



# PASS IN REVIEW

"Shedding Light On Idaho's Military History"

4th Quarter

December 2000

## MUSEUM CELEBRATES 5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Idaho Military History Museum first opened on Labor Day, 1994. Believe it or not, that was FIVE years ago and what an incredible five years it has been!

To celebrate our achievements and anniversary, an Open House/Five Year Celebration was held on Veterans Day at the Idaho Military History Museum.



**WWII Reenactors Group**

Close to 200 people helped us celebrate along with other groups such as the WWII Reenactors, the Military Vehicles Assn, the Civil War Reenactors, and the Automatic Weapons Group.



**Lunch break in the Canteen**

Thank you to everybody who helped make the last 5 years a success, we simply could not have accomplished as much as we have without each and every one of you! ★

### QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

On October 24, 2000, the Quarterly Membership Meeting and Annual Board of Director Elections took place at the Idaho Military History Museum. Loren Call, Cynthia Strader and Kurt von Tagen were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Following the elections Mr. Leland Van Slyke, a Caldwell native and B-29 Radio Operator, gave a presentation on his tour in Korea. Mr. Slyke was shot down on his 19th mission and was held as a Prisoner of War for 9 months during the Korean Conflict.

His story was very moving and it touched everyone present. On behalf of the Board of Directors, **a very special thank you to Mr. Slyke for sharing his emotional and inspirational story with us.** ★

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**IMHS FINANCES**—Thanks to our many volunteers, the 4 & 5 Nov breakfast fundraiser netted over \$900. The money raised goes to pay for expenses involved in building museum exhibits, for publicity and promotion of IMHS and museum activities, and to compensate our Executive Director.

As I recently reported to you, I've met with General Kane regarding support from the Idaho Military Division for a share of IMHS' operating costs. General Kane has included this in his budget request to this coming session of the Idaho Legislature. It is hard to predict the fate of this request, since it will be a new budget item, but I am confident General Kane will make a convincing case for it.

Meanwhile, General Kane agreed to provide some budget support in the first half of this coming calendar year. Our hope is to spend more of our time on museum and IMHS projects, and less time trying to raise money. (See **Strategic Plan** article on page 7). Stay tuned for more developments. (☛)

### Inside This Issue

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## P-51 DISPLAY FOR MUSEUM

Watch for a P-51 display coming soon to a museum near you! We now have a ¾ scale replica of a WWII-vintage P-51 Mustang which soon will be assembled, given Idaho ANG markings, and prominently displayed at the Museum. The components actually are those created by *Papa 51, Ltd.*, which produced assembly kits for pilots who would build their own ¾ scale P-51.



Unfortunately, *Papa 51 Ltd.*'s costs to support the 35 Thunder Mustang kits began to rise, and eventually the company dissolved. For us, their loss was our gain. There remained a few parts, which, although unsuited for actual aircraft, are perfectly usable for a display replica. **Jason Dillworth** of Nampa and formerly employed by *Papa 51*, had the vision to recognize this opportunity to give the museum a truly remarkable display replica.

Thanks to **Jason, his mother Bonnie, Loyle Washam, Loren and Ruth Call**, to name a few, extra parts were fabricated over the Thanksgiving holiday--just moments before the company shop was closed. Thanks, too, to *Papa 51* CEO and kit **creator Dan Denney** for his support and involvement in the donation.

**Want to help build a Mustang? I can tell you firsthand this will be a fun and remarkable project. Contact Bob Benbough at 422-4841 and he'll get you assigned to the project!**

- *Bill Miller*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the really enjoyable parts of working in our Museum is watching what comes through the door in the way of donations.



**Ted Deitz** donated two beer bottles from WWII (One of which was found full) that were discovered during demolition of a Gowen Field barracks. During the war, *Acme Beer* was produced in "Victory Size" two-quart bottles. He also reported that unlike wine, 30+ years did not make a fine beer.

**Col Mark Funaiole**, the new USPFO, donated an April '49 issue of "*Wings Comics*". Along with the adventures of Captain Wings and the Phantom Falcon, it contains a story entitled "*Air Heroes of World War II - Lt. Col. Thomas G. Lanphier, Jr.*" The story, of course, is about Lanphier's part in shooting down the Japanese "Betty" bomber carrying Admiral Yamamoto.

Lanphier went on to become the first Commanding Officer of the 190<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron upon organization of the Idaho Air National Guard in August 1946.

Both the "*Wings Comics*" and the half-gallon beer bottle will soon be on display in the Historic Gowen Field Exhibit at the Museum. - *Bob Benbough*

## NEW MEMBERS

### Special Welcome to:

- ★ Patricia Adamson
- ★ Jerome J.C. Beau
- ★ Ronald Hill
- ★ Gaye B. Hosefros
- ★ Brian Hosefros
- ★ Kevin M. Kessler
- ★ Walter D. Myers
- ★ Zachary Neefe
- ★ MHAFFB Officers Wives Assn
- ★ Jim Townley
- ★ Mel Vinsonhaler
- ★ Evelyn von Tagen
- ★ Thomas Westall    ★ ★ ★

## VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER



### Please meet Stan Ogsbury

Stan joined the Society in 1998 but his interest in military history goes back much further. Four days after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, he was called up for aviation cadet training. His class was diverted to aircrew training and he trained at Nellis in Las Vegas, NV to be a Ball-Turret Gunner in B-17s.

His training continued at Alexandria Louisiana where he was crewed up and picked up a new B-17 in Nebraska. The crew flew it across the Atlantic and in the later stages of WWII, flew 30 combat missions from a base in Southern Italy.

In 1968-70, Stan worked for the CIA's Air America in ground operations out of various locations in South Vietnam and Thailand.

These experiences added to Stan's life-long fascination with aircraft and he has become an expert on the bombers of all the countries involved in WWI.

Stan is an expert model builder. He has the unique and uncanny ability to look at a photo and build an exact scale model replica of the object in the photo. His specialty of course is airplanes.



### Stan planning his next project

Stan also finds time to serve as a museum Docent and he and his wife Mary are both active in IMHS events. To meet Stan and learn just how extensive his knowledge on aircraft and model building is, stop by the Museum for a visit. He will also share some of his 'war stories' with you and most of them are true! ★

## IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY



**Vernon Joseph Baker**

**Rank and Organization:** First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company C, 370th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division.

**Home of Record:** Cheyenne Wyoming

**Place and Date:** Near Viareggio, Italy, 5-6 April 1945

**Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty in action on 5 and 6 April 1945, Lt. Baker advanced at the head of his weapons platoon, along with Company C's three rifle platoons, toward their objective; Castle Aghinolfi - a German mountain strong point on the high ground just east of the coastal highway and about two miles from the 370<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment's line of departure. Moving more rapidly than the rest of the company, Lt. Baker and about 25 men reached the south side of a draw some 250 yards from the castle within two hours. In reconnoitering for a suitable position to set up a machine gun, Lt. Baker observed two cylindrical objects pointing out of a slit in a mount at the edge of a hill. Crawling up and under the opening, he stuck his M-1 into the slit and emptied the clip, killing the observation post's two occupants. Moving to another position in the same area, Lt. Baker stumbled upon a well-camouflaged machine gun nest, the crew of which was eating breakfast. He shot and killed both enemy soldiers. After

Capt. John F. Runyon, Company C's Commander, joined the group, a German soldier appeared from the draw and hurled a grenade which failed to explode. Lt. Baker shot the enemy soldier twice as he tried to flee. Lt. Baker then went down into the draw alone. There he blasted open the concealed entrance to another dugout with a hand grenade, shot one German soldier who emerged after the explosion, tossed another grenade into the dugout and entered firing his submachine gun, killing two more Germans. As Lt. Baker climbed back out of the draw, enemy machine gun and mortar fire began to inflict heavy casualties among the group of 25 soldiers, killing or wounding about two-thirds of them. When expected reinforcements did not arrive, Capt. Runyon ordered a withdrawal in two groups. Lt. Baker volunteered to cover the withdrawal of the first group, which consisted of mostly walking wounded, and to remain to assist in the evacuation of the more seriously wounded. During the second group's withdrawal, Lt. Baker, supported by covering fire from one of his platoon members, destroyed two machine gun positions (previously bypassed during the assault) with hand grenades. In all, Lt. Baker accounted for nine dead enemy soldiers, elimination of three machine gun positions, an observation post, and a dugout. On the following night, Lt. Baker voluntarily led a battalion advance through enemy mine fields and heavy fire toward the division objective. Lt. Baker's fighting spirit and daring leadership were an inspiration to his men and exemplify the highest traditions of the military service.<sup>1</sup> *End of Citation*

### **"We never had a chance. And yet we did it"**

Vernon was born on 17 December 1919 in Cheyenne Wyoming. His parents died in a car crash when he was 4 years old and his maternal grandparents became surrogate parents for him and his 2 sisters. Although never officially adopted, Vernon took the name Baker. He

learned when he enlisted in the Army that his family name was Caldera.

Grandma ran a boarding house for blacks in a segregated Cheyenne. Grandpa was chief brakeman for the Union Pacific railroad.

His sister Cass taught him the alphabet and how to sound out words. Books were hard to come by and magazines scrounged from trashcans were a primary source of reading material. Eventually he learned to read well enough that he was made a deacon at church. It also advanced him to the 3rd grade the first day of 2nd grade. "You read too well for my class"<sup>2</sup> he was told.

Grandpa taught him to hunt and one Christmas presented him with a .22 cal Remington rifle. He was now able to help keep food on the table.

School included a stay in Boys Town. High School was in Iowa where he graduated with honors and lettered in basketball, track and football. He was also a halfback on the football team. He worked off and on for the railroad but quit after his grandparents died and moved in with his sister.

The idea of a wife and family was appealing but unemployment was a barrier. The army seemed to be the answer. His first attempt at enlisting was rebuffed. "We don't got no quotas for you people."<sup>2</sup>

A month later he tried again and this time there was a different recruiter. Vernon requested the Quartermasters, the Recruiter wrote Infantry. It didn't matter; he had a job. Cheyenne was segregated but that did not prepare him for what was to come.

He left for Basic training at Camp Wolters Texas on June 26, 1941. When the train passed through Junction City, Kansas, a porter appeared & escorted him to the blacks car...up front by the engine where it was hot and sooty. Even the bus that met him was a "hey nigger...get to the back of the bus"<sup>2</sup> affair.

When he prepared to protest he was stopped by a fellow black and warned that justice for a black in this part of the (☛)



country was often "a tree and a rope."<sup>2</sup> He was south of the Mason-Dixon. Black waiting rooms, restrooms, drinking fountains, cafés, etc., etc., etc.

After Camp Wolters with its alkali, chiggers, more alkali, and lye soap, he went to Ft. Huachuca AZ. The day after arriving, while in formation, the company was asked if anybody could type. The 'never volunteer' advice flashed through his mind but he raised his hand anyway...and promptly became the Company Clerk of Co D, 25<sup>th</sup> Inf Regiment. It was now October 1941. Shortly thereafter he was promoted to Supply Sergeant.

When the US declared war on Japan, all NCOs received another promotion. He was now a Staff Sergeant. Most of the other black soldiers were illiterate and resented younger men with High School education's promoted ahead of them. Baker's reading ability got him in trouble, he was beaten up.

After the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, he was ordered to apply for OCS. The papers were already filled out, he was told to 'sign here'. OCS was at Ft. Benning Georgia. His first assignment was at Camp Rucker Alabama as a security officer. The Army decided to gather up "every black soldier...[they] could throw together in one spot"<sup>2</sup> and Baker returned to Ft. Huachuca.

It was now 1943 and he was in the 370th Combat Team, attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, a temporary home until the rest of the all-black 92nd Infantry Division was moved from Arizona to Italy [in 1944]. Blacks were deemed cowards, incapable of anything much less combat. They were commanded by southern whites because they knew 'how to handle those blacks'<sup>2</sup>. By 1944 white mothers were angry that their sons were dying and the blacks were not involved. So, it was time for 'black boys to go get killed'<sup>2</sup>, so said the Chief of Staff of the 92d Inf Div. He sailed to Italy from New

York via North Africa on the U.S.S. *Mariposa*, a luxury liner turned troop ship in the spring of 1944.

"Our mission was to push the German's out of the northernmost third of Italy before winter"<sup>2</sup> [of '44]. Beyond pushing the Germans out of the mountains, they were also supposed to tie down the maximum number of enemy troops so they couldn't be sent to other major fronts. A similar strategy had failed the previous winter.

'Reality was they watched our every move & sucked us in. They'd fall back, we advanced, they closed in and kicked the stuffing out of us. Any advances were measured in city blocks.'<sup>2</sup>

*He was a buffalo soldiers & wore a shoulder patch with a black buffalo on an OD green background. The Germans (and some white American soldiers) told the Italians that blacks had tails & ate children.*



In October 1944 he was wounded in the wrist. It required surgery & physical therapy, which took him out of action for 2 months, and he learned that even hospitals were segregated. Although it wasn't common practice he was sent back to his old platoon. There was a new Commanding Officer (CO), a black who made Baker the Executive Officer.

Early in 1945 Baker went on a mission which earned him a Bronze Star. It held little meaning for him though, white officers were awarded the Bronze Star so often it was known as the 'white officers good conduct medal'<sup>2</sup>.

Castle Aghinolfi {circled on map} anchored one leg of what was known as the 'Triangle of Death'<sup>2</sup>. "It ruled the mountain passes on the western end of the Gothic Line and was almost atop...the route we needed to travel."<sup>2</sup> If the Gothic Line was to be broken and the Germans pushed out of Italy, the castle had to be taken, it couldn't be gone around.

The other two legs of the triangle were Mounts Folgorito & Carchio and all three had communication links to artillery, mortars, & howitzers. It was the way in & the Germans knew it. Barbed wire & mine fields forced any attacker into the German line of fire. "The Germans could drop a mortar in a man's hip pocket. And often did."<sup>2</sup>



The first two attempts to take the castle happened while he was in the hospital. The 3rd attempt was in Feb '45. It too failed. The 4th attempt involved Baker's group. Baker's tenure as senior officer came to an end with the arrival of a new white CO, Capt. Runyon, who had little combat experience. Baker was bumped back to Platoon Leader and reassigned to the weapons platoon. Then word came that the next assault on the castle would begin on April 5th.

The 442 RCT & 100th Inf Bn, both Japanese-American (Nisei) groups were to attack the two legs of the Triangle, Baker's group drew the castle. At 3:30 a.m. Baker's group of 25, short 11 men due to casualties and lack of replacements, headed out. Overall the company was short 70 men. At 4:45 a.m. the Allied artillery began shelling as it had done all week so the Germans wouldn't know that this day was any different. When it stopped, they began the move.

What happened next is best described in Baker's Citation. What it doesn't say is that Baker cut many of the German communication lines. Neither does it say that when Runyon said he was going for reinforcements, he was in fact running away. He had panicked during the heat of battle and fled to a small stone shed.

The battle began well but soon turned sour. Attempts to call in Allied artillery went unheeded, nobody believed they had advanced 3 miles behind enemy lines. (☹)



Castle Aghinolfi, 1997

German mortars came instead. The battle was fierce. When Baker finally found Runyon, the attack had done what previous assaults hadn't and the castle was within conquering distance. Runyon's promised reinforcements never arrived because once back to safety, he told everybody not to bother, the situation was hopeless.

The Germans renewed their mortar attacks and even sent a group out masquerading as medics carrying wounded on stretchers. The wounded were in fact machineguns.

The battle was long, bloody and hopeless. With no reinforcements and almost completely out of ammunition, there was only one recourse - withdrawal. Nineteen of Baker's men were unable to do so, and Baker had their dog tags in his pocket. The day's events were so overwhelming that once he and his remaining men were back to a 'safe' area, he was violently ill. It was well after 5:00 p.m. before he headed back to the Command Post.

He was summoned to the Battalion Commander and reported the days events. His Bn Co thanked him for the good work. He then went to Regimental Headquarters to turn in the dog tags he still carried in his pocket. Try as he could, he could not look at the names on the tags. Putting the names with the faces made the day's price too high. His Reg't Co gave him a severe 'ass chewing'<sup>2</sup> for not wearing his helmet and ordered him to report at 4:30 a.m. the next day as a scout for the advance to the castle.

They followed the same route and his men were still there where they had fallen, minus their boots and

socks, which the Germans had pilfered. His men had "cleared the way for an all white company to go all the way to the castle without firing a shot."<sup>2</sup>

Baker's platoon never "heard another hostile gunshot."<sup>2</sup> The Nisei dislodged the enemy from above the castle, artillery moved forward and eventually the Gothic Line was breached. In May, Germany surrendered.

Then it was time to regroup and join the invasion of Japan...and he was promoted to 1st Lt. In June he was



told he had earned the Distinguished Service Cross. A DSC for a *black* Lieutenant, couldn't be! His superiors fought it but he received the award on the

4th of July 1945 in Viareggio Italy.

The American army had little use for its black soldiers but the French "awarded the *Croix de Guerre*, the Cross of War, to every member of three all-black regiments."<sup>2</sup> The free Polish Gov't awarded him the Polish Cross of Valor and the Italians awarded him the *Croce di Guerra al Valore*, the Cross of Valor.<sup>2</sup> These 3 meant more to him than the DSC. Baker had also been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge but the army withdrew the supplemental pay for it after Germany surrendered.

He never made it to Japan. In Aug '45, he transferred to the Quartermaster Corp after Japan had surrendered and the 92d was deactivated and sent home. Late in 1946, he to was sent back to the U.S. on the *U.S.S. Henry P. Stevens*.

His first station was Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. He attempted to keep his officer status but as he did not have a college degree it was not to be. He debated about getting out and going to college but no job and no money was not appealing. He became a photographer with the rank of Master Sergeant.

He then joined an all-black airborne Battalion and was now at Ft. Bragg

North Carolina. Again racism raised his head, a white Colonel refused to believe that the DSC on his uniform was valid and demanded he remove it. "Ain't no nigger I ever saw deserved no Distinguished Service Cross."<sup>2</sup>

When the war broke out in Korea in 1950 he was made a lieutenant again, but his request for Korea was denied. The DCS made him to highly decorated to risk loosing in battle, he was sent to Alaska.

In 1948 the army was ordered desegregated by President Truman but it didn't trickle down to Lt. Baker until September 10, 1951.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Vernon Baker,  
11<sup>th</sup> Airborne, Ft.  
Campbell KY, 1951

At Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, he was promoted from Platoon Leader to Company Commander, much to the chagrin of the white 2d Lt. in the CO office.

When the Korean Conflict ended he left the Airborne and went back to the Signal Corps and photography. He still did not have a college degree and had to once again relinquish his officer status. He was back at Ft. Huachuca as the post Photo Lab Chief. It was there that he met Fern who became his wife in June 1953.

Future assignments included Fort Ord and an unaccompanied tour in Korea. After his tour in Korea he returned to Ft. Ord and was assigned to Co A, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Bde, a training brigade, as their First Sergeant. The fall of 1967 found him as a HQ Company First Sergeant in Mainz Germany with the 8<sup>th</sup> Airborne Brigade. (A paperwork snafu still listed him as jump qualified...at age 48.)

"Combat, racism, and beatings couldn't chase me from the Army. Drugs and desertion did."<sup>2</sup> It was the middle of the Viet Nam war. Desertions were skyrocketing; drug use was rampant. He began making his morning rounds with a .45 for protection. It was too much.

In August 1968, at age 48, he made his last airplane jump & at Ft. Hamilton NY, with 27 years and 6 months of service, retired. Retired pay was less than \$300 per month. He went to work for the

(☛)



Red Cross...which sent him to Viet Nam in 1969.

A year later he was back at Ft. Ord. He now had time to pursue his interests...hunting. He learned of a place in Idaho called *Red Ives Peak*. In 1979 he scouted out the area.

In 1986 after his wife's sudden passing, he sought a diversion. Of all of the places he had gone hunting, nothing compared to Red Ives. It reminded him of the happy parts of his childhood and he began thinking about a cabin in the woods. He moved to Idaho in May 1987. In 1989 he met Heidi Pawlik. A long distance romance (Pennsylvania) began and they married in 1993.

Then the bombshell. A study had been commissioned by the Secretary of the Army as to why no black WWII veterans had received the Medal of Honor. Those who had received the DSC were being reviewed. Baker was satisfied with the DSC and did not want to relive "the personal hell...the most traumatic, horrifying day's of my life."<sup>2</sup>

But the Army was persistent so he decided to let the world know that his men had accomplished something despite being abandoned, doubted, and embarrassing white commanders who claimed black soldiers couldn't cut it.

After 2 days of intense questioning, Baker was shown recently declassified reports written by Runyon and other 92d Inf Div commanders. They were repulsive not to mention humiliating. Runyon had taken credit for all the success of that day in April 1945. His report had also been altered and backdated to fit the views of his superiors...blacks were incapable of combat. Baker also learned for the first time that he had been nominated for The Medal of Honor but it had been blocked. Even Runyon had been nominated for one but had received the DSC instead.

Finally in 1996, Baker received word that he and 6 other black WWII veterans were to be awarded the Medal of Honor. The other 6 were deceased. Legislation waiving the 1952 deadline for WWII soldiers to receive honors was signed. Finally, after 50 years, recognition for black soldiers.

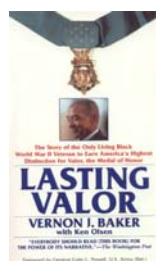
A presentation date was scheduled and on January 13, 1997, in the East Room of the White House, President Clinton placed the Medal of Honor around his neck.



*"History has been made whole today."<sup>3</sup>*

In April 1997, 52 years after the battle, Vernon Baker returned to Italy. The response was overwhelming. Thousands of people came to see him, embrace him...thank him, even the president of Italy. He also visited Castle Aghinolfi from the German side. **"We never had a chance. And yet we did it"**<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Baker and his wife live in north Idaho, where the people are friendly, the elk hunting is good, the mailbox is a mile away, and the scenery is incredible.



much more detail than is possible here.

**A very special thank you to Mr. Baker** for granting an interview for this article. Footnotes in the above article are as follows:

**Editors' Notes:** This article barely touches the surface of the story of Mr. Vernon J. Baker. In 1997, he published a book entitled "Lasting Valor". It goes into

<sup>1</sup> USA Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients and Their Official Citations

<sup>2</sup> Lasting Valor

<sup>3</sup> USNews.com



## **AND THE WINNER IS...**

The Winners in our 2000 raffle are:

**First Prize** - WWII Style 'Bomber Jacket' - **Tom McGee**

**Second Prize** - IMHS T-shirt - **Brenda Takatori**

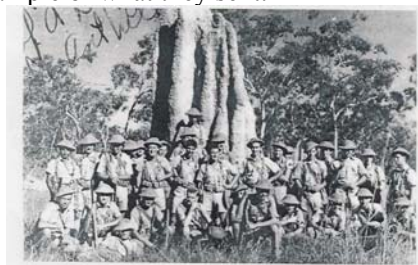
**Third Prize** - Minute Man Pocket Knife - **Bill Kline**

Thank you to everybody who purchased a raffle ticket, we truly appreciate your support! ★

## **UPDATE**

An update to our story on our contact with the Howard Springs Primary School in **Australia** regarding Idaho's 148<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery who were in Australia during WWII.

They reported that they had found WWII photos of 148<sup>th</sup> personnel in Australia and they would send us copies. Below is a sample of what they sent.



Group of A Battery 148 Fld. Art. Reg. posing in front of anthill at Howard Springs.

**Btry A, posing in front of an anthill at Howard Springs**



The Field Kitchen of A Battery 148 Fld. Art. Reg. at Howard Springs. This facility serviced about 105 troops.

**148<sup>th</sup> Field Kitchen at Howard Springs**

In all, they sent us eight photos. Plans are under way to incorporate them into a 148<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Exhibit in the near future. ★

## STRATEGIC PLAN

In April, the Board of Directors reviewed and updated its Strategic Plan. We are pleased to present the highlights of our Plan:

**Our Mission**--To provide for the preservation, display, and interpretation of military history and artifacts that have a geographical, cultural, or historical tie to the people and State of Idaho.

Inasmuch as an appreciation and understanding of history and heritage is the foundation of continued progress for any culture, the Idaho Military Historical Society will concern itself with programs and policies that will educate and enlighten the public on the military history and traditions of Idaho and its citizens.

**Our Vision**--Members and citizens are educated and enlightened through IMHS' high quality display and outreach programs. The IMHS has diversity in its large and increasing membership, and encourages maximum creativity and participation from members.

The IMHS works cooperatively with the historical programs and facilities of the Idaho State Historical Society, the Idaho Military Division, and other military and civilian organizations. Fundraising, grants, and endowments are fully used in IMHS' numerous projects and acquisitions.

### Our Goals--

◆ To provide high quality historical exhibits of particular significance to those interested in military history, with an emphasis on Idaho Military history.

◆ To maintain and continually update a long-range collection plan based on themes, exhibits, and eras. The plan includes permanent, rotating, and mobile exhibits.

◆ To construct theme-based exhibits. (Korean War, Idaho Medal of Honor Recipients, Idaho National Guard in world wars, USMC in S. Pacific, to name a few)

◆ To develop and implement a plan to increase the visibility and accessibility of the museum.

◆ To increase public awareness of the Museum and IMHS by publicity events, mobile exhibits, educational outreach programs, news releases, membership activities, and meeting room usage.

◆ To implement and expand our educational outreach program with emphasis on enriching Idaho public and private school curricula.

◆ To implement an aggressive endowment program for the long-term financial security of the Society.

◆ To conduct 8 membership-generating activities during the fiscal year.

◆ To expand our Reference/Research Library for use by all members of the public.

◆ To enlist Corporate Sponsors for Special Projects.

◆ To provide consultation to the CG's staff on unit memorials, and perform oversight and inspection of Gowen Field external equipment displays.

◆ To assist the CG's staff with information and reports to develop a state budget allotment for museum operations.

- The Board

## IN MEMORIAL

It is with a deep sense of loss that we convey the passing of Clarence Blickenstaff.

On behalf of the Board, Members and Volunteers, our deepest sympathy and condolences are extended to Clarence's family and his wife Marilyn; he will truly be missed.

- The Board

## NEW EXHIBIT

A very special thank you to **Marie Crandall** and **Marie White** for all their hard work on the Pearl Harbor Commemoration exhibit.

The exhibit will be available for viewing for the next month in the naval section at the Museum. Thank you also to Mr. Dick Rosenberry and Mr. Conway Benson, Pearl Harbor survivors, who took time to share their story with our visitors on December 7th.

## MOST WANTED

We have an  
**UNSOLVED  
MYSTERY.**



We know of two individuals, one of whom served with the 32nd Division (army) in the Pacific during World War II, who received a ribbon that we have been unable to identify.

This is a picture of the ribbon.



The colors, from the edges moving to the center, are Navy Blue, White, Red, and the center is yellow.

We also have one at the Museum if you would like a close up look. If you can help solve the mystery, please contact us.

## -AND-

We are also still looking for a pair of Boon Dockers - Brown shoes from the WWII and Korean timeframe. Our mannequin is in full uniform and thanks to Bill Gardoski even has a face but it is still barefoot.

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

**JUST IN CASE**

If you haven't had a chance to send in your renewal for 2000, here is your chance, 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.

**INDIVIDUAL:**\$ 25 ☐ General\$ 375 ☐ Lifetime\$ 10 ☐ Student\$ 10 ☐ Associate (Members Spouse)\$ 15 ☐ Senior (60+)**ORGANIZATIONAL:**\$ 500 ☐ Platinum\$ 100 ☐ Silver\$ 250 ☐ Gold\$ 50 ☐ Bronze**OTHER:** (*Endowment, Contributions, etc.*)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_**Address:** (*City, State, Zip*) \_\_\_\_\_**Interests:** (*Volunteering, Research, Displays, etc.*) \_\_\_\_\_**Idaho Military Historical Society**

4040 W. Guard

Boise, ID 83705-5004

*Heroic Past...Proud Future*