



☆ **Fall** ☆
 ☆ **2010** ☆
Vol 1 Issue 18

Published May and October

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY THE GREEN GUIDON

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

RMMM
 PO Box 7263
 Missoula MT 59807

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

E-mail:
militarymuseum45@hotmail.com

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

RMMM OFFICERS 2010-2011

President: Chairman
 Maj. Gary Lancaster USAR Ret.

Co Vice-Presidents:
 Stan Cohen & Hayes Otoupalik

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

Treasurer:
 Stan Cohen (406) 549-8488

Exec. Director: Tate Jones
 (406) 549-5346

Newsletter Editor: Marcia Porter
 (406) 728-0594

MONTANA WOMEN IN WWII EXHIBIT TO OPEN ON VETERANS DAY

Recent grant support is allowing the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History to expand the scope of its exhibit offerings, with new topics to be addressed as soon as Veterans Day 2010.

First up will be a review of contributions Montana women made during World War II, supported in part by a grant from the Preserving Historic Missoula program of Missoula County and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. The exhibit will look at the spectrum of female roles that originated and grew during the conflict, and profile a number of Montana women for whom the Second World War was a formative experience.

The development of the armed service auxiliaries will be traced as the war spurred the growth of the Army WAC, Army Air Forces WASP, Navy WAVE, Coast Guard SPAR and Women Marines branches. Featured as well will be the growth of the multitude of uniformed volunteer organizations that provided a stateside outlet for war service. Finally the entry of women into war factory work and homemaker's roles will also be spotlighted. The exhibit is scheduled to open on November 11.

Montana is well known for its disproportionate per capita contribution of servicemen to World War I and World War II, but Montana women played significant parts in the 1941-45 conflict.

According to Gary Glynn's 1994 book *Montana's Home Front in World War II*, by early 1944 567 Montana women had joined the armed services, the vast majority (350) entering the Navy WAVES. An initial recruiting campaign conducted through state department stores produced the first forty female enlistees, who were sworn in at the state capitol under a flag carried by Montana volunteers in the Mexican Punitive Expedition and WW I.

Montana's cohort included WAC Major Betty Clague, the former head of UM women's physical education who was awarded the Bronze Star for service in the China-Burma-India theatre, and Private Norma E. Rasmussen of Lodge Grass was the first WAC to earn flying status. Other notable servicewomen were WASP pilot Martha L. Volkomenor of Glasgow, and the first Montana WAVE enlistee, Billye Wyatt.

On the civilian side, Montana women did their part as well. Notes Glynn, "the lumber industry in the Northwest employed 4000 women during the summer of 1942, and the U.S. Forest Service hired women cooks and timekeepers to serve in fire camps. Women trained to coach high school athletics, and many Montana women flocked to fill the new high-paying jobs in the West Coast aircraft and ship factories...hundreds of women enrolled in nursing programs, while many other served as Red Cross volunteers."

Inside This Issue	Pg
Montana Women in WWII	1
Gen. Bo Foster's Birthday	2
New Acquisitions	2
Distinguished Visitors	2
Imperial Era Gallery to open	2
Maj.M.A. Edson, USMC Steamer Crate	2
Thank You	2
News from the CCC Files	3
Cpl. Wilikin's Medal of Honor	3
Membership Form	3
Windows Form	4
Upcoming Events	4

Distinguished Delegations
Visit RMMMH

UM's academic community touched base with the RMMMH in September when the University of Montana's Department of History held its departmental picnic on the front lawn of Building T-316. Cooking duties were handled by Department Chair Prof. John Eglin, and a group portrait was taken using the M7 Priest Howitzer as a backdrop. (Judging from an apparently large number of high school students taking senior portrait pictures next to the M7, the RMMMH should be well-represented in local high school yearbooks over the next few years).

In late September, the RMMMH hosted a delegation of officer cadets from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia. The visit was escorted by the Montana National Guard, which maintains an exchange and liaison program with the Kyrgyz armed forces. Kyrgyzstan also hosts the U.S.-maintained Manas Air Base, a key facility that supports the American effort in Afghanistan. The Kyrgyz guests enjoyed a pizza picnic and then toured the Museum exhibit galleries, leaving several goodwill souvenir items for the Museum's collection as they took their leave.

Special Thanks To:

Kate Gurney, summer intern, compiled a complete press clip file on the development of Fort Missoula from 1877 through 1900; she is also assisting the Northern Rockies Heritage Center in other projects.

Adam Sullivan comes to the RMMMH from the Experience Works program. A Korean War Army airborne veteran who has also done cartography work in Alaska, he has been manning the RMMMH front desk for the last few months.

Jean Pronovost, also from the Experience Works program, has taken care of the Museum grounds and handcrafted several exhibit display systems for the Museum.

Gen Bo Foster's 99th Birthday



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to Museum President Emeritus M.Y. "Bo" Foster (BG, AUS).

On October 9, Bo visited the Museum for his celebration, attended by over 50 of his friends. Our thanks to Chris Korkalo, Marcia Porter, and Linda Johnson for organizing this event. We all look forward to the centennial!

RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

- Roger C. Venable - USS Missoula spoon
- Dennis E. Pleasant - Korean War uniforms
- Earl Little - 32nd Division patch
- Dick Smelzer - photographs
- Ann J. Souders Sparks - James T. Souders journal
- Mary Ann Schipf - WW II items
- William Kurka - Life and Yank magazines
- Lt. Carl J. Williams - Iraq War items
- Linda Johnson - WW II Army footlockers
- Gary Sorensen - Vietnam War era items
- Patricia Kerns McConna - World War I uniform
- Ron Hunt - Gen. M.A. (Red Mike) Edson steamer crate
- Hayes Otoupalik, Ray Wahlert, Mason Mikkola, Robert M. Holter - Army barracks bunk beds
- Ruth Smith- WWI items

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



NEW GALLERY OPENING IN
SPRING 2011

The RMMMH will bring on line a new gallery dedicated to the U.S. Imperial Era (1890-1917). Spanning the period between the end of the Indian Wars and the U.S. entry into World War I, the gallery will focus on the years that brought the U.S. to prominence as a world power.

Topics examined will include the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Boxer Rebellion, the Great White Fleet, interventions in Central and South America, the overseas conflicts of the European colonial powers, U.S. Army intervention in regional and national labor disputes, and the Mexican Punitive Expedition. The era was also marked by key developments in U.S. armed forces organization and technological innovation.

Of special interest to Montanans should be the inclusion of Montana soldiers in Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Rider cavalry regiment, and the deployment of the First Montana Volunteers to the Philippine conflict at the turn of the century. The formation of the First Montana Volunteer Infantry Regiment marked the first time Montanans fought overseas in an organized combat unit. Montanans also deployed in large numbers during the pre-World War I Mexican border tensions.

The RMMMH welcomes contributions of artifacts from the Imperial Era, and memoirs of ancestors who served during the period. Please call the Museum at (406) 549-5346 or email info@fortmissoula.org.

RMMMH Receives Historic
Marine Corps Steamer Crate

Through the efforts of Mr. Ron Hunt, the RMMMH acquired a notable piece of U.S. Marine Corps history. In early 1939 USMC Major Merritt A. (Red Mike) Edson was serving as the operations officer of the 4th Marines in Shanghai, China. He received transfer orders to USMC Headquarters in May, and had his belongings shipped home by steamer crate. One of these, labeled "Major M.A. Edson, USMC" made its way to Mr. Hunt, and thence to the RMMMH.

Major Edson was promoted to Colonel by the autumn of 1942, in which capacity he was awarded the Medal of Honor for command of the First Marine Raider Battalion at the Bloody Ridge action on Guadalcanal, September 12-14, 1942. He would end his career as a USMC Major General in 1947.

FROM THE FILES OF THE CCC'S GREEN GUIDON

MUSEUM PRESENTS NEW MEDAL OF HONOR DISPLAY

November 1, 1935...Army and Forestry personnel with CCC Company 1210 (Nine Mile) enrollees jointly entertained a group of sixty girls from Missoula, Alberton and the surrounding country at a dinner dance held in the recreation hall Friday, October 25...several girls from the Forest Service in Missoula expressed themselves as having a wonderful time and hoped to attend more of the CCC dances.

With the speed and precision of a well-trained football team, Company 953 went into action early on October 25, and by late afternoon had completed its move to winter quarters at Lolo Creek..."Lolo College" will have a mechanical arts building according to plans announced by Captain John U. Schiess, "dean" of the college...S.C. Andreae, educational adviser for Company 953 and "president" of the Lolo College who recently attended an educational conference at Fort Missoula, has prepared one of the most elaborate and extensive curricula ever offered by the college.

The RMMMh further enhanced its presentations on Medal of Honor recipients this summer with the addition of Corporal Edward G. Wilkin's award. A native of Burlington, Vermont, Wilkin served with the U.S. Army's 45th Division during its campaign against the Siegfried Line in the spring of 1945.

Cited for repeated bravery in action against the line's German defenders, Wilkin also evacuated several of his wounded comrades from danger on March 18, 1945. The medal was awarded posthumously after Wilkin's death in action a month prior to V-E Day. His award joins exhibits on WW II MOH recipients Laverne Parrish and Donald Ruhl.

The Museum thanks Trustee Dennis Gordon for his research and procurement of exhibit materials.

Friends of the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History,
please remember
the Military Museum
when you draw up your will.

The Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History
is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit Institution, please remember
that Charitable Gift Giving is Tax Deductable
We appreciate your support!

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 _____

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: RMMMh

Mail to : PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807



RMMMMH

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

NONPROFIT ORG
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.

We are always accepting donations for our 10th Annual
COLLECTORS sale, next July 4th. 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.**

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.

FALL AND WINTER PROGRAMS AT RMMMMH
Building, T-316 unless otherwise noted.

RMMMMH UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 11, Thursday - Veterans Day, Opening of Women
In WW II exhibit, program 3:00 RMMMMH Bldg. T-316.
- Nov. 11, Thursday - Korean War Memorial Anniversary
Ceremony, 1:00, Rose Memorial Park.
- Dec. 19 - RMMMMH Christmas Party, 1-4, Bldg. T-316.
- May 29, 2011, Sunday - Memorial Day Weekend at RMMMMH;
Certificates of Appreciation awarded to all USAAF and
USAF veterans, program TBA; Bldg.T-316.

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