

Pass In REVIEW

"Shedding Light on Idaho's Military History"



The official newsletter
of the Idaho Military
Historical Society and
Museum | Winter 2019



Artist's view of Farragut Naval Training Center on the southern tip of Idaho's Lake Pend Oreille during WWII (IMHS photo).



"Making Colors" on the parade ground at Farragut Naval Training Center during WWII (IMHS photo).

Join the U.S. Navy to see...Lake Pend Oreille?

Mischa Brady
Museum Curator of Collections

The United States entered World War II on December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. The Secretary of War wanted to establish a naval training facility away from coastal areas, which he believed would be vulnerable to enemy attack.

The southern tip of Lake Pend Oreille, in northern Idaho, was named on March 28, 1942 as the location for Farragut Naval Training Station, a 4,050 acre training facility. Lake Pend Oreille has an average elevation of 2,050 feet above sea level and an average depth of 1,100 feet, but in location, a sounding line was dropped 2,800 feet and did not hit the bottom. The lake is so deep it does not freeze in the winter.

There was a rumor that Eleanor Roosevelt selected the site, which was not true—the site was selected by a delegation of three senior naval officers. Construction started on April 23, 1942, with the initial cost projection at \$20 million dollars in World War II dollars to train 20,000 recruits. It was raised to \$57 million to handle 30,000 recruits due to additional expansions. President Roosevelt personally visited the naval station in September while it was under construction.

The new training station welcomed its first recruits, or "Boots," on September 17, 1942, and by the end of that

month, there were 1,000 recruits in training. Walter Butler Company, construction contractors for the Farragut Naval Training Station, closed their offices at Farragut on June 7, 1943. By this time, several training companies had already graduated.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt named the station after Civil War hero Admiral David Glasgow Farragut in May 1942. Farragut, the first Admiral of the Navy, was born in Tennessee on July 5, 1801. Starting his career as a midshipman at the age of nine, he became a prize commander at age 12. Farragut fought in the War of 1812 under his foster father, Captain Porter. He would serve aboard the USS Essex where he would be wounded and captured. In 1822, Farragut was promoted to lieutenant during operations against West Indian pirates. During this same campaign against the pirates, Farragut also would become the executive officer on board the USS Experiment. In 1847, Farragut fought in the Mexican-American War as commander of the sloop-of-war USS Saratoga, serving under the command of Commodore Mathew C. Perry.

Farragut is most notably known and remembered by his famous quote during the Civil War battle of Mo-

— See *Farragut Naval Training Station* on page 5

Looking back at a great 2018



Jeff Packer, IMHS
Executive Director

The passing of Winter has brought an end to another successful year at the Idaho Military Museum. We received many wonderful donations, some of which we hope to add to our exhibits in the coming months.

Highlights of the past year include:

- The Museum played host to over 6,000 guests in the past year. We are hoping to increase that number in 2019. The Museum staff and volunteers conducted several "salutes" with our 75mm Pack Howitzers, al-

ways a big hit with the public.

- New volunteers have joined the staff to help us with archival data input and accessioning of new donations.
- Our educational outreach program once again went to several Treasure Valley middle and high schools to conduct World War II and Viet Nam presentations.
- The Boise State University Military History class from the class attended a presentation at the Museum and several of the students participated in a History of Firearms live fire event. During this event, they were able to get hands-on experience with working military firearms including weapons in use during America's Revolutionary War era as well as many of the small arms in use today.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Museum, as well as the challenges which await the IMHS in the coming year.

Want to stay healthy and happy? Become a Museum 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 cho-

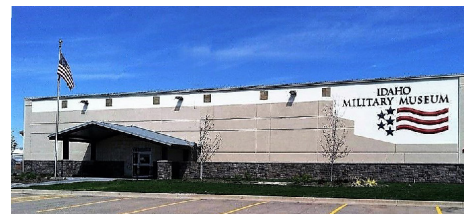
lesterol levels and chest pains.

- 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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Want to attend our board meetings?

We extend 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 a meeting, call the Museum at 208-272-4841.

PASS IN REVIEW

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

Captain Levi Lundberg, WWI veteran from Idaho

Jeannette Duvall-Ward
and David Lundberg

In our last Pass in Review newsletter, Fall 2018, we reported on a World War One artifact, discovered recently in France, that was connected to Idaho and especially to Nampa. The artifact, a large wooden chest used to store administrative records, was found by an amateur historian in a barn in Selles-sur-Cher, a small village in the Loire region. The century-old trunk is in excellent condition and was probably stored in the barn in 1918 or 1919 by U.S. Army personnel.

On the top lid is the owner's name: Frank Estabrook. Estabrook, a lawyer, longtime resident of Nampa, and member of the Idaho National Guard, was a captain in the 146th Machine Gun Battalion, one of four such units in the 41st Division. David Lundberg, an academic historian, was shown the trunk during a visit to Selles-Sur-Cher last summer. He was in France gathering information about the experiences of his father, Levi E. Lundberg, a captain in the 41st Division and a colleague of Estabrook's in the machine gun battalion.

Levi Lundberg, the son of Swedish immigrants who migrated to Nebraska in 1877 and later settled in Idaho Falls, joined the 2nd Infantry of the Idaho National Guard in 1909. As a lieutenant in Company M in 1916, he spent six months on the Mexican border supporting General John "Black Jack" Pershing's efforts to



Capt. Levi Lundberg
(Photo courtesy of
David Lundberg).

capture the outlaw Pancho Villa.

When the US went to war with Germany in 1917, all state National Guard units were federalized, their members becoming a part of the regular Army. Lundberg, promoted to captain, was assigned to the 146th Machine Gun Battalion of the newly formed 41st Division, a unit composed primarily of National Guardsmen from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming.

In January 1918, Lundberg, along with elements of the 41st, crossed the Atlantic to France. He was stationed in Selles-sur-Cher until August when he was transferred to the 351st Machine Gun Battalion, a part of the 92nd Division. He saw action in the St. Michel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns. He

was discharged from the Army in April, 1919.

David Lundberg, a California resident, continues to collect material on his father's experiences in World War One and hopes eventually to do research in Boise.

As for Estabrook, he was discharged from the 41st Division in 1919 and returned to Nampa to resume his legal practice. He died in 1958

His son, Frank B. Estabrook, a retired professor of Physics at the California Institute of Technology, lives in Pasadena, California.

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

Annual membership fees:

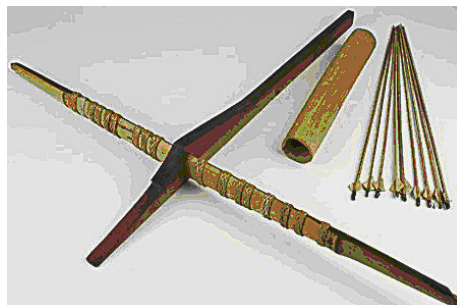
■ General Member	\$25
■ Senior Member (60+)	\$15
■ Associate Member (Spouse)	\$10
■ Student Member	\$10
■ Lifetime Member	\$375
(Payment may be spread over a one-year period)	

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 at <https://museum.mil.idaho.gov>.

Montagnard Crossbow & Quiver

Mischa Brady
Museum Curator of Collections

"Montagnard" is a French word meaning "mountain people." It is sometimes used to describe all ethnic minorities, while at other times it is used to describe a specific nomadic tribe or tribes that wander the mountainous Central Highland area of Southeast Asia. The Rhade, Sedang, Jarai, Koho, Bru, Bahnar and Raglai tribes are indigenous to South Vietnam. They are primarily nomadic and practice slash-and-burn agriculture.



Montagnard bow, quiver and arrows made from bamboo (IMHS photo)

They also hunt with unique crossbows and forage in the jungle. Crossbow, quiver and arrows currently on display in the museum were hand carved from bamboo by the Montagnard tribe which inhabits the highlands of South Vietnam.

They were also used for clandestine activities during the Vietnam conflict. The CIA saw the Montagnards as a useful group to aid French troops against Viet Minh (Communist) forces through U.S. Special Forces advisors.

Meet Mischa Brady, Curator of Collections

Mischa Brady is currently the Curator of Collections at the Idaho Military Museum. A place he feels is a perfect spot given his military experience and love of history.

He grew up on a farm growing alfalfa and mowing lawns. He went to Catholic schools and upon graduation, enlisted in the Marine Corps. Boot camp for Mischa started a week after September 11, 2001, a momentous date in American history. He served two deployments to Iraq—the initial invasion in 2003, where he turned 21



Mischa Brady, Curator of Collections at the Museum, with a haversack issued to Idaho soldiers during WWI. It is one of the hundreds of items he catalogs for the Museum (IMHS photo).

just six days after the war started. His second deployment was to the Syrian/Iraqi border in 2004.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Mischa earned an Associates Degree in History at College of Western Idaho, then a Bachelor's Degree in History at Boise State University. He went back to Boise State for a Master's Degree in Applied Historical Research with a Military History Background.

Mischa has also designed and built some of the Museum's enclosed display cases.

Amazon helps the Museum grow!

You can help the museum grow just by shopping at Amazon. Here's how:

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>

Why should you donate to the IMHS Museum?

Donations are appreciated to help cover the cost of operations. The Idaho Military History Museum is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and depends on your donations to remain open. Your generosity directly contributes to the operation of this Museum and will ensure its ability to continue with its Educational Outreach and Preservation of Idaho's proud military history.

Farragut Naval Training Station 1942–1946 *from page 1*

bile Bay. On August 5, 1864 Rear Admiral Farragut moved his fleet of 14 wooden ships, four iron clad monitors, and 10 small gunboats through the heavily mined channel at Mobile Bay. Mines were known as torpedoes at that time. The leading ironclad monitor struck mines and sank within a few minutes. Other Union ships hesitated, but Farragut shouted, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" The fleet continued on to capture and smash Confederate defenses. It was Farragut's greatest victory, and he would soon be promoted to Vice Admiral.

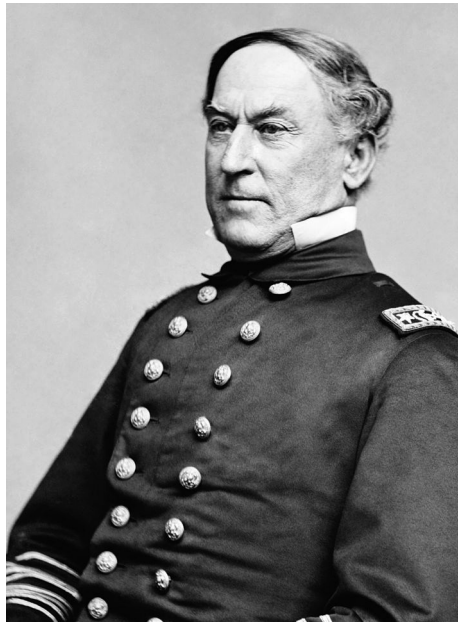
Following the Civil War, David Glasgow Farragut, by an Act of Congress in 1866 was made the first Admiral of the Navy. Admiral

Farragut remained on active duty for life, an honor bestowed upon only seven other naval officers after the Civil War. He died on August 14, 1870 at the age of 69 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Farragut Naval Training Station consisted of six separate camps, each with up to 5,000 recruits sharing 20 barracks, a mess hall, administration building, parade grounds or drill field, sick bay or basic aide station and dispensary, recreation building and a drill hall with swimming pool. Recruits had to be able to swim in order to graduate. There was also a service school for advanced training for sailors and some of the graduating recruits, designed to accommodate 7,500 students. The administrative area consisted of a general administration building, service buildings, warehouses, cold storage area, and at the time, the largest laundry in the world.

Within two hours of arriving at Farragut, he was dressed in new Navy-issued clothing, given a military haircut and was carrying \$133 worth of personal belongings, including a mattress and blanket. The recruit was then loaded onto a bus and taken to the barracks that would be his home for the next six to 13 weeks.

The training day began at 5:30 a.m. and ended at 4:30 p.m. with lights out at 10 p.m. The training was intense so most recruits went straight to sleep unless they were on fire watch or guard duty. There were



Admiral of the Navy David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1869) (IMHS photo)

academic and nautical classes, rifle ranges, boat docks for rowing drills, personnel and quarters' inspections, and all that goes with military life. Graduation brought promotion to either fireman or seaman second class, which came with a \$4 pay raise—from \$50 to \$54 per month.

As the war progressed, Farragut Naval Training Station recruits increased and so did work at the station. In December 1942, the post office handled 1.5 million pieces of mail plus 106,000 parcel post deliveries. By April 1943, the number of letters received was more than two million. By August volume reached over three million, not counting parcels or magazines.

There would eventually be nine Ships Service stores, eight barber shops, a cobbler shop, a haberdashery, a tailor shop, a photography department, nine cafes and a soda fountain.

As the war came to an end, the station's role changed, becoming a neuropsychiatric center and for a time housed over 800 German POWs. In June, 1945 the installation was turned into Farragut College and Technical Institute, focused on returning veterans. From September 17, 1942, until March 10, 1945, when the last class graduated from Farragut Naval Training Station, it was the second largest U.S. naval training station in the United States and arguably the largest city in Idaho.

In the 30 months Farragut was in operation, 293,381 recruits from at least 23 states were trained there. By August 1945, the number of service school graduates had reached 25,943. Today, what remains of the once massive training station is open to the public as Farragut State Park, featuring the original parade ground, barracks and the Museum at the Brig.

For more information about the Farragut Naval Training Station see the book, "Images of America; Farragut Naval Training Station," written by Gayle Alvarez, a former IMHS Board member, and Dennis Woolford, a Farragut Park Ranger. This book is a photo history of the Farragut Naval Training Station from 1942-1946.



Why should you visit the IMHS 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.

Admission is free. Our volunteer staff will be happy to help you with any questions you may have about our displays or Idaho's military history.

You should allow at least one hour for your visit. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday Noon to 4 p.m. Call us at (208) 272 - 4841 during business hours for more information.

Idaho Military Historical Society

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"Shedding light on Idaho's military history"

