

# PASS IN REVIEW

*"Shedding Light on Idaho's Military History"*



The official newsletter  
of the Idaho Military  
Historical Society and  
Museum | Fall 2020

## Idaho Internment Camps

By Mischa Brady  
Curator, Idaho Military Museum

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked multiple US bases across the pacific including Naval Station Pearl Harbor. This military attack would set in motion the mass incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry. On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed executive order 9066, which allowed the Secretary of War and his commanders the powers to exclude peoples of Japanese, German and Italian ancestry from designated military areas. No specific group was mentioned in the order, but it was quickly applied to the majority of the Japanese American population of the West Coast of the United States. The War Relocation Authority planned the prison camps and began building them in the spring of 1942.

### Minidoka Internment Camp

The first camp built was Manzanar, California and in Idaho, Morrison-Knudsen started construction on Minidoka.

Minidoka's construction would not be fully completed by the time the first Japanese arrived so they were used as underpaid labor in order to complete the camp they were incarcerated in. The barracks were quickly built with green wood, which caused the structures to shrink and did not protect the occupants from the weather or give them privacy. The Japanese were given only two weeks to leave their homes and relocate

to the internment camps. Minidoka spanned 33,000 acres and had 8 guard towers, 36 blocks, and over 600 buildings. The residential area was around 900 acres housing 13,000 occupants under the constant watch of the guard towers.



The Japanese Americans could leave the relocation camps if they volunteered for military service; Minidoka had the highest number of volunteers out of all the camps on the West Coast. Other ways the Japanese coped with life in the camp was through communal gardens, sports, art and music.

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## *From the Director's Desk...*

Jeff Packer, Executive Director



We are still feeling the effects of the Corona virus pandemic. The visitation to the museum is still down from last year, however more and more guests are coming through the doors. We are experiencing a large number of visitors from neighboring states as well as from around the country. The museum was honored to support and assist the graduating warrant officers with their class project, an exhibit showcasing the warrant officer rank. We have welcomed some new volunteers to assist with accessioning of artifacts and data input. Our fingers are still crossed for some semblance of normalcy in the future.

### PASS IN REVIEW

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Comments or article suggestions are welcomed. Call the Museum at 208-272-4841 or visit us on line at [museum.mil.idaho.gov](http://museum.mil.idaho.gov).

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't forget to renew your IMHS membership!

A renewal form is available on our web-page: <https://museum.mil.idaho.gov>

Annual renewal rates are:

General Membership:	\$25
Senior (60 and older):	\$15
Associate (Spouse):	\$10
Student:	\$10
Lifetime Membership:	\$375

(Lifetime payment may be spread out over a one-year period)

The Idaho State Tax Commission offers a tax credit for contributions to Idaho's educational entities which include "An Idaho public or private nonprofit museum."

The Idaho Military Historical Society is such an organization and donations to the Society qualify for this credit. Please remember the Museum as you plan your donations for the year.



### **Idaho Military Historical Society**

4040 W. Guard St.  
Boise, ID 83705-5004

*"Shedding light on Idaho's military history"*

# Idaho Internment Camps from page 1

The communal gardens allowed the Japanese to grow familiar foods outside the government subsidized rations they received while in the camp. The communal dining



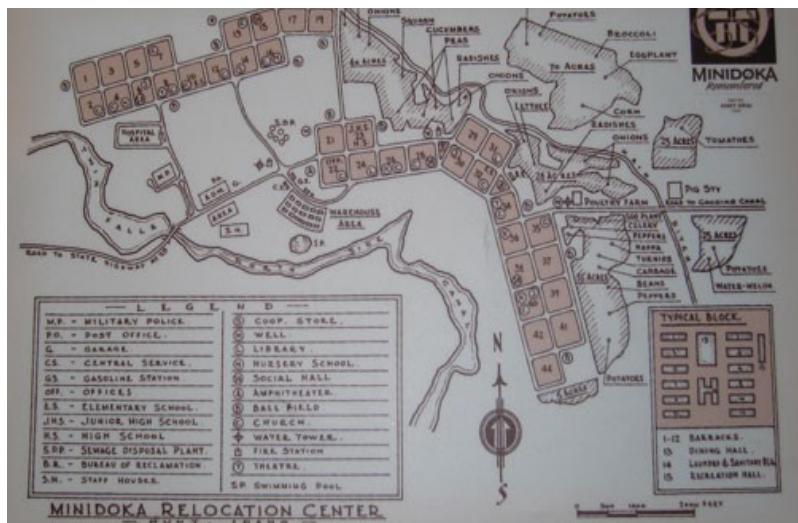
also caused problems, not just because of the long lines, but it broke up the family units who were accustomed to eating together as a family unit. Due to not having kitchens within the living areas many of the Japanese were used as cooks and servers in the mess halls to try and alleviate the long lines, which only contributed to the breakdown of the family unit. The Japanese had a hard time with the western style diet, the government cooks who ran the mess halls had a hard time trying to appease the diets of the Japanese with government rationed food. The rations were inconsistent, which made it difficult to find a happy medium between the Japanese diet and the western diet.

The answer to this problem came with the Japanese victory gardens and them petitioning to be allowed to have a tofu factory. The Japanese even petitioned to get rice to

be able to supplement their diet with their own freshly grown produce such as Napa cabbage, eggplant, soy beans, adzuki beans, gobo and daikon radishes.

Winter weather would become a problem for most Japanese in the Minidoka due to most of them growing up in the coastal regions of the western United States. The winter of 1942 brought severe cold weather reaching 20 below zero. To make matters worse coal deliveries were delayed that winter causing the Japanese to burn sagebrush outside for warmth. The cold

weather gear given to the Japanese at Minidoka was WWI surplus, which was 20 years old by this time. Most of the cold weather



gear was made for adult men, which had to be mended by the Japanese women to fit.

## **Idaho Internment Camps** from page 3

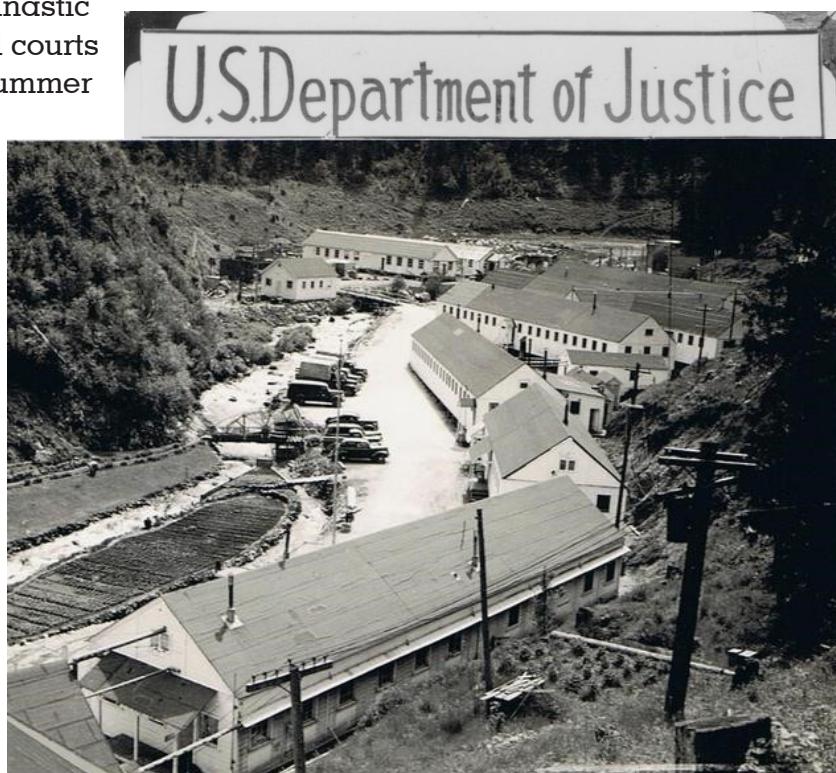
In summer months, the Japanese at Minidoka would swim in the North Side Canal. Because of drownings the Japanese dug two swimming holes and had volunteers to be life guards to prevent more drownings from happening. The Japanese were given permission to redirect the water from the North Side Canal in order to make the new safer swimming areas. The Japanese also built a 9-hole golf course, Judo hall, gymnastic equipment, tennis, and volleyball courts to keep morale high during the summer months.

October 28, 1945 the Minidoka War Relocation Camp closed with over 13,000 people going through the camp. After World War II ended, President Harry Truman signed the Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act of 1948, which allowed Japanese internees to file claims for damages and loss of property due to their incarceration in the internment camps. There were approximately 148 million dollars worth of claims, but only 37 million dollars were allocated.

### **Kooskia Internment Camp**

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) opened a camp for the U.S. Department of Defense 30 miles from the town of Kooskia, Idaho. The camp housed men of Japanese ancestry deemed "enemy aliens" most were U.S. residents. There were many other Justice Department camps throughout the United States, Kooskia Camp was unique in the fact that all the inmates volunteered for transfer there from other camps and received wages. There were 265 male

Japanese aliens who occupied Kooskia Internment Camp from May 1943 through May 1945. The Japanese internees came from 23 states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Washington. Some notable



internees were Reverend Hozan Seki, founder of the New York Buddhist Church; Toraichi Kono, former employee of Charlie Chaplin; and Japanese Latin Americans taken from their respective Latin American countries, mainly Peru, by the U.S. government agencies. Some internees held camp jobs, most worked on the construction project of the Lewis and Clark Highway (now US 12) between Lewiston, Idaho and Missoula, Montana, which ran next to the Lochsa River.

# U.S. Marine Makes History Boise Woman and Boise State University Graduate

By Mischa Brady  
Curator, Idaho Military Museum

U.S. Marine Capt. Anneliese Satz recently made history, becoming the first female Marine to pilot an F-35B fighter jet.

The Marine Corps announced in a press release last week (August, 2019) that Satz, 29, of Boise, Idaho, completed the F-35B Basic Course on June 27 (2019).

"The first flight in an F-35 is by yourself," Satz said in the release. "The syllabus thoroughly prepares you for that first time you take off and for every flight after that, it's an exhilarating experience."

After arriving to MCAS Beaufort in July of 2018, she took her first flight in the F-35B in October that year.

She attributes her success to hard work and great training programs by the Marine Corps.

"At each of my training schools I did my best," Satz said in a statement. "I truly believe that showing up prepared and working diligently are two major keys to success."



Over the last four years, Satz, has completed Aviation Pre-flight Indoctrination in Pensacola, Florida, Primary Flight Training in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she learned to fly the T-6 Texan II, then to Meridian, Mississippi, where she flew the T-45C Goshawk advanced jet training aircraft. Upon completing her initial trainings, she was assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Training

Squadron 501, the "Warlords," to train on her assigned fleet aircraft: the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, the world's first supersonic STOVL stealth aircraft. It's designed to operate from austere, short-field bases and a range of air-capable ships operating near front-line combat zones.

Satz has more than 300 flight hours under her belt, and before serving in the Marine Corps earned her commercial pilots license flying a Robinson R44 Helicopter.

Now, she will join a unit called the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, the Green Knights in Iwakuni, Japan.

"I am incredibly excited to get to VMFA-121 and look forward to the opportunity to serve in the Fleet Marine Forces," Satz said.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Ron Galloway

Jeannette Duvall-Ward  
IMHS Board Member

Ron retired after 32 years from the Air National Guard as a Chief Master Sergeant. He also worked in the United States Property & Fiscal Office where he was an auditor and tasked with monitoring fiscal and supply accountability for the Idaho Army and Air National Guard statewide.

Ron has volunteered with us since 1995, one of our longest serving volunteers and an original charter member of the Idaho Military Historical Society. Most Saturdays, he can be seen greeting visitors as they come into our Museum. He serves as a bridge between the visitors and our exhibits. As a docent, Ron handles the gift shop along with briefly explaining the museum and answering any questions. Sometimes, he might provide additional information about our artifacts in an effort to enhance their visit.

When asked what attracted him to the museum to volunteer, Ron said although he was in the Master Gardener Program and conducted hunter education courses, his strong interest in the Air National Guard drew him to our museum. He said, "It takes volunteers to make it work, so he volunteers."



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MilitaryHistoryMuseum](https://facebook.com/IdahoMilitaryHistoryMuseum)

"Military museums are important for people to see," says Ron, "People need to see what it took for us to be free." It's nice to see when families come into see their history. For instance, regarding the Warrant Officers' Display in our Museum; a mother and father came in to see it because their daughter worked on that display and is a part of that organization. They were thrilled to see her name.

Ron was asked if there was something at the museum that was surprising to him. He said how much the museum has grown over the years and people wanting to take part and donate to the museum.

What Ron really likes, though, are the smiles of the families that come to visit and when they share their own stories of their service to our country or the service of their loved ones.



## In Memory

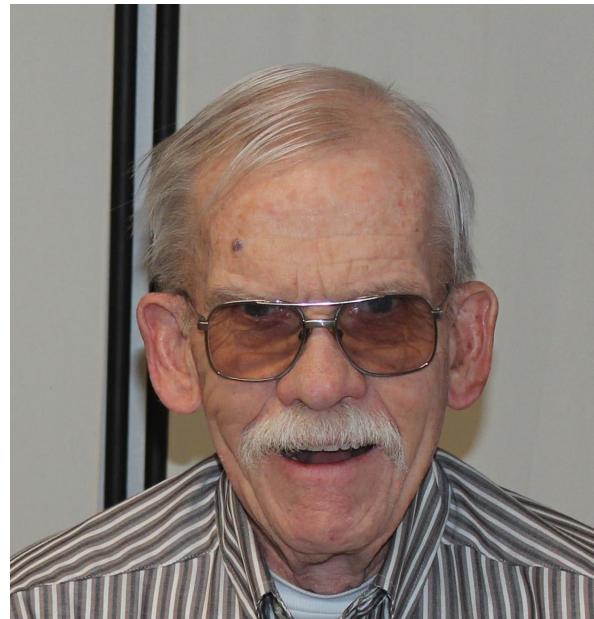
The Idaho Military Museum lost a long time docent with the passing of John Urquhart on September 16th. His cheerfulness, consistent volunteering, and ability to assist with wood working projects will be greatly missed.

John Mace Urquhart was born January 25, 1941 in Emporia Kansas. He graduated from Emporia State College with a B.A. in Marketing Research. He continued in this field until he established his own business within the Jewel Tea Company servicing many customers in the Treasure Valley area here in Idaho.

John was a quiet behind-the-scenes person who enjoyed helping others. After retirement he loved his volunteer work which included work with Boise Parks and Recreation as a tree steward and a docent at the Idaho Military History Museum, Gowen Field. He spent many hours doing maintenance work at his church, Calvary Baptist Church.

His special interests were in woodworking and photography. He enjoyed traveling and he and Eileen (his wife of 54 years) went on several European trips, British Isles, Ireland as well as trips to Alaska and Hawaii. He loved going to the Oregon Coast. His trips, as well as being an avid reader, supported his great interest in history, especially military history.

John loved his family. Together, he and Eileen have one son, Tom; daughter-in-law, Tami; granddaughter, Betsy; and great granddaughter, Gypsy.



Along with John's volunteerism, he was very generous. He supported St. Joseph's Indian School, Wounded Warriors, Idaho Humane Society, the Learning Lab as well as others.

He will be missed and loved forever.

**Editor's Note:** Most of this article was taken from John Urquhart's published obituary.

## NOTICE: Annual Meeting

The Board's Annual Meeting is November 12, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Location is at the museum, 4692 W. Harvard Street, Boise, ID 83705