

PASS IN REVIEW

"Shedding Light On Idaho's Military History"

2nd Quarter June 2003

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC



Mark Your Calendars for 29 July 2003, 6:00 PM!

We have reserved the Open Air Pavilion on Gowen Field. It is located between the swimming pool and the base chapel.

Parking is available right next to it. (See Map on page 7). The Board will provide the hot-dogs, just bring yourself, your lawn chair, and a side dish (potato salad, baked beans, fruit, etc.) and join us for an informal get-together.

It will be a good time to get reacquainted with friends, make new friends, talk with Board members, ask questions, make suggestions, and so on. See you on the 29th!

CURATOR'S CORNER

Well, it's been a busy couple of months. There have been lots of changes here at the Museum which means more artifacts are on exhibit. One of the goals for the changes was to make space for the M38A1 jeep to be indoors. Larry and Garry Carroll were kind enough to not only store the jeep indoors for us during the transition, but they did additional work on it from the seat cushions to the correct stencils. They did a really nice job and you should see their work!

Our Open House on Memorial Day was a tremendous success. Larry Gebert did his Channel 7 morning broadcast at the Museum which gave us wonderful publicity. The World War Two reenactors had a large set



up and did three firing demos that were quite popular with the crowd

I would like to

thank the following people for their contributions to the Museum to prepare for Memorial Day: **Steve Bonde** for his work on the Gulf War exhibits cases, cleaning and prep work with artifacts, painting exhibit cases, scanning and printing photos for the exhibits. Steve was a docent that day as well.

Bill Miller for his research work on the ANG aircraft, mounting labels and photos and participation at the Open House. Bill came in his flight suit and did a wonderful job talking to the public about the incredible F4 Phantom!

Fred Anderson for his work on mounting/arranging the Spanish American war layout. Fred also brought out some good information that went up, including copies of orders.

Stan Ogsbury for work on the model exhibits, docenting and running errands to pick up supplies.

Our next event will be the Mountain Home Air Force Base Air Show 1314 September. They invited the Museum to participate in their Heritage Hangar, so we will have lots of exhibit space focusing on 100 Years of Flight and 60 years of airpower in Idaho. We need help getting ready for this, from making labels for artifacts to packing artifacts for transport to docents for both days. We will be able to take our dog tag machine as well!

Also, be sure to look for news about a new exhibit. Special Forces Association Chapter #69 and Chris Reeve Knives are going to donate a very special knife to the Museum. Chris Reeve Knives has a contract to make the *Yarborough* knife that is issued to graduates of the JFK Special Warfare Center and they are donating one to the Museum! This type of knife is currently being carried by Special Forces team members around the world!

- Gary Keith

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IDAHO HISTORY DAY WINNER

With all of the recent budget cutbacks, it was announced that Idaho History Day would not take place in 2003 but a group of volunteers came to its rescue. As a result, Idaho History Day 2003 was held on April 25th at BSU.

The theme was **Rights And Responsibilities In History.**

...And The Winner Is... The winner of the Military History Category is Chase Johnson from Idaho Falls. His project, pictured here, is titled



"Detain, Don't Destroy; The Rights Of POWs".

Chase did an outstanding job and his project is now on display at the Museum. The photo does not begin to tell its story; you must see it to truly appreciate it.

Congratulations Chase, nice work!

RECAP OF IMHS EVENTS

➤ On May 17th, the Meridian Speedway held a special Armed Forces Day celebration and invited the IMHS. Harlan Andrijeski, Steve Bonde, Ed Carlson, Ron Galloway, Darlene Hand, Gary Keith, Jeff Sugai and Stan Herzinger set up a gift shop booth and displayed the Korean Conflict era Jeep at the event. We grossed \$264 (\$90 was in dog tags)! Great work everybody!

➤ On May 26th, we held an Open House in honor of Memorial Day.



Overview at Memorial Day Open House

Over 265 people signed the guest register. Larry Gebert of Channel 7 did his early morning show live at the Museum! A number of veterans,



veterans' organizations and military groups joined us as did the

Civil War Reenactors

and the



WWII Reenactors

who demonstrated some of the weaponry used during WWII, much to the delight of the Museum visitors.



Future Pilots in Training



The 124th Air Support Operations Sqdn (A1C Justin Bryson and the Hummer used by Maj Stone prior to his deployment)



USMCR Company C, 4th Tank Battalion (Left to Right) Corporal Haixin Li, William B. Johnson, WWII Vet, Lance Corporal Joseph Danes, Gary Keith, Curator & WWII Reenactor

American Legion Post 136 and the Military Vehicle Preservation Assn were also in attendance.

As Gary mentioned in his report, he and several of our volunteers have been busy expanding exhibits and creating new ones, many of which were unveiled at the Open House. Some of those include an expanded Spanish American War/Philippine Insurrection Exhibit, an expanded WWI exhibit, expanded Naval and Air Force (and Air National Guard) Exhibit and a new Desert Storm Exhibit. Several others are still in process.

In addition to everybody Gary mentioned, a special thank you goes out to **Space Age Movers** who donated their time and equipment to transport some donated display cases

we did not have the means to transport to the Museum and to **Mill End Fabrics** who donated some of the fabric used in the Desert Storm Exhibit.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our recent events a success. We truly couldn't have accomplished everything without each and every one of you!

- The Board

UPCOMING EVENTS

21 June. The Boise Airport is holding an Open House to show the public the new terminal. The National Guard has been invited, as has the IMHS. As we go to press, details are still a bit sketchy but this will make for some great publicity for us!

26-27 June. A B-17 and a B-24 will be at the Boise Air Terminal (Verde Aviation) and the Museum has been invited to set up a booth and the dog tag machine. The Aircraft will arrive at 1200 on the 26th and depart at 1300 on the 27. Come and see two beautiful historic airplanes and say hello!

29 July. Our Annual Summer Picnic will be held at Gowen Field's Open Air Pavilion

15-23 August. Western Idaho Fair. The recruiters have offered to share their booth with us and our dog tag machine. If you are able to help 'man' the booth during this time, please let us know.

13-14 September. Mountain Home Air Force Base Air Show. The Museum has been invited to participate with a booth and some displays. See Gary's Curator's Corner for all the details. We will also need volunteers to help. If you are available, please let us know.

11 October. We are planning an Anniversary Open House with a WWII theme. Mark your calendars for a *Sentimental Journey*, more details to come. *

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER



Please meet John McKay

Most of you have never met this Quarter's Volunteer. He has spent lots of time helping the Museum, but very little of it has been at the Museum. His name is John McKay and he is a computer programmer for the State of Idaho.

John has made a very significant contribution to the Museum - he created a database for Artifact Collections Management. This is something the Museum has needed for a long time and even more so as our collection grows. John was able to create a custom program, based on our needs. He worked numerous hours at home on the program, as well as taking time off work to meet with Gary.

This all began with an email from John last fall. He told Gary he was interested in military history, supported the military and wanted to volunteer at the Museum to help the Museum and its visitors. He offered his skills. He has worked in the computer industry for over fifteen years and has tremendous knowledge in the field, which became very apparent during their meetings.

For fun, John enjoys the outdoors, from camping to scuba diving and even doing paintball wars against Marines in the Boise foothills. Lately, John has been offering his

experience with off road vehicles and GPS to help Idaho Mountain Rescue set up communications sites. One word to describe John is 'busy'.

PASS IN REVIEW

John, thank you for all of the hard work you have done for the Idaho Military History Museum, you are our

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER!

NEW MEMBERS Special Welcome to:

★ Fleet Reserve Assn

★ Mr. & Mrs. James Marriott

An Endowment __ Update



Our Endowment balance currently stands at \$26,020.96.

Recent Endowment Donors include:

Daniel & Marjorie Davis Gordon Shore

Please consider making a donation to our Endowment and tell your friends and relatives who may be thinking of their estates or are looking for ways to make tax-deductible donations.

If you would like a form, there is one on the back on this newsletter and there is also one you can download on our website (http://inghro.state.id.us/museum). If you desire to remain anonymous, we will honor your request.

Contact any Board member and we will help you plan a gift to the IMHS' Endowment Fund. *

DID YOU KNOW...

Francis Scott Key wrote what newspapers entitled *The Defense of Ft. McHenry*, which later became the *Star Spangled Banner*, in September 1814, but it did not officially become the National Anthem until March 3, 1931? ¹*

IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY



ROBERT DALE MAXWELL
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Rank and organization: Technician
Fifth Grade, Wire Section,
Communications Platoon,
Headquarters Company, 3d
Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d
Infantry Division

Place and date: near Besancon, France, 7 September 1944

Entered service at: Creswell, Larimer County, Colorado

Born: 26 October 1920, Boise, Idaho.

Citation: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 7 September 1944, near Besancon, Technician 5th Grade France. Maxwell and three other soldiers. armed only with .45-caliber automatic pistols, defended the battalion observation post against an overwhelming onslaught by enemy infantrymen in approximately platoon strength, supported by 20mm flak and machine-gun fire, who had infiltrated through the battalion's forward companies and attacking the observation post with machine-gun, machine pistol, and grenade fire at ranges as close as 10 yards. Despite a hail of fire from automatic weapons and grenade launchers, Technician 5th Grade Maxwell aggressively fought off advancing enemy elements and, by his calmness, tenacity, and fortitude, inspired his fellows to continue the unequal struggle. When an enemy hand grenade was thrown in the

midst of his squad, Technician 5th Grade Maxwell unhesitatingly hurled himself squarely upon it, using his blanket and his unprotected body to absorb the full force of the explosion. This act of instantaneous heroism permanently maimed Technician 5th Grade Maxwell, but saved the lives of his comrades in arms and facilitated maintenance of vital military communications during the temporary withdrawal of the battalion's forward headquarters."²

Robert Dale Maxwell was born on October 26, 1920, in Boise Idaho. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to Kansas where they lived until 1940, when they moved to Colorado and settled on a farm.

He was interested in becoming a military aviator but learned that he did not possess the necessary educational requirements. In 1942 he became a 'handcuffed volunteer' and was drafted.

His first assignment was at Camp Roberts, California, where in July 1942, he attended 13 weeks of Infantry Basic Training and learned to operate heavy weapons and machine guns. After completing his Basic Training, he was transferred to Fort Meade, Maryland. From there, he went to North Africa, where he became part of the first replacement group (in the 3d Infantry Division) after the battle at Casablanca.

In February of 1943, Maxwell became a telephone lineman and his responsibilities included laying telephone line and switchboard operations. Each spool of phone line contained ½ mile of wire and had to be laid by hand...often under enemy fire.

In March 1943, Maxwell joined the action in Tunisia. From there he took part in the beach landing during the invasion of Sicily under General Patton (July 1943) and participated

in the battles for Palermo (July 1943) and Messina (August 1943). Then, it was time to prepare for the invasion of Italy and the long road to Monte Cassino through the rugged and muddy fields. They crossed the raging Volturno River and began the assault on Hitler's winter line when on 17 November 1943, they were relieved and pulled back to Naples to regroup to full strength for the battle at Anzio.



Men and equipment move ashore south of Anzio on D-day.³

The invasion began at 0200 on 22 January 1944. "On the southern flank of the beachhead the 3d Division quickly seized its initial objectives, brushing aside a few dazed patrols, while unopposed British units achieved equal success in the center and north." As the Allies pushed inland, they met increasing German resistance. Nine days later, on the 31st of January, Maxwell earned his first Silver Star.

"...at about 0330 hours, the Battalion OP was heavily shelled by artillery, and fragments were cutting all wire communications. Private First Class Maxwell and several wiremen immediately began repairing the lines. As the concentration became even more intense, it forced the wiremen to take cover. Although shells landed within 20 yards of him, wounding two men seriously and himself receiving a fragment wound in the leg, Private First Class

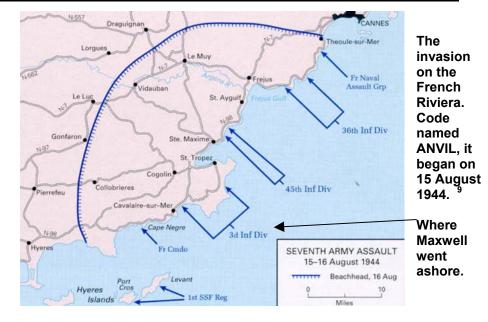
alone. and with Maxwell utter disregard for his personal safety or serious injury, remained on the line maintaining communication repairing wire lines to the Battalion OP and forward line elements. For over three hours he remained under this intense enemy fire..."5 Maxwell had refused evacuation and continued to perform his telephone lineman duties until the next morning. By then, his leg was nearly immobile and he was evacuated to an aid station on the beach. He remained hospitalized for the rest of the Anzio operation.

After Anzio, in August 1944, the 3rd Division prepared for yet another amphibious landing, this time on the French Riviera. Code named ANVIL, the invasion began on 15 August 1944. On 7 September, Maxwell found himself in Besancon, France, and it was there that he earned his second Silver Star.





Although not pictured here, Besancon is approximately 75 km east of Dijon.⁷



"...at 0100 hours, near France, Technician Fifth Grade Maxwell voluntarily climbed the roof of a house, under heavy fire from hostile 20 mm canon and three machine guns, to lay an overhead wire crossing and thereby provide communications for his Battalion CP. Although still lame from an unhealed leg wound sustained in a previous campaign, Technician Fifth Grade Maxwell climbed to the ridgepole while machine gun bullets cut the roofing at his feet, and looped his wire over a radio antenne. Returning to the ground, he volunteered to complete the overhead crossing by climbing a second house top. He proceeded on hands and knees toward the ridgepole, while shells crumbled the roofing a few yards from his foot..."8 Eventually they forced him from the roof and he

Later that night, Maxwell earned an even higher honor. A French farmhouse was serving as the battalion observation post and its occupants were under siege. A group of Germans, roughly a platoon in strength, supported by 20-mm flak and machine guns had infiltrated the lines and were attacking the observation post.

jumped to the ground.

"Despite a hail of fire from automatic weapons and grenade launchers, Technician 5th Grade Maxwell aggressively fought off advancing enemy elements and, by his calmness, tenacity, and fortitude, inspired his fellows to continue the unequal struggle." 10

The observation post was surrounded by a wall, on top of which a chicken wire extension had been constructed. The majority of the German grenades were deflected by the chicken wire and exploded outside the wall. Then, a grenade cleared the wire. Maxwell heard it land behind him. His first reaction was to try to locate it and toss it back over the wall Realistically, he knew that there simply was not enough time to do this so he grabbed his blanket and using it as a cushion, hurled himself on the grenade. When the grenade went off, he lost consciousness.

Somehow he survived the explosion but was far from unscathed. Part of his right foot had been blown off and his left arm and temple had sustained severe shrapnel wounds. He was also alone. After the grenade had exploded, the order to evacuate the compound had been given; his fellow soldiers thought he had been killed in the explosion. Maxwell managed to

hobble to the door of the farmhouse, locate Lieutenant Johnson and ask for help. Maxwell was bleeding profusely, and the two of them immediately came under enemy fire. With Maxwell leaning on his shoulder, Johnson managed to get the two of them to a jeep and they raced to an aid station. After they left the compound, the Headquarters was captured. (Maxwell later learned that US forces demolished the house.)

Maxwell was sent to a hospital in Naples where he learned that he had been recommended for the Medal of Honor. "I dismissed it as a maybe". He heard nothing further about it until March 1945, while in the hospital at Camp Carson, Colorado Springs.

His award of the Medal of Honor was approved. A board of 7 officers reviewed the recommendation and 5 of the 7 approved the Medal of Honor. The order awarding him the medal was dated 6 April 1945, and his citation was one of the last to be signed by President Roosevelt. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, with Maxwell's signed citation on his desk.

With Washington DC in transition, the decision was made to award Maxwell the Medal of Honor in Denver, Colorado. And so it was, on 12 May 1945, General Danielson, Commander of the Army for the Colorado area, presented Maxwell with the military's highest award, the Medal of Honor

Maxwell's injuries were so severe, he was unable to return to duty. Along with the partial loss of his foot, he had sustained major hearing problems and was in danger of loosing the sight in one eye. Fortunately, he was able to receive specialized care in a California hospital and did not loose his eyesight.



Robert Maxwell's Medal of Honor Presentation



In June 1945, Maxwell was discharged from the service and he settled near Eugene, Oregon, where his grandparents had moved during the war. In the fall of 1945, with the help of the GI Bill, Maxwell entered Eugene Vocational School. He studied automobile mechanics for 2 years and then spent another 2 years as an apprentice.

He began teaching auto mechanics at the Central Oregon Community College at Bend, Oregon. In reality, he developed the program from scratch, which included equipping the buildings and paint booth. In August of 1951, he married his sweetheart Beatrice, a telephone operator. They had 2 daughters and later adopted 2 daughters. Maxwell spent 10 years at the Central Oregon Community College in Bend until the program was moved to the new campus on the heights above Bend. He then transferred to Lane Community College in Eugene and taught there until he retired in 1986.

In 1992, the Maxwell's moved to Boise and lived in the capitol city until 1996, when his daughters persuaded them to move back to Oregon. Maxwell enjoys volunteering at his local church, woodworking, hunting, fishing, and being a grandfather to his 7 grandchildren and 1 greatgrandchild.



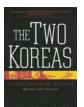
In addition to the Medal of Honor and two Silver Stars, Maxwell was also awarded the Croix de Guerre

with Silver Star "For exceptional war services rendered in the course of operations for the liberation of France."

Editors Note: A very special thank you to Mr. Maxwell for sharing his story with us.



BOOK REVIEW



THE TWO KOREAS: A CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

By Don Oberdorfer Basic Books, New York, 2001

BOOK REVIEW by William C. Miller, Colonel IDANG (ret)

This contemporary history covers military and diplomatic developments affecting North and South Korea from the Korean War to present. The Korean history reminds one of two quarrelling lovers: Always wishing to be united, but fighting over little things, over perceptions, with national pride always in the way. Oberdorfer reported 25 years for the Washington Post, traveled to Korea frequently,

and interviewed all the significant Korean leaders, as well as those from other nations influencing Korean In Two Koreas, national policy. Oberdorfer presents firsthand views of major political, economic, military, and diplomatic events that affected the relations of the separated nations.

Learn how the North Koreans were affected by the breakdown of the Communist empires of the USSR and China, and how this caused North Korean policy changes. The Two Koreas is also a story of leaders—Kim Il Sung and his son and heir Kim Jong Il, both absolute rulers of North Korea. It highlights the often-changing policies of several South Korean leaders who, like their counterparts in America's democracy, find much of their peace initiatives constrained by public moods and perceptions. It is a of peninsular diplomacy: study characterized by fits and starts, and successes failures, volatile rhetoric, and nuclear brinkmanship.

Oberdorfer puts contemporary Korea problems in clear focus, explaining the complex issue of North Korean nuclear weapons development and missile testing, and how these results were and are being used to gain concessions from the U. S. and South Korea. Despite its content, The Two Koreas reads like a 'good book'--easy to curl up with; hard to put down.

Rating: *** Oberdorfer gets a top *five-star rating* for *The Two Korea's* readability, content, and objectivity.

UP COMING REUNIONS



148th FA Battalion plans **Korean War Mobilization**

Reunion.

The reunion will be held Friday, September 19, 2003, at the Elks Lodge in Lewiston, Idaho. Those interested in attending should contact: 148th Field Artillery Battalion Reunion c/o BOYD L PEDERSEN, CSM, Ret 2394 Shelley Lane Clarkston, WA 99403-1458 E-Mail: bdpedersen@velocitus.net Telephone (509) 758-7929



183rd & 951st Field Artillery Battalions Reunion. The

reunion will be held in Boise July 16-20, 2003. Those interested should contact:

Alan Hochhalter 827 NE 90th St. Seattle, WA 98115

E-Mail: alanh137@attbi.com Telephone: (206) 517-5849



Farragut Naval Training Station Reunion - U.S.N.T.S.,

Farragut, Idaho. Those interested

should contact: Gene & Lorraine Cooper 1248 S.W. Crossway Ct.

Port Orchard, WA 98367

(360) 876-4470 - 9 am -4 pm PST

Open Air

Pavilion

U.S.S. Boise (CL-47) is planning a reunion for May 2004. Stay tuned for further details.

IN MEMORIAM

On behalf of the Board, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Boyd Pedersen in the recent passing of his wife Donna.

MOST WANTED



- ♣ Gulf War field gear.
- ₩WI cartridge belt.
- US Bayonets, in particular an M5, Korean Conflict era bayonet for the M1 rifle.
- WWI, WWII, USMC field gear.
- Recipes for our *Cooking With History* cookbook. We have only received one thus far.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Continued)

Strip Map for Open Air Pavilion on Gowen Field.

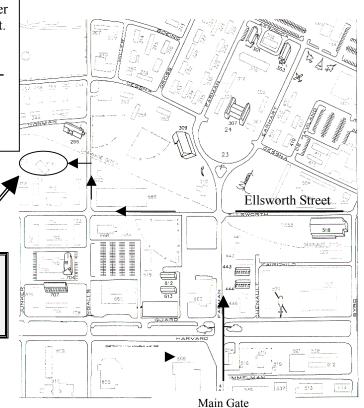
After you enter Gowen Field, continue on Farman Street //

until you reach Ellsworth Street.

Turn left on Ellsworth and then Right at Ingalls.

You will be able to see the Open Air Pavilion on your left. It has a large blue roof and picnic tables.

Be prepared to show ID at the Main Gate.



FOOTNOTES: ¹ What You Should Know About The American Flag, Earl P. Williams Jr., Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, PA, 1992, pg 12

Lang, Collins, White, Medal of Honor Recipients 1863-1994, Vol II, pg 531

http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/brochures/anzio/72-19.htm (Center of Military History & Nat'l Archives)

1st Silver Star Citation

http://www.warfoto.com/011besanconxx%20copy.jpg (3rd Inf Div Website, used by permission)

http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/brochures/sfrance/p07(map).jpg (Center of Military History)

82nd Silver Star Citation

http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/brochures/sfrance/p12(map).jpg (Center of Military History)

Produced By: Idaho Military Historical Society

Production: Gayle Alvarez

Comments or article suggestions are welcome, contact

us at 422-4841; e-mail us at

gayle.alvarez@idbois.ang.af,mil or visit our web site at:

http://inghro.state.id.us/museum

JUST IN CASE

Have you sent in your renewal for 2003? Don't forget, donations are tax

deductible. If you aren't sure what your renewal date is, check the address label on your newsletter, it lists the month and year your renewal is due. Does your employer (or previous employer as the case may be) match charitable contributions? Some do, it's worth asking them about it!

IDAHO MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 4040 W. Guard Street, Boise, Idaho 83705-5004 Donation/Membership Application/Renewal Form		
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. (The IMHS is a 501(c)3 organization.) INDIVIDUAL:		
\$ 25 [] General \$ 10 [] Associate (Members Spouse)	\$ 375 [] Lifetime	
ORGANIZATIONAL:	ψ 13 [] Bellior (σσ+)	
\$ 500 [] Platinum \$ 250 [] Gold	\$ 100 [] Silver \$ 50 [] Bronze	
OTHER: (Endowment, Contributions, etc.)	\$ 55 []=151E	
\$ FOR:	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$	
Name:	Phone:	
Address: (City, State, Zip)		
Interests: (Volunteering, Research, Displays, etc.)	E-Mail Address:	



Idaho Military Historical Society 4040 W. Guard Boise, ID 83705-5004

Heroic Past...Proud Juture