Museum of Augusta Military Academy News

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Ad Astra Per Aspera

MUSEUM OF AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

October - 2023

Chairman's Note

October 1, 2023

Dear Alumni and friends,

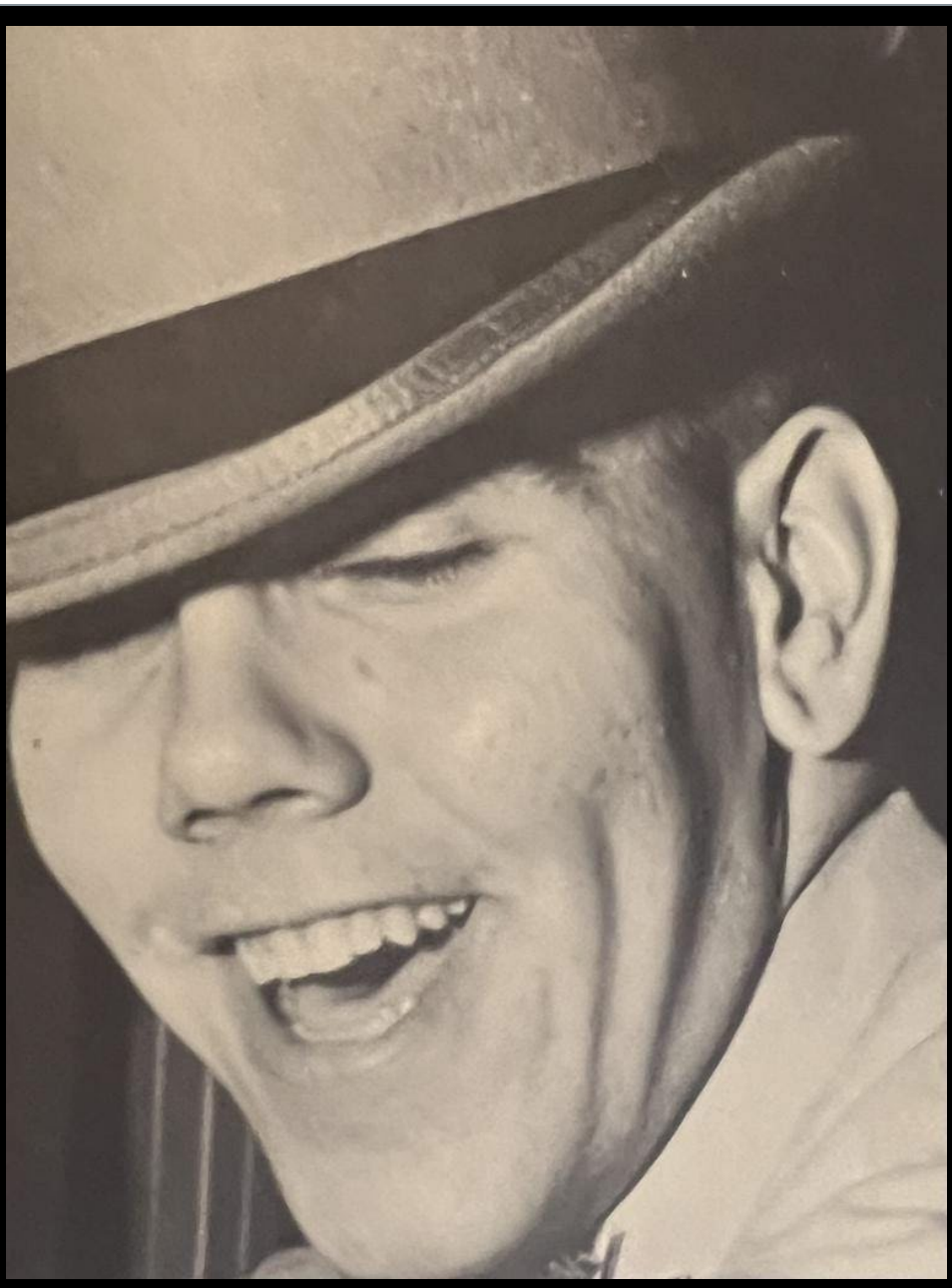
As I had mentioned earlier this month in the Reunion 2023 Recap Newsletter, our annual event was a success on many levels. The primary reason that we organize the AMA Alumni reunion is to give all our Alumni the opportunity to meet and socialize in a familiar place. It was evident by what I witnessed this year, that comradery, and good times was enjoyed by everyone! So, I can check the box on fulfilling our primary goal!
The success of this reunion can also be measured by this years financial results. One week after reunion 2023 wrapped up, we had paid all of the Hotel 24, suppliers and caterers, including $1,000 for the use of the Gymnasium to our landlords, the United Pentecostal Church...
Thanks to the generosity of our Reunion sponsors who donated a total of $24,225, we were able to cover 100% of Reunion's cost!
I am very pleased to report that the final tally on the income side was a respectable $21,500 net profit! So, yea we had a very successful reunion.
In addition to the positive financial results of our annual get-together, the response to my late July ask letter has also been extraordinarily good. In less than two months, AMA Alumni and friends have donated $26,000!
The sum of the total reunion income and the July ask letter represent about 65% of our annual operating budget! So, I am very pleased, nevertheless, I can assure you that our Treasurer Gary Cripps is ecstatic because we will probably not need to draw any funds from our investment account to cover a cash shortfall through the remainder of 2023!

We also received a check in the amount of $10,000 on September 19th which was bequeathed to the AMA Alumni Foundation by Bruce Crum ’73. Thank you, Bruce.
Rest in peace brother.

Team effort.

Douglas W. Pennock
Chairman
AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.

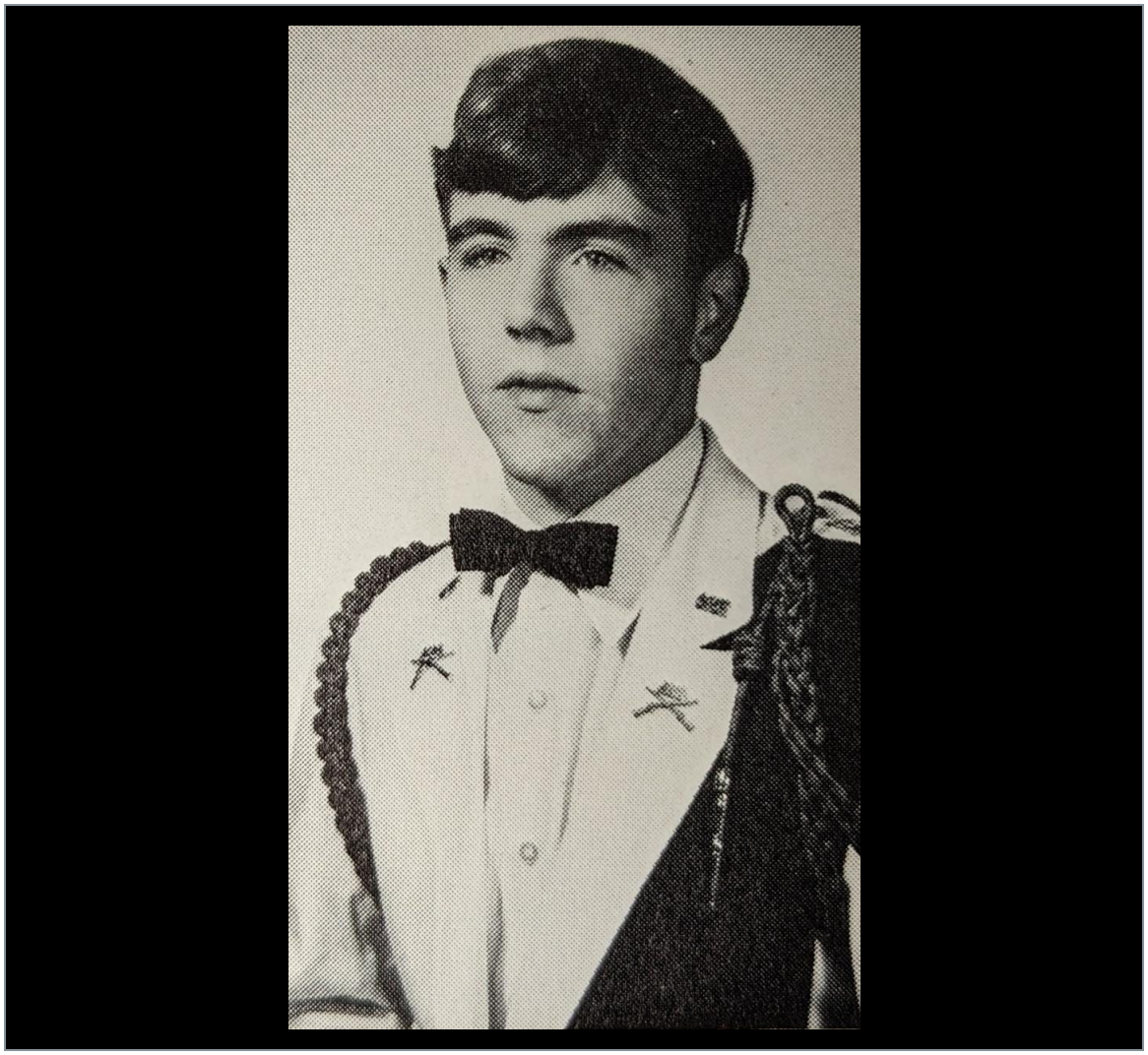
TAPS



Ron "Scootch" Melcher

Battalion Commander 1970-71

October 6, 1951 - September 2, 2023



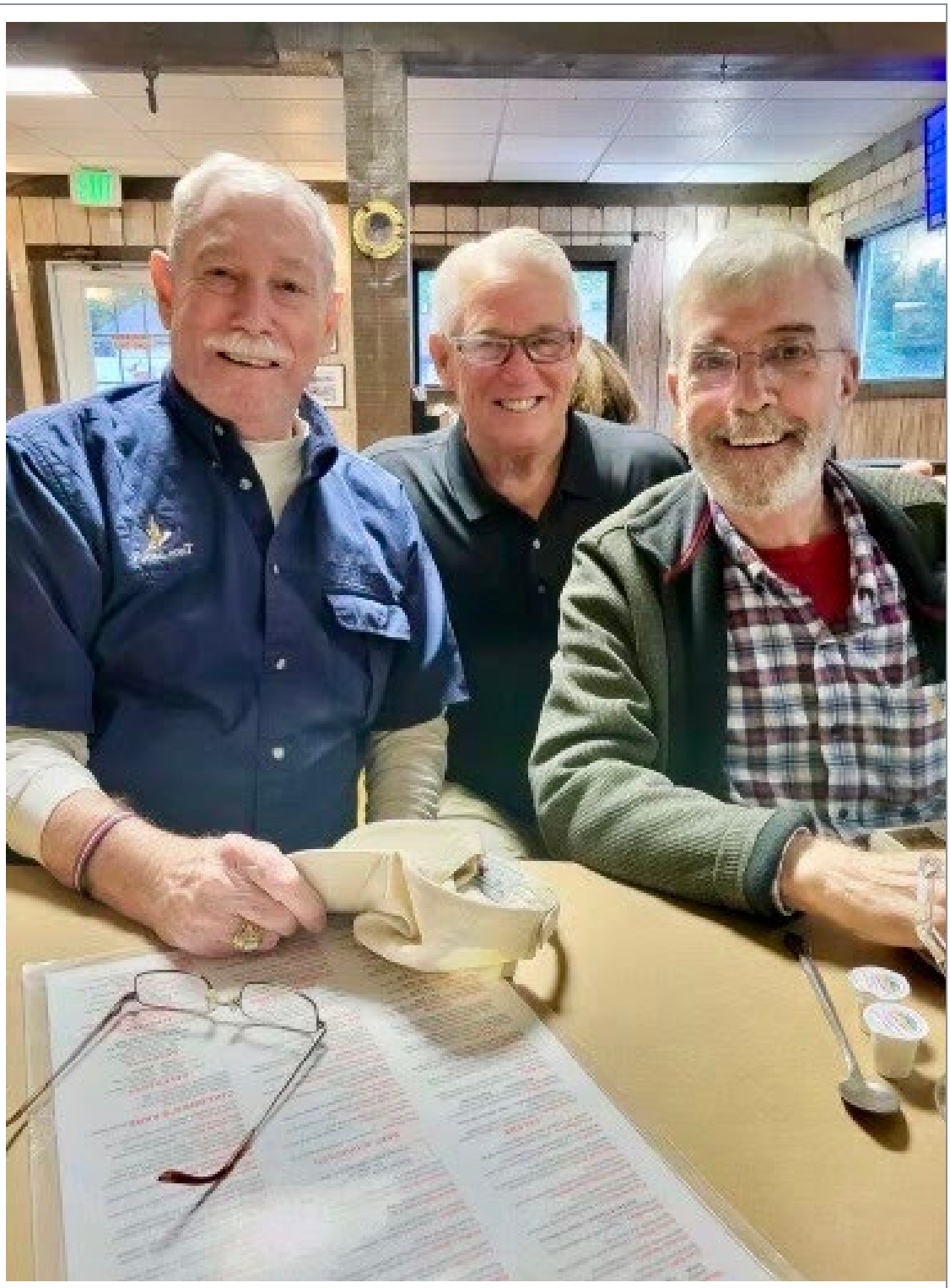
Roller Society Member

Bruce Crum

August 4,1954 - January 3, 2023

When Bruce Crum '73 passed on January 3, 2023, he bequeathed $10,000 to the AMA Alumni Foundation.
I am happy to report that we have received the funds from the executor of Bruce's estate and were deposited on September 19, 2023.
Bruce, thank you for your generosity to the AMA Alumni Foundation!

Ad Astra Per Aspera



L - R Blaine Clarke '72, Joe Garry '73 and Steve Pearson '72

Blaine writes:
"On Saturday, September 23, a group of Bruce's friends including some AMA friends, Joe Garry, Steve Traylor and Blaine Clarke got together at the Woodbine Inn in Woodbine, MD. Steamed crabs and shrimp were consumed after photo albums and stories were exchanged. Bruce was a good man and a good friend."

An editorial by the "other" Doug

9/21/23

My wife and I went camping along the Blue Ridge Parkway after the reunion, so as of this writing I've only been home a couple of days, during which I've been rushing around playing catch-up. I'm looking at a few more days of this before I can kick back and relax the way old retired guys are supposed to, but wouldn't you know it, in between paying bills and raking up leaves I check my email and there's a note from Doug Pennock asking me to write something about the reunion. Not just something, mind you; he wants, and I quote, "a personal alumni touch on the event in terms of the different levels of emotion that one can experience when in attendance." I'm not sure I'm capable of meeting that ask, but when Big Doug asks this Doug to do something, this Doug complies as best he can.

Before I start spilling my guts, I probably should point out that I'm probably not the right guy for the job due to the fact

that a couple of years back I let Herb Maher talk me into joining the reunion committee. Given that I had a role, albeit a small one, in setting the whole thing up, the temptation is to exclaim, “It was not just the best AMA reunion of all time, but the best reunion of any kind in the history of mankind!” Okay, that may be a bit of a stretch, but the point remains that I’m not exactly an impartial observer. It would probably make more sense for some of you guys to write about what *your* “different levels of emotion.”

Then there’s the fact that those of us on the reunion committee have actual assigned tasks to do, even though it’s Herb and co-chair Lee Ramsey doing most of the heavy lifting. But one of the amazing things about the AMA brotherhood is that whatever the job at hand is, be it setting up the hospitality room and moving chairs from the gym to the cemetery and back, there are invariably a bunch of other guys stepping in to help out. So, in reality, our reunion experience is not all that different than most; we were all of us trained to help each other out.

What I kept hearing at the reunion was that it actually was “the best ever.” If it was “the best ever,” it was probably due to the fact that fewer events were scheduled and we all had more time to hang out – what Herb keeps referring to as “fellowship.”

Now I’m notoriously bad at small talk, so I go out of my way to avoid social gatherings like cocktail parties (are those still a thing?), but there’s something about the shared AMA experience penetrates those walls that some of us build around ourselves. Having been to three of these things in a row now, I’m coming to understand how this works. The first year you tell your old AMA stories, the ones you’ve told your kids, only with maybe a little bit more embellishment than usual (or less, if you’re telling it to someone who knows

better). The next year you realize you're repeating yourself and you start learning more about each other's post-AMA lives. By year three, you're with a bunch of old friends who you haven't seen in a long time, so you're catching up.

Over the past three Septembers I've not just renewed old friendships, but I've become friends with guys I didn't know at all while at AMA. Heck, I've become fast friends with guys I didn't even *like* while at AMA. I now look forward to seeing these old and new friends each September, and I'm disappointed when they don't or can't show up.

So despite the fact that I just got home a day or two ago, I'm already looking forward to next September and, hopefully, hassling Trent whenever he's in range, sticking Victor's camera where the sun doesn't shine, telling one and all what a liar Luis is, and, like living 1972 all over again, doing whatever Herb tells me to do. And one more thing: hoping like hell that some of my friends who couldn't make it in 2023 make it happen next year (I'm talking to you, Roberto).

Doug Driscoll '72

CLARIFICATION

In the previous Reunion Recap Newsletter issue, I accidently mis identified one of our AMA Legacy Scholarship recipients as Alexa Whicker
Pictured above is Miss Mariana Jeiralis, Granddaughter of Albert L. Smith AMA '66. She received the Louise McVey Leonard - Robert P. Leonard Memorial Scholarship.

Museum Visitors

Cadets from Fishburne Military School Visited the Museum
September 8, 2023

Brian McCabe '72 stopped at the Museum on his return home to Florida after attending his Niece's wedding in Pittsburgh. Brian attended his first reunion in 25 years this year, and was back to AMA 3 weeks later! He brought his Shiba Inu dogs

Kato and Kirby along so they could also visit the old AMA Campus.

Brian sent this message with the picture:

" I consider all the AMA guys my family and friends! Just like blood family members, we are all spread out and we only get together for weddings and funerals. Unless of course, we are in close proximity with each other or we make the effort to meet up and be together for a reunion!
I've come to realize and accept that we don't have the luxury of being around forever and think: "well there's always going to be another time when we can meet up again..."
So, when a friend reaches out and says "can we can meet up and catch up?" We should take advantage of that opportunity on the spot."

I invite everyone to send me a current picture and your thoughts on reunion, or what different levels of emotion you have experienced in terms of AMA at this stage of your life.
Doug Pennock

Attention in the Barracks!

The AMA Museum will be holding our annual Fall Festival and our second Cruise In on October 28, 2023.
As usual, we need volunteers to help with all sorts of tasks. Please call Amy if you can make it.

The Museum of the Augusta Military Academy Fall Festival

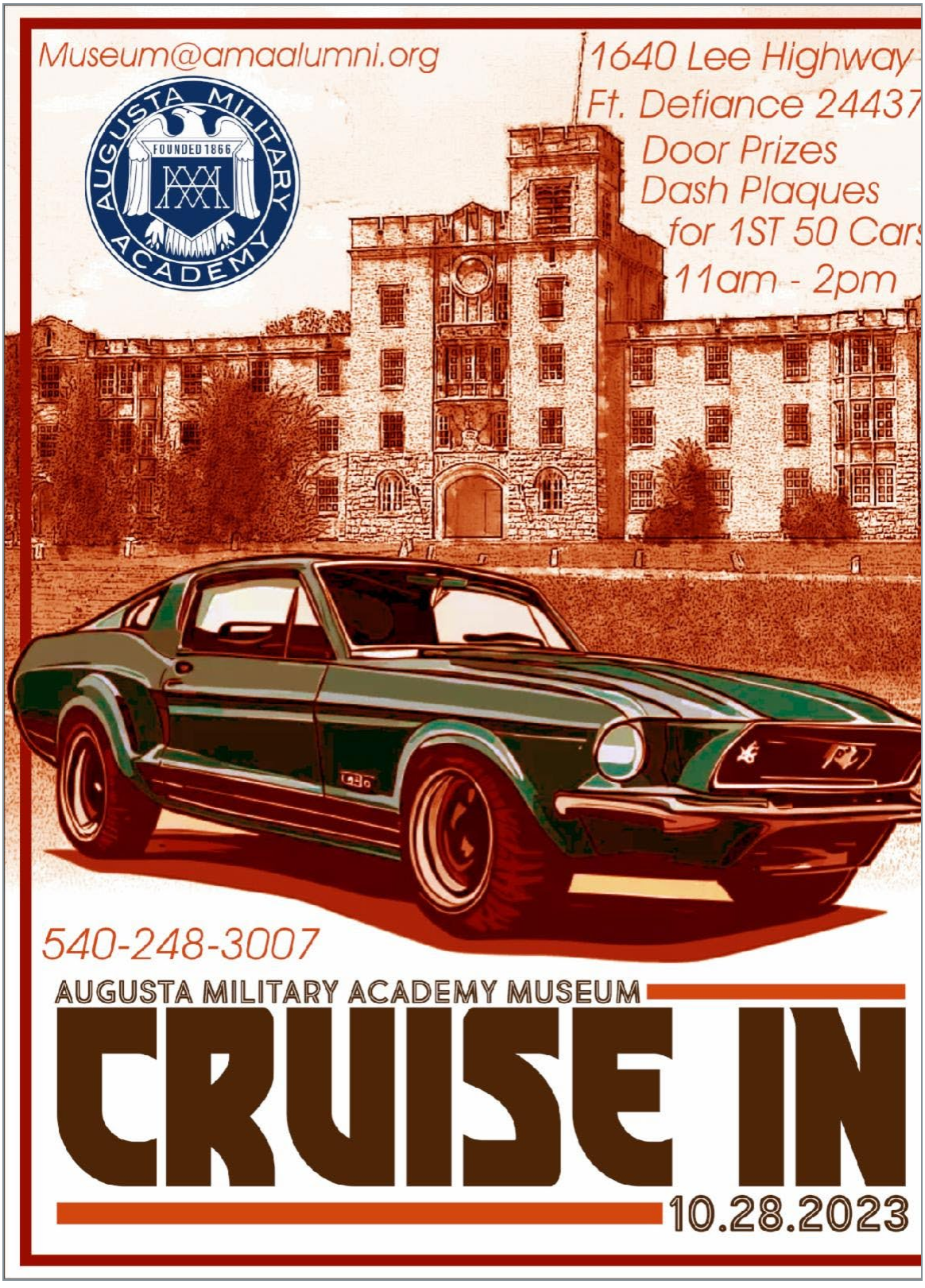
&

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 28, 2023
Fall Festival:10am-4pm
Trunk-or-Treat:2pm-4pm
Cruise-in 11am-2pm

1640 Lee Hwy Fort Defiance
VA. 24437
(540) 248-3007
intern@amaalumni.org

NO SCARY COSTUMES PLEASE!


Museum@amaalumni.org
1640 Lee Highway
Ft. Defiance 24437
Door Prizes
Dash Plaques
for 1ST 50 Cars
11am - 2pm
AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
FOUNDED 1866
540-248-3007
AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM
CRUISE IN
10.28.2023

A monthly pledge from everyone that reads this newsletter means that the future of the Museum will be assured.

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY DONATION HERE

MUSEUM DOCENT DUTY

THANK YOU!

To those who volunteered in September

Bj d'Orsay '70

Visitors in September

60

(Plus over 100 for reunion weekend)

Museum Volunteer

Be **a Volunteer Docent for a weekend...**

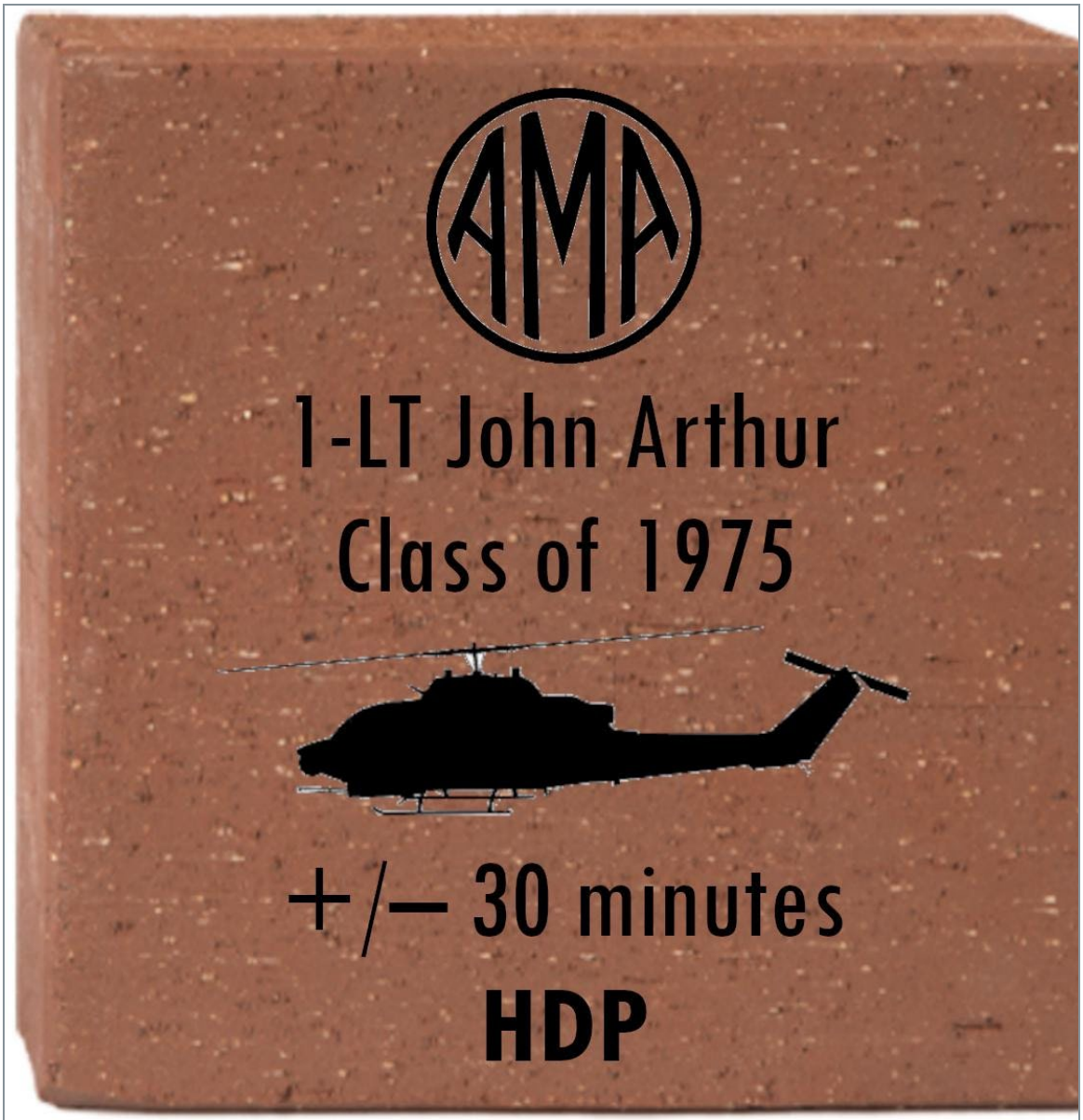
Purchasing a Paver Brick allows you to recognize anyone you knew while attending AMA

All Paver Bricks are placed in a permanent location along the sidewalk running East of the Museum

Visit the Brick virtual map HERE

Please order yours TODAY!

Brick Order Form



Shop at the PX

Important Notice!

The AMA Alumni Foundation would like to clarify that all of the profits of the merchandise

that is sold through our Museum PX store, the official AMA Facebook page or the AMA webpage, go exclusively to help offset Museum operation costs.

AMA branded merchandise that is sold outside the Museum PX store, an unsanctioned Facebook page or unsanctioned eBay account has no connection or benefit to the AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc. or the AMA Alumni Museum.

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

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AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

Augusta Military Academy

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA
1865

17 oz. Mug

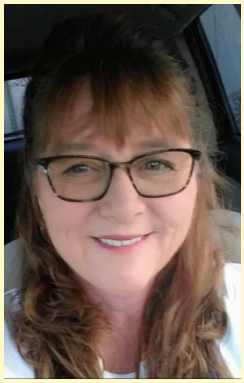
Only $12.00 plus tax and shipping

Beautiful Wendell August Forge metal serving tray

$50.00

(Limited quantity)

THE PX ONLINE STORE IS NOW OPEN!



From the Administrators Desk

October 1, 2023

Happy Fall Everyone!

WOW! What a great Reunion! It was so nice to see everyone and see you all enjoying your time with old friends. The plans for 2024 are already in the works, so stay tuned! I would like to congratulate Chris Correa on a job well done. Chris was honored with the Chairman's Award at the

Reunion and was promoted to AMA HISTORIAN. Chris is a remarkable asset to our team, and we are so very proud to have Chris on board. Thank you, Chris, for all you do for me, the museum and for the outstanding experience you give to each of our visitors!

Autumn Hitt, our intern, will be leaving us at the end of October. Autumn has been with us for the past year and a half and quickly adapted to the daily operations here at the museum. Besides providing tours to our visitors, Autumn has been helpful in the planning of our festivals, has given assistance when needed to the preparation of our reunions and was also a great help in getting our fundraiser letters prepared. Join me in wishing Autumn the best as she attends classes for college and in all her future endeavors.

All the final preparations are underway for the Fall Festival and Cruise In that will be here on campus on Saturday, October 28, 2023. This year we are having a Trunk or Treat for the kids in the community. We are looking for more volunteers to either participate in the Trunk or Treat or just give a helping hand where needed. If you are interested in volunteering during the Fall Festival or participating by sponsorship, please email me at **museum@amaalumni.org**. We have a great day lined up and are looking forward to a full day of family fun. There will be crafters, the cruise in, music, a bake sale and more!!!

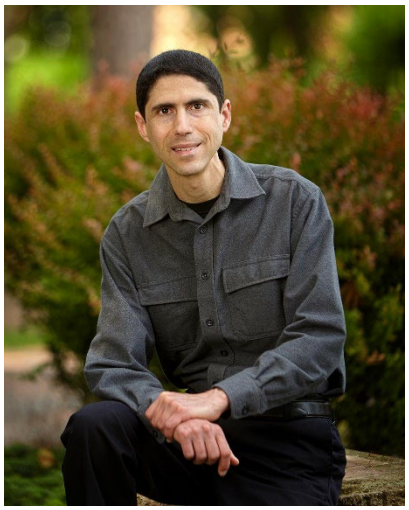
Once we have packed away fall festival, we move toward setting up for Christmas!

The official AMA tree will be put up the 3rd week of November. Saturday, December 2, 2023, the AMA Christmas Tree becomes a Salvation Army ANGEL TREE! Harrisonburg Radio Group well be here on December 2 and will be broadcasting for a couple of hours from campus asking folks to come out and pick an ANGEL off our tree and purchase gifts listed on the ANGEL for area children in

need. We are planning for this to be a great day with hot apple cider and gingerbread cookies. There is even going to be a visit from Santa! AMA will be donating 2 bicycles, one for a little girl and one for a little boy for Santa Claus to deliver on Christmas morning. We can do this because of a generous donation from Jim Rochelle `67 and his wife Erica. Thank you, Jimmy and Erica!
Thank you all for your kind words throughout the year. The staff and I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Amy Hensley
Museum Administrator



Chris's Corner

Chris Correa, Museum Historian

October 1, 2023

“Common knowledge” is the historian’s enemy. People assume a widely-known detail “goes without saying” but then fail to think about the future.

Consider that old family photo. Everybody then knew the image's Who, What, Where, and When, so no one wrote it on the back – and that common knowledge went to their graves. Now, all you see in that picture are people, somewhere, long ago.

That's why our job at the museum is to take what was once common knowledge, make it common again, and ensure it stays out of the grave.

The most intriguing case so far is a story that didn't add up, some vague Bayonet references, and a cadet who was the casualty of a war without a name and a mission doomed to fail.

James Davidson Eborn '44 "died on the field of honor". Most cadets would've gotten the news from the Bayonet in June 1946. A little box near the bottom of page 8 reads, "[t]his issue of the Bayonet is dedicated to the memory of former A.M.A. First Captain, David Eborn, private, U.S.M.C., who died in the service of his country, May 21, in Tientsin, China." Eventually, the name of one of AMA's most popular and accomplished cadets, whose death brought Big Boy **to tears**, would be cast in bronze with 52 others killed in WWII.

Except he wasn't. By May 21, 1946, that war had been done for over 8 months. The Bayonet didn't call him a casualty of WWII, but the plaque does. Why? More importantly: how did this Marine end up dead on friendly soil instead of marching in a victory parade back home in Washington, North Carolina?

Among the Bayonet's few remaining references to Eborn, there were hints. The **November 1995 edition** explains:

Several alumni, including Bill Stuart, ‘42, Leonard Salasky, ‘43, Willard Finney, ‘45, and Dr. John Morris, ‘49, have helped to identify Dave Eborn, ‘43. He was killed by rifle fire in China in 1946, one of the first Americans to die in the battle between Democracy and Communism.

Seven years later, a footnote in the paper’s WWII Tribute **added**, “[w]hile Eborn was killed after World War II ended, his death in China in 1946 is still classed as a WW II death.” Why? The omitted specifics might have been common knowledge to the writer and readers, but a “battle between Democracy and Communism” only gives me the ideological context. It doesn’t tell me what directive had put David in China, how he died there, and why anyone was still calling it World War II.

Then Rich shared what he found on Operation Beleaguer. There’s no room here for the full story, but you can find it in the USMC’s own concise book on it: **The United States Marines In North China 1945-1949** by Henry I. Shaw, Jr. I found our next major lead in the appendix, third from the bottom:

Appendix A

Major Armed Clashes Between
U. S. Marines and Chinese Communists
October 1945 - May 1947

Date	Location	Marine		Communist		Remarks
		KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA	
60ct45	Tientsin-Peiping Road		3	unk	unk	Ambush of road reconnaissance party by an estimated 40-50 troops.
180ct45	Langfang-Peiping railroad	-	-	6	unk	Ambush of train by force of unknown strength.
2Nov45	Village 3 miles north of Tientsin	-	-	1	unk	Motor patrol attacked by group of irregular
14-15Nov45	Kuyeh vicinity on railroad	-	-	unk	unk	CG, 1stMarDiv inspection train fired on by force of unknown strength.
8Jan46	Bridge near Anshan	-	-	unk	unk	Bridge guard attacked by 25-30 irregulars.
16Apr46	Bridge near Lutai	-	-	unk	unk	Bridge guard attacked by irregulars of unknown strength.
5May46	Bridge near Hanku	-	1	unk	unk	Bridge guard attacked by force of unknown strength with mortars
21May46	Village 10 miles south of Tientsin	1	1	2	unk	Reconnaissance party attacked by 50-75 irregular troops.
1Jun46	Bridge near Peitaiho	-	-	5	unk	Force of unknown strength attacked bridge guard.
26Jul46	Anping between Tientsin and Peiping	-	-	unk	unk	Motor patrol attacked by group of unknown strength.

The date and location match our sources, and only one death is reported for that day, but could I be sure this was David? Again, Rich's resourcefulness settled the question, as he explains below. Now, I knew when and where David died and who killed him, but the revelation for me was that Americans were battling Mao's forces 4 years before facing them in North Korea. Shaw's book told me why.

This wasn't the near-suicide mission that the invasion of Japan could've been, but it was plenty complex. Shaw writes, "the Marines were first committed to assist in the repatriation of more than a half million Japanese and to help the Chinese Central Government reestablish its sovereignty over occupied territory" (pp. 1, 25). Instead, for the first two days, they got a party. On September 30, 1945, from dawn until well after dark, throngs of jubilant Chinese welcomed the boatloads of US Marines. Meanwhile, local military and civilian authorities were eager to cooperate, and the Japanese prisoners and civilians offered no resistance (p 2). No combat skills required.

The operation quickly got hazardous. The US was openly working for the government of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists while hoping to broker a peace in their power struggle with Mao Tse-tung's Communists. The factions had only paused their civil war to repel the Japanese. With that done, and "[w]ithout regard to their truce agreements, both sides initiated hostilities wherever the military situation seemed to favor them," while blaming each other for violating the peace.
Escalation continued into 1946 "despite every reasonable effort by American representatives to stop it, and Marines were placed in the unenviable position of remaining neutral in the middle of a battlefield"(pp 17-18). This was the

battlefield where David was killed in an ambush. Full-scale war followed 3 months later.

While it's no bombshell like the Pentagon Papers, this internal retrospective of the Marines in post-war China is painfully reminiscent of tragedies to come. We weren't at war with the Chinese, but China was at war with itself. The US took sides while trying awkwardly to mediate between cynical adversaries bent on total victory. Americans were put in the line of fire in unconventional warfare with restrictive rules of engagement.
They were forced to evacuate when our weak and misguided ally folded, as our military had predicted (pp. 9,11,20,26).
When Shaw wrote this account in the early 60's, he couldn't have known how soon this history was about to repeat itself.

I have so many unanswerable questions. What did David think about his orders? Did he just focus on the job or think about its purpose, the local circumstances, and the global implications? How did his academy years shape his attitude and understanding? How had the last 2 years changed him? What were his plans after this? Would he fulfill the Recall's **prophecy** by inheriting his dad's lumber business and becoming mayor? At minimum, Shaw argues, "…the average Marine on postwar duty in China found himself an uneasy spectator or sometimes an unwilling participant in a war which he little understood and could not prevent"(p 9).

I can't imagine the whiplash: the prospect of near-certain death in Japan vanishes overnight in sudden surrender. The war is over – but instead of going home, he gets new orders. As he stepped onto Chinese soil, maybe he felt lucky that this delay looked like a pretty safe mission among friendly locals.

Victory over Japan was not David's ticket home or even to safety, and that brings us back to the plaque. At age 19, Private James Davidson Eborn was killed by hostile action in northern China – but in what campaign? Was he one of the last casualties of WWII, a war that was declared over, or among the first of the Cold War, a war that was never declared (and barely had a **name** in 1946)? David's mission in China was to facilitate recovery from the past war, but the mission's geopolitical strategy addressed a radically altered post-war world. Those responsible for the plaque didn't have the luxury of our hindsight to make this distinction, nor could they have realized that the circumstances of David's death would foreshadow another 92,000 American fatalities in **Korea** and **Vietnam**, including another 16 alumni of AMA.

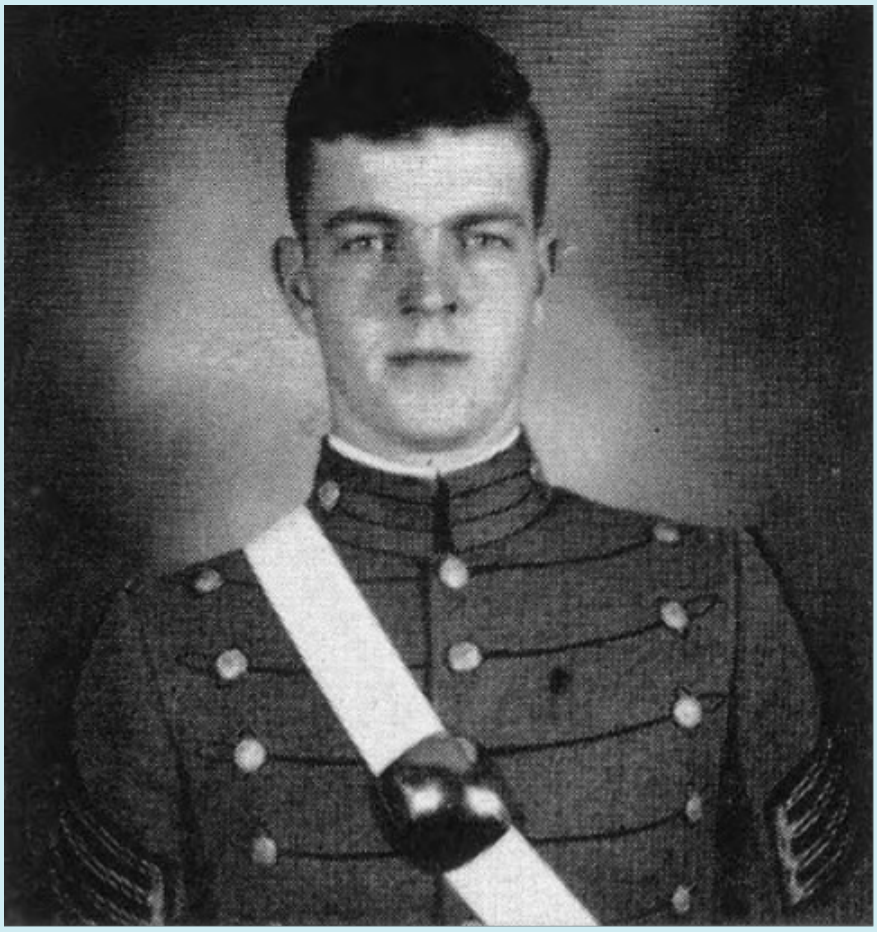
vanBreemen's Expressions

October 1, 2023

Historical Research and Biographies

By Rich vanBreemen

Hopefully, if you are reading my diatribe, you have just finished reading Chris's excellent bio on James D Eborn Jr., class of '45. If not – go do that first; I'll wait……



James Davidson Eborn Jr.
AMA - First Captain Class of 1945

Chris and I decided several weeks ago that a collaborative article would be a good idea for the newsletter and highlighting James Eborn would cover a lot of bases. What you should have gotten from Chris' article was that there was a lot of confusion surrounding Eborn's death as well the circumstances around it.

The Museum staff along with the talents of BJ 'Orsay have been updating records in the database with the goal of making a LOT of that available through our new public portal. I am currently writing the bios of all the AMA alumni that died in the services available there. Eborn is on the bronze plaque for WW2 dead. We could have just gone with the stuff we had available to use in old Bayonets, but a lot of new tools and information have become available to us that wasn't around "back in the day". Why not do a little more digging?

First, we tried the obvious: search for any information on JD Eborn Jr. Our only results were stuff we already knew included hits on our own web site. Chris and I lulled this over and seemed to be at a dead end as far as increasing our understanding of what happened. Then I thought, let's approach this from another angle. Instead of looking for Eborn, let's find out WHY the USMC was in China in 1946! Eureka – I was immediately rewarded with a full description of Operation Beleaguer. Chris details how that article helped fill in some of the blanks, but there was more for us to discover.

The operation explained WHY he was there but didn't do much to let us know just WHAT happened on that day. More digging gave me some insight into how the military does things (bless their hearts). Apparently, the USMC doesn't issue death certificates as we would normally know them. Instead, they use something called a "Casualty Card". I was able to find Eborn's card – well at least the front half which really didn't tell us anything new. However, the page on which I found the casualty card, made reference to the back of the card being hidden, for privacy reasons. HOWEVER, if I was to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, they might send me that.

What the heck, I never did one of those before so I followed the instructions and filed a FOIA request online. BINGO, I got an

immediate response about my request and the back of the card within 5 days!!! Big thanks to the United States Marine Corps Headquarters and Miss Tara Walters who handled this request as if my life depended on it. I don't get that kind of personal service from my family doctor!!!

With this new information in hand, James Eborn's final moments of life became clearer and a little sadder. He was a passenger in a military vehicle on patrol when they came under attack by ~75 unknown Chinese. He was shot through the left high and the bullet exited his right abdomen. This indicates that he was sitting higher than the shooter, most likely the result of an ambush from the ditches next to the road. He died quickly of shock and internal hemorrhage.

He was initially buried in China at a cemetery near the incident. His body was soon exhumed and interred in a cemetery in Shanghai China. A little over a year after his death, his father requested his remains be brought home for burial in his hometown of Washington, NC. Searching FIND A GRAVE I was able to find his grave listing, but it contained no information other than his birth and death dates. This simply would not do.

I happen to have a retired pharmacist friend who lives in that area. As most retired people can attest, we sit around all day with nothing to do (Don't you roll your eyes at me; you know we don't!) so he was happy to go check out the grave site for me. I got him the cemetery location and a map of where the grave is located. He graciously provided me with photos of the grave site and of the parents as well.

Now we could finally bring this saga to a proper closing. I took all this information and updated our public portal with PFC Eborn's information: **https://amamuseum.catalogaccess.com/people/1755**

I also registered with Find A Grave as a volunteer and updated his records there so anyone else can read about this outstanding young man:

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/94234853/james-davidson-eborn

His grave marker is in decent shape, though if I find myself in that area, I will probably stop by and clean it up a bit. I have found other AMA alum's gravestones in this project, whose markers are in sad shape. Getting them cleaned up is fodder for a future article and project (wink, wink, nudge, nudge I am looking for help).

It seems a small thing to do, to honor the sacrifices of these young men from long ago. It takes comparatively little effort on our part to try and keep their memories and legacy alive, so that they do not go silently into the abyss. That will happen to everyone eventually, but let's kick that can down the road as long as we can.

Doug Pennock's Viewpoint

October 1, 2023

Dear Readers,

Every year at reunion, there will be alumni that return for the first time since leaving the school. That would be 40 years if his last day at AMA was December of 1983, when AMA stopped breathing.
Everybody reacts differently when returning home after a long absence. The following commentary is what I imagine are the thoughts that go through the newly returned Alumni's head as he is driving that familiar stretch of road between Staunton and Ft. Defiance after so many decades have passed:

AWOL Cadet: "Wow, the countryside on the way to AMA on Rt-11 has not changed!"

AWOL Cadet: "Hey, the campus looks pretty good!"
AWOL Cadet: “Damn! I hate seeing Big Barracks in such a horrible state of disrepair.” (AWOL Cadet becomes emotional.)
AWOL Cadet: “The mess hall is gone, the Band / Mattress room is gone, Dean’s Castle is gone and the infirmary is gone!” (AWOL Cadet gets pissed)
AWOL Cadet: “At least the old Library looks good. I’m going to check it out.” AWOL Cadet enters the Museum and is greeted by Chris Correa the AMA Museum Historian. Inevitably, Chris will invite him for a tour of the museum, but unbeknownst to the AWOL Cadet, he will be interviewed and debriefed by Chris the entire time he is in the building…
AWOL Cadet: “What a great Museum tour! Chris knows more about AMA than me, and I went there for eight years!” AWOL Cadet walks away smiling and happy.

Yup, that pretty much sums it up…

Doug Out

Editor’s Note:
The following expressions are mine alone. I look forward to your feedback. You may contact me directly at:
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THE BAYONET

NOVEMBER, 1913

110 YEARS AGO

Read the October 1913 Bayonet
HERE

The Bayonet Gallery
HERE

The Museum Newsletter is written and prepared by Doug Pennock and edited by Trudy Pennock

MISSION STATEMENT "To preserve the traditions of the Augusta Military Academy and to honor the memory of the life and times of its alumni, faculty, staff, and supporting families through permanent and temporary exhibits and diligent conservation the museum's collections of artifacts, archives and photographs."

The AMA MUSEUM is operated by the AMA Alumni Foundation, which is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. The museum is manned by a paid staff. Former cadets volunteer their time and talent most every month. Funding for the museum is totally dependent on tax-exempt financial gifts and donations made by the alumni, former faculty, and friends of Augusta Military Academy, as well as the community and visitors to the museum.

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