

A Brief History of the 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry

The 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry served in the Philippines during the Spanish American War and the Philippine American War.

The 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry was mustered into service at Boise, Idaho between May 7 and 18, 1898. At the time of mustering in, the unit consisted of thirty-two officers and 644 enlisted men, making it one of the smallest volunteer regiments formed during the war.

On June 27, 1898, the 1st Idaho left the United States for the Philippines aboard the transport *Morgan City*. It arrived in the Philippines on July 31. On August 13, the unit took part in the capture of the city of Manila. The fall of Manila was a staged battle, in that it had been pre-determined through negotiation that the city would surrender after a brief show of force to preserve Spanish honor. Some deaths did occur as the fighting forces on both sides were not privy to the negotiations, however, the 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry suffered no casualties in the assault. Lt. Col. John Jones of the 1st Idaho reported:

"...At 7 o'clock that morning it [the regiment] was under arms, and promptly at 8 o'clock was in the position to which it was assigned. At noon it was advanced by order of General Anderson to the trenches, from which a regiment of General Greene's brigade had been removed, and remained there until 4 p.m., when one battalion was ordered forward to this city [Quartel de Malate] and the other left to hold the trenches and check any

advance movements by the insurgents. Not being under direct fire of the enemy I have no casualties to report."

The fighting between Spain and the United States had ended by armistice on the very day that Manila fell – August 13 (August 12 in Cuba). However, word did not arrive in the Philippines in time to stop the assault, to marked advantage of the Americans. The Spanish American War ended on December 10, 1898 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

On February 4, 1899 fighting broke out between the American forces and the Filipino forces. This was the onset of the Philippine American War, the second war in which the First Idaho was involved and the war in which it would suffer its battle casualties. The unit saw action at Santa Anna on February 5, 1899, and at Colcocan, on February 10 and 11, 1899.

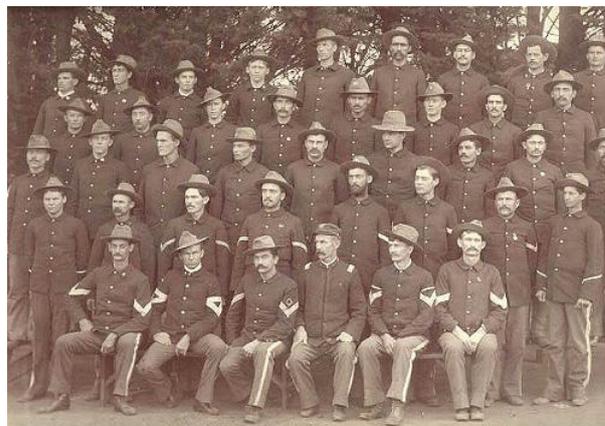


Photo: Company H of the 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry. The officer seated in the front row, fourth man from the left is Captain, later Major, Frank Fenn.

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The 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry remained in the Philippines until July 30, 1899, when it departed for the United States. The unit arrived in the U.S. on August 29, 1899 and was mustered out on September 25, 1899 at San Francisco. At the time of mustering out, the unit had shrunk in size to consist of 32 officers and 444 enlisted men.

During its term of service, the unit had one officer and four enlisted men killed in action. In addition, the unit had two more enlisted men die as a result of wounds received in action, 13 more died of disease, one man drowned and one man died as the result of an accident. In addition, two officers and 23 enlisted men were wounded in action. Twenty-five enlisted men were discharged on disability, two men deserted and eight men were court-martialed.



Photo: Some of the officers of the 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry. Seated in the center of the front row is Frank Fenn. Fenn was appointed Captain of Co. H, 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry and served as acting Major from April 1899 to September 1899 when he was promoted to Major. Fenn lived in Kooskia, Idaho after retiring from the Forest Service in 1920. He died in 1927 and was buried in Pine Grove Cemetery at Kooskia.

New Acquisition

Recently, our Museum was fortunate enough to receive a uniform ensemble (minus the hat) worn by Idahoan Thomas William Parry, who served during the Spanish American War. He was in Company C First Regiment, Idaho Volunteer Infantry, serving under Lieutenant Colonel Daniel W. Figgins in the Philippines.

The Spanish American War exhibit at the Museum will be updated with the newly acquired items. Be sure to stop by and see it. Pictured below are some of the items received:

- Blue uniform jacket with brass buttons
- Blue uniform pants
- Tan gaiters
- A commemorative photograph pin
- Philippine Insurrection Medal - 1899
- Idaho 2nd Battalion Buttons
- Company G insignia
- Medal 1st Regiment of ID Infantry
- 3 misc. military buttons



Company C 1st ID Volunteer Infantry, includes Thomas William Parry

Save the Date

We are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

19 May @ 1300 (1pm) Salute @ Gowen Memorial Park with the 75mm Pack Howitzer. Please note: all visitors must have a military ID to access Gowen Field.

30 May @ 1000 am Memorial Day Salute at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery Boise ID. 21 Gun Salute with 3 75mm Pack Howitzers.

11 June 1000 am to 1500 (3pm) World War II Open House @ the Idaho Military Museum. Weapon demonstrations, uniforms, and much more. More information to follow. Free admission.

16 July all day at the Emmett Show and Shine in Emmett City Park (Emmett, ID) we will have the Willys Jeep, the 75mm Pack Howitzer, the M1 Machine Gun cart and a 1944 Dodge WC-63 on display.

PASS IN REVIEW

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Comments or article suggestions are welcomed. Call the Museum at 208-272-4841 or visit us online at Museum.mil.idaho.gov.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't forget to renew your IMHS membership!

A renewal form is available on our webpage:
<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.



4040 W. Guard St.

Boise, ID 83705-5004

"Shedding light on Idaho's military history"

Museum Moments

Our Education Outreach continues. The Museum has been invited to visit schools in the area to share history lessons with students during the school day. We have also had many student visitors to the Museum on field trips. Four schools ranging Preschool to High School from all over the state have passed through our door totaling more than 100 students in April alone.

Museum staff and volunteers also participated in Boise State's, Professor Walker's class shoot at Gem County Rifle Range on April 9th. Roughly 20 students participated in the shoot and were able to fire numerous guns from the Revolutionary War - WWII. The Museum volunteers were there to assist in giving a brief history about the various guns.

We are also saddened by the passing of our rooster, PFC Malarkey became a topic of conversation by visitors to the Museum when he showed up one day after escaping from the Idaho Humane Society. Malarkey quickly made the Museum his home. He was named Pvt. Malarkey upon his arrival and soon after promoted to PFC Malarkey after an encounter with a dog in which he was not hurt but lost a couple feathers. He was posthumously given the rank of Corporal.

The Idaho Military Historical Society would like you to help us welcome LTC Cody McRoberts to the Board of Directors. He joins us from the Idaho Army National Guard.

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer for any, or all of the upcoming events or at the Museum itself. You can call us at 208-272-4841 or send us an email at: IdahoMilitaryHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

Spring is in the air and with it; warmer weather, longer days, and Spring Break. The Idaho Military Museum enjoyed an uptick in visitors from the cold of winter. Travelers, locals, and school children all passed through our doors over the past few weeks in great numbers to get a closer look at military history. On average, visitors spent an hour and a half looking at the artifacts and asking questions of the staff and volunteers. A family of 13 came in, one of them hadn't been to the Museum in about two years and approached me with concern about us having "gotten rid" of one of our vehicles outside. We were missing a Jeep! She lit up when I pointed to the back corner and told her it was restored in 2019/2020. She was so thrilled; I could not help but take a family picture of them with the '41 Willy.

I also had the pleasure of walking around with Mica (15) and Luca (11) one Wednesday. Luca was very interested in our Medal of Honor (MOH) exhibit and is currently doing a report on MOH recipient MSG Raul "Roy" Benavidez (US Army). He was also very interested in our World War II room.

The 10 – 25-year-old age group are the people I really enjoy sharing the Museum with. Military history is an important part of the history of the US and is often overlooked when taught in school, maybe because of being taught with the dryness of dates and events. Our Museum allows one to look beyond the dates and see the human side of it. With the events the Idaho Military Museum is planning for 2022, and the continued support of the Idaho Military Historical Society Members, we can continue to provide visitors with an educational and enjoyable experience that goes beyond a classroom.

Erik Kunkle, Board Member & Museum Docent



Above: Luca Below: Mica
in Erik's 1944 WC63 Dodge



Above: Students visiting from Gooding High School
Below: BSU Students @ Gem CTY Rod & Gun Club



Above: Dr. Walker, Boise State Professor
Below: Ken demonstrating how to fire



WWII WORD JUMBLE

Rearrange the letters to make words relating to WWII. The highlighted letters will also need to be unscrambled to make the final word.

DREMOFE	---  ---
AOREINBR	---  ---
SLALEI	---  ---
RACBNEI	---  ---
BRETE	---  ---
IFPCCIA	---  ---
UACAFGLOEM	---  ---
PLTBATHSEI	---  ---
INIVSONA	---  ---
ITONASR	---  ---

Answer Key
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Hours of Operation

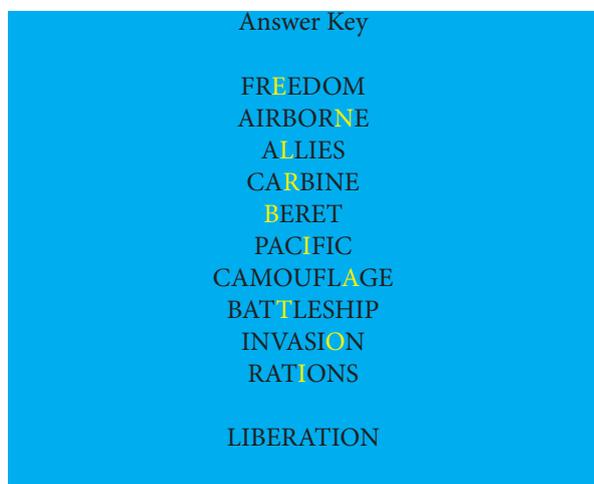
Tuesday - Friday
10am - 4pm

Saturday
12pm-4pm

Closed most federal holidays.

Other times or special arrangements can be made.

208-272-4841



Help the Museum Through Your Amazon Purchases

The next time you shop on line with Amazon, access Amazon via <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select the Idaho Military Historical Society as your charity. That way the Society and Museum will receive a donation on all purchases, large or small, that you, your family or friends make from the online retailer (no names or purchase information is exchanged in the process). To make sure the IMHS receives credit for your next Amazon purchase go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-0463824>



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