

PASS IN REVIEW

"Shedding Light on Idaho's Military History"

The official newsletter of
Idaho's Military Historical Society
and Museum | Summer 2019



1st Idaho Volunteers and the Philippine campaign

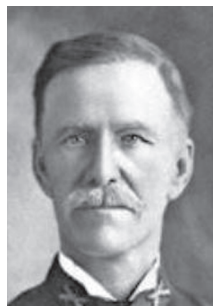
Mischa Brady
Curator of Collections

The attack on the USS Maine in 1898 led President William McKinley to demand Spain relinquish its power over Cuba. President McKinley blockaded the ports of Cuba trying to protect United States interests in Cuba.

Congress recognized the United States lack of preparedness for war and acted to increase the size of the United States military. The military would be composed of Regular Army and Volunteer Army which would include the militias of states in federal service. The President also called to the United States public to give him 125,000 volunteers. On April 25, 1898, the United States formally declared war against Spain.

April 18, Idaho Governor Frank Steunenberg anticipated the President's call for troops and had wired the War Department's Secretary of War, Russell A. Alger, offering the services of the Idaho National Guard. The initial request came back asking for two troops of Cavalry. Senator George L. Shoup lobbied and convinced the War Department to send two battalions of infantry. Sending 800 men would deplete the Idaho National Guard so Governor Steunenberg asked for additional volunteers.

On April 28 Adjutant General Daniel W. Figgins



1st Idaho Volunteers Regiment photos: Top left: Idaho soldiers depart from Boise for service in the Spanish-American War. Top right: Officers of the 1st Idaho Volunteers. Thirty-two officers deployed with the 800 soldiers. Lower left: Company C of the 1st Idaho Volunteers Regiment in the field. Lower right: 1st Idaho volunteers in battle position. Bottom left: Major Edward McConville of Lewiston, commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Idaho Volunteer regiment (photos provided courtesy of the Idaho Military History Museum).

mobilized seven companies of the Idaho National Guard. The companies were ordered to assemble in Boise; they included companies A of Caldwell, B of Lewiston, C of Grangeville, D of Genesee, F of Wardner, and the University of Idaho's cadet company of Moscow, with Company I being headquartered in Boise. Federal authorities limited Idaho's volunteer force to eight companies of eighty-four men each. All companies arrived in Boise by May 6. By May 18, Idaho's National Guard became the 1st Idaho Infantry Regiment, United States Volunteers.

—See "1st Idaho Volunteers...", page 3

You're invited to attend board meetings; Summer 2019 report

The Museum's Board of Directors extends an ongoing, open invitation to anyone interested to attend and participate in monthly museum board meetings.



might help to make the museum better and better. Interested? Call me at 208-272-4841.

It has been a busy summer at the Museum. As of the end of July, we

have seen approximately 4,000 visitors from across America and around the world. Many organized groups have been visiting along with families and travelers. Exhibits are being freshened up and new ones are coming.

The meetings are usually held the last Thursday of the month at the Museum starting at 6:30 p.m. and last for about 60 minutes.

We want and value the involvement and help of our fellow museum supporters. We welcome both questions and suggestions. We don't claim to have all the answers, so we can always use the input, ideas and enthusiasm of our members and supporters.

Many thanks need to go out to all our volunteers, without whose help the Museum would not run.

We are looking forward to a great Fall.

– Jeff Packer
Executive Director

Have you considered being a Museum Board member?

Jeannette Duvall-Ward
Board Secretary

the area so we are looking for a couple of people who share our passion for the military and our Museum.

In addition to the standard responsibilities of a board member, members are active advocates and ambassadors for our organization.

Interested? Please contact Russell Trebby, President of the Board, at 208-631-7311.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't forget to renew your IMHS membership!

A renewal form is available on our webpage: <http://museum.mil.idaho.gov/Application.htm>.

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.



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PASS IN REVIEW

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Opinions expressed herein are often those of volunteers and museum supporters, and may not represent policies or positions of the State of Idaho, the Idaho Military Division, or the Idaho State Historical Society.

Comments or article suggestions are welcomed. Call the museum at 208-272-4841 or visit us on line at museum.mil.idaho.gov.

1st Idaho Volunteers and the Philippine Campaign from page 1

The First Idaho Infantry Regiment totaled eight companies and contained 32 officers and 644 enlisted men. Pvt. William E. White volunteered due to his brother being one of the men killed on the USS Maine.

On May 14, Governor Steunenberg appointed John W. Jones as Lieutenant Colonel and regimental commander. Lieutenant Colonel Jones was a Confederate Civil War Veteran who fought in Northern Virginia and was a resident of Blackfoot, Idaho. Daniel W. Figgins resigned as adjutant general of the state's National Guard to be a major and commander of the Idaho regiment's 1st Battalion. Warren D. Springer named as regimental surgeon was made a major. The Second Battalion commander was Edward McConville who served as a drummer boy in the New York Cavalry during the Civil War and in the Nez Perce War. He was from Lewiston, Idaho.

The 1st Idaho Infantry Regiment would be assigned to the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division of the newly created 8th Army Corps under the command of Major General Wesley Merritt. Its two divisional commanders were Brigadier General Thomas M. Anderson (1st Division) and 23rd Infantry commanded by the 2nd Division's 1st Brigade. The 1st Idaho spent only three days in the trenches before President McKinley suspended hostilities with Spain on August 12. On December 21, 1898, President McKinley declared the United States to be the "sole sovereign" of the islands. Lieutenant Colonel Jones resigned on December 27 due to ailments; Major Daniel W. Figgins would assume command of the regiment. Captain Frank A. Fenn replaced Major Figgins as commander of the 1st Battalion.

1st Idaho would occupy a position south of the Pasig River as part of the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division commanded by Brigadier General Charles King. The truce would continue until the evening of February 4, when four armed Filipino soldiers tried to pass through the Americans' fortified lines known as "Blockhouse No.

7." General King tasked the Idaho Volunteers to defend "Blockhouse No. 11." The Regiment prepared to advance on several occasions throughout the night but was halted. On their return to the churchyard of the Paco Church, a sniper bullet passed through Sergeant Ernest Scott, killing Private George H. Hall to make him that regiment's first combat fatality.

The order to advance would come at 8:10 a.m. with a sentry reporting Filipino snipers in the church planning to fire on the Americans. Major Figgins spoiled this plan by ordering his men over a small wall so they could reform in the street, leaving a small detail of men to deal with the Philippine snipers. Lacking companies A and E temporarily assigned to 2nd Brigade, the regiment divided into two battalions: the 1st, commanded by Figgins, including Companies F, H, and D, and the 2nd, including B, C, and G, under Major McConville.

The two battalions separated on the edge of the flat, the 1st marching to the front, the 2nd advancing toward Concordia Bridge. The 1st joined Hawthorne's Mountain Battery, the Washington regiment, and six companies of the California Volunteers.

"There go the Idaho savages and all hell cannot stop them!"

— Brigadier General Charles King

General King tried repeatedly to keep the 1st in position but despite repeated orders to the contrary they kept inching forward. General King finally gave the order to attack with Major Figgins ditching his jacket and sword scabbard to lead the charge on the Filipino position.

The Filipinos would flee toward Santa Anna with the 1st Battalion in hot pursuit. The 2nd Battalion was to cross and secure Concordia Bridge pressing against a levee to examine the

—See "1st Idaho Volunteers...", page 6

Glenn Miller's Army Air Force Band

Jeannette Duvall-Ward
IMHS Board Member

"We didn't come here to set any fashions in music. We merely came to bring a much-needed touch of home to some lads who have been here a couple of years. These lads are doing a hell of a job—they have been starved for real, live American music," written by Major Glenn Miller from England in the summer of 1944.

In the Museum, we have a Vintage 1955 RCA Victor Album with 15 Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band 45 rpm Records. It includes an informational booklet with pictures of Glenn's Army Air Force Band during WWII.

The Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band did bring a much needed touch of home to millions of American servicemen and women through large numbers of personal appearances before the troops and hundreds of radio broadcasts which were beamed throughout the European Theatre. For the troops, it was more than a touch from home. It was the magnificent music played by this huge organization of almost fifty musicians and despite Glenn's modest denial; it did set fashions in music. It caused millions of service personnel to insist for years beyond the war that this was the greatest band of all time.

Until 1955 when the commemorative record set was published, the music would have been just a memory. But, thanks to the discovery of recordings of the Miller band prior to its European trip, the music of that tour survived for all to enjoy. And it continued to produce the same sort of enthusiasm which, according to Glenn, was his big reward: "The sound of thousands of G.I.'s reacting with an ear-splitting, almost hysterical happy yell after each number. That's for us, Brother!"

Almost from the day America entered World War II, Glenn Miller knew what he wanted to do and most of all was to create music for the



Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band: Left: Major Glenn Miller. Top right: The Glenn Miller Band. Bottom right: Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band performing for American service members in Europe during WWII (photos courtesy of Glenn Miller archives).

troops; music that would produce just the sort of "ear-splitting, almost hysterical happy" reaction which his letter referred. He applied for a commission, received his captaincy in October, 1942, disbanded his high-riding civilian group almost immediately, and reported for duty with high hopes of creating some great musical outfits for the Army Air Force.

Glenn planned to build topflight bands, both dance and military throughout the Army Air Force. He planned to supervise them all and wanted to supply them with special arrangements and all other necessary musical material. He would also have one big band.

The bands throughout the Army Air Force never worked out, but the big band Glenn assembled at Yale University, where the Army Air Force was training cadets, more than made up for his disappointment of not being able to carry through his plans.

Most army post bands played the old, tried and true Sousa marches. It was Glenn's contention, though, that soldiers would feel most like marching to music that inspired them. There could be more, he thought. So, with the aid of fellow musicians, he inaugurated marching arrangements that swung.

—See "Glenn Miller...", page 5

Glenn Miller's Army Air Force Band from page 4

The cadets loved them and marched with what appeared to be increased vigor to numbers such as St. Louis Blues and Blues in the Night. Their commander, a major and a traditional Army man, was less than happy and complained to the Post Commander.

The major claimed, "Our men marched to the regular marches in the last war. They didn't need any of that jazzy music, and they did pretty well, too, didn't they?"

"Just let me ask you one question, Major," replied Captain Miller. "Are you still flying the same planes you flew in the last war?" The Miller marches remained.

Glenn was never a man to stand still, musically and otherwise. For a long time he had felt his place was with the soldiers overseas. He longed to bring his group to them, wherever they might be, rather than over the radio or on V-Discs which were carrying his music to the Front for him.

For months he tried to get the Army Air Force to send him and his men overseas, and for months the Army Air Force refused. But finally permission was given.

When the entourage arrived in London, the environment was quite different from the serenity of Yale's hallways. This was buzz-bomb season; an extremely serious situation where they were in the middle of buzzing, bursting bombs. Glenn felt a very personal responsibility for these men. He began plans for an immediate evacuation.

The Air Force brass informed Miller that no transportation could be ready to move the band. Glenn could not accept that answer so he began searching for a way out to a safer location.

He made a deal with the Royal Air Force (R.A.F). The next morning the R.A.F. moved the entire band to a town called Bedford.

And just in time. On the following day a buzz-bomb scored a direct hit on the vacated building in London and demolished it.

Working out of Bedford, the Miller band began a year of back-breaking activity dividing its time between the BBC studios and personal appearances before large G.I. audiences.

As an example, on August 14 it played for ten thousand officers and enlisted personnel at Whar

ton, and then the following day the band gave two more concerts at Burtonwood before an additional seventeen thousand roaring men.

In the fall of 1944, plans were made to station the band in Paris to work in and out of there. Glenn decided to take care of the band's quarters and other operational details

himself, so he had to go ahead of time. He set off in a plane on December 15th from England.

A few weeks later, his close friend and administrative officer, Don Haynes, sent back a letter to America which included these lines:

"Regardless of all the rumors, there's been no trace of Glenn, the other passenger (a colonel attached to the VIIIth Air Force), the pilot, or the plane, since that foggy Friday afternoon I alone saw them off... Glenn took the trip that I was to make – decided to the day before – and as I had made all the necessary arrangements, it only necessitated cancelling the orders that had been cut for me, and getting orders cut for him. I brought the outfit over three days later (after having been 'weathered in' for two days) only to find out that Glenn had not arrived. Our trip was uneventful, but not his."

The band was received with tremendous enthusiasm wherever it played, so much so, that the authorities decided not to let it return to England after the scheduled six weeks, but to keep it closer to the combat troops. The troops' morale was

—See "Glenn Miller...", page 6

1st Idaho Volunteers and the Philippine Campaign from page 3

enemy's position. The Filipino lines stretched from the top of a small fortified knoll to an old brick kiln, containing two modern, rapid-firing Krupp guns. McConville ordered Company B to capture the kiln and silence the guns, Company G to take the knoll, and Company C to crush the center of the enemy's lines.

Showing bravery typical of Idaho officers, McConville led the charge, where the Idaho men captured the knoll quickly. After heavy fighting, the kiln fell as well. The defenders fled to the Pasig River with few reaching the opposite

"Major McConville was shot through the chest as he led the charge, where Idaho men captured the knoll quickly."

bank. Among the Idaho casualties was Major McConville, shot through the chest while leading his men.

The 1st Idaho would go on to fight with General MacArthur's 2nd Division in order to capture Caloocan and Santa Cruz from

February 9–April 8, 1899.

The 1st Idaho would head back home to the United States on July 14, 1899. Losses for the 1st Idaho Volunteers would be seven killed in action, 13 died of disease, one drowned, one lost to friendly fire, and 25 wounded.

Glenn Miller's Army Air Force Band from page 5

lifted when they heard the music brought from home, so it seemed, to them at the front.

When Spring did come, and the eventual surrender of the German Army with it, the work of the Glenn Miller Army Air Force band in Europe was just about completed. In June it returned to the United States.

Glenn would have continued with the Band even after the war but without him, nothing was the same. There was no longer a cohesive spirit to hold the men together. Their job was

done, and gradually they drifted, one by one into other bands, into radio and recording studios, and some even out of music entirely.

Now, only the sounds on the records in the commemorative set provide a reminder of the music that helped make life much happier and much more bearable for millions of Americans—especially to the G.I.

And, to you, Major Glenn Miller — Thank you for your service!



Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band: Left: Major Glenn Miller, with his Army Air Force Band before one of more than 800 performances for American troops in Europe. Top right: The Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band performing for American service members in Europe during WWII (photos courtesy of Glenn Miller archives).

Author's note: Much of the information in this article comes from a booklet found with the museum's copy of RCA's Glenn Miller's Army Air Force Band records released in 1955.

The Military History Museum: Where Idaho's colorful military history comes alive!

By Rod Martindale
Museum Volunteer and Marine veteran

The Idaho Military Museum is a special place. It's a place where many Idaho residents are remembered for their contribution and service to our country through their time in the United States' Military.

Every branch of military service is represented in the museum. Each artifact the museum receives has a story behind it. Ranging from simple representations of how everyday people made sacrifices to ensure our freedom to those who have received this country's highest award: The Medal of Honor. A book of our state's Medal of Honor recipients and their stories can be found in our museum.

As one who has the privilege of processing various artifacts the museum receives, I can attest to how real it is for me to see history come to life. Each of the thousands of pictures, letters, general news articles and objects the museum processes has its own story. One of our collections includes a 1952 Christmas menu from the USS El Dorado (AGC-11) during the Korean War. The holiday meal was ordered by a sailor, John S. Cole.



The daughter of a WWII Marine donated some of her mother's wartime artifacts. She told us that during the war her mother was a truck mechanic at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.



I find myself drilling down to the who, what, when, where and why for every artifact the museum receives. Family members who donate these items are doing so to honor their loved ones

and share with those of us who respect the fact that history is truly coming alive. For me, I learn something that is very moving and touching for each item the museum receives. I can use the facts presented to ponder how these artifacts created history and in some cases, changed history. Often times, I can use my imagination about the significance of these items and how they bring history to life.

A moving collection processed in our Museum involved a log of activities from the Medical Division following enemy engagement, April 1943, of one of our U.S. ships during WWII. The list of activities from the medical officer included the names and injuries of sailors and read like this: One person dead of extensive burns; another person - laceration scalp, extensive burns, second and third degree, entire body, shock. There were many more. Looking at this report was akin to touching the names of the deceased on the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. It was sad.

All our artifacts have a unique story. As I process them I realize that I am helping honor the men, women and families who sacrificed so much for this great country – The United States of America. The Idaho Military Museum was established for the purpose of preservation, display and interpretation of military history and artifacts that represent the people of the state of Idaho. I am confident the museum does just that, but for me it's also a place where history is manifested every day.

When I visit a display or process an artifact I know history is being preserved and brought to life. That's why museums exist. That's why they are important. I hope you and your family feel as I do when you visit the Idaho Military History Museum.

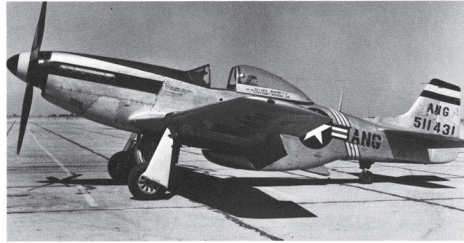
Idaho's first Air Guard unit: 190th Fighter Single Engine Squadron

"On a clear, brisk, beautiful Fall day just 29 years ago, a small group of men met together in a vacant building on Fort Street in Boise. Some were heroes of a just finished war, but all had served in that war..."

"...assembled for a common purpose: To form a squadron of fighter aircraft to help keep such a war from happening again. It was a presumptuous ambition—they had nothing—no airplanes, no money, or an airfield. But they had determination and skills and hope. October 13, 1946 was that day."

— Col. William D. "Bill" Bozman (1984)

The first of Idaho's 25 P-51 "Mustangs" landed on Gowen Field in November of 1946, just three weeks after the 190th Fighter Single Engine



Idaho's first Air Guard unit: Left: One of Idaho's 25 F-51 Mustang fighters on the Gowen Field ramp in 1946. Right: A 190th Fighter Squadron ground crew in 1947 (IDANG photos).

Squadron was formed. The North American planes became F-51s in 1947 when the U.S. Air Force classified former pursuit aircraft as fighters. The single seat F-51 could fly faster than 400 miles per hour, making it the fastest propeller-driven combat aircraft in the world at the end of WWII.

Idaho's Air Guard flew the F-51 until 1953, when they were replaced by North American's F-86 Sabre jet.

Editor's note: This article and photos come from the Idaho Air National Guard's 40 Year History book published in 1986.

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