



JUNE 5-11, 2023



THROUGH THE LENS

JUNE 5, 1944: Members of Headquarters Battery, 140th Field Artillery Battalion, 37th Infantry Division, dedicate an athletic field on Bougainville to former battery member Pfc. Willard Columbus, a Galion, Ohio native who died on Oct. 22, 1943.



WEEK IN REVIEW

- Tu** **JUNE 6, 1944:** The 112th Combat Engineer Battalion lands on Omaha Beach in support of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions during Operation Neptune, the Allied invasion of Normandy, France.
- W** **JUNE 7, 1944:** The 987th Field Artillery Battalion lands on Gold Beach in support of the British 50th Division during Operation Neptune.
- F** **JUNE 9, 1966:** The 178th Communications Flight is federally recognized in Springfield.
- Sa** **JUNE 10, 1942:** The 37th Infantry Division arrives at Suva, Fiji Islands.
- JUNE 10, 1966:** The 180th Communications Flight is federally recognized in Toledo.
- Su** **JUNE 11, 1966:** The 121st Communications Flight is federally recognized in Columbus.



CONNECTING TO THE COLLECTIONS



FIJI CEREMONIAL WHALE'S TOOTH

Presented to Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler during a meke ceremony while the 37th Infantry Division was stationed on Fiji. The meke is given in honor of a distinguished visitor and corresponds roughly to the custom of an American mayor presenting a distinguished guest with a key to the city. The ceremony starts with a series of native dances and rhythmical chanting. A kava ritual is performed, which generates a drink that is offered to each guest in a coconut bowl. The meke is often climaxed by the presentation of a whale's tooth, a symbol of brotherhood.

