He says: "At the wedding (**shown at the left**) she told people she married me because she didn't have to change her initials!"

Like most of the young men on the Big Island, America's entrance into World War II meant Whitey's induction into the Army. He and dozens of his friends volunteered and were assigned to the to-be-historic 100/442 Regimental Combat Team in March 1943.



Whitey is at the far right of this early 1940s photo, with several of his Big Island friends, just prior to enlisting in the Army's famed 442nd unit.



After one year's training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi, the group was shipped out and fought for the next several months in battles throughout Italy and France, including the 1944 Southern France invasion with gliders, the liberation of Bruyeres/Bifontaine, France, and the rescue of the Texas lost battalion.

"When I got to Europe I could see that there was going to be a lot of walking up and down the hills of these countries, so I became a Jeep driver for my C.O., and spent the entire war driving, not walking," he told me. Whitey was in an Anti-Tank company, and was involved in plenty of action, enough to win him a Bronze Star among other medals. The war ended in May of 1945, but by the time all the mopping up had been done, and the paperwork processed, he didn't return to Hawaii until December of that year. He was discharged in January of 1946.

When the war ended, Whitey went to school compliments of the Veterans Administration, who had tested him and said he was qualified to be a commercial artist. He didn't really want to do that, so he and over 100 other vets were sent to a Midwest school of horology in Albany, Missouri. There he became an expert in watch repair. His first job was working as a watch repairman for a jewelry store in Minneapolis. From there he went to New Castle, Pennsylvania, north of Pittsburgh, and was trained in jewelry manufacturing and engraving. He also learned how to set precious stones into jewelry pieces. This new skill took him back to Minneapolis, working for a large diamond wholesaler.

With all this new experience Whitey decided it was now time to go back home to Hawaii and put his skills to work there. It was also time to settle down with Amy. The Korean War was by then in full bloom, and the Air Force was looking for skilled mechanics who could work on and fix aircraft instruments on its planes based at Hickam AFB. Whitey fit the bill perfectly and spent the next seven years at Hickam. With cutbacks in staff coming in the late 1950s, he was hired by Lockheed Aircraft, doing



German one-man submarine captured by Whitey's unit off the southern coast of France in 1944.

similar work on their airplanes during the cold war with the Soviet Union, for another seven years. Finally, his talents were discovered by Aloha Airlines, and in 1964 he began a career with that inter-island air carrier that lasted for over 22 years.

His retirement was short lived. By 1988 he was looking for some extra things to keep him busy, and that's when he was recruited by Robert Rhoads as a volunteer for the Hawaii Army Museum. "From the first day I came here, and the weeks of orientation and training they gave me, I knew it was going to be a satisfying experience," he says. "The best thing about working here is getting to meet people from all over the world," he went on. "I love coming down here. On Sundays, I walk over here and the first thing I do before the museum opens is to clean up the litter that has been tossed or blown into the hedges from one end of the building to the other. When that's done, I'm ready to meet my public!"



Amy and Shiro, photo center, with old friends Masa Ishizu, left, and Bob Torrey at right during Oct. 1994 ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres, France.

‘WHITEY’ YAMAMOTO BRINGS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TO JOB (Conclusion)

I asked him what is the most asked question he gets. “That’s easy,” he replies. “The Japanese tourists always ask me if I’m Japanese. I say: No, I’m an American, but my uncle was Admiral Iso-roku Yamamoto who led the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor back in 1941. They get all nervous and apologize, and then I tell them I was just joking. We only have the same last name, and he was not really my uncle!”

Whitey speaks only ‘skoshi’ Japanese, but observes that in recent months it has become clear there are few fewer Japanese visitors than in years past. he says they have improved he also sings the praises of the things for the visitors to see and and military unit insignia that the children.”

And will Whitey stay on bet, as long as I can do the work have a lot of new people volun- only two or three years, so I or people in the program. I like what’s happening here.”

We love the job you’re do- for your years of service to the other HAMS volunteers, let’s hope you’ll be with us for at least as long as Whitey Yamamoto has.



Whitey points to a museum wall photo of General DeRussy, for whom the Waikiki Army museum property is named.

and far more Mainland Chi- Of the exhibits and galleries, markedly over the years. And Museum Store. “When I came Now, it’s full of interesting buy. I think it’s the T-shirts sell best, plus military toys for

the job as a volunteer? “You and if they still want me. They teering, but most of them stay guess I’m one of the most sen- that, and I like being part of

ing, Whitey, and thank you Museum. Mahalo to all the

VICTORIA OLSON NAMED MUSEUM SOCIETY’S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Victoria Olson has taken over the day to day management of the Hawaii Army Museum Society as its Executive Director. The move came as part of a two job realignment that included Sheldon Tyau, former Executive Director and Museum Store Manager returning to his store duties on a full time basis, and Vicki Olson coming aboard as the society’s new executive officer. She officially assumed her new duties on the first of July.

Sheldon had been doing double duty for nearly a year, and will now concentrate his efforts on increasing Museum Store retail business, offering new and different merchandise, and looking for ways to expand the services offered by the retail outlet.

Vicki is the wife of retired Army Major General Rick Olson, former Commanding General of the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks. She is a licensed real estate agent, former sports coach and currently a member of the Board of the USO, a Trustee of HAMS, and now an ex-officio member of its Executive Committee. She and her husband live in Hawaii Kai. Commenting on her taking over the new job, HAMS President David A. Bramlett said: “Vicki Olson brings to us years of experience in administration and an enthusiasm and tenacity rarely found. Her impact on the society is already noticeable and extraordinary by any measure.”



MUSEUM STORE AN OASIS OF GIFTS AND MEMORABILIA

The best kept secret in Waikiki has, for years, been The Hawaii Army Museum and what it offers for visitors...at no cost! The follow on to that statement is that visitors can find a plethora of gifts and military memorabilia at the Museum Store. And now, with Sheldon Tyau back as Store Manager full time, having turned over his extra duties as HAMS Executive Director to Vicki Olson, our guests and HAMS members have even more reason to shop at the Museum Store.



Effective July 1st, all Hawaii Army Museum Society **members will get a 15% discount** off all merchandise in the store. From popular items like T-shirts and books, to insignia from hundreds of military units, and a new line of Army and military support items like HOO AH! Pins and SUPPORT OUR TROOPS car magnets, you'll find it all at Sheldon's place! He's also just added a line of new Polo shirts

with the HAMS logo embroidered on the chest portion of the shirt. And the price is right: \$26.00 for the polo shirts; \$13.95 for the HOO AH! pin and just \$2.50 for the yellow troop support car or refrigerator magnet.

Other popular items include caps with various military insignia on them; postcards; copies of the December 7, 1941 Honolulu newspaper with the "Japanese Bomb Pearl Harbor" headline; and toy models of all sorts of airplanes, tanks, helicopters and other military hardware. On a recent visit to the store, we ran into a family from Lake Norman, North Carolina, and their twins David and Diana Gomez graciously posed with some of this new merchandise.



Museum Store Manager
Sheldon H.S. Tyau



Twelve year old twin sister Diana, left, poses with a HOO AH pin on her blouse. Her brother David, took home a model of an Army helicopter. Both are very popular purchases for parents and grandparents to take home.



NEVER FORGET THE TWIN TOWERS & 9-11

Like the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7th, 1941, the date 9-11-2001 will also live in infamy. Nearly 3,000 of our fellow Americans died at the hands of Al Qaeda terrorists who flew high-jacked commercial airplanes, full of innocent passengers, into the two New York City skyscrapers. Similar attacks on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a thwarted attempt to fly into the U.S. Capitol buildings resulted in the deaths of many more as that plane crashed in a field east of Pittsburgh, PA. It's been almost six years, but it feels just like yesterday. God bless America and our military worldwide.

HAMS CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

23 JULY: HAMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting; Noon, Waialae Country Club
22 OCTOBER: HAMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting; Noon, Waialae Country Club
15 NOVEMBER (Thursday at 7 am) ANNUAL IHE AWARD at Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel
27 JUNE 2008: 27th ANNUAL HAMS GOLF TOURNAMENT at Leilehua Golf Club

HAMS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2007

President: David A. Bramlett; President Emeritus: Herbert E. Wolff
 First Vice President and Internal Auditor: Philip M. Whitney
 Vice Presidents & Standing Committee Chairpersons: John F. Nielsen,
 Museum Store; Walter M. Ozawa, Special Events; Edward Y. Hirata, Budget &
 Bylaws; Mildred Courtney, Resource Development;
 William F. Bigelow, Public Affairs & Newsletter Editor.
 Secretary: Edward B. Keyes, Treasurer: Ronald T.Y. Choo
 Executive Director: Victoria Olson; Museum Store Manager: Sheldon H.S. Tyau



MUSEUM NEWS YOU CAN USE

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