



PASS IN REVIEW

“Shedding Light On Idaho’s Military History”

3rd Quarter

October 1998

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

27 October 1998, 1900 hours, is this year’s third quarterly Board meeting designed especially for our general membership to keep them informed and involved in activities.

The program will include a brief Board meeting, a special military history program of interest to our general membership, the annual election of members to the Board of Directors, and refreshments.

Members are encouraged to engage the Board in questions, suggestions, and discussion.

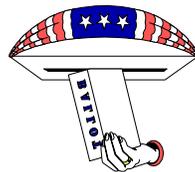
The Election will elect 3 Board Members to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Board Members whose terms expire this month are Gayle Alvarez, Bill Miller, and Ken Swanson. Gayle and Ken will be seeking re-election.

Bill Miller recently announced his decision not to run for re-election and the Board’s Nominating Committee has selected Robert Cassell as a candidate for the vacancy.

Gayle Alvarez is currently the IMHS Secretary and has also served as the Treasurer. She has been active in the IMHS since 1993.

Ken Swanson has also been active in the IMHS since 1993 and has served as Vice President this past year. His knowledge and expertise in museum administration and procedures has been invaluable.

Robert Cassell has been a member of the IMHS since 1996. He served in the military with the 321st Engineers and retired as a Warrant Officer.



In addition to these three candidates, the floor will be open for other nominations at the meeting. The person nominated must be a current member, as must the nominator.

Upon conclusion of the election, the newly formed Board will briefly convene for an organizational meeting to choose its 1999 officers.

RAFFLE DRAWING WINNERS-

The First Antique Arms Raffle has been deemed a great success by the Board. The IMHS’ Fund Raising Raffle came to an exciting conclusion at the July 28th meeting.

This was the quarterly meeting attended by a number of members, each anxious to take one of the highly prized antique arms home.

The raffle helped raise over \$2500 for museum operating funds. **AND THE WINNERS ARE:**

First Prize Model 1861 U.S. Percussion Rifle Musket



- Teri Taylor

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Second Prize - Model 1851 Colt Navy .36 Cal. Revolver – John Malmstrom

<<Photo Not Available>>

Third Prize - Model 1861 U.S. Cavalry Saber –



– **Gordon Blosch**

Fourth Prize - Miniature copy of Model 1861 U.S. Cavalry Saber



– **Amanda Isakson**

These reproductions were of the highest quality both for workmanship and model fidelity. Many comments have been received indicating an interest in another raffle in the future. **Thank you to everybody who participated, we appreciate your support.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the summer winds down and the days grow shorter, I like to reflect on what has been done and more importantly, look into the future and see what can be accomplished over the next year.

First of all, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the great year we have had in 1998. The thousands of hours of volunteer assistance, which made it possible for us to accomplish, all we have.

Even if you can only spare a couple of hours, we need your help. **No volunteer offer is too small!**

Through the efforts of our volunteers, we have been able to upgrade and expand some of our displays as well as the Reference Library.



We also had some very successful fundraisers with the *Aero Fair*, the *Open House*, and the *Raffle sales*. Thanks to those three events, the Society was able to gross approximately \$8000.

Well, so much for the past. What I would now like to share with you are some of the things we see in the future.

The museum was recently given expansion capabilities with the use of the building next to it, Bld 302.

(See article titled THE MUSEUM EXPANDS!)

Through this expansion, we will be able to expand our displays as well as the Reference Library. All of this will go hand in hand with our Educational Outreach Program. This will be an exciting challenge.



Another thing that goes hand in hand with this expansion is our need for more volunteers. Even if you can't spend the entire day with us, and can only spare a couple of hours, we need your help. **No volunteer offer is too small!**

Another challenge we have is the need for financing and more particularly, financial stability. Last year, some of you pledged an annual amount to the Endowment. With the calendar year coming to a close, **this pledge can become a nice tax deduction for you.**

We are also coordinating with other military affiliated organizations to raise the level of knowledge of the Regions Military Heritage. Some of the organizations we are working with are the State Military Division, the State Historical and Preservation Organization, Numerous Veterans Organizations, American Legions, as well as many individual veterans.

The future of the Society looks bright and exciting. To accomplish these goals, we will need your help. So please, come along. The future is for all of use, get involved as a volunteer and bring along a friend.

Thanks again, see you October 27th!

- Joe Teenhower

IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY

WWII: BOISE NAVY PILOT FLIES COVER FOR GEORGE BUSH



Nat "Blackie" Adams

When Nat Adams, Boise architect, joined the Navy air arm in 1942, he had no idea that he would be flying cover for the future President of the United States.

But that's the way it turned out. Adams took his pre-flight at St. Maries College and his primary training at Los Alamitos, both in California. He was then sent to Corpus Christi, Texas, for operational advanced training in Navy fighter aircraft. In combat he flew the famous F6F Hellcat, powered by a 2,000 horsepower Pratt & Whitney engine.

The F6F was capable of 300+ miles per hour and was armed with six 50-caliber machine guns. It could carry a 500-pound bomb as well.

Nat, or "Blackie" as his comrades called him, was soon in the Pacific flying off of three different carriers, the last one being the *U.S.S. San Jacinto*, an Independence class carrier (CVL) that was home to about thirty-six aircraft.

Also assigned to the *San Jacinto* was Torpedo Squadron 51, among whose members was the youngest pilot in the Navy, one **George H.W. Bush**. His aircraft was a three-man torpedo bomber (TBF) which carried a torpedo or bombs, depending on the mission.

Actually, before the end of the war, both Adams and Bush would be fished out of the Pacific by the U.S. Navy. The usual basic mission for Adams and his comrades was to fly cover for the TBFs. This called for engaging enemy fighters as well as strafing runs on both land and water targets.

Adams' crash landing in the water occurred on July 25, 1944, about six weeks before that of Bush. His flight was attacking a Japanese ship which, it turned out, was loaded with mines.

Their strikes caused the entire cargo to explode. This explosion developed into a giant mushroom cloud and sent metal parts flying high in the air just as Adams' F6F passed over the doomed ship. It damaged a wing and tore away an aileron, a vital control element.

He tried to make it back to the *San Jacinto* but when that proved impossible, he bellied into the water alongside a destroyer, the *U.S.S. Healy*.

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Although he was without his one-man raft, he swam over to the destroyer and was pulled aboard. Adams was forced to spend ten days aboard the *Healy* before he could get back to his carrier.

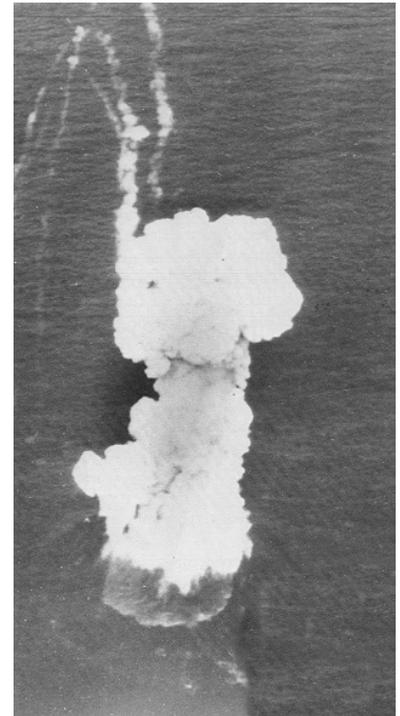


Photo of actual explosion of the Japanese ship

Later, in September, when Bush was shot down, Adams' group was flying cover for a Bush bombing run on an island radio facility. Adams saw Bush's plane smoking after being hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire but he could not tell, from his position high above, whose plane it was. Only after he landed did he learn it was Bush's plane.

Bush was picked up by a U.S. submarine and taken to Pearl Harbor. He declined the opportunity to remain stateside, wanting to return to his squadron still in the thick of the fighting. Needless to say, those on the *San Jacinto* were grateful to see peace finally come a year later.



NEW MEMBERSHIP CATAGORIES

The Board of Directors expanded the original IMHS membership categories at the September Board meeting. The expanded classifications are designed to accommodate individuals and organizations with supporting interest in the IMHS but which category of interest has not heretofore been supported by IMHS by-laws.



Original member classifications were General at \$25 per year and Lifetime with a single payment of \$375. The following *NEW* categories have been adopted:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Associate Membership - Membership entered in the name of a **spouse** of a General Member or Lifetime member in good standing. Associate Membership annual dues are \$10.

Associate member shares newsletter and future events notice with full member partner and is eligible to vote at membership meetings.



Student Membership - Membership entered in the name of an individual of good character with a sincere interest in the Society who is attending **elementary, junior, or senior high school, or an accredited**

college, university, or technical school. Student Membership annual dues are \$10.

Student member receives newsletter & notice of future events but is not eligible to vote at membership meetings.



Senior Membership - Membership entered in the name of an individual of good character with a sincere interest in the Society who has reached the age of **60.** Senior Membership annual dues are \$15.

Senior member receives newsletter & notice of future events and is eligible to vote at membership meetings.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Four categories that recognize size and level of interest with commensurate benefits are as follows:



Platinum - Membership entered in the name of a corporation or business of good character with a sincere interest in the Society. Annual membership dues are \$500.

Platinum member receives 15 copies of newsletter & notice of future events. Also receives 15 Corporate Membership Cards good for 15% discount at Gift Shop and other IMHS sponsored events. Member may cast 4 votes at membership meetings.



Gold - Membership entered in the name of a corporation or business

of good character with a sincere interest in the Society. Annual membership dues are \$250.

Gold member receives 10 copies of newsletter & notice of future events. Also receives 10 Corporate Membership Cards good for 10% discount at Gift Shop and other IMHS sponsored events. Member may cast 3 votes at membership meetings.



Silver - Membership entered in the name of a corporation or business of good character with a sincere interest in the Society. Annual membership dues are \$100.

Silver member receives 5 copies of newsletter & notice of future events. Also receives 5 Corporate Membership Cards good for 10% discount at Gift Shop and other IMHS sponsored events. Member may cast 2 votes at membership meetings.



Bronze - Membership entered in the name of a corporation or business of good character with a sincere interest in the Society. Annual membership dues are \$50.

Bronze member receives 2 copies of newsletter & notice of future events. Also receives 2 Corporate Membership Cards good for 10% discount at Gift Shop and other IMHS sponsored events. Member may cast 1 vote at membership meetings.

Members are encouraged to bring this to the attention of their employer and others who may have an interest in Idaho's military history.

NEW MEMBERS

Special Welcome to:

- ★ Kay Benbough
 - ★ Frank Boguslawski
- ★ Genevieve Boguslawski
 - ★ General Brewington
- ★ Jon Carter
 - ★ Chester Graham

THE MUSEUM EXPANDS!

The Idaho Military History Museum has just received approval to **expand into Building #302, next door**, with which it shares parking area. The building, a former mess hall, has been modernized with new metal siding, windows, and entry.

Executive Director, Bob Benbough, was enthusiastic about the additional space. “For a museum that is growing as fast as the IMHM, to receive this added space is like the cavalry arriving on the horizon in the nick of time.”

Plans are now underway to move the ever-expanding Reference Library to Bld 302. A special thank you goes to our newest member **Kay Benbough**. She has taken on the *enormous challenge* of Librarian of the Reference Library.

The new facility blends well with the existing structure and traffic plan along with newly paved parking, concrete curbs, and landscaping now being completed.

Tentative plans call for an open house on Veterans Day, November 11th. More information will be provided at the **October 27th Membership Meeting**.

The Board also thanks **General Kane** who oversaw the transfer of the building to us. *Thank you! - The Board*

Photo of Museum and Annex



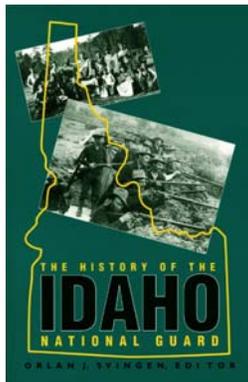
GIFT SHOP EXPANDS

Stan Herzinger recently attended a workshop in Seattle and has incorporated many new ideas and items into the IMHM Gift Shop.

If you are starting to think about what to give Uncle George for Christmas (no, it isn't too soon), stop by and take a look. We think you will be impressed! (*See article titled NOW AVAILABLE AT THE GIFT SHOP*)

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THE HISTORY OF THE IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD



Now available at the Museum's Gift Shop — get yours today!

PASS IN REVIEW

SUBMIT YOUR MILITARY MEMOIRS

Don't assume that you had to have been the youngest colonel breveted in your time or that you must have received five purple hearts and a chest full of medals for valor to be of interest to the Idaho record.



We want your experiences in the services – mundane, funny, tragic, rewarding, enlightening, or costly. Fifty or a hundred years from now, researchers will want to know what it was like from a soldiers' point of view 'way back when. A major event, boot camp, the frozen Aleutians, a distant atoll, Comm Z, the Bulge, occupation duty, or K.P., — write it up and send it in.

An isolated event or an entire military career is of interest to museum archivists.

Be sure, however, that you identify personnel involved, date (as close as possible), location and information that lends color or credence to your story. Besides going into the Idaho record, it may be printed here in the newsletter.



At the end of your memoir and on the same sheet of paper, please write or type, “This memoir may be edited for publication in the Idaho Military History Museum newsletter, *Pass In Review*”. Then **sign and date** the statement.

To you who may have already written your military memoirs, please send a copy to: 

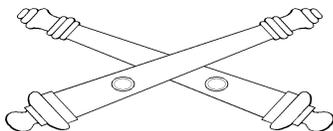
**The Idaho File
Idaho Military History Museum
4040 West Guard Street
Boise, ID 83705-5004**

The editors of *Pass In Review* reserve the right to edit guest articles for length and structure. The greatest care is taken to retain the writer's meaning and style.

It is our editorial policy to publish both enlisted and commissioned experiences as well as to recognize the various armed services. This, of course, will depend upon what is submitted, so the mix will be up to you.

**280th FA Bn
HOLDS
REUNION IN
IDAHO**

The 280th Field Artillery Battalion held its 40th Reunion at the Grove Hotel in Boise 10-13 September 1998. The 280th FA Bn was



formed and entered World War II from California but had members from throughout the United States including Idaho.

In 1943 the 280th FA Bn was activated at Camp Cook, CA. After training at Ft. Polk, LA, it departed the United States on 7 September 1944, bound for Normandy France, armed with its 105mm howitzers.

Upon arrival, the unit was attached to the 8th Infantry Division in the Hartgen Forrest, and from that time until the end of the war in Europe, was continually in combat; a total of 137 consecutive days in the line.

The 280th did all of its campaigns in the 9th Army and was usually assigned a direct support mission with one of the spearhead divisions.

The 280th was the first artillery unit to cross the Roer River, and helped punch the key break through to the Rhine. After the Rhine crossing, the unit continued with the 84th Division to cross the Weser River and clear the way to the Elbe. Here they were attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and crossed the Elbe River.

VE Day found the 280th in Ludwigslust Germany, having traveled 517 miles in 137 days, captured 1,040 prisoners, and fired 27,338 rounds of ammunition.

The 280th FA Bn is a courageous unit with a proud history. We are indeed privileged to help them share it with the people of Idaho.

UPDATE

At our last meeting, **Arthur Hart**, Director Emeritus of the Idaho Historical Society, made a presentation on "Idaho's Ethnic Diversity – The Frontier Army".

Arthur Hart's program was made possible by support from **Boise Cascade Corporation** and by funding from the *Idaho Humanities Council*, a



state based affiliate of the *National Endowment for Humanities*.

The IMHS expresses its appreciation for this worthwhile program.

MOST WANTED



YOU! We need volunteers! We need researchers, organizers, catalogers, display organizers...we have more projects than people able to help.

As stated in the President Message, "even if you can only spare a couple of hours, we need your help. **No volunteer offer is too small!**"

With the acquisition of our new annex, we especially need your help at this time.

Stop by the Museum Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday between 8:00 and 4:30, you'll be glad you did!

Produced By: Idaho Military Historical Society
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Comments or article suggestions are welcome, contact us at 422-6128.
Check out our web site at:
<http://inghro.state.id.us/museum/>

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NOW AVAILABLE AT THE GIFT SHOP:

- Suncatchers** \$ 5.00
- Key Rings** \$ 6.00
- Belt Buckles** \$12.00
- WWII Spotter Cards** \$ 3.00
- Magnetic 'Pride' Tags** \$ 3.00

US Navy, Air Force, Marines, Army, Coast Guard, and American Veterans symbols are available.



White jacket/wind breaker \$20.00
(with IMHS Logo)



- Hat Pins** \$ 3.00 - \$ 5.00
- Aircraft Erasers** \$.25
- Chocolate Bars** \$ 1.00



- Henley Shirt** (Available in blue or red) \$18.00
- Polo Shirt** (Not pictured) \$17.00



Pencil Sharpeners \$2.00

P-51 Mustang, B-24 Liberator, F-117A Stealth, to name a few.



If you misplaced the membership application you picked up at the museum or if you haven't had a chance to send in your renewal for 1998, here is your chance. Just clip the enclosed application and send it in with your **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** contribution. The form can also be used to make a donation or an endowment pledge.

	IDAHO MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 4040 W. Guard Street, Boise, Idaho 83705-5004				
	<i>Membership Application/Renewal</i>				
YES! Please enter my tax deductible membership application/renewal in the category checked below. I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount indicated.					
\$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> General	\$ 375	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
\$ 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate (Members Spouse)	\$ 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	For: _____	
		\$ 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+)		
Name: _____		Phone: _____			
Address: <i>(City, State, Zip)</i> _____					
Interests: <i>(Volunteering, Research, Displays, etc.)</i> _____					

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