

Things you didn't know about WWII

Monday, 14 July 2008

As you all know, WWII had a major impact on anyone who was alive during the 1930's and 40's. World War

The global conflict which dragged on for some nine years carried with it much historical significance. A lot of that history makes for some fascinating trivia. Odd But True Facts About World War Two that you wouldn't necessarily find in a History Book:

Hitler's personal phone number to his Berlin bunker was 12-00-5-0

At the time of Pearl Harbor the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

The term "The whole 9 yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole 9 yards."

The Pentagon, in Arlington, Virginia, has twice as many bathrooms as is necessary. When it was built in the 1940s, the state of Virginia still had segregation laws requiring separate toilet facilities for blacks and whites.

The first German serviceman killed in the war was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940), the highest ranking American killed was LtGen. Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps. So much for allies.

The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded in combat and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by act of Congress).

More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions your chance of being killed was 71%.

German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City but the Germans thought

it

wasn't worth the effort.

The Russians destroyed over 500 German aircraft by ramming them in mid-air (they also sometimes cleared minefields by marching over them).
"It takes a brave man not to be a hero in the Red Army" - Joseph Stalin.