



Gift of Doris and Frank Rosenblatt, Tampa.

**Rosenblatt Brothers, 1946**

(L-R) Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathan Rosenblatt, Jr., Major Charles Rosenblatt and U.S. Army serviceman Frank Rosenblatt. The most decorated of the brothers was Charles Rosenblatt, who served as an operations officer and later a squadron commander in the 358th Fighter Squadron, 355th Fighter Group, 8th Air Force based at Steeple Morden, England. He flew 102 combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (twice) and the Air Medal (four times). He also served as a fighter pilot during the Korean War, retiring to Jacksonville after 22 years of service.



**U.S. Army Private Joseph Weissman, c.1918**

Pvt. Joseph Weissman emigrated from Romania in 1913 and was inducted at Tampa on Sept. 18, 1917. He was appointed 1st Cook in Company G, 324th Infantry Regiment, 81st Division. The division trained in South Carolina and in August 1918 was shipped to France. The division was transferred to Verdun and starting on Nov. 8, the division attacked German positions for two days. From the outset they were met with heavy German machine gun and artillery fire. Rumors of an armistice swirled, but because no official word was received about a cessation of hostilities, the unit continued its attacks. At daybreak on Nov. 11, 81st Division soldiers were ordered to assault German positions. The troops slowly advanced through the heavy fog and German shell and machine gun fire. Then, at 11 a.m., the firing abruptly stopped. The war was over. After the war, in 1920, Weissman opened the Red Globe Department Store in Ybor City.



**U.S. Army Serviceman Abe Tarapani, c.1920.** Tarapani, of Tarpon Springs, fought in France. He later became mayor.



**U.S. Navy Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Sorrell Wolfson, 1946.**

Sorrell Wolfson, a native of Tampa, enlisted in the Navy in mid-May 1945. He was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Midway in March 1946 and served as a corpsman. The experience spurred his interest in medicine. He used his GI Bill to attend the University of Florida and medical school at Vanderbilt University, opening his practice in the late 1950s in Tampa.

Gift of Mark Wolfson, Tampa



**U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Harvey Wittner, c.1945**

A Tampa native, Sgt. Harvey Wittner graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1942 and later graduated from the Northern Illinois College of Optometry. He served with the 158th Regimental Combat Team (Bushmasters), fighting in the Philippines (Luzon and Leyte) and earning the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star.

Loan of Marilyn Wittner, Tampa,

**MILITARY**

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Jewish Floridians also are recorded as having served in the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam the Gulf wars and Afghanistan. The exhibit contains more than 500 photos, some dating back to the early 19th century, and 300 artifacts, including uniforms, documents and medals. Maps and overviews of every war are displayed, detailing Jewish participation.

Among today's military leaders, the exhibit features Gen. David Fridovich, currently director of the Center for Special Operations, U.S. Special Operations Command, at MacDill. He has held the post since 2007.

Tampa Bay area military personnel featured include three brothers from the Rosenblatt family of Tampa who all went to war: Petty Officer 2nd. Class Nathan Rosenblatt, Jr., Maj. Charles Rosenblatt, and Frank Rosenblatt of the Army Medical Corps. All three brothers survived and returned to Florida.

Some others from Tampa in the exhibit include Sammie Argintar of Tampa, a U.S. Navy petty officer 1st. Class; and Harvey Wittner of Tampa, who rose to the rank of U.S. Army staff sergeant.

Women have been a presence in times of war as well, including Tampa native Nellye Israelson, later Friedman, who joined the Women's Army

Auxiliary Corps, later called the Women's Army Corps, in July of 1943. Holding the rank of captain, she served for three years as the special services officer at Napier Field in Dothan, AL.

"I joined the WAACS to do my small part and help Uncle Sam get this mess over with. It's hard to tell in words any other reasons. A person does things like this because something inside tells her to, I guess," the then 21-year-old is quoted as saying at the time.

Abe Tarapani of Tarpon Springs, joined the Army and fought in France. Following his return in 1919, he regained control of the New York Department Store he had opened in Tarpon Springs in 1911. He was later mayor of Tarpon Springs and commander of the local American Legion post for more than 20 years.

Jewish Floridians currently serving in the military overseas are also represented in the exhibit. For instance, U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Joshua Simon has been deployed in Afghanistan since October 2009. A native of Miami, Simon graduated from Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, where he served as commander of the JROTC Drill Company.

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The Jewish Museum of Florida is located at 301 Washington Ave. on South Beach. Hours are 10 a.m to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, call (305) 672-5044 or go to www.jewishmuseum.com



Gift of Nellye Israelson Friedman, Tampa

**U.S. Army Capt. Nellye Israelson, 1943.**



**U.S. Army Lt. Barry Halem, c.1970.**

Halem served in the Quartermaster Corps and did one tour of duty in Vietnam. He currently lives in Tampa.

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