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# Military museum to open at Gowen Field this year

By Robbin Bowler  
The Idaho Statesman

Beheading swords, a German army helmet with a spike on top and medals from a distinguished World War I general are among artifacts that will be displayed in a museum the Idaho Military Historical Society plans to open this summer at Gowen Field in Boise.

The museum will be housed in a World War II era building that originally held an operations briefing center for Army Air Force officers and pilots and later served as a base exchange and makeshift gym for Guardsmen.

"The building seems rather old and drafty now," member Ken Swanson said, "but, with a little work and effort, we can be selling popcorn and displaying some of Idaho's most interesting military artifacts by June."

Some of the artifacts slated for display are several beheading swords from a 1800s military campaign in the Philippines and a collection of memorabilia of Gen. Leroy Veron Patch, an Idahoan who distinguished himself in

Capt. M.M. Gollaher, a society member, said the society also has a captured Nazi flag and many old uniforms.

Gollaher said a lot of military artifacts are scattered around the state, and a small collection is at the Idaho State Historical Museum.

"A museum is really needed to pull all these things together and house them. The museum should be a reminder of all the good things the military has to offer.

"Idaho has a rich military history that many people don't know about," Gollaher said.

For instance, Idaho was the site of a registered Civil War Battle and was the home of a battalion of black paratroopers during World War II.

Gollaher said the society also plans to record oral histories of local World War II veterans and restore and move the original Gowen Field gate posts.

To join the society or help with work on the building, call Bill Miller at 389-6006 or Michael Gollaher at 389-6364.

Yearly membership of \$25 includes a quarterly newsletter.

very un-Christian.

Pat Jon, Boise

## Visit Warhawk Museum

I read with interest the article written about the military museum to be open at Gowen Field this year. Capt. M.M. Gollaher states that there are "a lot of military artifacts scattered around Idaho" and "a museum is really needed."

The Warhawk Air Museum, located in Caldwell, is a World War II museum that has been open since 1988. The museum is dedicated to memorializing the history of the brave men and women who fought, worked and sacrificed during World War II in their efforts to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. There are many rare items on display, including WW II airplanes, a WWI Fokker Tri-plane replica, a link trainer, a Nordon Bombsight, homefront and patriotic memorabilia, uniforms and personal collections that have been donated by Idaho families.

May 6, 1994, the Warhawk Air Museum was awarded the "Governor Andrus Award for Outstanding Achievement in Tourism for an Idaho Organization." I encourage Capt. Gollaher, his colleagues and all Idaho residents to visit this worthwhile educational facility.

Sue Paul, curator, Caldwell