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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY



## RMMM NEWSLETTER

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

RMMM  
 PO Box 7263  
 Missoula MT 59807

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

### RMMM Officers 2004-05

President: Chairman  
 Brig. Gen. M Y (Bo) Foster AUS(Ret.)  
 (406) 543-6806

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### RMMM HONORS NORMANDY VETERANS AT OPENING OF NEW GALLERY

The RMMM opened its new combined World Wars exhibit on June 6, 2004, in the presence of a near capacity audience at the Laverne Parrish Building. Attending were several veterans of the Normandy Campaign, all of whom received Certificates of Appreciation for their service in Europe in the summer of 1944. The land, naval and air components of the Normandy invasion were all represented, as well as a cross-section of Montana's cities and towns.

Also attending were Colonel Alan Stricker of the Montana Army National Guard in representation of the active-duty military, and former University of Montana President James Koch. In his keynote address, Koch noted that a failure at Normandy would have meant a different and difficult path for the Allied forces in their attempt to subdue the Axis powers.

The opening of the exhibit "The World Conflict, 1914-45" has significantly increased the RMMM's display space.

To date the Museum has completed restoration of some 45 percent of the 1930's built Laverne Parrish Building. The exhibit offers the most comprehensive look at the World Wars presented to date in Montana. Included are arms and equipment from all the major combatants of World War I, video footage of operations from all the major theatres of battle, an extensive and growing display of WWII decorations, models of many WWII combat aircraft and vehicles, a diverse and informative array of maps, and free handouts on many military and social aspects of the period. A WWII era 75mm pack howitzer, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Otoupalik is the centerpiece of the new gallery.

As the gallery is improved over the coming winter, the Museum hopes to include still more artifacts, photos, and information on local service men and service women of the area.

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### Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following Veterans on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion

George D. Apple	Jack Kiely	Walter R. "Bud" Shultz
Thaddeus Babiak	Clair Mathiason	Merlin J Shennum
Richard Blakeley	John Nelson	Dick Stafford
Ed Duelfer	Bud C. Olson	George Weldon
Ray Grossman	Trish Piedalue	Everett Wiles
Harry Harkins	Raynor Roberts	Robert O. Durbin
John Hooper	Lester E. Schock	Donald C. Whipple



Lori Fagenbush of Butte was the raffle winner of the WWII JAPANESE SWORD. Congratulations Lori!.



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**VOLUNTEERS WORK ON  
“FRONTIER GALLERY”**

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During the winter, volunteers will commence work on the third gallery in Building T-316. The “Frontier Gallery” will cover the history of the U.S. Army on the frontier during the period 1790-1917, particularly in the Northwest during the Indian Wars.

Before the gallery opens, the Museum has significant work to do in restoring the room to a state of acceptable public use. New sheetrock needs to be installed as well as new carpeting, wiring, lighting, heat, and the access hallway linking the room with the Museums finished galleries must be restored for public use.

Without the help of the dedicated volunteers that spend so many hours of their time, we would not be able to accomplish the renovation of the building. We appreciate your hard work. Thanks to all of you!

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**NEW GAS HEATER INSTALLED  
IN FREEDOM HALL**

The Museum has received a new, much needed, gas heater for Freedom Hall from Familian Northwest Inc. of Missoula. Clay Nybo and Ted Kirshmann donated their time and installed the heater in the Hall. Our thanks to all of you and to everyone else who made donations to the Museum since our last newsletter.

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**WINDOWS AVAILABLE.**

There are still some windows available. Dedication of a window would make a nice Christmas present for a loved one.

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**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](mailto:info@fortmissoula.org). We will arrange to pick them up.

**RMMM RECEIVES GRANT  
FROM HISTORICAL MUSUEM**

In conjunction with the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula’s new program- “Preserving Missoula County’s History”- the RMMM was the recipient of a grant in the sum of \$2000. The money will be applied to the restoration of the Museums’ upcoming Frontier Gallery. The grant program is a result of the successful HMFM mill levy campaign passed by Missoula County voters in 2002.

RMMM President Bo Foster thanked the HMFM for the grant, stating “We knew when the museum moved to its present location that it would be mutually supporting for the HMFM and the Military Museum. We hope to be in a position to reciprocate this generous gift at an appropriate time.” The RMMM appreciates the support of the HMFM.

**NEW ACQUISITIONS**

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

Mary Lou Cordis- Foot locker, 1930’s Fort Missoula uniform items.

Dale Dahlgren- extensive WWII USAAF collection, B-17 model.

Vernon and Rose Gotcher- Misc WWII items.

Duane Hammond and Friends of the Library- Official U.S. Operational Histories of WWI and WWII.

Kit Libbey- German WWII items.

Joanne Manchester-WWII 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division items.

Ray and Marilyn Parker-Stars & Stripes newspapers, misc. WWII items.

Dave G. Stelling family-WWII USAAF logbook, medals, WWII items.

Thanks to Tom and June Peterson, and Peter Anderson for manning the front desk and performing other tasks this summer and fall.

**Book reviews**

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

“*Peter Three Eight: The Pilot’s Story*” PHP 1986, \$9.95 John Stanaway, Vietnam Air Force veteran and prolific writer on aviation topics, provides an overview of the P-38 “Lightening” and its contributions to the Allied effort in WWII. Stanaway notes that over 3000 aerial victories were credited to the P-38, and profiles many P-38 pilots of the war. Included in that category is Major Richard Bong, the deadliest American ace of WWII until his demise as a test pilot on the day of the Hiroshima bombing. Many schematics and photos are included.

“*From Model T to P-38 Lightening: Celebrating The Life of William Frank Shottelkorb*” PHP 2003 hardbound \$24.95. On a more personal note, Missoulian Robert W. Shottelkorb offers a memior of his brother, Frank Shottelkorb. Frank was a western Montana resident with a life long interest in cars and aviation before he joined the USAAF in WWII; he passed flight school and was assigned to P-38’s. He flew combat operations in Britain and North Africa before he was killed in action on Jan 23, 1943. This will be of special local interest to western Montana residents due to the photos and remembrances of life around Missoula during the Depression years.

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

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: RMMMh

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 : \_\_\_\_\_

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The RMMMh 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.

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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:  
RMMMh  
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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Missoula MT 59801

We're on the Web

[www.fortmissoula.org](http://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

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**DONATIONS NEEDED!!**

We are accepting donations for our 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

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**WE WILL NOT ACCEPT MILITARY ITEMS FOR THIS SALE.**

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**ANNUAL JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION COLLECTORS SALE!**

At the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building at Fort Missoula  
Join us between 8-5, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and see what bargains are available!

**BARBECUE!!!**

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

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FALL AND WINTER Programs at RMMMMH

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

- Dec. 19, 2004: RMMMMH Holiday Party, Program by Peter Anderson on the Christmas Truce of 1914- World War I
- Feb. 13, 2005 The Gallipoli Campaign of WWI
- Mar. 13, 2005 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iwo Jima Battle WWII
- April 10, 2005 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox Court House, Civil War

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"
- New in the Spring 2005, opening of new **Frontier Army, and Mideast Wars**, exhibits.

\*\*\* MUSEUM HOURS LABOR DAY THROUGH MEMORIAL DAY- SATURDAY AND SUNDAY - 12-5 \*\*\*