

**MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS**

**E-boats:** the Western Allies' designation for the fast attack craft (German: Schnellboot, or S-Boot, meaning "fast boat") of the Kriegsmarine during World War II. The "E" stood for "enemy."

**LST:** acronym for "Landing Ship, Tank" (or tank landing ship); the naval designation for vessels created during World War II to support amphibious operations by carrying vehicles, cargo, and landing troops directly onto an unimproved shore

**NOTE:** These terms came from the "Taken by Surprise" article.



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**Words to Ponder:**

"Our constitution works. Our great republic is a government of laws, not of men."

~ Gerald Ford

**Pray for our Deployed Members:**

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: US Army, serving the Lord in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin  
Andrew Folz: US Air Force, deployed overseas

**Together in Scripture Reading:**

**This month:**  
the book of Titus



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**Taken by Surprise**

**Colonel Steve Martin**

Training is the cornerstone of any military organization and is an integral part of preparing for any military operation. The invasion of Europe began on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France to begin the long, arduous process of defeating Nazi Germany. The preparation for the landing at Normandy took years to plan and execute. American and British troops were gathered in small towns and villages across England, and ships and equipment were readied - waiting for the order from General Dwight D. Eisenhower to launch the invasion.

In the months leading up to the invasion, the troops spent a considerable amount of time training, not only for the invasion, but for combat operations that would continue until Germany capitulated. While it was difficult to simulate the sounds, smells, fear and confusion of the battlefield, efforts were made to make the training as realistic as possible. On many occasions, English citizens were inconvenienced as training operations affected their towns and villages.

Near the end of 1943, over 3,000 people in and around the area of South Hams of Devon were given notice that they would have six weeks in which to leave their homes. No explanation was given as to why they were to vacate even though many suspected that it had to do with a military operation. Nearby Slapton Sands at Lyme Bay, was a perfect place to stage an ambitious training exercise, codenamed "Exercise Tiger." The beach had a coarse gravel covering and the bluffs overlooking the beach resembled what the Allies would face when storming the beaches at Normandy. Troops who were slated to land at the French beach on the Cherbourg Peninsula codenamed "Utah," were selected to participate in



**HMS Azalea**

the exercise.

General Eisenhower wanted the training to be as realistic as possible. In the weeks leading up to the exercise, pillboxes and dummy enemy entrenchments were constructed along the bluffs to simulate what they would see at "Utah" beach. Troops and their equipment would

embark on the same ships they would transit during the invasion and from the same ports.

Each man would carry exactly the same equipment they would be using and would arrive on the beach via LST landing craft where the men would off-load and wade to shore. Machine guns on the bluffs would be firing blank rounds and explosions were to be set off to help simulate the sights, sounds and smells the soldiers would experience as they landed. This was expected to be a dress rehearsal on a grand scale.

The week-long exercise in April 1944 was going very well and lessons that would eventually be used to improve the invasion of Normandy were being noted and incorporated into the Operations Order for the actual invasion (known as "Operation Overlord"). On the night of April 27, the last convoy of LSTs arrived in Lyme Bay and was preparing to off-load their soldiers when they were intercepted by a flotilla of nine German E-boats (fast-attack torpedo boats) lurking in the area. The E-boats had picked up the heavier than normal ship communication and had moved in to investigate. The eight LSTs were caught by surprise and were sitting ducks to these fast torpedo boats. The Allied flotilla's only escort, a Royal Navy corvette HMS Azalea, spotted the German E-boats, but too late to adequately warn the LSTs or thwart the attack.

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*'Each man would carry exactly the same equipment they would be using and would arrive on the beach via LST landing craft where the men would off-load and wade to shore.'*

### Did You Know: Surprising Origin of Shrapnel

**Editor's Note:** Have you ever wondered why "shrapnel" is called, well, "shrapnel" and not some other term? Here's why.

Shrapnel is a type of antipersonnel projectile named after inventor, Major General Henry Shrapnel (pictured below), an English artillery officer. Shrapnel projectiles contained small shot or spherical bullets, usually of lead, along with an explosive charge to scatter the shot as well as fragments of the shell casing.

In 1784, Henry Shrapnel invented the shrapnel shell for cannons, which was later adopted by the British army in 1803 for cannons and rifles.

Before Henry Shrapnel invented his weapon there were several earlier kinds of scatter projectiles.

There was case shot, or canister, first used at Constantinople in 1453. The name "case shot" comes from the projectile's case usually made of metal, which was filled with scrap, musket balls, or slugs.

Similar to the case shot was the grape shot, without a metal case, made from larger iron balls. The grape shot was named from the grape-like appearance of the iron balls. The grape shot could disable men at almost 900 yards and was used extensively during the 1700's.

Eventually, it was replaced by case shot type scatter projectiles, which was more effective at shorter ranges (400 to 700 yards).



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## Charles W. Maultsby

**Editor's Note:** I drew my inspiration for this feature from Colonel Martin's article from the February 2017 Patriot News, in which Charles Maultsby was mentioned in passing. Fascinated by this man, I wanted to share the rest of his story with you. The following is adapted from article by Charles W. Maultsby II, Colonel Maultsby's son.

Charles W. Maultsby was born in Greenville, North Carolina on June 7th, 1926. After his mother's death (when he was eight years old), and subsequent rejection by a callous father, he went to live with an aunt and uncle in Norfolk, Virginia.

Chuck Maultsby was born to fly and was fixated on aircraft from the time he could walk. He spent much of his youth hanging around the small municipal airport near his Norfolk home doing anything he had to do to be near airplanes and their pilots, while hoping someone would offer him a ride.

He worked multiple jobs after school to raise the money neces-

sary to take flying lessons and soloed on his sixteenth birthday. He applied for the Army Air Corps cadet program on his eighteenth birthday; only to suffer the disappointment of seeing the program's suspension at the end of World War II.

The Korean War provided the next opportunity to become a jet pilot, and Chuck Maultsby grabbed it, only to be shot out of the sky during his 17th combat mission; and then he endured 22

months as a Chinese prisoner of war all the while suffering "unpleasant" treatment.

After the Korean War, he became a pilot-instructor at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada and won a spot on the Nellis Fighter Weapons Team of 1957 (the Air Force's "Top Gun" school). This was the team that swept every event at the "William Tell" competition,

*'He worked multiple jobs after school to raise the money necessary to take flying lessons and soloed on his sixteenth birthday.'*



beating every other military fighter-pilot team in the U.S. and rest of the free world.

From there the Colonel became a member of the USAF Aerial Demonstration Team, The Thunderbirds (1958-1960), flying the right-wing position in the diamond formation. He was part of one of the first teams that flew the F-100C Super Sabre (pictured below with other Thunderbird aircraft), which was the first supersonic aircraft in the US Air Force arsenal.



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## Taken By Surprise

Torpedoes slammed into four of the LSTs, which were within sight of shore. Soldiers crowded on the decks were engulfed in flames as explosions rocked their vessels and ignited gasoline in vehicles preparing to go ashore. One ship sank so quickly that it didn't have time to deploy its life rafts. Of the 496 soldiers on board, 424 drown. Another LST sank with the loss of 202 soldiers. The two remaining LSTs limped back to port, but suffered numerous casualties.

As daylight arrived the next morning, many dead bodies were floating

in the waters off of Slapton Sands. "You could walk to the beach on the floating bodies," said one survivor. The carnage was great as 749 men lost their lives in this training exercise which was more than were actually killed when the Allies stormed "Utah" beach on June 6th.

There were many others who were injured and had to be hospitalized and thus forced to miss the actual invasion.

The dead were quickly buried in the US cemetery in England or transported home. "Exercise Tiger" was a closely held secret leading up D-Day and all who were involved



3 LST's from 1944

were sworn to secrecy. The details of what happened at Slapton Sands were not reported in the news for fear that it would tip the Germans on the Allied invasion plans set for June. Ten officers who had specialized security clearances because of their knowledge of the invasion perished in the attack. Because of their specialized knowledge, the invasion of Normandy was nearly called off until the bodies of all ten victims were found. With the secrecy surrounding the event and with the passage of time, the true events of what happened to these brave men have been lost to the annals of history. A Sherman Tank that was recovered from the wreckage in Lyme Bay stands as a memorial to the 749 men who lost their lives in the waters off of Slapton Sands.

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# The Visit (part 1)

**Editor's Note:** I found this compelling story regarding honor among Marines that I had to share.

My dad, Angelo, was in the hospital in Tacoma, Washington. A former Marine and veteran of the Korean War, he was having his third knee replacement surgery.

A long and very painful operation was going to be made even worse because Dad was going through it alone. There was no one to hold his hand, no familiar soft voices to reassure him. His wife was ill and unable to accompany him or even visit during his weeklong stay. My sisters and brother lived in California, and I lived even farther away, in Indiana. There wasn't even anyone to drive him to the hospital, so he had arrived that morning by cab.

The thought of my dad lying there alone was more than I could stand. But what could I do from here? I picked up the phone and called information for the Puyallup, Washington, Marine Corps recruiting station, where I joined the Marines ten years before. I thought that if I could talk to a Marine and explain the situation; maybe one of them would visit my dad.

I called the number. A man answered the phone and in a very confident voice said, "United States Marines, Sergeant Vanes. May I help you?"

Feeling just as certain, I replied, "Sergeant Vanes, you may find this request a little strange, but this is why I am calling..." I proceeded to tell him who I was and that my fa-

Article by Tré M. Barron

ther was also a former Marine and 100 percent disabled from the Korean War. I explained that he was in the hospital, alone, without anyone to visit and asked if Sergeant Vanes would please go and see him. Without hesitation, he answered, "Absolutely."

Then I asked, "If I send flowers to the recruiting station, would you deliver them to my dad when you go to the hospital?"

**What happens next? Please be on the lookout for next month's issue of the Patriot News to find out!**

For more information, visit [www.skywriting.net](http://www.skywriting.net)

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

## Did You Know: Surprising RIGIN OF SHRAPNEL

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The spherical case shot was more effective because of its bursting shell. It was the direct forerunner of the shrapnel used so much in World War I, invented by Henry Shrapnel in 1784. Henry Shrapnel's invention was the first air-bursting case shot which, in technical words, "imparted directional velocity" to the bullets it contained. Henry Shrapnel's new shell was first used by the British against the French in 1808, however, it was not named after Henry Shrapnel until 1852.

The photo at right depicts a fragment from a World War I era 75-mm. high explosive shell.



The intended destructive effect of the shrapnel projectile against men and animals came from the shrapnel balls. The projectile casing, which merely acted as a carrier for the shrapnel balls, was not designed to fracture or fragment. Some World War I era shrapnel projectiles contained a mixture of two sized balls. The smaller balls, intended for anti-personnel use, constituted approximately ninety per cent of the shrapnel round. The remaining percentage of larger balls were included to disable or kill horses.

The intended destructive effect of high explosive rounds came from the action of the high explosive charge coupled with the fragmentation of the projectile casing. Whereas a shrapnel round was intended to kill or injure people and animals, high explosive rounds were originally designed to damage or destroy inanimate objects such as buildings and field guns.

Source: Article by Mary Bellis on [inventors.about.com](http://inventors.about.com) website.

# Charles W. Maultsby

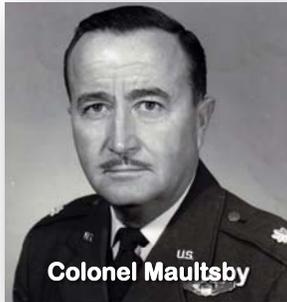
As a U-2 spy plane pilot, the Colonel found himself in the very dicey predicament of being detected by the Russians over their airspace at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. It is true to say that he very nearly was the cause of World War III. That particular flight also happened to set the record for the longest U-2 flight in history.

The next major phase of the Colonel's life was spent in Vietnam in 1967 where he flew 216 combat missions (a full third of those missions were flown in North Vietnam). He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action for his mission in close support of American ground troops in dire straits.

After the Vietnam experience, Col. Maultsby continued as a pilot-

instructor and squadron commander at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona and then became a staff officer at Tactical Air Command headquarters at Langley AFB, Virginia. He finished out his 28-year military career as the Standards and Evaluation officer for NATO Forces South in Naples, Italy.

Colonel Maultsby was married to his wife, Jeanne, from 1949 until his death in 1998 at age 72. He and Jeanne had three sons. Maultsby was awarded 18 decorations for his military service including the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters,



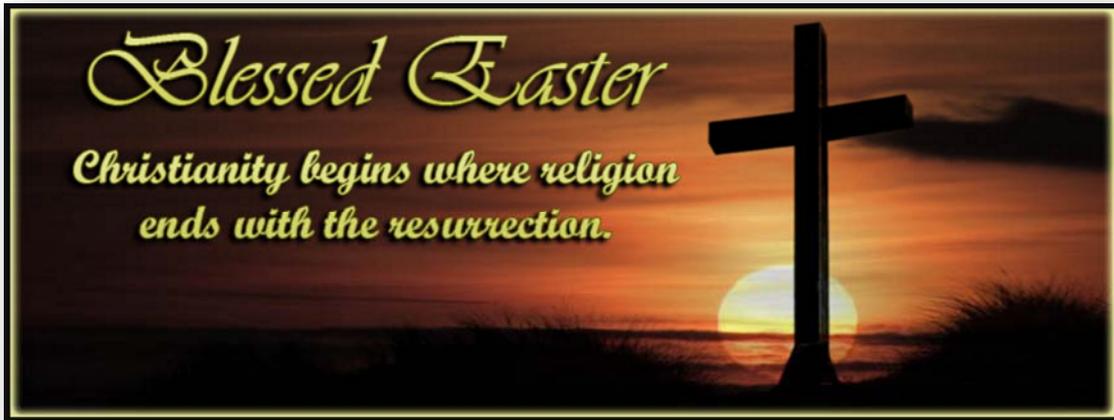
Colonel Maultsby

and the Air Medal with 19 clusters.

P.S. The Colonel even retells the story of his involvement in one of the most embarrassing scandals in military history involving the Chief of Staff of the Royal Australian Air Force...

The book's foreword was written by the Colonel's friend, Martin Caidin, author of over 50 books including "Cyborg" (that became Television's "Six Million Dollar Man") and "Marooned" (which became a movie starring Gene Hackman, Gregory Peck and Richard Crenna).

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### APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- Joe Wilson - 3
- Deborah Martin - 10
- Joshua Ingersoll - 17
- Pat Mesley - 20
- Micah Palmer - 26
- Becky Watkins - 29
- Ivey Palmer, Ed Salerno, Kimberly Stewart - 30

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- Andy & Teresa Ralph - 3

### MAILBAG FOR ANDREW FOLZ

For those who would like to drop Andrew Folz a note of encouragement, his deployed address is:

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# THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

**01 Apr 1884** - Florence Blanchfield (*pictured at right*), an American nurse who was the first woman to become a fully ranked officer of the U.S. Army, was born on this day. She was the first woman to receive a commission in the Regular Army. In making the presentation of her commission in a ceremony in 1947, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower paid tribute to the heroism of the Army nurses. The War Department credited Colonel Blanchfield, who at

the time had spent 30 years in the Army Nurse Corps, with being "largely instrumental in securing full military rank for nurses."

She marshaled her arguments for "full" rather than "relative" rank at hearings before a succession of Congressional committees. Full rank was won on a temporary basis in July, 1944, and was made permanent by the Army and Navy Nurse Corps Law of April 16, 1947.



## Taken by Surprise

Each of us makes plans for the details of our life. Our dreams may help us shape our life plans - that idyllic life we envision for ourselves. However, as we live life, often the dreams or idyllic life that we have envisioned for ourselves is interrupted by the unforeseen circumstances that happen along the way. While planning your life is important and pursuit of Godly dreams encouraged, sometimes these plans and dreams do not come to fruition. Sometimes, our plans will be all laid out and are seemingly within our reach when "life just happens" around us and our plans are postponed or even derailed. It may be an illness, loss of a job, death of a family member or even self-destructive habits or decisions that change the course of our life. When this happens, it is natural to be disappointed, disillusioned and sometimes even crushed by events that are beyond our control. However, we have a "very present Help in times of trouble."

Jesus never promised us that we would not have troubles along the way. In fact, we will have difficulties until Jesus returns for us and that is a reality you can bank on. But Jesus did promise us that He would never leave us or forsake us. So as a believer, you can count on hardships and disappointments. Occasionally, your life may be rocked by an unforeseen event that will change the course of your life. However, in the times of suffering, distress or bewildering circumstances, you can rest assured that Jesus is in the midst of your storm guiding, directing, and molding you to fit the future He has brought about for you. Many years ago, a famous country music song declared "Sometimes I Thank God for Unanswered Prayer." I can indeed tell you that I have thanked God often that He did not answer some of the truly sincere prayers that I prayed to Him in the past. Romans 8:28 tells us: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who

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are called according to His purpose." We may have to endure some hardships, disappointments, and unanswered prayers in the present to reach the bright future God has in store for us. If you trust Him to guide your life, you can endure the unforeseen circumstances of your life knowing that our Lord is with you along the path.

As a Christian, you can expect your life to be tested along your journey. That testing produces the faith you need to grow in Christ as you learn to trust Him in spite of the circumstances around you. When you confess your weakness honestly before God and pray according to His Word, you will realize that God has you firmly in His hand and will bring you through the circumstances of life to His expected end for you. In the end, is there really any other place that you would rather be?



*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

*John 16:33b*

## Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please continue to pray for Ashley Huskey as she is being treated for vasculitis. Please keep Phil Wagher in your prayers for continued health and strength. Andrew Folz, son of Ken and Cheryl Folz, is deployed overseas with the Air Force. Please keep Andrew and his family in your prayers during this period of separation. Redgie Chambers requested prayer for relatives Ricco and Tammy Barrentos. Ricco was seriously injured re-

cently in Afghanistan and will require extensive rehab. Please continue to keep Brian and Ivey Palmer in your prayers as they minister to soldiers and families at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. This past month they found out that they will be moving to Fort Hood, Texas in the near future. Please continue to keep our new President, Donald Trump, and his administration in your prayers!

~ Colonel Martin

**Next Month:** Conclusion of "The Visit"



The Brian Palmer Family

