

# The Newsletter

## Berkshire Military Museum

### THE STORY: IVAN PAVLOVICH

SERVING AS A COOK FOR THE 91ST TANK REGIMENT OF THE RED ARMY, IVAN WAS COOKING DINNER ONE DAY IN AUGUST 1941. HE LOOKED UP AND NOTICED A GERMAN TANK WHICH HAD STALLED IN REACH OF THE FIELD KITCHEN.

GRABBING A RIFLE AND AN AXE, IVAN WAITED FOR THE CREW TO EXIT THE TANK, PRESUMABLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET IT MOVING, BEFORE CHARGING. THE CREW, SEEING AN ANGRY AXE-WIELDING SOVIET RUNNING FOR THEM, QUICKLY RETREATED TO THE TANK AND BEGAN TO FIRE THE MACHINE GUN. PAVLOVICH CLIMBED ONTO THE TANK AND BENT THE MACHINE GUN BARREL WITH HIS AXE. HE THEN THREW A PIECE OF TARPAULIN OVER THE OBSERVATION HOLE AND LOUDLY ORDERED HIS IMAGINARY COMRADES TO PASS HIM AN IMAGINARY GRENADE. HE BANGED ON THE TANK'S ARMOR UNTIL THE FOUR MAN CREW SURRENDERED TO WHAT THEY PRESUMABLY THOUGHT WAS THE ENTIRE RED ARMY.

### IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

OCT. 1<sup>ST</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup>, 1914: FIRST BATTLE OF ARRAS

OCT. 12<sup>TH</sup>, 1914: FIRST BATTLE OF MESSINES BEGINS

OCT. 19<sup>TH</sup>, 1914: FIRST BATTLE OF YPRES BEGINS

OCT. 29<sup>TH</sup>, 1918: GERMANY'S HOCHSEEFLOTTE MUTINIES

OCT. 8<sup>TH</sup>, 1939: LAST REMAINING POLISH FORCES SURRENDER

OCT. 18<sup>TH</sup>, 1940: FIRST TRUCKS SAFELY CROSS THE NEWLY RE-OPENED BURMA ROAD

OCT. 16<sup>TH</sup>, 1941: SOVIET UNION MOVES GOVERNMENT TO KUILBYSHEV.

OCT. 23<sup>RD</sup>, 1942: BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN BEGINS

OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup>, 1943: OFFICIAL ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

OCT. 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1944: SOVIETS ENTER YUGOSLAVIA

OCT. 4<sup>TH</sup>, 1944: ALLIES LAND IN GREECE

**CURATOR'S NOTES**

I'VE DECIDED TO ADD A PAGE TO THE NEWSLETTER THAT JUST HAS DIFFERENT NEWS ABOUT THE MUSEUM, AND A BLOG ON ONE ITEM. HERE GOES:

ON SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> THE MUSEUM HAD OPENINGS. THE GRAND OPENING ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> WAS WELL ATTENDED AND EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. THE 18<sup>TH</sup> HAD A SMALLER CROWD, BUT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR ME, AND HOPEFULLY FOR ALL WHO ATTENDED. I HAD GREAT FUN PUTTING EVERYTHING TOGETHER, ALTHOUGH THE PAINTING AND RESTORATION WERE QUITE TEDIOUS. IT WAS GRATIFYING TO FINALLY FINISH, AND I AM EXCITED TO KEEP WORKING ON THE MUSEUM, AND CHANGE AND ADD TO IT.

AS FOR THE ITEM OF THE MONTH, I WILL START WITH ONE OF THE FIRST ITEMS THAT I EVER COLLECTED. IT IS AN M1942 US MI GARAND BAYONET. THIS PIECE IS DISPLAYED IN THE WWII SECTION OF THE MUSEUM, AND WAS PURCHASED AT A FLEA MARKET IN MAINE. I WAS TRAVELLING BACK FROM MAINE TO MASSACHUSETTS IN EARLY AUGUST OF 2015, AND STOPPED AT THE LOCAL FLEA MARKET. THERE WERE MANY DEALERS, AND I WAS IN THE MOOD TO BUY A MILITARY ANTIQUE THAT DAY. AS I WANDERED THE AISLES OF ANTIQUES, I CAME ACROSS A BAYONET AT ONE OF THE TABLES. WHEN I ASKED THE PRICE, I WAS TOLD IT WAS \$30. IT WAS REASONABLY PRICED DUE TO THE LACK OF ITS ORIGINAL SCABBARD. I HAPPILY BOUGHT THE BAYONET WITH SOME SPARE MONEY I HAD SAVED. JUST BEFORE I LEFT, THE SAME DEALER GAVE ME TWO OTHER MILITARY ITEMS HE HAD AT THE TABLE, A SET OF CRAMPONS FROM WWII, AND A FLASHLIGHT FROM THE KOREAN WAR. HE COULD SEE THAT I WAS INTERESTED AND WANTED TO ENCOURAGE ME.

SOME WEEKS LATER I WAS WITH A FRIEND (WHO HELPED ME SET UP MY EXHIBIT) AND HE MENTIONED WANTING TO START A NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IN ONE OF HIS BARN. THIS PLANTED THE SEED IN MY MIND FOR STARTING THE BERKSHIRE MILITARY MUSEUM.

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**Berkshire Military  
Museum**

PHONE:  
413 644 5211

E-MAIL:  
thomasbmm1@  
gmail.com

For a private tour  
please contact me!

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We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
**berkshiremilitary  
museum.org**

## NEW ITEMS AT BMM

ONE OF THE NEWEST ITEMS AT THE BERKSHIRE MILITARY MUSEUM IS A POSTER FROM A US ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE. IT IS FROM 1940, AND LISTS ALL THE MAJOR MEDALS THAT A SOLDIER COULD WIN, AND ALL THE CAMPAIGN MEDALS FROM PREVIOUS WARS. IE MEXICAN WARS, WWI ETC. AS THE POSTER PRE-DATES THE US ENTRY TO WWII, AND IT CONTAINS MUCH ON WWI MEDALS, IT IS CURRENTLY DISPLAYED IN THE WWI SECTION OF THE MUSEUM. THIS FASCINATING ITEM WAS FOUND AT AN ESTATE SALE, AND DONATED BY A FRIEND OF THE MUSEUM. OVERALL, THE POSTER IS IN EXTREMELY GOOD CONDITION, AND STILL HAS A HEAVY WOODEN FRAME.



### **OUR MISSION:**

*TO PRESERVE HISTORY AND HONOR  
THE SACRIFICES MADE BY ALL WHO  
HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY.*