


 ☆ SPRING ☆
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

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RMMMHS NEWSLETTER

A non-profit Museum located in the Fort Missoula Historic District

RMMMHS
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 Missoula MT 59807

(406) 549-5346
 website:
www.fortmissoula.org

E-mail:
info@fortmissoula.org

Hours:
 Winter-Spring – Sat. & Sundays 12-5
 June 1 thru Labor day- daily 12-5
 Other times by appointment

RMMMHS Officers 2003-04

President: Chairman
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 Maj. Gary Lancaster USAR Ret.

Secretary:
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Inside this Issue:	Page
Freedom Hall dedication	1
Memorial Day weekend events	1
Freedom Hall volunteers	2
Tim Gordon Donation	2
Raffle for Japanese WWII sword	2
New Acquisitions	2
Book reviews	2
Memorial Window form	3
Membership application	3
Exhibits/Programs	4
July 4 th 2004 Collectors Sale	4

RMMMHS TO DEDICATE NEW WWI-WWII GALLERY JUNE 6, 2004, THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

On Sunday June 6, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., the Museum will mark the 60th anniversary of the Normandy Campaign by opening its second gallery, Freedom Hall. The exhibit titled, “The World Conflict, 1914-45” will serve as the Museum’s permanent focus on World Wars I and II.

Incorporating paintings, photos, weapons, uniforms, interactive displays, film and other period artifacts, the exhibit will show how the turmoil and events of this momentous period shaped our modern world.

The keynote address speaker will be former UM president and historian James Koch, who has taught extensively on WWII.

The museum will award Certificates of Appreciation to all veterans of the Normandy Campaign. Normandy veterans are encouraged to contact the RMMMHS before June 6 or register at the Museum that day so they may be properly recognized during the presentation.

Eligible veterans are as follows:
 U.S. Army personnel attached to the following divisions from June 6 to July 24, 1944: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 35th, 79th, 83rd and 90th Infantry Divisions; 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th Armored Divisions; 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions; attached U.S. Army service and support units engaged in support of operations in Northwest Europe from June 6 to July 24, 1944; U.S. Army Air Forces and U.S. Navy units engaged in support of operations in Northwest Europe from June 6 to July 24, 1944.

Ceremonies will commence in front of the Laverne Parrish building, T-316, at Fort Missoula at 2:00 PM.

Please join us in honoring these veterans, and dedicating the new hall on the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

All World War II veterans are eligible for Certificates of Appreciation at the WWII Memorial Dedication ceremonies at Southgate Mall on Memorial Day weekend.

	*****	MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS
*****		
<u>SATURDAY- MAY 29, 2004</u>		
7:30–11:00	WWII Memorial Breakfast	– Christian Life Center
2:00 EST	Dedication of National WWII Memorial in Washington D.C.	
11:00 MST	Southgate Mall Ceremony	–held concurrent with Nat’l. WWII dedication- with RMMMHS displays
<u>MONDAY MAY 31, 2004</u>		
Brought to the community by the Missoula United Veteran’s Council		
7-11:00 a.m.	VFW Post 209 Breakfast	245 W Main St. Missoula Veterans eat free. Beach bus leaves at 9:15 for Caras Park Ceremony
10:15-10:45	Caras Park Ceremony	–Pledge of Allegiance, Gun Salute and Wreath tossing
11-11:45	Missoula Courthouse Ceremony	- Gazebo and Dough Boy Statue
Noon–4 p.m.	Cemetery ceremonies:	Ceremony bus available to anyone wishing to attend these Services
Noon	Old St. Mary’s Annex Cemetery	1-2:15 Sunset Memorial Gardens with picnic
12:20	New St. Mary’s Cemetery	2:30 Ft. Missoula Military Cemetery
12:45	City of Missoula Cemetery	3:00-4:00 Rose Garden Ceremony

**VOLUNTEERS READY
"FREEDOM HALL"**

Under the supervision of Ted Kirschmann, volunteers have been remodeling and preparing the Museum's new exhibition hall throughout the winter months. The new hall, titled "Freedom Hall", adds another 1150 square feet of exhibit space along with an area for a gift shop. The hall has been beautifully restored and features a new carpet; a fireplace style gas heater will be installed in the hall this fall.

Director Tate Jones is busy preparing exhibits for the dedication of this hall on June 6th.

The museum expresses a special thanks to those who have purchased windows for the museum.

Please drop by and see the fine work that has been done to update another area of our historic Military Museum.

**WWII JAPANESE SWORD
RAFFLE**

Don't forget to get your tickets !!

The museum is raffling off a WWII Japanese sword, that was donated by Hayes Otoupalik. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the close of the Missoula Gun Show, which will be held Aug. 6-8, at the Adams Center. You don't need to be present to win!

Tickets are available at the Museum. All proceeds go to the Museum Building restoration fund. Tickets are \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00

**FLY YOUR FLAG!!
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
AND ON JUNE 6TH**

The RMMMh Board of Trustees welcomes Carl Hayden. Correction-William Roehl, not Ray Roehl, joined of the Board of Trustees as stated in the last newsletter.

**MUSEUM WELCOMES
TIM GORDON DONATION**

The RMMMh was recently the beneficiary of a generous donation from memorabilia collector Tim Gordon. Mr. Gordon has donated a large collection of vintage Montana business and government documents to the Museum, including a number of Montana Militia and National Guard documents which will be incorporated into the Museum's displays. A professional appraiser and store owner in historic Virginia City, Mr. Gordon has contributed to Fort Missoula preservation causes in a variety of ways over the past decade. The Museum thanks Mr. Gordon for his donation, which will support the Museums operations in a variety of ways.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

We wish to thank the following people for their generous donations to the museum collection.

Carmike Cinemas-"Alamo" movie lobby display

Dennis and Pauline Gordon - WAC uniform, hat, and service papers belonging to Capt. Virginia Talbott

Robt. Hann- Discharge orders dated 1856 -1864, for Col Watson A Fox, New York Militia, Courtesy of Col Gordon Reed

Ray Jacobs-carbine and Army .45 automatic

Gary and Gail Lancaster-Model jeep, misc. military gear

Charles Miller-USAAF uniforms

Wallace Small-WWII German ammo pouch

Kyle Stahl- Vietnam Prints

Peggy Strong- book "*The Last Mission*" by William Kollar.

Lester A Vining- USAAF uniforms, historic books

NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP

The RMMMh now carries a nice selection of articles of clothing with the RMMMh name on them.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

The Museum accepts donations of Military Artifacts from any era, for our permanent collection. If you have items you would like to donate, call us at 549-5346 or 549-6280. Or e-mail us at: info@fortmissoula.org. We will arrange to pick them up.

Book reviews

Looking for a special gift for someone? These make great gifts! The following two books focus on the WWII European Theater.

"*The Bridge at Remagen*", Pictorial Histories Publishing, 1999, 218 pp. \$12.95. On March 7, 1945, soldiers of the First U.S. Army were the first Allied troops to penetrate the Rhine River defensive barrier and open the way to Nazi Germany's heartland. This book by WWII veteran/combat historian and later U.S. Congressman Ken Hechler provides an hour-by-hour account of the battle for the Rhine crossing, and additional material about the 1969 docudrama of the same name. (While the movie was being filmed in Czechoslovakia, the cast and crew almost got caught in the 1968 Soviet invasion of that country!)

"*Equipment of the WWII Tommy*" by David B Gordon. PHP, 2004, 410 pp., \$24.95. Aficionados of WWII technology will enjoy a feast with this comprehensive guide to the gear of the British and Commonwealth troops of the war. The book abounds with pictures and in-depth information on everything used by the "Tommys", from headgear to parachutes. Several tables of WWII British Army organization are included, as well as several color plates. This makes a great companion to the German "*Soldat*" series, also for sale at the RMMMh.

Both books are available at the museum or by mail. Plus a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee.

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Museum is continuing to refurbish its storage area. We're still in need of wooden clothes hangers sturdy enough to hold the uniforms; and metal storage shelving. If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off at the Museum from 12 to 5 on Saturdays and Sundays.

WE STILL HAVE WINDOWS AVAILABLE!! FOR ONLY \$250.00 YOU CAN PURCHASE A "WINDOW TO THE PAST"



If you are interested in dedicating a window in this building for a friend or loved one, there are still some windows available! The new windows that have been installed look great! A 2x3 brass nametag will be placed on the window or an oak plaque with the name of the person you are dedicating the window in honor of.

T/4 LAVERNE PARRISH BUILDING

Please make checks payable to: RMMM H

Enter the following information for your family member or friend, to be placed on the brass name tag

In Honor of: Name: _____

Branch of Service: (if app.) _____

Rank: (if app.) _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address : _____

The RMMM H is a private 501 (c)3 non-profit Institution. Contributions are tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law. Your continued support for our exhibits and programs are most welcome.

The Museum offers memberships on several levels.

Membership are renewable on an annual basis, on **Veterans Day, November 11.**

Name: _____

____ Youth-under age 18--- \$10.00

Address: _____

____ Adult-----\$25.00

City _____

____ Family-----\$50.00

State _____ Zip _____

____ Business-----\$100.00

____ Lifetime -----\$500.00

e-mail address: _____

If you are renewing your membership, please check your address for accuracy, and note any corrections on the form.

Please make checks payable to:
RMMM H
PO Box 7263
Missoula MT 59807

YOUR SUPPORT IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED



RMMMMH

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History
PO Box 7263
Missoula MT 59807

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We're on the Web

www.fortmissoula.org

A private non-profit museum promoting the commemoration and study of the U.S. armed services from the Frontier Period to the War on Terrorism.

LABEL

DONATIONS NEEDED!!

We are accepting donations for our 5th Annual COLLECTORS sale!! We would appreciate any antiques, collectibles, or good quality items that you no longer want.

All proceeds from the sale of the items will go toward building restoration.

We can arrange to have items picked up if necessary.

Give us a call at **549-5346**, or **549-6280**

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT MILITARY ITEMS FOR THIS SALE.

ANNUAL JULY 4TH CELEBRATION COLLECTORS SALE!

At the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building at Fort Missoula

Join us between 8-5, on the 4th and see what bargains are available!

BARBECUE!!!

We'll also have our annual barbecue, on the 4th, so shop till you drop, and grab a dog or burger while you are there. Come and enjoy the fun!!

SPRING AND SUMMER Programs at RMMMMH

All programs are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon, Parrish Building, unless otherwise noted.

- June 6: Commemoration of D-Day's 60th Anniversary; opening of RMMMMH exhibit "The World Conflict, 1914-45"
- June 27: "Prelude to Little Big Horn: Custer at the Washita, Oklahoma, 1868"
- July 25: "The Story Behind Cold Mountain-The Battle of the Crater, Petersburg, Va. July 1864"
- August 22: "The Guns of August Plus 90 Years: The Opening of WWI, August 1914"
- Sept. 12: "America Invaded: The Washington-Baltimore Campaign, September 1814"

CURRENT MUSEUM EXHIBITS

- "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Montanans in Battle"
- "Glory Road: The Civil War in the Mid-Atlantic States, 1862-63"
- "The U.S. Army vs. the Depression: Fort Missoula and the Civilian Conservation Corps"
- "The World Conflict, 1914-45- (opening June 6th)"

*** MUSEUM HOURS JUNE 1 THROUGH LABOR DAY DAILY 12-5 ***