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ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY THE GREEN GUIDON

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

RMMMH
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 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

RMMMH OFFICERS 2008-2009

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RMMMH Inaugurates Korea-Vietnam Gallery

At 2:00 on Memorial Day, May 29, 2009, the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History will open another specialized exhibit - this time examining America's wars in Asia from 1959 through 1975, and featuring a look at the contributions of Montana soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

The Museum's Korea and Vietnam Gallery will draw upon the Museum's holdings to illustrate the progress of America's military efforts in Northeast and Southeast Asia during the Cold War years. Of particular note will be the incorporation of oral histories recently collected from Missoula-area Vietnam veterans by Museum intern Sierra Stief, who is also assisting in the exhibit design. The Museum has also received a number of relevant period items over the years, including Korean War cold-weather gear and U.S. Special Forces collected-Montagnard tribal bows from the Central Highlands region of Vietnam. In addition the late Mayor of Missoula, Robert Brown (USMC Ret.), generously donated much of his Vietnam service collection to the RMMMH. Funding for the new gallery came from the Missoula Building Industry Association, the Preserve Missoula County's History program, and the Gallagher and Silver Foundations.

The RMMMH extends thanks to all of these organizations. The Museum is also grateful for the high-quality contracting work of Ted Kirschmann (also a Vietnam veteran!)

As always the Museum will present Certificates of Appreciation to veterans and their families on that day. This year the Museum will focus upon veterans of the Korean and Vietnam eras, 1950-75.

Again, certificates are available to any period veterans, living or deceased, and may be received in person or by families and friends. If you would like to receive a certificate on Memorial Day, please contact the Museum at 549-5346 or at info@fortmissoula.org. Please give us the name of the veteran, his or her retired rank, and branch of service.

The Museum continues to welcome contributions of artifacts from this period, and also oral histories of Korean and/or Vietnam-era service.

For contributions of either, please contact either Executive Director Tate Jones or Museum Intern Sierra Stief at 549-5346

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL GUARD AT 1959 PRISON RIOT

This spring marks the 50th anniversary of the only time a Missoula National Guard collectively deployed for a domestic emergency. On April 16, 1959, two inmates at Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge seized firearms and commenced an uprising against the prison administration, in part over reforms that had eliminated the "con boss" system. Deputy Warden Ted Rothe was killed, and Warden Floyd Powell was taken hostage along with 25 other prison personnel. The inmates fortified the cell blocks and began making demands. National media converged on the disturbance, comprising a press corps of nearly 100 reporters.

Governor Hugo Aronsen ordered the Montana National Guard to the scene, and the 154th Field Artillery Group of Fort Missoula was tasked to the crisis. The unit was commanded by then-Colonel M.Y. "Bo" Foster, now RMMMh President Emeritus. After a tense 48-hour standoff, the Guard was ordered to retake the prison, and deployed along the eastern wall of the facility.

Around 6:00 AM on April 16 Guardsman Bill Rose fired a bazooka twice at the tower where the inmate leaders were located, leaving damage that can be seen to this day. That was the signal for the 154th's assault, followed quickly by the dual suicide of the inmate leaders; one Guardsman was wounded in the arm as the cell block towers were cleared. Several hours were required for the Guard to bring the entire prison back under state control.

On April 20 the Powell County Friends of the Library held a retrospective on the riot, which was attended by General Foster, Guardsmen Bill Rose, Harry Lafrenere, and others.

Copies of Governor Aronson's citation of the 154th were donated to the Powell County and Old Prison Museums. The citation commends the "exceptionally meritorious conduct" of the unit, and notes General Foster's "leadership of the highest caliber."

Museum Website Features New Animated WW II Map

Visitors to the Museum website at fortmissoula.org will now find an animated map of WW II's European Theater, complete with full color, troop movements, air campaigns, and sound effects. Available in the WW II section as either a mouse-driven interactive presentation or as a static slide show, the map is a useful educational tool and also fun for grandparents to experience along with their more tech-proficient offspring! Our thanks to Charlie Page for his contribution of this website application.

MUSEUM RECEIVES HISTORIC FORT PAPERS FROM FORT DOUGLAS

This last winter the RMMMh took delivery of several important documents from the U.S. Army's administrative offices at Fort Douglas, Utah. Fort Douglas was traditionally the supervisory post for Fort Missoula, and over the years accumulated many memoranda, blueprints, photos, articles and other items dealing with Fort administration.

The RMMMh now has several compilations of these documents, mainly dealing with matters from the 1960's to the 1990's. They are illustrative of the Fort's transition from active post to multiple uses, and are expected to provide a valuable resource to researchers. They are available for use in the RMMMh's Silver Memorial Library.

The RMMMh extends its thanks to Neal Davis, who helped us with front-desk duties for much of 2009 under the State of Montana's Experience Works program

RMMMh Receives Nathan Blumberg Collection

The RMMMh was privileged to receive this spring the first installment of World War II items from the former Dean of the UM School of Journalism, Nathan Blumberg. Then-Corporal Blumberg served with the 666th Artillery Battalion of the US Army from training in the US to action at the Battle of the Bulge and the subsequent occupation of Germany. In 1945 he used a commandeered German print shop to publish *Charlie of 666*, likely the earliest history of an American unit during WW II.

In 2000 he published a revised hardbound edition through Woodfire Ashes Press in Bigfork, a copy of which is in the Museum library. After the war Blumberg went on to a distinguished career in the news media, and is now retired but still writing in Bigfork. The collection includes several recovered German items, including an officers' cap and a multitude of propaganda leaflets. The Museum thanks Dean Blumberg for this generous donation.

STORIES IN STONES

The 3rd Annual Fort Missoula Post Cemetery **STORIES IN STONES** will be presented by the RMMMh and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, on **FLAG DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009 1-3 P.M.** We moved the date forward by two weeks, hoping we can avoid the 90 degree heat we have had in the past 2 years. Come and join us as we tell the history of the Cemetery; and stories of some of the men, women, and children that are buried there.

If you have a friend or loved one buried at the Post Cemetery and would like their military story presented in future Stories in Stones, please contact Tate Jones at the RMMMh 549-3546; Dr. Bob Brown at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula-728-3476; or Marcia Porter at 728-0594.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Hayes Otoupalik - WW II Mathers Field newsletters.
Hayes Otoupalik - 1883 US Army blouses and accessories.
Rod Herrick - 5' inch shell casing from battleship USS
Mississippi.
Julien LePage- USAF Academy items, US Army travel
items.
A.J. Zygutis - USN contemporary women's uniforms.
Gary Lancaster - Pearl Harbor and U.S. Army items.

In Memoriam

The Museum regrets to announce the passing of
Trustee Robert G. Schipf, who died in January. Bob
was an important part of the RMMM from the
Museum's inception, and could often be found
manning the Museum's front desk or bringing in
interesting items for the collection. His life was long
and varied, bringing him from New York City to
Missoula with WWII service in the Navy and work as
a UM reference librarian in between. Our condolences
to his family; he will be deeply missed.

We are a private non-profit museum. If you no longer wish
to receive the RMMM Newsletter; please send us a
postcard stating that you wish to be removed from our
mailing list or call us at 406-549-5346. If you have moved
and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please send
us a change of address card. Thank You.

Book Review: *This is Latch: The Story of Rear
Admiral Roy. F. Hoffman*, by Weymouth F. Symmes,
Pictorial Histories Press, 2007, glossary, bibliography,
photos, 529 pp., \$29.95.

In keeping with this summer's RMMM emphasis on
the Asian wars, *This is Latch* offers an additional
overview of the riverine war in Vietnam. Symmes
served as a USN Swift Boat commander during the
war, and previously published the memoir *War on
the Rivers* in 2004.

Here his emphasis is on the career of RADM
Hoffman, who commanded Task Force 115 on the
inland waterways of South Vietnam. Praised as a
"brilliant tactician and combat commander" by
Admiral and CNO Elmo Zumwalt, Hoffman's career is
found by Symmes to be one of "a strong figure
bearing great responsibilities...not everyone liked his
methods, but [he received] nearly universal
respect."

Political aficionados might find interesting the
sections on the role of Hoffman and the Swift Boat
veterans during the 2004 presidential election. This
book and others are available from the RMMM gift
shop by mail for an additional \$5.00 postage and
handling

The RMMM is now a Member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

“WINDOWS TO THE PAST” ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

FOR ONLY \$250.00 YOU CAN PURCHASE A WINDOW TO DEDICATE FOR A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE
FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM. OR CALL US AT 549-5346

The RMMM 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 _____

E-mail address: _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

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

Mail to : PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807



RMMMMH

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History
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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 accepting donations for our 9th 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-SUMMER PROGRAMS AT RMMMMH

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

RMMMMH UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 16: Armed Forces Day, Military Vehicle Show at
Museum, 1-4.
- May 29: Memorial Day, Dedication of Korea-Vietnam Gallery
Awarding of Certificates of Appreciation to Korean
and Vietnam-period veterans, 2:00.
- June 14: Stories in Stones, Ft. Missoula Post Cemetery 1-3:00
- July 4: Fourth of July Celebration at Fort Missoula, Museum
Sale and Barbecue, all day.
- Summer 2009, Date TBA: Visit of WW II aircraft to Museum
of Mountain Flying, Missoula International Airport.
- November 8: Veterans Day Weekend, Museum program TBA.

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: **MEMORIAL DAY THROUGH LABOR DAY - DAILY 12-5** ***