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 ☆ **Spring** ☆
 ☆ **2010** ☆
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY THE GREEN GUIDON

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

RMMM
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 Missoula MT 59807

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www.fortmissoula.org

E-mail:
militarymuseu45@hotmail.com

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

RMMM OFFICERS 2009-2010

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 Maj. Gary Lancaster USA Ret.

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 Stan Cohen & Hayes Otoupalik

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Historic Montana Army National Guard Howitzer Is New Museum Landmark

The Montana Army National Guard is continuing its move from Fort Missoula to the new Joint Guard-Reserve Facility at the Wye. While the Fort community regrets seeing the Guard leave the historic post, the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History has benefited from the Guard's transition. In February the Guard assigned trusteeship of an M7 Self-Propelled Howitzer to the RMMM, and the historic vehicle which for years marked the entrance to the Reserve Street Armory now graces the front gate of the Military Museum.

The M7 - known as "The Priest" due its pulpit-like machine gun ring - was developed for use during World War II as a means of keeping mobile artillery support close to advancing infantry. The British ordered and deployed the M7 in quantity during World War II, and nearly 3500 were built for Allied use. Each US armored division during the war fielded three battalions of Priests, and the guns saw service in North Africa, Italy and Normandy. The Priest was also deployed to Korea in 1950. At the Battle of Soyang in 1951, the Priests of the Wyoming NG 300th Field Artillery Battalion were instrumental in blunting a major Chinese offensive.

The M7 features a 105 mm artillery tube, and can be fitted with a 50 cal. machine gun.

The vehicle is powered by a 3600 horsepower radial aircraft engine, and has an operational range of 120 miles. The howitzer's usual crew compliment was seven. The M7 is based on a World War II Sherman tank chassis, and weighs approximately 22.97 metric tons.

During the 1950's and 60's, Fort Missoula's 443rd Field Artillery Battalion - which was headquartered at the RMMM's Bldg. T-316 - was assigned up to eight M7's at a time. Museum President Emeritus Gen. M.Y. "Bo" Foster commanded the 443rd, and remembers that they proved a highly effective asset to the unit. They were taken across Montana and into Idaho for training, and RMMM Trustee Jerry Kurzenbaum recalls shooting "nearly \$5000.00" worth of of ammunition from one. Building T-316's front concrete pad was installed to support a display M7 after its active use ended, and current Museum President Gary Lancaster recalls one stood outside the structure well into the 1970's. The howitzer formerly at the Reserve Street Armory is apparently one that was stationed at Anaconda, according to Kurzenbaum's recollection.

See Howitzer pg 3

RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Vicki Weidman Belcher family –
WW II WAVE uniform items
Robert E. Brown family - USMC
WW II, Korea, Vietnam uniforms
Helen Bourlakas - WW II Iwo Jima artifacts
Thomas L. Finch - Civil War photos
papers, WW I uniform, helmet, & papers
Carl and Cathy Johnson - WW II unit photo
William Evan Jones - WW II books
W.C. Knutson - 1880's 45-70 Springfield
Cadet Rifle
Naomi LaRue - WW II books, newspaper
clip files, videos, US Army riding tack
Don Matthews - Portrait of President
Franklin D. Roosevelt
William Meisner - WW II books
Charles Umphrey - Company of Military
Historian prints
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ole Beck Post
Display Case

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Sherry Nugent, our Fall 2009 Intern, who
continues to volunteer her invaluable
service to our cataloguing project.

The Northern Rockies Heritage Center, for
assistance with our presence at the 2010
Museums Association of Montana
Conference.

Steve Black, Superintendent of Big Hole
National Battlefield, for his February 2010
presentation on the Civil War in the West.

Southgate Mall, for putting on the April
nonprofit exhibition day.

FORT MISSOULA POST CEMETERY
STORIES IN STONES

The Fourth Annual Stories In Stones
Program will be sponsored by the
RMMMh and the Historical Museum at
Fort Missoula on Sunday, June 13th
from 1-3 at the Cemetery.

Come and join us as the wonderful
volunteers tell the history of the
Cemetery; and tell the stories of some
of the men, women, and children that
are buried there. There is no charge for
this event.

MANG Assists RMMMh
In Spring Cleaning

The RMMMh extends its thanks
to SFC Curtis T. Bunton III and
the other ranks of the MANG's
631st Chemical Company. In
early April the 631st did an
intensive cleaning of the UH-1H
gunship and the M7 howitzer at
the Museum, giving the equipment
a first-class shine for this
summer's visitors. The exercise
allowed the the chemical
decontamination troops a chance
to practice their trade on some
vehicle variants outside of the
current Guard holdings. Again,
our appreciation for the fine work
done by this unit here and on
deployment.

From The Files Of
The CCC's Green Guidon:

Headquarters, Fort Missoula,
Mt., May 17, 1935...Headquarters
Detachment certainly can put on a
feast when it comes to Mother's
Day. The boys seem to remember
that they have left someone at
home. Some of the local boys
invited their mothers to a delicious
Mother's Day Dinner of turkey, ice
cream, banana cream pie,
etc...Aside from all other duties,
Lt. Reed has managed to become
the company landscaper by just
completing a fish pond with a
natural rock archway (a pretty one
too) in the middle of which we all
agree greatly improves the area in
front of our mess hall. Lt. Reed
has also started two fine lawns
between the barracks, which adds
much to the pride of the
detachment. KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK LIEUTENANT.

GUN SHOW

August 6, 7, 8 - Missoula Annual
Original Gun Show, UM Adams
Center

You don't want to miss it!!

Pacific War Presentations
Showcased at Museum in May

During the second week of May
the RMMMh will offer two unique
programs on World War II in the
Pacific. On May 12 at 7:00 PM in
Building T-316 author Hugh Ambrose
of Helena will read from and sign his
new book *The Pacific*. Ambrose is
the son of the late World War II
historian Stephen Ambrose, and his
book is the companion volume to the
current HBO television miniseries of
the same name. Ambrose traces
the paths of three Marines - authors
Percy Sledge and Robert Leckie as
well as Medal of Honor recipient John
Basilone - from Guadalcanal to V-J
Day. The event is cosponsored by
Missoula's Fact and Fiction
Bookstore.

On May 15 (Armed Forces Day)
at 2:00 PM in Building T-316. Randy
Morey will present "*Lucky Randy's
War: A Sailor in the 1943 Invasion
of New Guinea*." Morey was a USN
radioman in World War II and
advanced to the rank of Lt.(jg) by
the war's end. He spent several
months in the New Guinea jungle
preparing for the US invasion and
capture of Japanese-held New
Guinea, and had many interesting
experiences with the indigenous
people of the island. After the war
he began a legal career in Madison,
Wisconsin, where he practiced for
many years. He is an in-law of
Missoula's Roemer family, which
led him to choose Western Montana
for his retirement home.

Also on Armed Forces Day the
Museum will present its annual
Military Vehicle Show. Interested
exhibitors are asked to contact the
Museum at 549-5346. Both events
are open to the public; refreshments
will be provided.

THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FALL CONFERENCE: WW II, Fort
Missoula and UM, Coming: Autumn
2011.

Howitzer- from page 1

The rather dramatic move was accomplished on a wintry day by Scott Wolff and his professional crew from Iron Horse Towing, who called in a 50-ton truck and two 30-ton wrecking cranes to get the job done; after some nudging, the gun gave way and was ensconced for the short ride to its new home. The Museum extends its profound thanks to Wolff and Iron Horse towing, who donated their time and equipment to the project. The Museum also thanks Colonel Jonathan Ray Jackson and Major Lori Hampa-Chamberlin of the Montana Army National Guard, who saw to the necessary official permission and paperwork for the project.

With the addition of the M7 to the UH-1H Huey helicopter gunship in the RMMMh's outdoor displays, the Museum now features representations of World War II, Korea and Vietnam on its grounds. We hope in time to add a vehicle symbolic of Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), and Iraqi Freedom.

MISSOULA MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS, MAY 31, 2010:

Caras Park - 10:00 AM

Courthouse\Doughboy Statue - 11:00 AM

Western Montana Veterans Cemetery - 12:00 PM

Rose Memorial Park - 3:00 PM

For information on above events, contact Susan Reneau and the United Veterans Council at 251-5116 bluemountain@montana.com.

Memorial Day Weekend 2010 Opens
Museum Civil War 150th Observances

Memorial Day Weekend at the RMMMh will be noted by the awarding of certificates of commemoration to those associated with a select area of military history. This year marks the run-up to the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's 1860-65 events, and this sesquicentennial observation will commence nationally in November with the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's election. The RMMMh intends to get a head start on the national events when it offers a Civil War program on Sunday, May 30, at 2:00 PM in Building T-316.

The Museum will be awarding Certificates of Commemoration to all descendents of Union and Confederate Civil War veterans, and will offer descendents a few moments to discuss their forbears for the audience. If you would like to be part of the ceremony, please call the Museum at (406) 549-5346 or email us at info@fortmissoula.org with your veterans' name, plus rank and unit if possible. If you cannot attend, we would be pleased to mail you a certificate; if so please include a complete address.

Also on May 30 Dr. and Mrs. Charles Umphey will be presenting a display of Civil War commemorative quilts, and Hayes Otoupalik will show items from his Civil War collection and offer appraisals of period items for visitors. Refreshments will be available.

The RMMMh will be open 12-5 on Memorial Day.

The RMMMh 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 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.

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: RMMMh

Mail to : PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807



RMMMMH

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History
PO Box 7263
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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 10th Annual COLLECTORS sale!! We would appreciate any antiques, collectibles, or good quality items that you no longer want. All proceeds from the sale goes to the 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 & BARBECUE!!!**

Shop till you drop, and grab a dog or burger while you are there. Come and enjoy the fun!!

We are a 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 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.

SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS AT RMMMMH

Building,T-316 unless otherwise noted.

RMMMMH UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 12, Hugh Ambrose reading and signing *The Pacific* 7 p.m.
- May 15 Lucky Randy's War: A Sailor in the Invasion of New Guinea 1943 2p.m: also the Military Vehicle Show
- May 30 Memorial Day presentation of Civil War commemorative certificates 2 p.m.
- June 13 Stories in Stones at the Ft. Missoula Post Cemetery 1-3
- July 4, Annual Yard sale and BBQ 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

CURRENT MUSEUM EXHIBITS

- "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Montanans in Battle"
- "Glory Road: The Civil War - 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"
- "Morning Calm to Big Muddy: Montana- and the Asian Wars, 1950-75."

*** MUSEUM HOURS: **MEMEORIAL DAY THROUGH LABOR DAY - DAILY 12-5** ***