



ALLIES

Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota

ALLIES

SPRING, 2008

VOL XVI, NO. 2

Special Points of Interest:

- *Museum Membership Open House : August 2, 2008*
- *"Camp Ripley: 1930-1960" book now available*
- *Feature Article, "Minnesota Military Museum: Preserving and Explaining Minnesota's Military History"*

Minnesota Military Museum: Preserving and Explaining Minnesota's Military History

The Minnesota Military Museum first opened its doors 31 years ago in 1977. It was originally located in one of Camp Ripley's oldest buildings--the old Service Club--which was built in 1934. Over the years, it has grown far beyond its original humble beginnings to a complex of eight buildings encompassing a total of 41,950 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibits, storage facilities and a reference library. As of the end of 2007, the library included approximately 9,150 books as well as photographs, videotapes, and DVDs. The museum's collection has over 30,500 artifacts and approximately 13,000 photographs.

Staff: Growth and expansion of such magnitude necessitates changes in all aspects of museum operations including, but not limited to, staff requirements. For many years, the staff consisted of a curator and executive director, both of whom worked on only a part-time basis with very limited hours. Currently, our staff is comprised of six individuals: COL (Ret.) David Hanson, Executive Director; Doug Bekke, Curator; Sandy Erickson, Administrator; Marge Fletcher, Special Assistant for store inventory and operations; Merl Fletcher, Special Assistant for janitorial work and maintenance; and Kathy Marty, Special Assistant for store operations. All staff members are employed on a part-time basis.

The museum is operated by the Military Historical Society of Minnesota, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non profit corporation governed by a 16-member Board of Directors. The Curator and Executive Director also serve on the Board of Directors in an ex officio, or non-voting, status. Board of Directors members are:

In Memoriam

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Please indicate here name and address of member of family to whom we can send notice of your gift:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Make checks payable to:
Minnesota Military Museum
15000 Hwy. 115, Camp Ripley
Little Falls MN 56345

Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes

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President

Raymond H. Lunde

Budget & Finance CommitteeJanese Evans, **Vice President, Finance**

Gary LeBlanc

Dirk Gasterland, **Treasurer**

Dave Hanson

Lyle Doerr

Program Committee:Nick Ostapenko, **Vice President, Programs**

Betty Masoner

Doug Bekke, **Curator**

Charlie Pautler

Frank Adamich

Leland Smith

Jim Johns

Steve Osman

Personnel Committee:Jack Johnson, **Vice President, Personnel**

Cal Blomquist

Tom Chial, **Secretary**

Mark Muesing

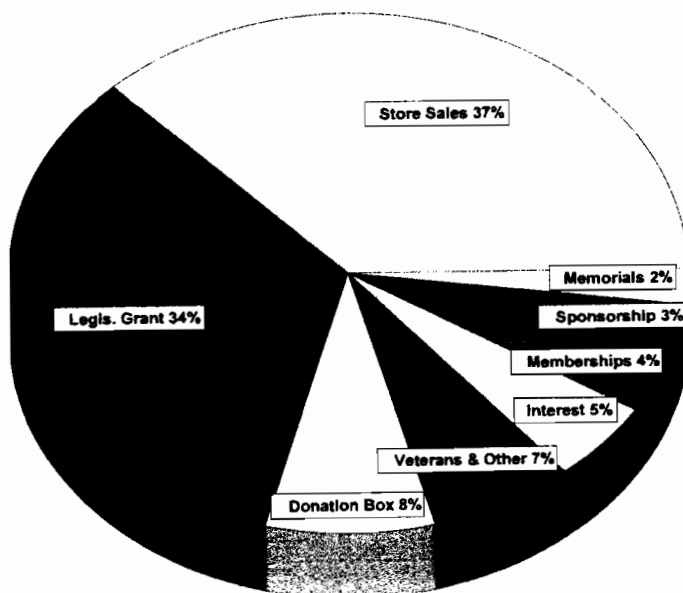
Volunteer Support: One important factor in the success of this museum is the outstanding support we receive from volunteers. In 2007, 41 individuals contributed 2,762 hours of their time to perform necessary tasks for the museum, and if it were not for these volunteers there are many things that would have not been accomplished/completed in 2007. The work done by volunteers is an integral part of museum operations, and we are extremely grateful for their efforts.

Visitor Attendance and Operational Hours: 2007 represented a record year for visitor attendance, largely due to several special events sponsored by the museum and Camp Ripley. Approximately 19,600 visitors viewed our exhibits last year, and there were a total of 75 special tours. Part of this increase is also attributable to the fact that we increased our hours of operation to being open daily May through September, whereas in prior years we were only open daily in June, July and August. The museum's operational hours for 2008 are as follows:

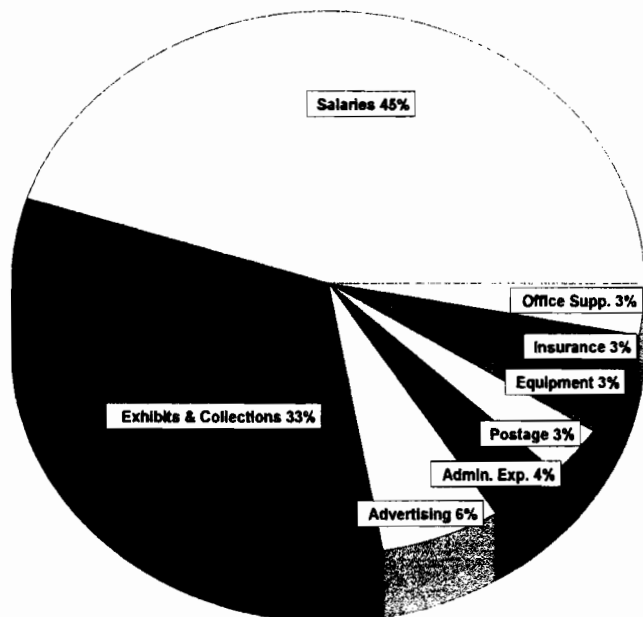
May - September	Open Daily	10:00 to 5:00
October - April	Thurs-Fri	9:00 to 4:00

Funding: As is the case with most non-profit organizations, fund raising is an ongoing project with high priority. In 2007 we were very fortunate to receive an increase in our operational funding appropriation from the Minnesota State legislature. We greatly depend on the support of service and fraternal organizations such as the American Legion, VFW, Lions, Eagles and Moose. The support of our members is extremely important as well. The museum's Board of Directors and Budget and Finance Committee are committed to seeking new sources of funding for operational support and special projects.

Our total receipts for 2007 were broken down into categories as follows:



Expenditures for 2007 are broken down into the following categories:



Current Exhibits: The museum has several permanent exhibits which include the following:

America at War: The causes, conduct and consequences of America's major conflicts since Minnesota became a state in 1858. (continued on Page 6)

ALLIES**Contributions Honor Roll**
January-March, 2008**Renewing Members:**

Ronald D. Andreen
 Robert S. Banks
 Louis O. Bode
 Jon C. Cieslak
 Joe Forberg
 Donald A. Hauck
 Iola Henke
 Harold & Wendy
 Henagin
 Donald Jensen
 Wilfred Kalmoe
 Walter Kosel
 Howard L. Larsen
 Earl Lillestrand
 Richard Morey
 Patricia R. O'Connell
 Bruce Porvaznik
 Konald A. Prem
 Tim Sanken
 John Sjogren
 LaVon M. Skoog
 George J. Steiner
 Fredric R. Steinhauser
 James Youngquist

New Members:

Paul Severson

VFW:

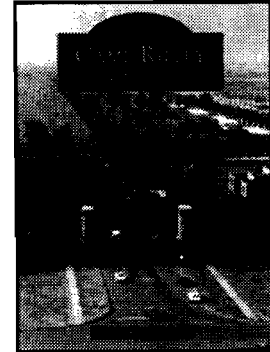
Post 9713 Auxiliary,
 Mankato
 Post 5555, Richfield

Donations:

Frank Adamich
 William H. Babin
 Doug Bekke
 Calvin Blomquist
 Tom Chial
 Lyle Doerr
 Janese Evans
 Ft. Snelling Flower &
 Garden Club
 Dirk Gasterland
 David L. Hanson
 Joseph & Muriel Hart
 Blane Iffert
 Jim Johns
 Jack K. Johnson
 Kenneth C. Johnson
 Gary LeBlanc
 Raymond H. Lunde
 Betty Masoner
 Mark Muesing
 Steve Osman

Donations:

Nicholas Ostapenko
 Charles Pautler
 Leland Smith
 Nancy Walsh



The first book on the history of Camp Ripley is now available through the MN Military Museum gift shop. "Camp Ripley: 1930-1960" is a 127 page pictorial history book covering the first 30 years of Camp Ripley's history.

The book is available at the museum for \$19.95 plus tax. To order by mail, please send a check for \$23.25 (which includes tax and shipping) to the museum. Credit card orders can also be processed by calling the museum at 320-632-7374. Museum members receive a 10% discount.

The Curator's Corner

By Doug Bekke

For the past several years I have been collecting oral histories from Minnesota veterans. This work has been conducted both for the Minnesota Historical Society as part of its Greatest Generation Project, and also as part of a special project of the Minnesota Military Museum to collect the stories of Minnesota Veterans of the 34th Infantry Division in WWII. For me personally this work is extremely rewarding. I get to meet very interesting people and hear the stories of their lives. For the majority of these people this is the first time they have taken the time to record the events of their lives. After we have finished they often comment on what a pleasure it has been to finally have their life story recorded. Spouses, children, and other family members are also pleased that the interview has been conducted since in most families it is something that everyone wants to do but just never gets around to sitting down and doing.

Several years ago I was interviewing a group of WWII paratroopers in preparation for a program of the WWII History Round Table at Ft Snelling. The first question out of each of them was why do you want my story? I didn't do anything special. As I continued our conversation I realized that each one of these men was a book waiting to be written. This is true for most of us. We tend to undervalue the events of our own lives as nothing special and yet each of us is a book waiting to be written. Many spouses and children of veterans have told me "oh dad never talked about the war, it was all so horrible." In almost all cases when I talk to the veterans they speak eagerly and at great length about their wartime experiences. When asked why they seldom spoke of these experiences to their families they usually say, (continued)

The Curator's Corner (Continued)

"well after the war we just wanted to get on with our lives, everyone had some war story so it was no big deal. I went to school, had a family, was busy with my job, and pretty soon it was just old news, besides nobody was really interested in hearing those old stories, and they really wouldn't have understood anyway."

Just as our lives will influence future generations, everything that past generations have done has influenced who we are. Can we really understand ourselves, both individually and as a society, if we are ignorant of the events of the lives of the people who shaped our lives. I encourage everyone to record the events of their lives and to help friends and family members document their lives. If these stories involve a Minnesota veteran's military experiences please consider sharing these stories with the Minnesota Military Museum where they will be archived for future generations.

Artifact Donation Honor Roll **January—March, 2008**

The museum gratefully acknowledges donations of artifacts from the following:

Thomas Behrends
Gordon Bennet
Robert Bjorgum
Tom Countryman
Jack Elmquist
James L. Erickson
Ron Jacobson
Barbara Johnson
Fredric Le Goupil
Ernie Lamson
Paul Meyer
Phillips Recycling Systems
Richard I. Bong WWII Heritage Center
Don Zupan

Memorials **January—March, 2008**

Given by:

Ingeborg Asleson
Richard & Betty Hayes
William Braye
Lyle & Dorothy Doerr
Robert Wienhold
Paul V. Meyer

In Memory of:

Adolph Engen
Joel Larson
E. B. Miller
Wm. Simonet
Edmund Orr
Frank Graham



Artifact Donations **January—March, 2008**

Uniforms:

Band, helmet
Cap, garrison, USN officer gray
Cap, desert BDU
Cap, field US Army (2)
Cover, hat (4)
Epaulet, green
Hat, desert boonie
Hat, ACU boonie
Jacket, dress blue, USN Aviator, WWII
Jacket, dress white, USN Aviator, WWII
Jacket, tan cotton, USN Aviator, WWII
Jacket, tan wool, USN Aviator, WWII
Jacket, gray cotton, USN Aviator, WWII
Name tape, ACU uniform
Overcoat, M-1946
Poncho, US Army
Shirt, tan cotton, USN officer (5)
Shirt, gray cotton, USN officer
Shirt, desert BDU (5)
Shoes, USN flying officers
Trousers, desert BDU (5)
Trousers, tan cotton, USN officer
Trousers, white cotton, USN officer
Visor hat, USN Officer

Miscellaneous:

Books
Insignia
Medals
Photographs
Papers & Documents
Flight computer tools
TMs
Video tapes
Magazines
Military poster card set
PM magazine stickers
Sewing kit
Newspaper articles
Maps
Wound dressing, E. German
Muzzle cover, M-16 (2)

Equipment:

Field telephone, Army (2)
Rocket launcher, improvised
Assault pack, US Army (2)
Weapon sights (3)

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Museum Update (continued from Page 3)

Forts on the Frontier: How Minnesota's early forts and garrisons kept the peace and aided settlement on our early frontier, with special attention to Fort Ripley.

The Arms Room: The development of military small arms in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Honors: A tribute to Minnesotans who received the Medal of Honor, plus military decorations past and present.

Story of the Jeep: The ubiquitous American military jeep and Minnesota's place in its history.

State Forces: History of Minnesota's armed forces and National Guard.

A special exhibit on the 34th Infantry Division, WWI to the present, opened on June 16, 2007.

Membership: As of the end of 2007, the museum had 138 Regular (\$25 annually) and 131 Life (\$350) members. The sale of memberships and membership renewals are important sources of revenue for the museum every year, and we encourage those who are members to refer others who may be interested in supporting the museum in this manner.

Membership benefits include:

10% discount in the Sutler Store.

Allies newsletter, published quarterly.

Pride in knowing that you are doing your part to preserve Minnesota's military history.

To become a member: Fill out the membership form below and mail it to the museum along with your check made payable to: Minnesota Military Museum. Memberships can also be paid for by credit card. Please call the museum at 320-632-7374 and a staff member will be happy to assist you.

Membership Application for the Military Historical Society of Minnesota <i>Yes, I want to preserve Minnesota's military history for future generations!</i>		
Name: _____	Phone: _____	
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Date: _____	Branch of Service (if applicable): _____	Rank: _____ Active or Retired (circle one)
E-mail address: _____		
Membership Categories:		
Individual:	Organization:	Corporate:
____ Regular (\$25/yr.)	____ Regular (\$500)	____ Regular (\$1,000)
____ Sustaining (\$50/yr.)	____ Sustaining (\$1,000)	____ Sustaining (\$3,000)
____ Life (\$350+) (or 4 X \$90)		
All memberships are <u>annual</u> except Life, Organization and Corporate Memberships. Contributors of \$350 or more will be recognized on a plaque in the museum lobby.		
Enclosed is my tax-deductible check for \$ _____ made payable to the Minnesota Military Museum.		
Please mail to: Military Historical Society of Minnesota, c/o Minnesota Military Museum, Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy. 115, Little Falls MN 56345-4173. Phone: 320-632-7374 E-mail: mnmuseum@brainerd.net		

Memorials: Memorials for any amount are welcomed. Undesignated memorials are added to the museum's endowment fund where they will "keep on giving".

The Sutler Store: The museum's gift shop, the Sutler Store, sells souvenirs, gifts, military surplus and camping items, and books relating to Minnesota's military history. In 2007, store sales accounted for 37% of the museum's revenue.

Donations to the museum's artifact collection: Donations by the public of photographs, letters and papers, books, uniforms and insignia, equipment, weapons and memorabilia constitute the museum's greatest source of artifacts. To inquire about donations, please contact either the Executive Director or Curator.

Membership Open House Saturday, August 2, 2008

To: Current members of Minnesota Military Museum & guests

Purpose: Update current and prospective new members about the museum, Camp Ripley and Minnesota military deployment activities

Agenda:

- 10:00 -10:30** Arrive at Camp Ripley (Post Hq's/Training & Community Center Theater)
- 10:30 -10:40** Welcome by Post Cmdr. & Museum President (Theater)
- 10:40 -11:00** Camp Ripley activity briefing (Theater)
- 11:00 -11:20** Minnesota military deployment activity briefing (Theater)
- 11:20 -11:40** Military museum update briefing (Theater)
- 11:40 -12:30** Lunch (provided, \$8.00 per attendee) (Cafeteria)
- 12:30 -1:00** Tour Environmental Center (TACC Environmental room)
- 1:00 - 3:00**
- * Rifle, grenade launcher & machine gun simulator demonstration (Rec Center, transport by bus)
 - * M1A3 tank simulator demonstration (Rec Center)
 - * Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (Field, transport by bus)
- 3:00 - 4:30** Military museum tour (Museum, transport by bus)
(transport by bus back to car lot for departure)

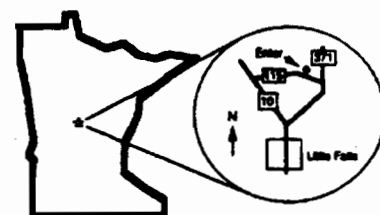
RSVP For planning purposes please register no later than August 1 if you plan to attend this event. We encourage members to invite friends and prospective members to also attend.

Membership Open House		Saturday, August 16, 2008	
Post Hqt's Training Center	Museum	Name _____	\$8.00 for meal enclosed
	Stop Sign	Guest _____	\$8.00 for meal enclosed
		Guest _____	\$8.00 for meal enclosed
		_____ total for meals	

Hwy 115

Main Gate

Checks should be payable to MN Military Museum and mailed to MN Military Museum 15000 Hwy 115, Camp Ripley, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone 320-632-7374 for additional information. Mnmuseum@brainerd.net



Minnesota Military Museum's Mission Statement

The Minnesota Military Museum exists to serve the general public as well as military personnel. It provides education and training, enhances public understanding of how armed conflicts and military institutions have shaped our state and national experience, and functions as a major repository in Minnesota for historical military artifacts and records. In particular, the Museum seeks to document, preserve and depict the stories and contributions of Minnesotans who served in all branches of service or on the homefront--in time of peace and war--from Minnesota's early frontier years to the present.

Soldiers and Family Appreciation Day

Featuring

The U.S. Army Soldier Show

With an opening act from "Katie Rae Davis"

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is a high-energy 90-minute live musical review showcasing the talents of active duty soldiers. This completely free event will be held at Camp Ripley's new MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) facility at the old hangar on Miller airfield beginning at 1600 on **Saturday, June 21, 2008.**

The following activities will also be available at this event:

Barbeque	Camping	Inflatables
Climbing Wall	Caricature Artist	Balloon send off
Children's events	Beer Garden	Flyover

The museum will also be open for extended hours as part of this special event.

All veterans are invited.

Allies is published for the friends of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota.

COL (Ret.) Raymond H. Lunde, **Pres.**
 COL (Ret.) David L. Hanson, **Exec Dir.**
 MAJ (Ret.) Doug Bekke, **Curator**
 SSG (Ret.) Leland P. Smith, **Archivist**
 Sandy Erickson, **Administrator**

The **Military Historical Society of Minnesota** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, registered with the Federal and State Governments. Donations are Tax Deductible.

Museum Contact Information:

Fax: 320-632-7374
E-mail: mnmuseum@brainerd.net
Telephone: 320-632-7374
DSN: 871-7374

Military Historical Society of Minnesota
 c/o Minnesota Military Museum
 Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy. 115
 Little Falls MN 56345-4173

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