

Pass In REVIEW

"Shedding Light on Idaho's Military History"



The official newsletter
of the Idaho Military
Historical Society and
Museum | Fall 2018

WWI chest with ties to Idaho found in France

Editor's note: The accompanying letter and photo were sent to the museum by David Lundberg, Ph.D, from Tarzana, Calif.

Given that this year's Veterans Day (aka Armistice Day) will mark the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War One, readers in Nampa and elsewhere in Idaho may find the discovery of Estabrook's chest of interest.

Let me draw your attention to a World War One artifact discovered recently in France which has a strong connection to Nampa and to Idaho.

An amateur historian in Selles sur Cher, a small village in the Loire region found a large wooden chest or container stored in a barn. It was apparently placed there in 1918 by the US Army. The condition of the box is remarkable considering it is a hundred years old.

The attached pictures show how well preserved it is. The inside has a surface for writing and a series of slots for holding files. The box was probably used to store administrative papers. On the top lid is stenciled:

**CAPT. FRANK ESTABROOK
COMPANY RECORDS
146 M.G.B. [MACHINE GUN BATTALION]
U. S. NG U.S. 41 DIV. A.E.F.
FRANCE HOLD**

Who was Estabrook? From a little research in Ancestry.com, I learned that he was a prominent Idaho attorney and long-time resident of Nampa. He was born in 1886, died in 1958 and is buried in Kohler Lawn Cemetery.

Estabrook joined the Idaho National Guard in (ca.) 1910 and in 1917 became a member of the regular U.S. Army with the rank of captain. He was attached to the newly organized 41st Division composed of National Guardsmen from the northeastern and upper mid-western states.



Company records for a WWI U.S. Army unit may have been stored in this wooden chest originally belonging to Capt. Frank Estabrook, a Nampa resident who served with the 146th Machine Gun Battalion in Selles Sur Cher, France during the first world war. The case was found by an amateur historian in the French village (photo courtesy of David Lundberg).



American soldiers in 1917 training to use the Hotchkiss Machine Gun (photo courtesy of American Rifleman).

He went to France in January 1918 as adjutant for the 146th Machine Gun Battalion stationed in Selles sur Cher. Selles was a center for machine gun training and a large number of the instructors were from Idaho, Washington or Oregon. His duties involved administering programs for training US soldiers in the use of French weapons, especially the Hotchkiss machine gun.

Estabrook was discharged from the Army in March 1919.

— See "WWI chest" on page 3

Membership Meeting at the Museum—Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Summer was a success for the IMHS!



Summer has come to a close, and it was an extremely successful season for the Idaho Military Museum. Visitation was phenomenal all summer long.

We hosted groups of various ages as well as visitors from across America and foreign countries such as El Salvador, Germany, France, Iceland, Japan and other corners of the earth. Without exception they all had only good things to say about our facility.

New exhibits are coming in the near future and we hope our guests enjoy them as much as they have our previous exhibits. We look forward to seeing you as well as many new faces in the future.

— *Jeff Packer*
Executive Director

You're invited to attend museum board meetings

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

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 board members and supporters.

Anyone interested in serving as a member of our board is encouraged to attend and learn how they might help to make the museum better and better. If you are interested in attending, call me at 208-272-4841.

Want to stay healthy? Volunteer!

A study conducted at the University of Michigan Research Center and published in the March 1998 Issue of American Health found that volunteering, more than any other activity, dramatically increases life expectancy. According to the center:

- Men who volunteered at least once a week over the course of the study lived two-and-one-half times longer than men who did not volunteer.
- Participants with heart problems

who volunteered had reduced cholesterol levels and chest pains.

- The study also concluded that "volunteering is a way of connecting with people. Those with many social contacts tend to live longer than those who are more isolated regardless of race, income, and level of activity."



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A note to all Museum members

The Board has scheduled the Annual Membership Meeting for Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:30 pm. at the Museum, 4692 W Harvard St, Boise, ID 83705.

Elections will be held for one member of the Board of Directors to serve a three-year term. Brian Elton of the Board will be seeking re-election. In addition, the nomination process will be open and nominations will be accepted at the meeting.

Along with the annual election, you will also be brought up to date on the various plans and activities the Society and Museum are involved in.

Please mark your calendar and join us. Should you have questions, please call us at 208-272-4841.

See you then!

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.

We need docents, data input help

Each day, Tuesday through Saturday, our volunteer docents welcome and entertain visitors to our museum. They answer questions and show new things to help visitors understand Idaho's military history.

Docents aren't the only ones who share knowledge; they learn from visitors as well. Visitors like WWII veterans who trained at Gowen Field or fought in other U.S. conflicts—Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and the Middle East—or their families who share what they learned from their loved ones.

We do more than assist visitors; we assess documents, objects and books donated to the museum. Information about these items goes into the museum's database so they can be accounted for and located.

Much of what is done at the museum is accomplished through volunteers. Our director, Jeff Packer and curator, Mischa Brady, cannot finish everything that is needed. Volunteers help us preserve and maintain Idaho's military history. That's why we need you!

Right now we need docents and data input people. If you would like to volunteer, you should be at least 18 and care about the military and its history.

If you do join us, you will get to see some really old artifacts like a collection from Idahoans such as Orval Jordan, who fought in the Spanish American War. And, if you decide to become a docent, you'll meet nice visitors and might even meet someone who served in one of our nation's conflicts. And then there are the wonderful school children who come to see the museum. They love the artifacts and trying on military helmets. They're really quiet too – Not! We love their enthusiasm.

Please consider joining our volunteer team. We'll train you. By the way, I'm a volunteer too and I love it!

— *Jeannette Duvall-Ward*
IMHS Board Secretary

WWI Chest *From page 1*

Editor's note: The following letter from Dr. Lundberg was received in response to our request for permission to reprint his research regarding the WWI chest found in France.

Dear Ms. Duvall-Ward,

You are certainly welcome to use whatever material is of interest in my e-mail. You may know that the Idaho Press Tribune published an article on the discovery of Estabrook's chest last Sunday. (https://www.idaho-press.com/news/local/2cscoop/wwi-artifact-from-late-nampa-resident-discovered-in-france/article_31bcdb99-4828-5703-9e34-36a4ea89f02b.html)

I have a special interest in this discovery since my father was a captain in the 146th Machine Gun Battalion. He was born in 1882 in Nebraska, then moved to Idaho with his family in 1895 and lived just outside Idaho Falls. He joined the Idaho National Guard in 1908, served on the Mexican border with the 2nd Idaho Infantry in 1916, then went to France in 1918 with the 41st Division. Frank Estabrook would have been a colleague. Both were stationed in Selles sur Cher, a small town of 4,000 in the Loire-Cher region, along with other National Guardsmen from Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon.

I have made a number of visits to Selles sur Cher. There is intense interest among its residents and those of other towns surrounding it in the troops of the 41st division. There are photographic displays throughout the area of the activities of the division in 1918. Some of these are in local museums. I am sure they would like to make contact with the Idaho Military Museum and develop a long term relationship.

I have done a considerable research in the National Archives in Washington on the 41st Division and especially on its members from Idaho. I would be happy to describe what I have collected to you or your colleagues. Please feel free to contact me.

Is it time to join the IMHS or renew your IMHS membership?

Annual membership fees:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| ■ General Membership: | \$25 |
| ■ Senior Membership (60 and older): | \$15 |
| ■ Associate Membership (Spouse): | \$10 |
| ■ Student Membership: | \$10 |
| ■ Lifetime Membership: | \$375 |

(Lifetime Membership payment may be spread over a one-year period)

The Idaho State Tax Commission offers a tax credit for contributions to Idaho's educational entities. The Idaho Military Historical Society is such an organization and donations to the Society qualify for tax credit. Please remember the Museum as you plan your donations for the year.

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

Ray says 'This experience can change you. It did me'

We thought our readers would like to hear from some actual volunteers at the museum, volunteers who have experienced the satisfaction of welcoming a visitor from another country or hearing a story of a veteran who trained at Gowen Field. Volunteers such as those who have preserved the stories either in our library or our Archives storage area. Meet Ray, a veteran and an Archives volunteer...

Ray has volunteered at the museum for 12 years now. He came to know about us at a "cannon night-fire shoot" where he met our then curator, who like Ray was a former marine, a captain when he got out.

He has a heart for old military stuff, a 'kinship' as he calls it. He believes military museums are important because they remind us of our history so we don't forget.

He's nostalgic that way. When he catalogues an old military uniform, he says that it reminds him of his father. He still misses him.



Ray at work in the museum's Archive Storage area, where he has volunteered for the past 12 years (IMHS photo).

As a volunteer, he can be found in the Objects area of the museum's Archives. When someone donates an item, he catalogues it, conducts any needed historical research and files the item in archival storage.

He sees military uniforms from as far back as before World War I, helmets, weapons, medals, protective gear, and even MREs (Meals Ready to Eat). The list is endless and Ray continues to do his part to preserve these military items.

When asked what he would say to someone considering volunteering

here. Ray said, "Come spend an afternoon with me and see what we do. You can then determine if this is for you."

"This experience can change you," Ray added. "It did me. I am more aware of what our men and women did for our country. I'm more appreciative."

My final question for Ray was "What inspires you to continue volunteering at the Museum?"

His answer was simple. "It's the 'vets' who come in and tell their stories..."

— *Jeannette Duwall-Ward*
IMHS Board Secretary

Tour the museum

Enjoy displays, photos and artifacts covering more than 125 years of Idaho's military history.

You will see Gowen Field as it was in World War II, learn about Idahoans in the Spanish-American War and the Philippines, WWI and WWII, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam and Idaho's ongoing support of America's military operations in the Middle East.

Two legendary U.S. Air Force fighters and a Russian MiG-21, along with several armored Army vehicles are parked in our outdoor display area. There are also exhibits from Mountain Home Air Force Base, the Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy.

Weapons and military tools from past wars are on display as well as flags and pennants from Idaho units past and present, some which have travelled to distant lands as far back as the 19th century.

Help the museum grow when you shop on-line at amazon.com

The Idaho Military History Society is now registered with Amazon Smile. That means we can help the museum grow just by shopping at Amazon. It really is that simple!

The next time you shop on line with Amazon, access Amazon via <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select the Idaho Military Historical Society as your charity. That way the Society/Museum will receive a commission on your purchase (no

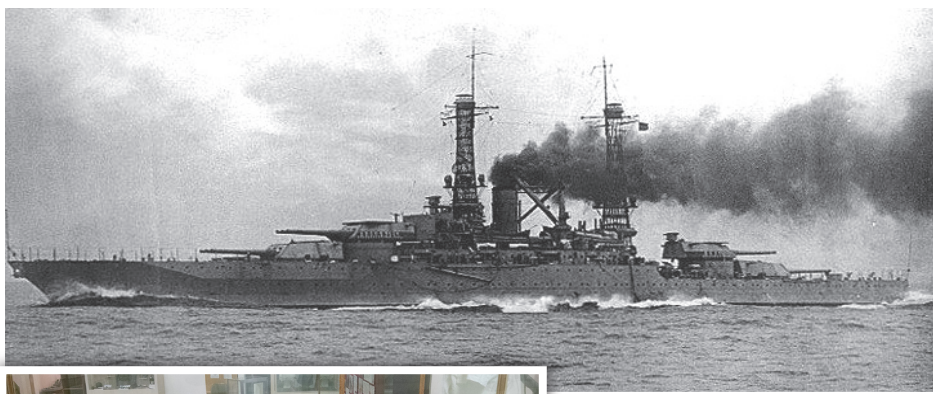
names or purchase information is exchanged in the process)..

Take time to make sure the IMHS receives credit for your next Amazon purchase. To do so, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-0463824>



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One of 17 North American F-51D (formerly the P-51D) Mustangs assigned to the 190th Fighter Squadron of Idaho's Air National Guard in October 1946. Over the past 72 years the 190th has flown seven other combat aircraft. Today the squadron is part of Idaho's 124th Wing, flying the Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II, often called the "Warthog."



The battleship USS Idaho (BB-42) joined the U.S. Navy in 1919 to serve in peace and war until 1947, earning seven battle stars. Several items (left) from her almost three decades of service are currently on display in Idaho's Military Museum. Affectionately known as "The Big Spud," she was decommissioned in 1946.

Remembering the USS Idaho (BB-42)

The battleship USS IDAHO (BB-42) was launched by New York Shipbuilding Corp., Camden, N.J., on 30 June 1917. The vessel was sponsored by Miss H. A. Limons, granddaughter of the then Governor of Idaho, Moses Alexander, and commissioned 24 March 1919 with Captain C. T. Vogelgesang in command.

She was one of three warships in the New Mexico battleship class, even though Congress had authorized only two battleships per class in each fiscal year. The new USS Idaho was funded by selling two older battleships (USS Mississippi BB 23 and the first USS Idaho BB 24) to Greece.

She was quickly nicknamed the "Big Spud," weighing in at 32,000 tons. The ship was 624'—more than two football fields—long and slightly more than 97' wide. Carrying a crew of 1,081 sailors, the Idaho sat 30' in the water and could travel at up to 21 knots (nautical miles) per hour. The Idaho was armed with 12 14" guns, 14 5" guns, four 3" guns and two 21" torpedo tubes

The Idaho was in the Atlantic when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. She protected the Pacific coast until 1943, then went to the Aleutian Islands until joining the battle for Kwajalein in November 1943. The Idaho was part of most island invasions in the Pacific from 1943 until the end of the war except for the invasion of the Philippines. The "Big Spud" received seven battle stars for her World War II service.

USS Idaho entered Tokyo Bay carrying occupation troops 27 August 1945 and was present for the signing of Japan's formal surrender on 2 September 1945. Four days later she returned to the United States, steaming via the Panama Canal to Norfolk, Virginia.

She was decommissioned 3 July 1946 and placed in reserve until sold for scrap 24 November 1947.

— *Mischa Brady*
IMHS Curator

IDANG marks 72 years of service to Idaho and America

On a clear, brisk beautiful Fall day in 1946—Oct. 13 to be exact—a small group of men gathered in a building on Fort Street in Boise. They were in most cases strangers to each other, but they met together for a common purpose, the initial formation of Idaho's first Air National Guard unit, the 190th Fighter Squadron.

The late Col. W.D. Bozeman, an Air Guard leader from that era, described that first unit formation.

"They were heroes of a just finished war. They were together to form a squadron of fighters to help keep such a war from happening again. It seemed a presumptuous ambition.

"They had nothing—no airplanes, no airfield, no money—but they had hope, determination and their own personal skills. October 13 was that day."

Editor's note: This information was taken in part from the book "Idaho Air National Guard 40th Anniversary" published by an IDANG staff in 1986. A copy of the book is on file in the Idaho Military History Museum.

SOME THOUGHTS ON VETERANS' DAY

It is a simple, white marble headstone, facing west to catch the warm afternoon sun. One corner is chipped, but even after 72 years, it still stands straight and true with its comrades in one of more than 155 "Silent Camps" — our nation's veterans' cemeteries — where many of the three million men and women who have died over the past 250 years in America's defense are laid to rest.



Like those around it, this monument bears only brief tribute to the soldier who rests beneath it: his name, home state, rank, and date of death. Sadly, most visitors to the grave will never know much more about the man buried there — who he really was, his hopes and dreams, or if his life influenced theirs in any way. When we do know more, it is a story worth sharing:

Private First Class Eugene E. Holland—Gene to his family and friends—is my maternal grandfather. He was born in Oxford (north of Preston), Idaho, and grew up in Challis, Idaho. He registered for the draft in 1916, listing his occupation as "Cowboy." The Army gave him a job breaking and training horses, where he was kicked in the head by a wild horse. That injury would cause his death 21 years later. His love for his family and service to our nation inspired his son, his daughter and several grandchildren to serve more than 70 years in four branches of the military, to raise families and to be responsible parents and productive citizens. That is his true legacy.

We have other veteran stories as well: Lt. George Condrack, my other grandfather, chased Poncho Villa into Mexico, fought in the Philippines, and captured a spy trying to blow up the Rock Island (Illinois) Arsenal; Master Sgt. Andy Condrack helped open Gowen Field in 1942, went to North Africa, Europe and served throughout the Cold War; PFC Delma Holland (Gene's daughter), a Boise High graduate, was a Marine so petite she could climb into an aircraft engine housing. Her brother Ray, another Marine, was a B-17 tail gunner in the South Pacific.

Our stories, like yours, are about real people who have done more for us than we will ever know or fully appreciate. America's veterans are part of our families and among our friends. They may be our parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters or neighbors. They are men and women who have served, and continue to serve, often risking — and too often losing — their lives for you and me. We should honor them, regardless of our personal political views.

We cannot calculate or even begin to repay the value of their service and sacrifice. The best we can offer—and all that they ever hoped for—is our genuine and heartfelt "Thank You." We owe each and every one of them at least that much.

— *Mike Condrack*
Editor, Pass In Review

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