

The TMCA News

Volume 46 Issue 1

April 2022



2022 Spring Show

Where: Franklin Marriott Conference Center / Hotel Cool Springs
700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, TN 37067

When: Friday, **April 15th** - Life Members Only 8AM-9AM
Members Only 9AM - Noon Public Admitted 12 Noon - 5PM
Saturday, **April 16th** - 8AM - 3PM

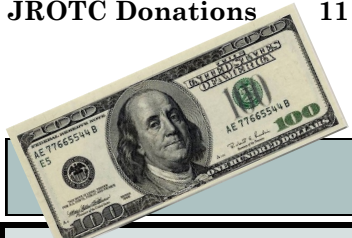
Admission: \$5. for Non-Members. **TMCA Members get in free early - Wear Badge**, Children under 15 free. Also admitted free Members of US Military, Fire, Police, and if in uniform R.O.T.C. and J.R.O.T.C members.

What Will Be There: Uniforms, Medals, Insignia, Badges, Helmets, Weapons, Veterans. **Buy-Sell-Trade-Display-Appraisals.**

Table Reservations '320" 6 FT. Tables ~ Members Only ~
Sale and Display Tables - \$50 each. SOLD OUT, call for waiting list
To reserve contact Ronnie Townes @ 615-661-9379 - tmca@comcast.net

Room Reservations at Hotel: Call 1-888-403-6772 or 615-261-6100 and ask to receive the TMCA discount rate of \$117 (king/queen), plus tax (normal rate is \$209). **Deadline for this Special Rate is March 17, 2022**

Club News	1
Friend or Foe	2-7
WWII GPW	8
Show Dates, Display Winners	9
Classified Ads.	9-10
JROTC Donations	11



Club News

Display theme for the upcoming show will be on the Vietnam War. \$100 will be given for the best display on Vietnam. TMCA Club members who are Vietnam Veterans will be honored.



Bob Dunlap
with Vietnamese Soldier



Ted Wylie



Gene Andrews



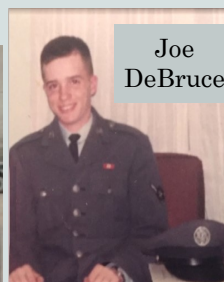
Keith Durkee



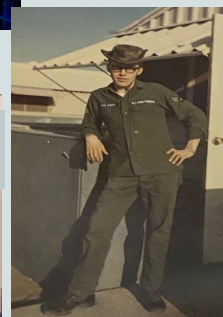
John Meyer



Michael Lavin



Joe
DeBruce



Roy Chilson



Willie Gentry

Friend or Foe: Civilian Internees at Camp Forrest

Dr. Elizabeth Taylor, Guest Contributor



Numerous aspects of World War II remain largely untold, but it is paramount we never underestimate the value these stories have on our understanding of the human condition. In the weeks after Pearl Harbor, many citizens of and immigrants to the U.S. from nations

linked with the Axis powers were deemed a threat to national security and were detained in camps throughout the United States. These individuals were referred to as enemy aliens or civilian internees. The misconceptions, both then and now, about this population overshadow the truth and hide some of the often-intolerable acts cultures committed against each other on the home front.

Who were Civilian Internees?

Civilian internees in the United States were typically Japanese, Germans, and Italians who were categorized according to a particular threat level. It is often assumed these individuals were engaged in wrongdoing or were traitors to America. There were no definitions or guidelines for identification, incarceration, and detention of civilian internees in World War II. Law enforcement and hearing boards had discretion to decide if a detainee be interviewed, arrested, and/or detained. The provisions outlined in the 1929 Geneva Convention only applied to prisoners of war.

Throughout the U.S. there were certainly individuals who were a threat to national security; however, there is evidence that a significant number of those detained were not a threat. With civil liberties suspended, individuals who lived in the U.S. for decades preceding the war were erroneously detained. Evidence and witness testimony to support claims of terrorism and sabotage were typically either weak, nonexistent, or based on rumors and conjecture. It was a period when family members or neighbors who held a grudge could easily report an individual as a threat.

President Roosevelt's legal actions after December 7, provided the Immigration and Naturalization Services, the FBI, and the various state and local law enforcement agencies with the authority to arrest and relocate potential threats. In part, the act decreed that "all natives, citizens, or subjects of [sic] . . . Japan, Germany, and Italy . . . who lived in the U.S. and were not naturalized to be "liable to be apprehended, restrained, secured, and removed as alien enemies." The FBI arrested over 1,200 German nationals by mid-December of 1941, but this figure was over 11,000 within a month.

Due process was typically suspended for internees; however, some were granted hearings in their respective judicial districts. The hearing panels were comprised of at least three members of white-collar professions, such as doctors, lawyers, and businessmen. There were approximately 100 panels located throughout the

United States. The accused was not allowed legal counsel, to act in his own defense, or to present evidence or witnesses. Much of the time during each hearing was spent listening to FBI agents present evidence regarding the accused. At a hearing's conclusion one of three recommendations was rendered - internment, parole, or release. Some of the reoccurring problems at hearings included the need for translators, lack of counsel for the accused, hurried proceedings, and lack of consistency in recommendations rendered. The proceedings for each hearing were sent the U.S. Attorney General and Alien Enemy Control Board for review to ensure a modicum of consistency in the decision-making process. The Department of Justice further tried to balance the legal scales in later years by implementing an appeals procedure. However, the mental and emotional damage exacted on scores of civilian internees had already occurred.

In January 1942, U.S. Attorney General Biddle cited Department of Justice figures which in part indicated there were 1,100,000 enemy aliens in the United States: 92,000 Japanese, 315,000 German, and 695,000 Italian. He indicated thus far law enforcement had arrested almost 3,000 individuals of mainly Japanese and German descent. Biddle remarked that no one had anything to worry about if they were loyal. However, there was no standard definition or legal precedent to define loyalty. It was open for interpretation by citizens, law enforcement, and hearing panel members.

Camp Forrest and Civilian Internees

Camp Forrest was one of the first civilian internment camps in the U.S. Prior to receiving civilian internees, it served as a major military installation about a mile outside of Tullahoma, Tennessee. Camp Forrest proper was approximately 80,000 acres, but the total acreage under the control of the installation was closer to 200,000. It also served as the operations hub for the Tennessee Maneuvers. Throughout its operations, there were about 250,000 soldiers who received their initial physical exams; 70,000 soldiers who were trained; 12,000 civilians who were employed; and 800 civilian internees and 20,000 prisoners of war, who were detained.

Construction started in late 1940 at a cost of approximately \$36 million, which equates to \$575 million in 2021 dollars. The reservation consisted of 1,300 buildings, 55 miles of roads, and 5 miles of railroad tracks. By fall 1941 the first troops began to arrive. It was one of the largest World War II training and induction facilities in the U.S. As a self-sustaining city, it served as the training grounds for infantry, artillery, engineering, and signal units. Unfortunately, today there are few remains of this major installation.

In spring of 1942, the camp assumed the additional responsibility of detaining civilian internees and detained 800 individuals until mid-1943 when everyone was transferred to North Dakota as the camp began preparations to receive POWs from the North Africa campaign. Although men and women were arrested and detained, there were only men at Camp Forrest. There was a mix of nationalities and numerous rabid Nazis and Nazi sympathizers. Those individuals were quickly segregated from the general population.

The research on the Camp Forrest Alien Enemy Internment Camp is limited. The currently available surviving records indicate detainees had access to medical and dental services, canteens and PXs, and to Red Cross

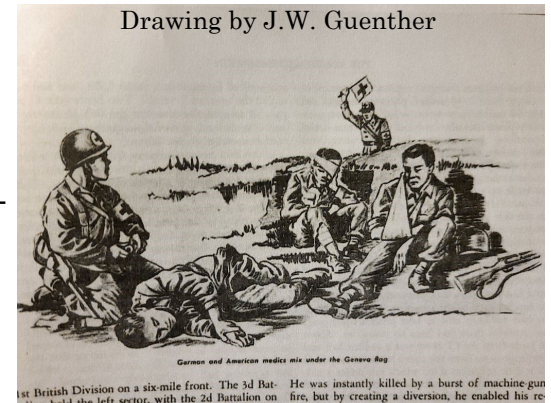
services. They were able to participate in various recreational activities, and started their own newspaper, The Latrine. Many individuals spent time writing letters to family and friends, sending appeal letters to INS and the Department of Justice, and working on arts and crafts projects. Many of these individuals were accomplished artisans before being sent to Camp Forrest. The men were allowed to work during their time at Camp Forrest on grounds projects, such as ditch digging and building retaining walls. Local farmers were allowed to request workers to help with planting and harvesting. Documents indicate paper money called chits were issued in lieu of dollars. The amount of pay and whether payments transferred with the internees to another camp requires further research.

The remainder of this article focuses on three civilian internees held at Camp Forrest. Determining whether the incarceration of these individuals was warranted is not straightforward. Perhaps using 21st century standards, their incarceration was unwarranted, but it is important to keep in mind it was a time of war, travel was restricted, and access to information was limited to what one learned from family and friends, heard on the radio, or read in the newspaper.

J.W. Guenther

J.W. Guenther was a German immigrant who arrived in the US in 1922. He resided with his aunt, who had been in the U.S. for over a decade. She was married and had two children and resided in the Richmond, Virginia area. Guenther assimilated quickly and held several jobs and became an accomplished painter and commercial illustrator in the community. There were numerous articles in the Richmond papers that mentioned his paintings and he won several art competitions throughout the 1930s. He painted numerous U.S. historical and political figures, such as Lincoln, Patrick Henry, Woodrow Wilson, and the Randolph family of Virginia. He taught commercial art and illustration courses at the College of William and Mary for several years and eventually opened his own studio in Richmond. By many ac-

counts he was a well-respected artist in Richmond. He wrote numerous Letters to the Editor of the Richmond newspaper, The Times Dispatch from 1935 to 1940. In his letters he contradicted media reports on the current state of Germany. With his letters, he was attempting to explain how these reports were not indicative of the entire nation and of all German people. The unknown element of the story is whether he was being used to help spread German propaganda with his letter writing campaigns. He frequently corresponded with Hans Rolf Hoffman, who distributed the newsletter "News from Germany". This newsletter was designed to promote propaganda which deflected foreign criticism of Nazi policies. We can only speculate if Guenther's letters reflect his own viewpoints or those of the German government's. The letters were extremely well written, and he traveled to Germany approximately every two years, so he could have witnessed the things he noted in his



1st British Division on a six-mile front. The 3d Battalion held the left sector, with the 2d Battalion on fire, but by creating a diversion, he enabled his re-

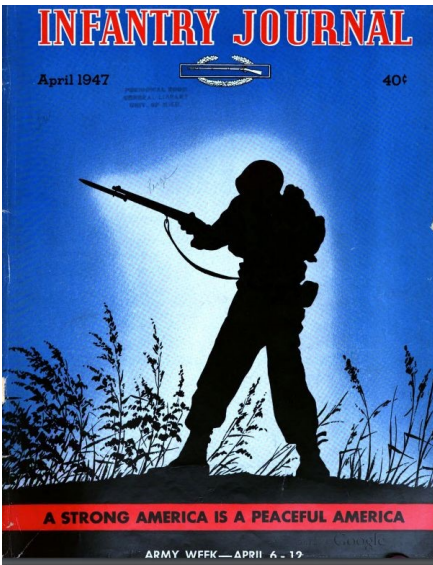


Illustration by Guenther

letters. By late 1940, his letters stopped appearing in the Richmond newspapers. The details of his arrest are still unknown. Until further research can yield additional information, it is supposition whether his letter writing or the frequent visits to Germany was enough to make him a suspected threat. Or perhaps a rival in the art community wanted him removed. Guenther was sent to Fort Bismarck, North Dakota and was paroled before the war ended and returned to Richmond.

His time in a civilian internment camp did not seem to jade his perspective of the United States. After the war he illustrated for numerous U.S. military magazines, such as the Infantry Journal as well as for the book, Americans, The Story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was about the famous Japanese American Regiment in World War II. While he was at Camp Forrest, he offered to paint an oil portrait of the Alien Internment and

later POW camp commander Colonel Russell Wolfe. Guenther indicated to the commander that he did a famous painting of Hitler. Colonel Wolfe knew that Guenther and the other internees would be shipping out to make room for arriving POWs, so Guenther did a charcoal sketch of him instead of an oil painting.

To date, there is little information available about his activities other than those immediately after the war. He passed away in 1993 at the age of 93 and is buried in Germany.

Paul LaMeyer

Paul LaMeyer's, grandson, Randy Houser, has done extensive research to understand how and why his grandfather was detained for so long during World War II. Paul LaMeyer was born in Hanover, Germany in October 1885. He earned a degree in engineering at the Technology School in Munich, Germany. He served in the cavalry and infantry in the German army from 1906-1907 and the German air force from 1916 -1918. He was an accomplished tennis player, and read and spoke German, French, Italian, and English.

In 1926 LaMeyer met artist Helen Hunt Ames of Newton, Massachusetts while they were both in Italy. They married several years later and had two children. He worked as a designer for two Boston firms. His investment income from Germany was frozen by the Nazi government in 1933. Since the loss of regular work and the ending of his German income in 1933, he was less able to provide for his family. Apparently, his wife did not prefer her husband poor. The action of the FBI took place during a pending marriage separation which Paul refused to grant. False testimony was given to the courts that he was not supporting his family and he was "defiantly Pro-Nazi". It took three and a



Drawing by Paul LaMeyer

half years for the courts to receive accurate information about LaMeyer. He was eventually paroled and returned to work as an architect. He eventually moved to Italy and passed away December of 1960. We are left to wonder was he subversive or merely just a victim of unfortunate circumstances.

Alfred Schoen

Schoen's granddaughter Sally came to Tullahoma in 2019 to learn about Camp Forrest and its civilian internee population. Her grandfather spoke very little about this period of his life. Schoen was born in East Prussia and became a successful dairy farmer. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1929. And by 1934 married and had a son. He was working in a dairy products factory in New York when the U.S. declared war on Germany. Since the factory employed a significant number of German immigrants, it was on the FBI watch list for potential subversive activity. When he was interrogated by the FBI, he engaged in a conversation with authorities rather than answering the questions posed to him with only a yes or no. His friends told him to be quiet and only answer the questions that are asked, but he did not follow their recommendations. At the conclusion of his interview, he was detained by the FBI and sent directly to an Alien Enemy Internment Camp. He was neither allowed to return home to obtain any personal items nor allowed to let his wife know what was happening. He was placed on a guarded train bound for Camp Forrest. Months later he was able to let his wife know by letter why he did not come home and where he was being detained. To generate income, his wife allowed boarders in their Brooklyn home while he was held at Camp Forrest. After approximately 18 months he was paroled and returned to New York. He became a successful dairy farmer in upstate New York for the duration of his life. His granddaughter indicated that he did not talk about his experience as a civilian internee, but the family realized the experience had embittered him for the remainder of his life. Was he a threat to America because he spoke his mind or a victim of circumstance?

Lessons Learned

Without further research we can only surmise to what degree incarcerations were unwarranted and based on grudges, prejudices, economics, or politics.

The family members of the Commander of the Camp Forrest Alien Enemy Internment Camp and later the POW facility, Colonel Russell S. Wolfe, Sr. indicated that although there were virulent Nazis and fascists at



Drawing, Book cover by: LaMeyer



Wooden Donkey Cart made by Alfred Schoen



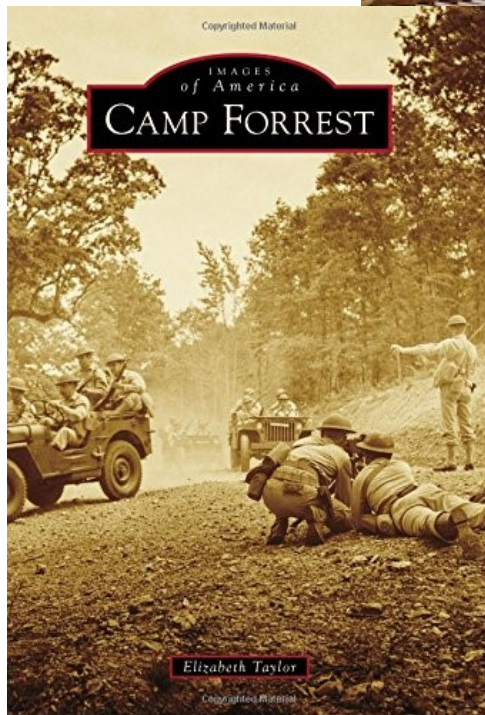
the camp there were many of the civilian internees that should not have been detained. Decades after the war ended, Civilian Internees and POWs would write letters and visit Colonel Wolfe at his home in South Carolina. Perhaps a testament to the impact his firm but considerate operation of the encampment had an impact on the lives of these individuals.

Additional information about Camp Forrest is available at www.CampForrest.com and in the books *Images of America: Camp Forrest* and *Voices of Camp Forrest in World War II* and *Voices of Camp Forrest in World War II*. Individuals are welcome to contact Dr. Taylor directly at 404-316-2753 or info@CampForrest.com.

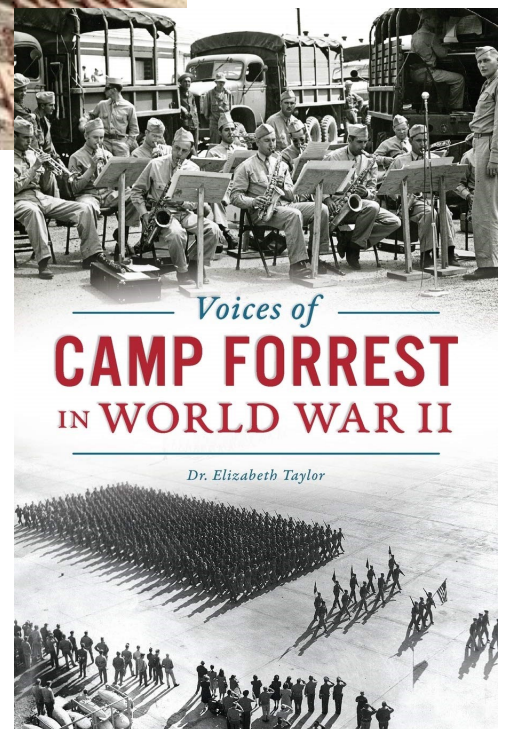
Bibliography

Harris, Charles W. The Alien Enemy Hearing Board as a Judicial Device in the United States during World War II. Source. The International and Comparative Law Quarterly, October 1965, Vol. 14, No. 4, pp. 1360-1370.

World War II Enemy Alien Control Program Overview, Brief Overview of the World War II Eney Alien Control Program.



Dr. Elizabeth Taylor will be signing and selling her books at the upcoming TMCA Spring/Summer Relics Show April 15-16, 2022.



WWII GPW

By: Richard Hanson MVPA #20485 , TMCA Life Member #885

Memorial day weekend 2020 found myself and Tim Baltz driving to a small town in the western part of Arkansas to save a ww2 legend. Six months prior Ozzie Gorbitz called me and asked if I wanted another WW2 jeep (I have three others).

A friend of his had purchased a old jeep from a local farmer that had owned it since shortly after the war. The jeep stopped running and was headed to the scrap yard shortly if no one wanted it, so Ozzie's friend bought it but he didn't want or need it and Ozzie was in the same boat as well, so that's where I came in.

I decided to purchase it and add it to the collection and with Tim's help and after waiting several months for the Covid lock downs to subside we headed on a 16 hour journey to pick it up, after a few weeks at my nephew Jeremy's shop the two of us started working on the old girl and within twenty minutes had her running (burnt out wire harness and bad ignition coil was the reason she didn't start)

The last year the GPW has been to the MVPA convention in South bend Indiana and the fall 2020 TMCA Show, by this May we hope to have her up and running reliable enough to show her more with plans to keep her in as found condition as long as possible.



A little history on this soldier is in order:

GPW277897 was built in the Louisville Ford plant (still working to confirm this) on April 26 1945 and was sent to camp Robinson in North Little Rock Arkansas for service until it was deemed surplus and sold in middle to late 1946 with less than 10,000 miles on the odometer, I'm still looking for information on the farmer who purchased it because I was told he bought three jeeps during this time to use on his farm and my understanding is the other two were scrapped years ago when they stopped running, this is unconfirmed at this time.

The jeep was used on the farm and was repaired using items on the farm or purchased locally and at sometime a tail gate was cut into the back panel and over the years it was painted several times in different colors of red and green, other than that the jeep is in surprisingly original condition, after several times under the pressure washer some of the original markings including the

hood registration number are becoming visible again and hopefully I will be able to determine what unit it served in.

GPW 277897 will be restored at some time in the future but until then my family will enjoy driving it as found and helping to keep a small part of United States Army World War II history alive and well for future generations.



Up Coming Shows and Events

TMCA Militaria Show - Franklin, TN. April 15, 16. Cool Springs Marriott Hotel

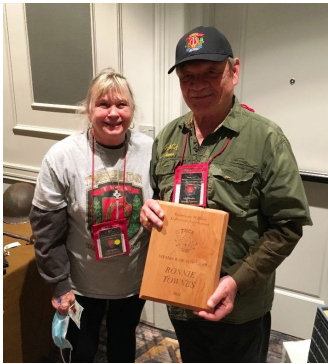
AMCA Militaria Show - Huntsville, AL. Jaycee's Center April 29, 30th.

Ohio Civil War Show - Mansfield Ohio April 30, May 1

TMCA Schutzenfest - Charlie Haffner Range, Franklin, TN "You must register" May 12th

OVMS Show - Wilmington, Ohio. June 10, 11th.

Member of the Year



Ronnie Townes

Dealer of the Year



Robert Wilson

Best Display Fall 2021



Tom Bruce

Best Military Vehicle Display



Tim Baltz

Join us in **OHIO**
 For 400 tables of militaria!
 AT **THE ROBERTS CENTRE**
 June 10-11, 2022
 COLLECTORS GET IN HERE!



Join us for the TMCA Monthly Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of the Month. Enjoy great fellowship, good food and cub members giving special presentations on their hobbies.

LET'S AMAC Military Show GO - April 29th and 30th, 2022!

Friday, April 29th — Setup: Exhibitors Only 9AM
 Open to LIFE & Charter Members at 11AM
 Open to Members & Public at 1PM. til 5PM

Saturday, April 30th Open to Members and Exhibitors 8AM
 open to the Public 9AM til 4PM

Closed to Members & Exhibitors at 6 p.m

Sales Tables (6'):
 \$45 Members | \$55 Non-Members
 Display Tables (6'):
 \$25 Members | \$35 Non-Members

Huntsville Jaycee's Community Bldg.
 2180 Airport Rd. Huntsville, AL

For more info visit their website:
<http://www.almilitarycollectors.org/showinfo/showinfo.html>

WINGS FOR VICTORY

TENNESSEE MANEUVERS REMEMBERED
 History Made ~ Hand Made
 (and other treasures!)

Saturday, May 14th
 10am - 4pm
 Rain Date - Saturday, June 4th

Historic Downtown Carthage, TN



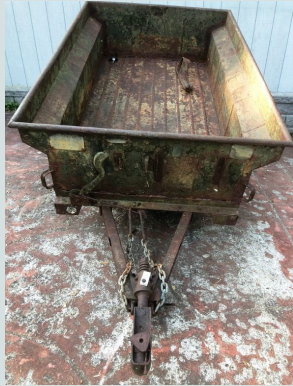
Living History, Military & Vintage Vehicles, Education Booths, 1940s Entertainment, Artifact Displays, Authors & Vendor Area Featuring Hand Made Items

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CLASSIFIED ADS Ad's are **FREE** for all TMCA members – email: dhoagey@comcast.net

Fore Sale: M100 1/4 ton Trailer. 1952 dated, Korean War for M38 Jeep \$450.



Un-restored with original paint and markings still on it. Needs new tires and lunette ring. Very few dents. The corner all around the bottom corner channel is pretty rusted in many areas. It either needs some angle iron welded in around the bottom edge or a new bottom floor installed. Bondo and some screen can be an easy fix to make it very displayable but not as strong. Located near Nashville, TN.

Dave 615-479-4569 dhoagey@comcast.net **\$450**



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**TENNESSEE MILITARY
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Sgt. at Arms: Bob Dunlap
Communications: Woody McMillin
Show Director: Ronnie Townes



TMCA Makes Donations to Local JROTC Units

During our Fall Show, the TMCA made donations of \$500 to each of the following High School Junior ROTC Air-Rifle teams:

1. Franklin High School
2. Page High School
3. Ravenwood High School

