

A Call to Arms



*I'm Fred Olds,
founder of this museum.
Find a few of my favorite
things—and see if you
can answer
my questions!*

Fred's Finds

A Sioux War Club

War clubs were preferred combat weapons for Plains Indians such as the Lakota and other Sioux tribes. In battle, a dedicated blow from the stone-headed club could easily break a limb or crush a skull.

B Banjo

Banjo owned by Private Joseph J. Anderson, Thirty-first Regiment North Carolina Troops, 1861–1865.

C German Periscope

Steel and brass binocular adjustable German trench periscope, ca. 1917. Brought to North Carolina by Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt.

D Army Nurse's Uniform

Colonel Mildred Irene Clark wore this working uniform early in her military career, from 1938 to 1945. She retired from the military after dedicating 29 years to the U.S. Army Nurse Corps.

E Adolf Hitler Pincushion

Hitler pincushion figurine, ca. 1942.

F Korean Flag

Korean flag signed by marines from the unit of naval corpsman Dan Heath, of Walnut Cove, ca. 1951.

G POW Bracelet

Bracelet made ca. 1970 in support of Major Raymond Schrupp, who was captured in Vietnam by the Vietcong in 1968.

H Military Visual Language Guide

Guide created and used by the U.S. Army in Iraq, ca. 2005.

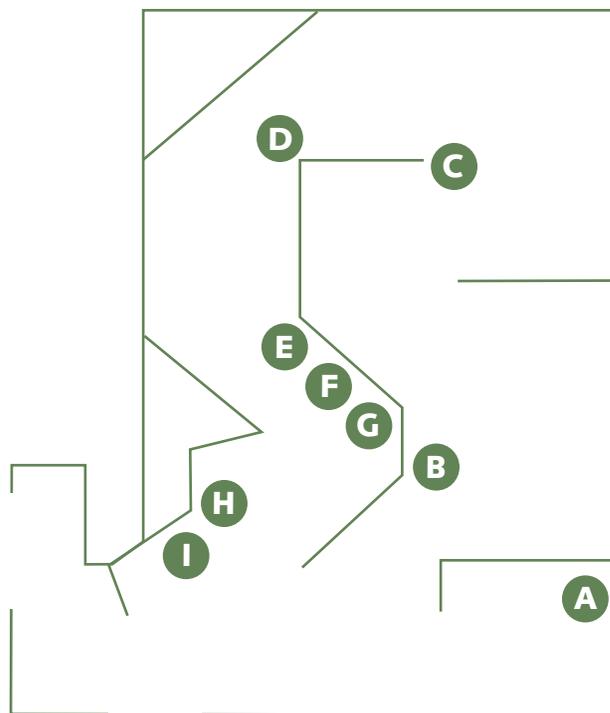
I Under Armour T-shirt

Microfiber T-shirt worn by Captain Charles W. Morrison, ca. 2005.

NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY®

History Happens Here

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Information & Questions →

A Call to Arms

A Sioux War Club

Beautiful but Deadly

By the early 1800s, many Americans believed that the Pacific Ocean should be the western boundary of the United States. White Americans pushed west into land that was home to many American Indian tribes. This belief in “manifest destiny” led many North Carolinians to join the U.S. Army and fight western Indians like the Sioux to protect white settlers. Gains for those settlers meant the loss of freedom for the Sioux and many other American Indian tribes, including western North Carolina tribes like the Cherokee.

? Do you think American Indians still live in North Carolina and western states?

Yes! There are some 550 American Indian tribes in the United States today, and their population is more than one million people. North Carolina has eight state-recognized tribes, with more than 100,000 people.

B Banjo

Oh, Susannah!

Banjos likely came to North Carolina with enslaved Africans. These homemade instruments used gourds with animal skins for the heads of the banjos and strings made from sheep guts. By the Civil War, the banjo’s popularity had spread widely; it was played by many white Southern soldiers like Private Joseph Anderson. Even soldiers from the North fell in love with its sound and carried instruments back home. Today the banjo is used to play everything from classical music to jazz and bluegrass.

? How many instruments in this case can you name? How many have you played?

C German Periscope

Head Down, Eyes Up

Do periscopes equal submarines to you? During World War I they had a use on land, where soldiers battled from trenches dug across much of Northern Europe. Periscopes allowed a soldier to look above ground level without risking his head to gunfire. North Carolina’s state geologist, Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt, brought home this German periscope when he returned from serving as a commander of the 30th Division, 105th Army Engineers Corps.

? Can you spy a soldier using a periscope in a nearby photo?

D Army Nurse’s Uniform

An Officer and a Lady

Lieutenant Mildred Irene Clark awoke the morning of December 7, 1941, to loud explosions and planes overhead. She opened the door and saw Japanese planes flying so close she could hear the radio communications between the pilots and clearly see the aircrafts’ bright insignia of the rising sun. Clark’s distinguished service in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps took her through World War II, the Korean conflict, and part of the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, Clark, now a colonel, served as chief of the Army Nurse Corps from 1963 to 1967. The Clark Health Clinic at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, proudly bears the name of this remarkable North Carolina woman.

? Do you know a woman who has served in the U.S. military? In what capacity did she serve?

E Adolf Hitler Pincushion

From the desk of the president?

Ouch! This pincushion held two points in one. It provided a place for stray sewing pins and needles, and offered its World War II-era users a homely, everyday way to, well, stick it to the then dictator of Germany. A 1944 ad for a similar pincushion said President Franklin Roosevelt kept one on his desk!

? This is an example of propaganda, an attempt to influence the way people think about a person or idea. What other examples do you see?

F Korean Flag

A Soldier’s Souvenir

Dan Heath, of Walnut Cove, was a navy corpsman (a medic) with the marines in Korea when he asked members of his unit to sign this flag. In a photograph below the flag pose Po, a thirteen-year-old Korean boy, and Heath. Po had been adopted by the unit as an interpreter and mascot. Heath also carried another flag—one from North Carolina sent to him by Governor Kerr Scott.

? Where were the men in Dan Heath’s unit from? Look at the flag for clues.

G POW Bracelet

You Are Not Forgotten

Beginning in 1969 thousands of Americans began wearing bracelets to show their support of prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action in Vietnam. Major Raymond Schrupp, whose name appears on this bracelet, was captured by the Vietcong on May 23, 1968. He was unaccounted for until February 12, 1973, when he and twenty-six other prisoners were released at an airport in Loc Ninh. Schrupp retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel. He now works in the private sector and lives in Egypt.

? How long was Major Schrupp imprisoned?

For 1,726 days, or 4 years, 8 months, and 20 days, not including his rescue date.

H Military Visual Language Guide

Not Your Usual Sign Language

How do you talk when you don’t share a language? Simple dictionaries and basic language pamphlets have helped soldiers overcome communication barriers. This version is waterproof and can be folded like a map. It contains commonly used words in Arabic, Kurdish, and Farsi and pictures to aid American soldiers talking with people in Iraq.

? What questions might a soldier ask when using the pictures on this guide?

I Under Armour T-shirt

Major Meltdown

Many U.S. military members now wear clothes like Captain Charles W. Morrison’s polyester Under Armour T-shirt. But though such “high performance” fabrics help wearers stay cool when it’s hot and warm when it’s cold, they have a weakness: they melt when exposed to an open flame. Due to a rise in burn rates, the U.S. Marine Corps no longer allows personnel to wear these T-shirts while conducting operations off base.

? Have you seen or worn an Under Armour shirt? How is it different from a cotton T-shirt?