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ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

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

RMMM
 PO Box 7263
 Missoula MT 59807

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 website:
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 E-mail:
militarymuseu45@hotmail.com
 Hours:
 Winter-Spring – Sat. & Sundays 12-5
 June 1 thru Labor day- daily 12-5
 Other times by appointment

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RMMM INAUGURATES NEW LIBRARY AND WEBSITE

The RMMM continues its growth as a regional historical resource. This past summer the RMMM completed work on its new library and classroom, to provide visiting scholars access to a wide variety of research materials pertaining to military history. The museum was aided in this project by a generous grant from the F. Morris and Helen Silver Foundation.

The Museum currently retains over 1500 books, manuals, videotapes, DVD's, and audio items covering military history from antiquity to the present. The collection was recently strengthened by the addition of author Jeff Shaara's research material (see related story). Holdings include out-of-print period pictorial histories of World War I, numerous multivolume official histories of various conflicts, and an assortment of privately published memoirs.

The library also provides a repository for locally produced veterans' oral histories and general information acquired on past soldiers stationed at Fort Missoula. The Museum staff and volunteers are currently cataloging and shelving the dispersed book collections, with the hope of opening the bulk of the holdings to the public on Veterans Day of 2006.

The Museum has also continued its historical outreach activities on the Internet. With assistance from Museum patron Robert A. Svoboda, the Museum has opened its new website, www.fortmissoula.org. The new site is several times larger than the Museum's previous web address.

It allows for greater display and interpretation of the Museum's holdings on-line. New features include a regularly updated events page, an online listing of Museum benefactors, information on the Montana soldiers honored in Svoboda Hall, a just-for-kids section, and all of the Museum's past newsletters in a downloadable archive.

A special addition is the new Forum page, which will allow Museum members and users to post messages regarding Museum exhibits, programs, and suggestions for future activities.

Personal military reminiscences are also welcome, as are research queries and efforts to locate past service colleagues.

Finally, the new site also includes a number of historical Montana documents from the Robert A. Svoboda collection. In addition to military items researchers can peruse frontier-era bills of sale, governmental correspondence, fraternal organization notices, railroad manifests, and a variety of Montana historical memorabilia.

This collection was originally assembled by Svoboda's mother in homestead-era Lewistown, Montana. A century later, the Museum is pleased to make it accessible to a wider audience through modern Internet technology.

The RMMM is committed to offering Western Montana and its visitors continued service through the commemoration and study of military history, and we invite your further support in this effort.

RMMMMH PROCEEDS WITH NEW USS MISSOULA-IWO JIMA PROJECT

Missoula, Montana maintains a special connection to the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima. On February 23, 1945, U.S. Marines battled Japanese forces in a struggle for the island's highest point, Mount Suribachi. Upon securing the summit, a call was sent down for a U.S. flag to mark the dearly-bought triumph.

The U.S. Navy attack transport U.S.S. Missoula (APA-211) sent up a national ensign, which by coincidence was raised in part by PFC Louis Charlo of Evaro, MT. PFC Charlo was a grandson of Salish Chief Charlo of Western Montana's frontier period.

A short time later a larger flag was called for and dispatched. During its raising AP photographer Joe Rosenthal snapped the famous picture which served as the model for the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial in Washington D.C. Sadly, Charlo was later killed in action during the remainder of the Iwo Jima battle. The U.S.S. Missoula finished the war intact, receiving two battle stars for service in the Pacific Theater.

Interest in the Iwo Jima battle will rise again this week with the release of *Flags of Our Fathers*, a dramatic movie based on the James Bradley book.

The RMMMMH in turn is seeking to commemorate the Western Montana linkage by inaugurating a campaign which will create a permanent exhibit centered on the U.S.S. Missoula, PFC Charlo, and the battle of Iwo Jima.

The Museum is working with the U.S.S. Missoula Commemoration Committee, chaired by Museum President M.Y. "Bo" Foster. A driving force behind the committee has been local Iwo Jima veteran Bill Worf, who served in the Marine 5th Tank Battalion during the battle.

The Committee intends to raise \$11,900 for the installation by autumn 2007 of a professionally built model of the U.S.S. Missoula in the Museum, to serve as the centerpiece of an Iwo Jima exhibit. The 4'9" model will be of the quality found in the U.S. Naval Academy Museum and comparable institutions.

The Commemoration Committee and the RMMMMH invite you to become a significant part of this important historical project by sending a check or pledge which will be applied to the model's construction.

Please send donations to: RMMMMH, PO Box 7263, Missoula, MT. 59807. Please indicate "U.S.S Missoula Project" on your check or pledge. Thank you!

AUTHOR JEFF SHAARA VISITS MUSEUM

Many military history aficionados have enjoyed the historical fiction produced over the years by the talented members of the Shaara family.

These range from the Civil War epic *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara (later made into the 1990's movie "Gettysburg"), to the Revolutionary War studies *Rise to Rebellion* and *The Glorious Cause*. The latter, along with prequels and sequels to *Killer Angels*, are the progeny of Michael's son Jeff Shaara.

Jeff Shaara has been a fixture for some years in the Missoula literary community and now spends much of the year in Florida. This past August Shaara visited the RMMMMH and donated the collection of research materials used in the production of his novels, along with a Union Army canteen and bayonet scabbard.

Now at work on a novel set in World War II, Mr. Shaara was especially impressed by meeting Museum President M.Y. "Bo" Foster and learning of his experience with Hermann Goering in the last days of WW II.

The Museum thanks Mr. Shaara for his interest and a gift which will prove of great value to researchers and visitors in the years to come.

RMMMMH INVITES WW I VETERAN DESCENDENTS TO MEMORIAL DAY 2007 COMMEMORATION

The Museum will mark Memorial Day 2007 with a special ceremony to honor the soldiers of World War I.

The Museum will be offering free Certificates of Appreciation to the descendants of the Great War veterans, inscribed with the soldier's pertinent information; the item will be suitable for framing, scrapbook insertion, or simply to keep in family genealogy files.

To register for the ceremony on May 29, 2007, contact the RMMMMH at the above address, e-mail, or phone by May 21, 2007. Please include the listed soldier's name, rank, unit, years of service, or any of the preceding that you may know.

The ceremony will be held at the RMMMMH at 3:00 on Memorial Day, 2007. The Museum also accepts military histories for our permanent collection, for others to review

MUSEUM HOSTS CEREMONY FOR RETURNING ARMY RESERVISTS

The RMMMMH was the locale for a September 9th ceremony honoring a contingent of Missoula Army Reservists recently returned from duty in Africa. The 747th Engineer Detachment (Well Drilling) served in Djibouti from January 2005 to March 2006. Their service was commemorated along with that of other soldiers who have deployed overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The keynote speaker was Major General Peter S. Cooke of the 96th Regional Readiness Command in Salt Lake City, the command overseeing Fort Missoula's 379th Engineering Battalion. Two soldiers received special recognition when SFC Marvin E. White was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and SSGT Terry M. Howell received the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

RMMMMH AND THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT FORT MISSOULA JOIN FORCES FOR PLANNED ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN 2007

Fort Missoula, Montana Territory, was established as a Military Post on June 25, 1877. In June, 2007, the RMMMMH and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula will combine forces to commemorate the 130th Anniversary of the Fort.

We will be presenting an interpretive program "STORIES IN STONES" on Fort Missoula's Post Cemetery, and the soldiers and other persons buried there. Initially, we plan on presenting histories for those buried only through 1930. However, if you have a relative or loved one buried at the Fort Cemetery after 1930 and would like their history told, please contact one of the Cemetery Research Committee members: Marcia Porter at 738-0594, or Wally Long at 543-4076.

Details of other events to be held will be announced later

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 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: RMMMHS Mail to: PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807

Please print 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: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number: _____ Date _____

E-mail address : _____ # of Windows Purchased _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

The RMMMHS 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 IS RENEWABLE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, ON VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11.

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

____ Adult-----\$25.00

____ Family-----\$50.00

____ Business-----\$100.00

____ Lifetime -----\$500.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

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

E-mail address: _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to: RMMMHS

Mail to : PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807

YOUR SUPPORT IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED.

**PLEASE HELP THE MUSEUM CONTINUE TO EXPAND
WE ACCEPT ONE TIME CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, OR GRANTS**



RMMMMH

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

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit NO. 536
Missoula MT 59801

We're on the Web
www.geocities.com/fortmissoula

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 always accepting donations for our Annual 4th of July COLLECTORS sale!! We would appreciate any antiques, collectibles, or good quality items that you no longer want.

This is a major annual fund raiser for the Museum, and we appreciate donations at any time.

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.

We are private non-profit museum.

If you no longer wish to receive the RMMMMH Newsletter; please send us a postcard stating that you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

If you have moved and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please send us a change of address card.

Thank You.

FALL AND WINTER PROGRAMS AT RMMMMH

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

RMMMMH Events Through June 2007

Oct. 22, 2006, Friday - opening of *Flags of Our Fathers* movie, Wilma Theater; RMMMMH display in conjunction with effort to build U.S.S. Missoula/Iwo Jima display at Museum.

Nov. 11, 2006 3:00, RMMMMH - Veterans Day Program by Major Zack Allen, UM ROTC: "The Lost Battalion of World War I."

Dec. 17, 2006 1-4, RMMMMH - Museum Christmas Party; refreshments, public invited.

Feb. 11, 2007, Sunday, 3:00, RMMMMH - Lincoln's Birthday Weekend; Civil War re-enactor demonstrations.

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"

"Bluecoats in the Big Sky: Montana, the Army, and the West 1795-1898"

*** MUSEUM HOURS: **LABOR DAY THROUGH MEMORIAL DAY WEEKENDS 12-5** ***