

What a great kick off meeting, were you there?



RED BULL
**Historic
Military Vehicle
Association**
www.redbullhmva.com

Eric Thompson

Group President

info@redbullhmva.com

www.redbullhmva.com

Since 2000

The annual kickoff meeting hosted by Wayne M., (**Thank You** again Wayne) may have been the most attended meeting of our history. Also, a big thank you to all, especially to the new members that have joined our Group.

Current newsletter below: Did you know?



Alexander Bonnyman Jr.

Alexander Bonnyman Jr. a True Hero of World War II. In the scorching heat of the Pacific theater during World War II, a fearless Marine Corps officer named Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr. led a charge that would go down in history. He courageously fought alongside his men to secure a critical airfield on the island of Tarawa, risking his own life to save countless others. Though Bonnyman ultimately gave his life for his country, his legacy of valor and gallantry would inspire generations to come. This is the story of a true American hero, Alexander Sandy Bonnyman Jr.

Bonnyman was born on May 2nd, 1910, in Atlanta, Georgia. After two years of his birth, his family moved to Knoxville, where his father served as the president of a coal mining company, Blue Diamond Company Knoxville. Bonnyman got his early education from Knoxville and graduated from New Jersey before entering Princeton University. In June 1932, he enlisted as a flying cadet in the Army Air Corps. He was sent to a pre-flying school in Texas and honorably discharged in September 1932. After being discharged from the pre-flying school, Bonnyman joined his father in his firm. Within six years, Bonnyman owned a copper mine in the mountains of New Mexico.

When the second world war reached its climax in July 1942, Bonnyman, in his sheer patriotism, decided to join the Marines. He got his recruit training from the Marine Corps

Recruit Depot, San Deigo, California. In October 1942, Bonnyman sailed for the South Pacific.

During the second world war, the Battle of Tarawa was fought between the USA and Japan. This battle is considered the most brutal battle of the second world war. During the battle, the US Marines landed on a small Tarawa island on November 20th, 1943. The Japanese forces had fortified the island with bunkers, pillboxes, and various other things, making overcoming those fortifications extremely difficult. In that difficult scenario, Bonnyman performed some heroic actions.



Bonnyman faced 100 Japanese soldiers to save his men. He led two assaults on a heavily fortified bunker with more than 100 Japanese soldiers. He dropped explosives down the vents of the bunker and used flamethrowers to flush out the enemy. Moreover, he was alone near the outer edge of the top of the bunker when the Japanese soldiers came rushing out. He single-handedly stalled the counterattack until the rest of the Marines made it to safety.

Bonnyman was hit several times by Japanese fire, but he refused to surrender. Finally, with his last ounce of strength, he knocked out the machine gun nest holding up his unit. However, as Bonnyman turned to lead his men forward, he was hit by a burst of enemy fire and killed instantly. His courageous actions inspired his men to continue the attack, and they could seize the bunker complex and advance further into the Japanese defenses.



Clay Bonnyman Evans, the grandson of Alexander Bonnyman, was responsible for recovering the remains of the Marines from a massive grave on the Island of Betio in Tarawa Atoll. When Evans was interviewed, he told his audience that Bonnyman was standing alone, with an M-1 rifle, at the edge of a bunker at the time of his death. Evans said, 'He killed several of the enemy and then was killed.' Moreover, Evans also said, 'Literally, he was my idol. I would stand at age six and look at that medal and this big portrait of him, and I thought he was perfect.'

Bonnyman's actual date of death is listed as November 22nd, 1943. However, according to his grandson, he died on November 21st. He was only 33 years old when he gave his life to save his homeland.

The Marine was exhumed on May 29th, 2015, nearly four years after the trench he was buried in was discovered by History Flight. The excavation was delayed for several reasons, and one of the reasons was that the trench was on private property. Bonnyman's gold tooth was essential in identifying his remains. Moreover, it took more than a day for the archaeologists to uncover his body completely. He was still wearing his Boondockers boots, and his Zippo lighter was still on him. Bonnyman's remains were sent to Hawaii for forensic work, and he was buried in his dress blues in Knoxville on September 27th, 2015. Two Tarawa veterans, as was a Marine honor guard, were at the funeral. Overall, 1100 Marines and navy personnel, along with 5,000 Japanese soldiers and their Korean slaves, were killed in the Battle of Tarawa.

For Bonnyman's gallantry and selflessness, he was posthumously given the highest military award of the USA, i.e., the Medal of Honor. His sacrifice is remembered as a testament to

the bravery and determination of the US Marines who fought at Tarawa and the sacrifices made by all those who fought in World War II.

In a nutshell, the story of Alexander Bonnyman Jr. is not just about one man's heroism and self-sacrifice on a faraway island in the Pacific. It is a reminder of the incredible bravery and determination of the men who fought in World War II and their sacrifices to defend freedom and democracy. Bonnyman and his fellow Marines faced impossible odds and overwhelming danger, yet they never wavered in their commitment to their country and fellow soldiers.

Bonnyman's story is also a testament to the power of the human spirit and the capacity of individuals to rise to the challenge in the face of extreme adversity. Despite the horrors he witnessed and the danger he faced, Bonnyman remained resolute and steadfast in his duty. His unwavering commitment to his fellow soldiers and his unyielding courage in the face of almost certain death inspire us all.

Above all, Bonnyman's story reminds us that the price of freedom is high and that the sacrifices of those who came before us must never be forgotten. We owe a debt of gratitude to Alexander Bonnyman Jr. and all the soldiers who fought and died for our country, and we must never forget their sacrifice. Their courage and selflessness serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for future generations, and their memory will live on in the hearts and minds of all those who cherish freedom and democracy.

Thank you to all our Servicemen and Veterans, current and retired, this nation owes you a debt of gratitude, from your friends here at the Red Bull Historic Military Vehicle Association.



This section devoted to our members that wanted to know if you knew, plus . . .

1. **Hi from Marlin Peterson**, no longer living at Kasota by St. Peter but moved last summer and now living couple miles east of LeCenter. Could you help me find someone? Last Sept. I attended **Sutton Ridge Farms Veterans Appreciation Day** a few miles east of Jordan. Couple Red Bull guys had their jeeps there giving rides to the attendees, etc. I visited quite a bit with one fellow, he said he lived just a few miles away, so would likely have either a Jordan, New Prague or Prior Lake address. He had an M38A1 jeep. I am corresponding with a fellow who has an M38A1 for sale, high likelihood I may buy it, so would like to talk to this fellow I met last Sept. Can you check membership and see if you can figure out who he might be. Thanks, Marlin Peterson.
2. Had a great time at the meeting thanks all, and here is my MVPA number that you asked us to send in. MVPA # 21026 **Don W**
3. check out the attached. 168.10 REGISTRATION; COLLECTOR VEHICLE, 1h C page 4, <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/168.10/pdf> I think it's safe to say that we are not required to display or plates. Any thoughts? I want to know. So, reach out. **Eric Thompson** 612-940-9049 Edt1950@gmail.com
4. Dear fellow members, At the annual meeting you asked for possible stories for our newsletter. John Adams-Graf, editor at "History in Motion", sent me info. to use in telling the story of my grandpa's experience in WW1. Grandpa served as a truck driver. I have attached the story I wrote and pictures of Grandpa and his unit. Something like this? **Larry S.**

Larry this is exactly what we're looking for from our members. Thank you, looking forward to sending it out next quarter. John G., Staff.

5. Memorial Day Activities, the Woodberry memorial day activities hosted by **Richard C.**, our Group was out in Force with 10 members bringing their MV's to support the ceremonies. A special shout out to Richard for his efforts.
6. Many members with MV's supporting the Excelsior memorial day parade and graveside service's not too late to join us, **Eric T.**
7. **S A D** News, we will be updating the www.redbullhmva.com Event Page, our participation in the MVPA Convoy to Iowa will be canceled due to lack of participation. Are you planning to go but forgot to register is that the reason . . . **anyone, anyone, any . . .one?**
8. The kickoff meeting hosted by Wayne M., (thank you again Wayne) this may have been the most attended meeting of our history.

Thank you again to all that attended. The WEB Guys are asking, what about all the pictures that were taken? Not one has been turned in.

PS: No one has taken advantage of My Page . . . on the Home Page www.redbullhmva.com