

The National Infantry Museum located at Fort Benning, Georgia, exists for one reason – to reflect the history of the U.S. Army Infantry soldier and his more than two centuries of service to our nation. The American Infantry's beginnings were humble. On 14 June 1775, the Continental Congress authorized 10 companies of riflemen to be raised in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia as part of the new Continental Army. That makes the U.S. Infantry branch older than the Declaration of Independence itself.

Although its weapons, equipment

and tactics have become increasingly

sophisticated, the

Infantry still has the same basic mission: to get to the

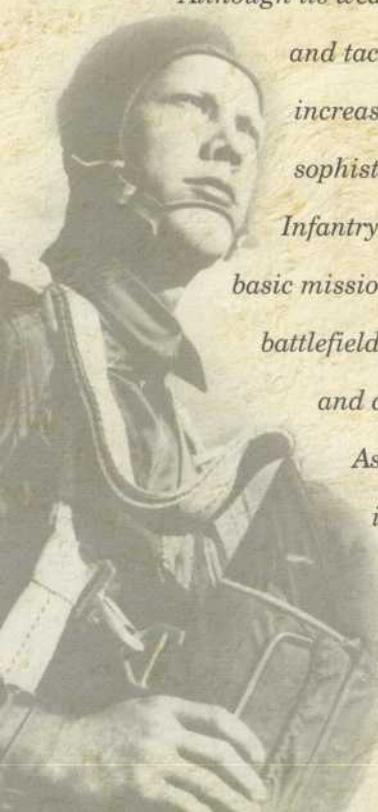
battlefield and to close with and destroy the enemy.

As such, the Infantry

is the most flexible and most mobile

of the Army's

combat arms.



COLUMBUS, GEORGIA To The National Infantry Museum



National Infantry Museum

Building 396 - Baltzell Avenue
Ft. Benning, GA 31905

www.benningmwr.com/museum.cfm

Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

To schedule group tours call: 706.545.2958



For military reunion planning assistance, call the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau 800.999.1613 columbusga.com/ccvb



FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM

Honoring the
Infantryman
through more than
two centuries of
proud service
to our nation.



A HERITAGE OF HEROES

Even though the Infantry is the oldest and largest of the U.S. Army's combat arms, it did not have its own home until 1918 with the establishment of Camp Benning in Columbus, Georgia, and it did not have its own museum until 1959. The National Infantry Museum was established on 19 October 1959 at Fort Benning, with a primary mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting artifacts relating to the Infantry's many contributions to the United States. The museum not only serves to educate soldiers and their families in the Infantry's heritage and traditions, it also serves a vital role of promoting the public's awareness of the Infantry's many contributions in preserving freedom within this country and throughout the world.

The museum moved to its present location on Baltzell Avenue in 1977 with the renovation of the old post hospital building. On 1 July 1977 the building was dedicated by America's last 5-star general, **General Omar N. Bradley** and renamed Bradley Hall in his honor. It has over 30,000 square feet of

exhibit space which allows visitors to trace with pride the footsteps of Infantrymen from the 1607 wilderness of Virginia to the present day soldier deployed in distant locations around the globe. Visitors are exposed to an ever-changing kaleidoscope of weapons, uniforms, footwear, mess equipment, fine oil paintings, bronzes, helmets, and vehicles ranging from a 1902 Studebaker Utility Wagon to the legendary Jeep. You can see documents signed by **John Hancock**, **George Washington** or **Franklin Roosevelt**, a bust of **Adolph Hitler** and several original Medals of Honor and Distinguished Service Crosses awarded to Infantrymen in various theaters of war.

Visitors can see the colors of the 39th Infantry Regiment which fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Alabama, on 27 March 1814; a Gatling gun from the Frontier period of the 1870's; a horse-drawn WW I medical cart; an airborne diorama exhibit illustrating a parachute drop over a town in Europe; and a special **War Dogs** exhibit honoring the contributions made by canines during the conflicts of the 20th century, especially Vietnam. On the museum grounds, visitors can also see 25 or more memorials to various units

erected by unit members and supporters. Some of these include the 11th Airborne Division, the WW II Rangers and the 66th Infantry Division whose memorial honors those who died when the troop ship *Leopoldville* was torpedoed in the English Channel on 24 December 1944, killing 762 soldiers.

The museum has a 100-seat auditorium where a variety of films are shown daily and a gift shop which offers art prints, books, shirts, jewelry, pewter and crystal. Admission is free and the museum is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and Saturday and Sunday, 12:30 to 4:30 PM. The museum is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day and on federal holidays which fall on a Monday with the exception of Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans' Day.

