

Agenda Item #10

**POCATELLO CITY COUNCIL
HEARING: APRIL 17, 2025
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

RE: American WWII Heritage City Nomination Application

REQUEST:

Council may wish to authorize the Mayor's signature and submission for the American WWII Heritage City nomination application to the National Park Service. This designation recognizes the contributions of one jurisdiction in each state regarding U.S. involvement in WWII.

As stated on the National Park Service website regarding the American WWII Heritage City Program: *"World War II permeated every aspect of American life and resulted in a large migration of people within the United States. Individuals and families relocated to industrial centers for good paying war jobs and out of a sense of patriotic duty. Many industrial centers became "boom towns," growing at phenomenal rates. Workers from around the nation had to intermingle with each other and overcome differences in order to meet war demands, forever changing the cultural landscape of the United States."*

"In order to recognize the historic importance of the United States' involvement in World War II, the Secretary of the Interior may designate up to one city (jurisdiction) from each state and territory as an American World War II Heritage City."

The WWII Heritage City Nomination is due April 30th, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Nomination Criteria Information
- b. Application Packet

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council and Mayor
FROM: Brian Trammell, Deputy City Attorney
DATE: April 4, 2025
RE: American World War II Heritage City Program

I have reviewed the application for the nomination of the City to be designated as an American World War II Heritage City. I have no legal concerns with the Council approving the nomination application and authorizing the Mayor to sign the nomination application.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

ATTACHMENT A
NOMINATION CRITERIA INFORMATION



World War II

NPS.gov (<https://www.nps.gov/>) / Home (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarII/index.htm>)

/ What We Do (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarII/whatwedo.htm>)

/ American World War II Heritage City Program (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarII/americanheritagecity.htm>) / Nominate a City or Jurisdiction

Nominate an American World War II Heritage City

***** 2025 Nomination Period is Open *****

The American World War II Heritage Cities Program is accepting nominations for designation from ***January 1 through April 30, 2025.***

Check the [list below \(https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarII/nominate.htm#eligible_list\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarII/nominate.htm#eligible_list) to see if your location is eligible to apply for designation as a World War II Heritage City.

For more information about applying for designation please register for one of our Information Sessions:

[March 5, 2025, 1-2 pm EST \(https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/25295b88-6a64-4634-ac54-c29ce25dc7a4@0693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494\)](https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/25295b88-6a64-4634-ac54-c29ce25dc7a4@0693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494)

States or Territories currently without designated American World War II Heritage Cities.

During the nomination period, any jurisdictions in the locations below that [meet the criteria](#) are eligible to apply for designation as an American World War II Heritage City.

- Alaska, American Samoa
- Colorado
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Idaho, Illinois
- Kentucky
- Maine, Minnesota
- New Hampshire
- Oregon
- Puerto Rico
- South Dakota
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Vermont
- West Virginia

Visit our [World War II Heritage Cities](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarii/world-war-ii-heritage-cities.htm) (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarii/world-war-ii-heritage-cities.htm>) page to see the designated American World War II Heritage Cities.



(<https://www.loc.gov/item/95504675/>)

Office of War Information Poster No. 52. Library of Congress.

Can a state or territory have more than one designated American World War II Heritage City?

No

Section 9007 (a) of the [John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/47/text) (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/47/text>) allows only one designation per U.S. state or territory.

During the nomination period, any [jurisdictions](#) in a state or a territory that meet the [criteria](#) can be nominated. A state or territory may have multiple nominations; however, only **one** will be chosen for designation as an American World War II Heritage City. Once a designation has been made, the state or territory is removed from the [eligibility list](#).

On this Page:

[Who Can Apply](#) / [Criteria for Designation](#) / [How to Apply](#) / [Where to Send Nominations](#) / [Review Process](#) / [Contact Information](#)

Who Can Apply

Any local government jurisdiction located in a U.S. state or territory that doesn't already have an American World War II Heritage City. See the list above for [currently eligible states and territories](#).

Note: An entire state or territory cannot apply for designation. Only a local government jurisdiction within a currently eligible state or territory may be designated.

Local Government Jurisdiction

A local government jurisdiction ("jurisdiction") is a locally managed populated area with a defined political border. It falls under a state or territory government. Jurisdictions include, but aren't limited to, counties, parishes, municipalities, cities, townships, boroughs, towns, and villages.

While the designation is World War II Heritage "City", any jurisdiction in an [eligible state or territory](#) that meets the [criteria](#) can be nominated for designation.

Examples: Northfield, Vermont (town) a primary producer of wool for the U.S. military; Denver, Colorado (city) which had multiple military sites, defense manufacturing companies.

See current designations at [World War II Heritage Cities \(https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarii/world-war-ii-heritage-cities.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarii/world-war-ii-heritage-cities.htm).

Nominating Two or More Jurisdictions Together

Two or more jurisdictions can apply together in a *joint nomination*, as long as:

1. The jurisdictions are contiguous and/or overlap. *Note:* Joint nominations with either discontinuous jurisdictions or ones that do not overlap will not be accepted.
2. The nomination is endorsed by each jurisdiction's highest locally elected official.

Examples: Polk and Benton Counties in Oregon. The counties share a contiguous border and were together the home of Camp Adair. The Camp was a large military training facility that had a great impact on surrounding communities and the home front; the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii where the initial attack on the US took place.

See current joint application designations at [World War II Heritage Cities \(https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarii/world-war-ii-heritage-cities.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarii/world-war-ii-heritage-cities.htm).



(<https://www.nps.gov/places/awwiihc-south-texas-bend-area.htm>)

Aviation cadets in training. Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.
Photo date: 1942. Library of Congress. LC-USW36-391 [P&P]

Criteria for Designation

Applicants must meet both criterion 1 and 2 in order to be considered for designation.

1. Contributions by a city and its environs to the World War II home-front war effort, such as contributions related to: *

- Adaptations to wartime survival
- Civil defense preparedness
- Defense manufacturing, such as ships, aircraft, uniforms, and equipment
- Production of foodstuffs and consumer items for Armed Forces and home consumption
- Volunteer participation
- War bond drives
- Personnel serving in the Armed Forces, their achievements, and facilities for their rest and recreation, or
- The presence of Armed Forces camps, bases, airfields, harbors, repair facilities, and other installations within or in its environs.

2. Achievements by a city and its environs to preserve the heritage and legacy of the city's contributions to the war effort and to preserve World War II history, such as contributions related to: *

- Establishment of memorials to area men who lost their lives in service
- Establishment of museums, parks, and markers
- Organizing groups of veterans and home-front workers and their recognition
- Presentation of cultural events such as dances, plays, and lectures
- The identification, preservation, restoration, and interpretation of World War II-related structures, facilities, and sites
- Public relations outreach through the print and electronic media, and books, and
- Recognition and ceremonies remembering wartime event anniversaries

See the [American World War II Home Front Heritage City Criteria Essays \(https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/687970\)](https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/687970) to learn more about the subcategories under criteria 1 and 2.

*** Does my jurisdiction have to meet each of the subcategories under criteria 1 and 2?**

No

The subcategories are not a list of requirements. Jurisdictions are required to have activities under both criterion 1 and 2, but they don't have to meet each subcategory. The subcategories are intended to be examples of specific home front and commemoration [topics \(https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2299458\)](https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2299458). These topics can be used to help describe jurisdictions' qualifications for designation as American World War II Heritage Cities.

There are no requirements for jurisdictions to have specific numbers of activities or subcategories. However, when nominating jurisdictions it's best to briefly describe activities under as many subcategories as possible that are significant to the location. This can help support jurisdictions' qualifications for designation.

Activities that don't fall under a Subcategory

Jurisdictions can also include WWII home front history and commemoration activities in their nominations that aren't specifically listed as subcategories, but that still apply under criteria 1 and 2.

How to Apply

The process begins when:

The highest locally elected official in a jurisdiction [submits a nomination](#) for their community to the National Park Service's American World War II Heritage Cities Program.

Two or more jurisdictions nominating together will submit one [joint nomination](#).

A nomination ***must include***:

- A cover letter addressed to the [National Park Service Director](#) (<https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/director.htm>) and signed by the jurisdiction's highest locally elected official. **For multiple jurisdiction nominations** the cover letter(s) must be signed by each jurisdiction's highest locally elected official.
- A brief descriptions of how the jurisdiction meets criteria 1 and 2 in the [Criteria for Designation](#) (see above).

A nomination can also include other optional materials such as:

- Endorsements from each jurisdiction's members of Congress, delegate(s), or resident commissioner (***strongly recommended***).
- A map showing that home front and commemorative activities occurred within the jurisdiction's boundaries (***strongly recommended***). Any format, such as pins on a Google map or a hand-drawn markup on a print map, is acceptable.
- Photographs and historic images of commemorative events and activities saved in either pdf, jpeg/jpg, gif, tiff, or png digital file format.
- Images of interpretive signage, digital brochures, fliers, websites, etc.
- Existing program materials that elaborate on how a jurisdiction meets the [Criteria for Designation](#) or supports the nomination.
- Other letters of support.

No more than five (5) optional items in total, please.

Disclaimer

The National Park Service (NPS) may use application materials for non-commercial display purposes such as posting on the NPS website (nps.gov), NPS social media forums, publication in hardcopy or digital program brochures, and other American World War II Heritage City Program informational materials in accordance with U.S. copyright Fair Use laws and regulations.

Financial Requirements

There are **no financial requirements** either when a jurisdiction is applying for designation or after a jurisdiction is designated as an American World War II Heritage City.



(<https://www.nps.gov/places/awwiihc-south-texas-bend-area.htm>)

Bomb shelter under personal residence, Detroit, MI. 1942
Wayne State University, Walter P. Reuther Library

Where to Send Nominations

Nominations should be emailed to AWW2HC@nps.gov.

Review Process

Once the nomination period has ended, the National Park Service (NPS) will acknowledge receipt of complete nominations and review them within three (3) months. Recommendations are then submitted to the Director of the NPS.

Contact Information

For more information email aww2hc@nps.gov or call **202-354-6991**.

Last updated: February 19, 2025

Was this page helpful?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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SUBJECTS

African American Heritage
(<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/africanamericanheritage>)

American Latino Heritage
(<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/latinoheritage>)

American Military
(<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/military>)

PARKS

Acadia National Park
(<https://www.nps.gov/acad>)

Aleutian Islands World War II National Historic Area (<https://www.nps.gov/aleu>)

Amache National Historic Site
(<https://www.nps.gov/amch>)

+ View All Related Parks
(<https://www.nps.gov/experiencemore/related>)

ORGANIZATIONS

Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation and Education
(<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1023>)

Park History Program
(<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1220>)

ATTACHMENT B
APPLICATION PACKET

Cover Letter

Jessica Bowron
Acting Director, National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: American World War II Heritage City Nomination

Dear Ms. Bowron,

I am writing to submit a nomination for Pocatello, Idaho, to be designated as an American World War II Heritage City. Pocatello's rich history, strategic location, and vital contributions to the war effort during World War II make it a fitting candidate for this distinction. The city's development as a railroad hub, its role in war-time training and production, and its enduring legacy of honoring veterans and preserving historical sites highlight the importance of Pocatello in both wartime and peacetime history.

During WWII, Pocatello fostered an active and supportive home front. The establishment of an Army air base, a Naval Ordnance Plant were two hot beds for war-time activity in the community. The USO Hut and the University of Idaho – Southern Branch (now Idaho State University), also provided essential support for the war effort, further solidifying Pocatello's role in the larger national context.

Pocatello has taken significant steps to honor its WWII legacy, with memorials such as the Southeast Idaho Veterans Memorial, Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, and the Pocatello Army Air Base Monument. Annual events like the Veterans Day Parade and the ongoing efforts to support the Honor Flight Network ensure that the contributions of those who served are continually celebrated.

I believe that Pocatello's history, military significance, and ongoing efforts to preserve and honor its wartime past make it a deserving candidate for the title of an American World War II Heritage City. I am confident that this designation would not only recognize the city's vital role in the war effort but also provide an opportunity for continued education and reflection on Pocatello's historical importance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Blad, Mayor

An American World War II Heritage City Nomination for Pocatello, Idaho

Pocatello, as a city, began as a boxcar depot along a narrow-gauge rail line that connected Salt Lake City to Montana mining operations in the mid to late 1800s, following earlier stagecoach routes. In 1889, Pocatello was incorporated and quickly became a major railroad hub. Its location became a critical junction point for rail and auto, becoming known as the “Gateway to the Northwest”. The period between 1889 and the events leading up to World War II included the development of a strong mercantile town and the establishment of an academy which is now known as Idaho State University, all centered on a strong railroad-industrial center. Due to its inland location, and robust railroad services, the stage was set for Pocatello to enlist in support of the war effort during World War II. “Pocatello could offer much to the war effort. Besides the people who served in the armed forces from Pocatello, the city’s most visible assistance to the war was as a railroad center, as the location of an Army Air Force training base, and as the site of a Naval Ordnance Plant (NOP).” (Balmforth, 1987) This identity and associated transportation facilities became a critical asset as the United States entered World War II.

The Army Air Base

In 1942, the U.S. Army established an airbase seven miles northwest of Pocatello (which has since been incorporated in the City’s boundaries). The airbase, encompassing just over 3,500 acres, became a crucial site for the training of aircrews and was designed to land B-17 and B-24 bombers. One of the B-24 Bombers, named Pocatello Chief fell casualty to the war on March 15, 1944 after being shot down during a bombing mission to Brunswick, Germany. P-39 and P-47 fighters were used for training at the airbase as well. Stationed at the airbase included the 96th and the 382nd Bomber Groups as well as the 453rd (the unit in which movie actor Jimmy Stewart was assigned to during the war) and the 464th. Pocatello was a main flight training facility and just about every pilot, navigator, and bombardier was sent to the airbase for training.

The Pocatello Air Base was a main transfer station for aircraft destined for the Soviet Union as part of the Lend Lease Act. There, U.S. markings were removed from the aircraft and replaced with USSR markings before being sent to Alaska for transfer to the Russian military. The airbase operated as if it were its own city, complete with housing, schools, post office, dining, hospital, chapel, offices and machine shops.

The University of Idaho – Southern Branch (now Idaho State University) provided civilian support for the war effort. The University featured an airfield, University (Ham’s) Field, an airframe mechanics program and even featured anti-aircraft weaponry in defense of any possible air attack.

The Pocatello Air Base operated between 1942 and 1945. After being decommissioned, the airbase was deeded to the City of Pocatello on February 20, 1949 and within 2 years began operating as the city-owned Pocatello Municipal Airport (now Pocatello Regional Airport).

Recreation & Education for the Armed Forces

As the airbase came online in 1942 it was quickly made apparent that needed and desired services weren't available. Opportunities for recreation and daily welfare quickly filled this need. An airbase newspaper, *The Bombardier*, was started in November 1942 increasing the servicemen's morale. In the same year, the United Service Organization (USO) established a recreation center in downtown Pocatello which included the use of the Trinity Church's Parish House, housing parties and dances for service men. The USO Hut also provided goods and services for the benefit of service men.

In 1943, the American Association of University Women's Club at the University of Idaho - Southern Branch in Pocatello started the Aviation Squadron Self-Improvement education program at the airbase. Classes were open to any enlisted man on the base and during the first two months, the school had a rapid growth in attendance. More than 15 teachers from the Pocatello city schools donated their time to instruct classes ranging from beginner's reading, writing, and arithmetic to advanced history and English.

The Naval Ordnance Plant

Local factories and businesses shifted production to support the war effort, including manufacturing parts, equipment, and other military necessities. In April 1942, the U.S. Navy commissioned an industrial facility located just outside of Pocatello (which has since been incorporated in the City's boundaries) which primarily refurbished and manufactured naval gun barrels, artillery, and other ordnance components. Known as the Naval Ordnance Plant (N.O.P), this approximately 200-acre complex included about 50 buildings at the height of wartime production. This facility was one of only two such facilities in the country, and the only one west of the Mississippi. Pocatello was selected for this facility due to it being far enough inland to reduce the risk of enemy attack and the fact that the city was equipped as a major railroad-highway hub.

As weapons were manufactured and refurbished in Pocatello, they were then transported about 50 miles north out in the Arco Desert where the Navy established the Naval Proving Ground to test weapons in preparation for them to return to service in the War. This remote site became the future location of the Idaho National Laboratory.

At the end of the War, the N.O.P. was decommissioned and in the 1950's was sold. The facility then became an industrial park with a portion of the complex eventually including facilities for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a reserve center for the Armed Forces, and a public park named in memory of the wartime facilities (N.O.P. Park).

In June 2021, Industrial Realty Group, LLC (IRG) acquired the complex and rebranded the site as the "Titan Center". Since 2021, IRG has made significant updates to the facilities, sprucing up

exterior facades of buildings, infrastructure improvements, and preparing sites to attract a mix of both industrial and commercial tenants.

Honoring Pocatello's WWII Legacy

In Pocatello, there are several memorials and events that honor both home-front and war-front contributions to the war:

Southeast Idaho Veterans Memorial – Dedicated on November 5, 2005, this monument honors the veterans in Southeast Idaho. Bricks laid within the plaza feature the names of servicemen from various wars and conflicts.

Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument – Dedicated on May 28, 2021, this monument honors Idahoans lost during military service and their families. This monument was made possible with the help of Mr. Hershel “Woody” Williams, last surviving veteran from WWII and a Medal of Honor recipient. (<https://idahogoldstarmemorial.com/>)

Pocatello Army Air Base Monument – On the 50th anniversary of the Pocatello Army Air Base (1992) a monument was erected near the front of what is now the Pocatello Regional Airport terminal. This monument is dedicated to the veterans from Pocatello and the Squadrons and Bomb Groups who trained and were stationed at the base.

Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge – Located on W. Fremont Street, crossing the Portneuf River and adjacent to Memorial Park and the Veteran's Memorial Building (ca. 1924-1926). Each year, Bannock County Veteran Services hosts a Pearl Harbor commemoration ceremony honoring the lives lost in that attack. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBl_5MrYizQ)

Annual Veterans Day Parade – Veterans day parades ceased in Pocatello near the end of WWII. In 2022, efforts were made for such a parade to return to the community. Since 2022 this parade has been an annual event. (<https://www.pocatelloveteransdayparade.com/>)

Living History Flights & Honor Flights – The Commemorative Air Force has selected Pocatello as a stopping point to display and fly arounds for WWII era planes including B-17 and B-25 bombers. (<https://commemorativeairforce.org/>) The City is actively working with the Honor Flight Network for Pocatello to serve as a hub for its program. (<https://www.honorflight.org/>)

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WWII HOME FRONT MAP

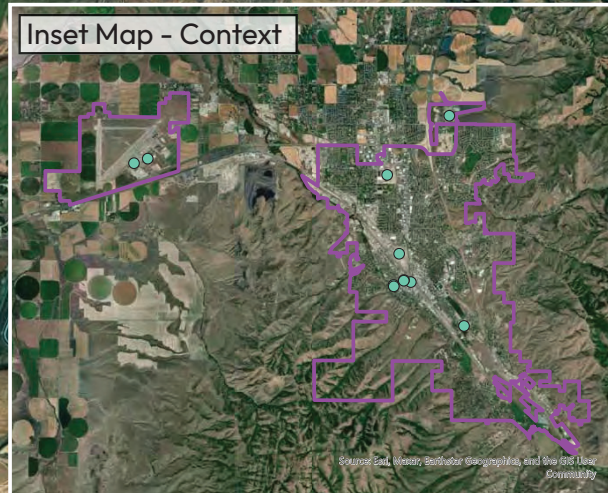
World War II Home Front in Pocatello, Idaho

LEGEND

- Pocatello Municipal Boundary (2025)
- WWII Points of Interest



Inset Map - Context



Gold Star Monument

To Air Base

Naval Ordnance Plant

Pocatello Railyards

Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge

Veterans Memorial Bldg.

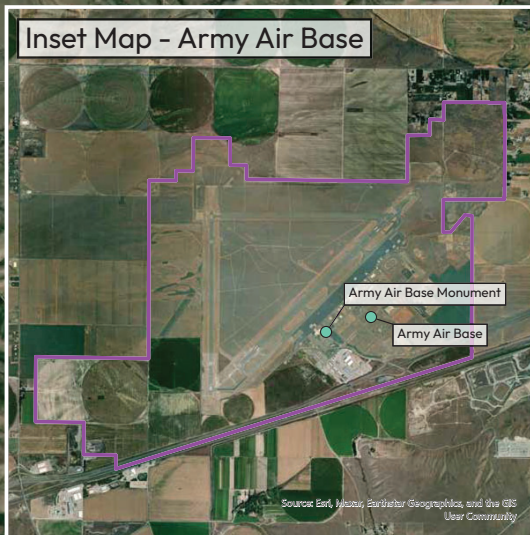
USO Recreation Ctr.

USO Hut

Trinity Church Parish House

Southeast Idaho Veterans Memorial

Inset Map - Army Air Base



Army Air Base Monument

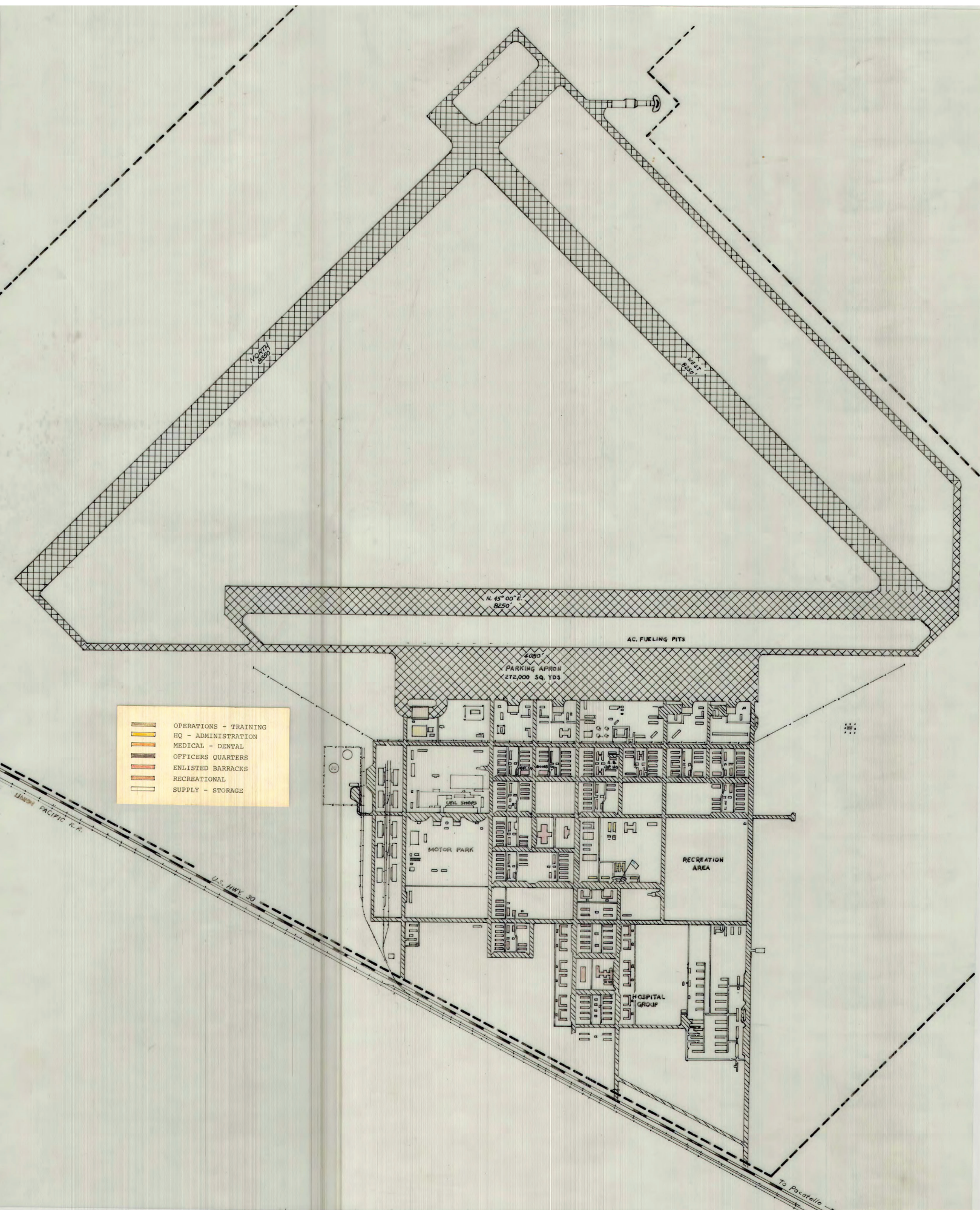
Army Air Base

Source: Earl, Menden, Bartholomew Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Source: Earl, Menden, Bartholomew Geographics, and the GIS User Community

ARMY AIR BASE PHOTOS









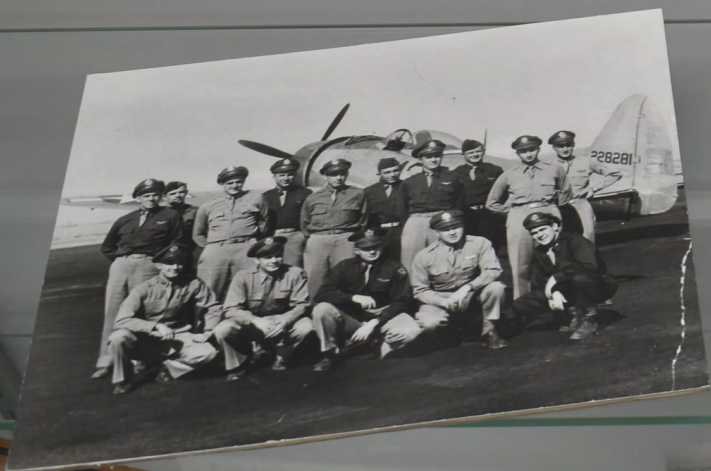




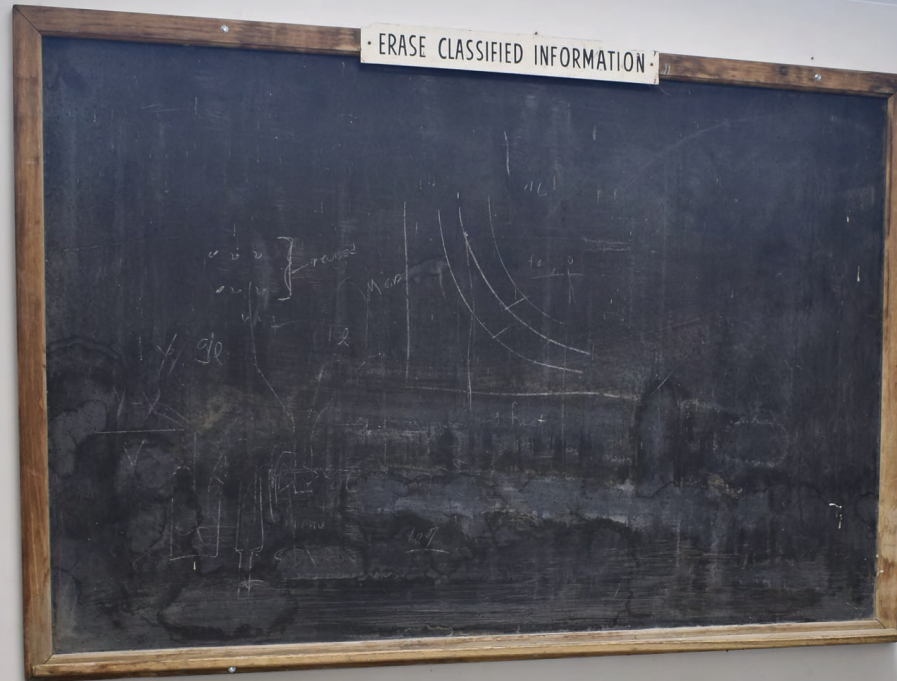
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
APPLIED TECHNOLOGY
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE







ELLO, IDAHO







POCATELLO AIR BASE

AIRPORT
loan of this
MILITARY
County
Museum.
locatello.com



'Flying Cannons' Move to Air Base

Off He'll Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder

Base Hospital Grows to Superior Institution
From Beginning as Temporary Dispensary

Based at its actual location in operation as "temporary dispensary," the Pocatello army air base station hospital which officially opened on Oct. 15, 1943, has expanded in a matter of days to a fully equipped temporary dispensary to a fully equipped temporary dispensary.

With the rapid and activity of construction of the base hospital, the arrival of patients and the arrival of patients and the arrival of patients.



DENTAL business is good, thank you, in the base clinic. Pocatello clinic attended care of wounded men.

under way, the number of fighting forces everywhere was also growing. In fact, it was just a few days ago that the Pocatello army air base hospital was just a temporary dispensary.

Help arrived, more officers, and more medical personnel, nurses, dental technicians, dentists, and the necessary equipment for a hospital with eight wards.

'Drome Squad Is Native Of This Base

By Sgt. Dave Kilham
Chief, "Drome Squad," the Pocatello army air base hospital was just a temporary dispensary.

The squadron moved into its new area on June 15 and began filling slowly. Shortly after that, training was begun, several men were placed through the command with Captain Thomas, permanent CO, took over.

The squadron survived a one-week operation with some, in fact, took members from under several conditions.

A large percentage of personnel qualified with each other in the past. Some work on all men, but before July 1 and it will be getting to maximum. Every type of air force specialist is represented in the squadron.

Officers include Captain Thomas, Major Capt. Walter E. Williams, Major Capt. L. C. Paul, J. Nolan, adjutant; Robert W. Haggard, engineering; Harry M. Dwyer, Jr., engineering; and Sgt. Francis L. James, armaments; Walter F. Schmidt, ordnance and transportation; and M. K. Collins, communications.

Most Topkick James Adams



James H. Adams, fourth group first sergeant, born 1913 in West County, Kentucky, is now in Pocatello, Idaho. He is a member of the Pocatello army air base hospital.

He has been in the Pocatello army air base hospital since he was first assigned February 1943.



MAJ. PAUL B. BEST

dental clinic, surgery, eye, ear, nose and throat (ENT), and a department to handle not patient treatment.

Just before the hospital was expanded in one year from a staff of five nurses, seven medical officers and one dental officer, seven medical officers, one veterinarian, and one dentist, and the number of patients in the hospital increased from eight to many times that number.

As for the dental clinic, several were broken. From a total of 42 patients treated the first month, it now averages in the thousands.

This Won't Hurt-Much



NO POKED photograph is this. The camera caught Sgt. Irving Bauer of Chicago, an airman, being punched with "reaction" by Sgt. Aston J. Vail of Denver.

He Strips for Action



DISMANTLING a machine gun is Sgt. Stanley Gutierrez, working on the base. He was in the Pocatello army air base hospital since he was first assigned February 1943.

and the base, which is the most air base, has been in the Pocatello army air base hospital since he was first assigned February 1943.



MAJ. PAUL B. BEST

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As for the dental clinic, several were broken. From a total of 42 patients treated the first month, it now averages in the thousands.



Lt. HASCAL are the new parent planes operating on Pocatello army air base. These little brothers of our big Liberator bombers are P-39s and they are fast and fierce fighters. Looking forward dramatically to Lt. Alvin Frost of Bakersfield, Calif., who leaves in his father plane as "Tross Galt." On his, he's a P-39.

Idaho's First Pursuits Train Here

Before Mess Call Sounds



HOURLY mess hall are opened for serving, crews work a regular diet. These are the new parent planes operating on Pocatello army air base. These little brothers of our big Liberator bombers are P-39s and they are fast and fierce fighters. Looking forward dramatically to Lt. Alvin Frost of Bakersfield, Calif., who leaves in his father plane as "Tross Galt." On his, he's a P-39.



MAINTENANCE of airplanes is one of the duties of the Pocatello army air base. Lt. Alvin Frost, Pocatello, is in the Pocatello army air base hospital since he was first assigned February 1943.

P-39, With 37-mm In Its Nose, Is One of World's Best Fighters

To the Pocatello army air base early this month came the distinction of having the first fighter squadron ever to be stationed in Idaho.

The fighters—the famous P-39 Airacobras—arrived from the west coast under the command of Maj. Hubert L. Eggen. Stationed for more than six months in California, the squadron was sent to the Pocatello base for additional training.

Already, the speedy little fighters have become a familiar sight as they streak across the horizon. Popularly referred to as "flying cannons" because of the placement of a 37-mm cannon in the nose of the ship, the P-39 is classed as one of the world's outstanding fighter planes.

Antiating Major Eggen as officers in the group are: Capt. Louis Nicoud, executive officer; Lt. Joseph Broadhead, operations; Lt. Lem T. Hemala, adjutant; Capt. Don G. Pickrell, intelligence; and Lt. M. F. Baker, Arthur M. Lings, Calvert L. Williams and David Perren, flight leaders.

Moose Dances Win Favor

Wednesday evening's been a big one, special officer, who watched entertainment night for Pocatello, the base, and the men of the army. The P-39 is classed as one of the world's outstanding fighter planes.

On that occasion, Lt. Ted Lewis, gun, is principal host.



POCATELLO ARMY AIR BASE

Work began on May 22, 1942 and was completed by October 15. Designated by the 2nd Air Force for heavy bombardment training the personnel of the 96th Bomb Group from Rapid City, S.D. formed an Operational Training Unit on October 30, 1942. The B-17s of the 96th BG were later sent to Snetterton - Heath, England and Pocatello AAB became a B-24 OTU.

All phases of bomber aircrew training, including pilot, navigator, bombardier and gunners was conducted. Two Heavy Bomber Groups (the 453rd BG - Old Buckenham, England and the 464th BG - Pantanella, Italy) received their training as an entire group.

On February 21, 1944 Pocatello AAB was transferred from the 15th Bomb Wing to the 72nd Fighter Wing for fighter pilot training. The 362nd Fighter Squadron arrived with their P-39s and was quickly converted to P-47 Thunderbolts. American as well as foreign pilots were trained including the 201st Squadron, Mexican Air Force.

In late December 1944 training was discontinued and activities began to be closed down. The base was acquired by the City of Pocatello on February 20, 1949 to become the POCATELLO MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

USS POCATELLO

Christen Ship in Honor of Chieftain



When the U. S. naval frigate Chief Pocateello, named for a chieftain of the Bannock Indians, in Idaho, was launched at the Kaiser Cargo, Inc. shipyards at Richmond, Cal., it was sponsored by Thelma Dixey, great-grand-

daughter of the chief, left. With her is Christine Linton, maid of honor. Both are students at the Sherman Indian school in California. (Associated Press photo.)





POCATELLO ARMY AIR BASE



03/14/2007

HEADQUARTERS
POCATELLO ARMY AIR BASE

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER

POCATELLO, IDAHO

nl

9 December 1943

Miss Hendricks, President
American Association University Women
University of Idaho, S.B.
Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Miss Hendricks:

Sunday, December 12, 1943, has been set aside by the army as "Air-Wac" day. On that day, the men of the Air Forces will pay tribute to the women of the Air Forces.

Joining in the nationwide celebration, the men of the Pocatello army air base wish to extend an invitation to the members of your organization to attend the special program planned for this base on that day.

The program will begin in the base theater at 11 a.m. Two veterans of overseas combat will graphically describe their experiences in various theaters of operations. Following their talks, the women will be taken on a personally conducted tour of the base and be given an opportunity to inspect at close range some of the many operations necessary to the maintenance and operation of an army air base. Later, luncheon will be served at the consolidated mess hall.

We would appreciate knowing in advance how many members of your organization can be in attendance.

Yours very truly,


H. H. WHITE
for Major, Air Corps
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
POCATELLO ARMY AIR BASE

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
POCATELLO, IDAHO

31 May 1944

Mrs. Earl Rainey,
227 South Hayes,
Pocatello, Idaho.

My dear Mrs. Rainey:

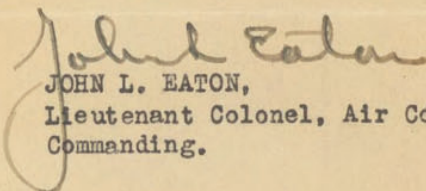
It is my pleasure and privilege on behalf of the officers and enlisted men of the Pocatello Army Air Field, to take this means of expressing my sincere thanks to the women of the American Association of University Women, Pocatello Branch, for your noble work in teaching and conducting the classes of the Self-Improvement School for the benefit of certain educationally retarded enlisted men of this station.

Your services and cooperation in this instance was thoroughly American and has enhanced the personal worth and the morale of these members of the Armed Forces to an inestimable degree.

If upon any occasion we may again have the pleasure of cooperating with your organization in any way, we shall be very happy to know of the opportunity.

Thanking you again, I am

Sincerely yours,


JOHN L. EATON,
Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

JLE/jwm

HEADQUARTERS
64TH TRAINING WING
LINCOLN ARMY AIR FIELD, LINCOLN 1, NEBRASKA

14 February 1944

Miss Lorene Hendricks
735 East Holliday
Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Miss Hendricks:

Your letter of February 5, relative to materials used in the Special Training Unit formerly located at this station has been referred to me by Captain West. I regret to inform you that the materials used in the course have been disposed of, inasmuch as the Training Program no longer is being conducted at this field.

The text "Private Pete" to which you refer in your letter served as the basis of the educational program conducted here. This text, which is known as Training Manual 21-500, and the Army Arithmetic, Training Manual 21-510, are published by the War Department. The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., would be able to advise you as to the availability of these publications. Other materials used were weekly newsmaps, current periodicals, daily bulletins, and extracts taken from numerous primary texts and rewritten in accord with the level and phase of instruction of the Trainee.

I trust you will find the above information of some value and that it will prove of worth in solving your problem.

Yours very truly

Elmer H. Nelson
ELMER H. NELSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Executive Officer.

The Bombardier

VOL. II

Pocatello, Idaho, Army Air Base, March 22, 1944

No. 40

State Recognizes Base School

War Brought Close to Women Drivers Service Flags Tell Unknown Story

Gold Star mothers, service wives and mothers with sons in the army and navy are all working together these days in the base motor pool. They're wheeling two-tons around like veterans... they're driving the mail run... they're standing by for emergencies... they're behind the wheels of the staff cars that transport general and privates on official business.

If you ask them about their job they'll tell you about the excellent record held by the motor pool in Second air force. Or they may tell of the time they got stuck on a muddy road; or the first time they changed a tire. Seldom will they mention the service flag in the window at home.

But there's a story behind each one of these flags. It's a story of sleepless nights and waiting. It's a story of the hope and courage that belongs only to a woman.

Such a story is that of Mrs. Leo J. Bennett, whose husband, a tail gunner on a heavy bomber, was reported missing in action over China last August. Her brother, S/Sgt. Wilford Green is with a tank destroyer unit and another brother, Murray, is a seaman first class.

Mrs. Ora Allen has two sons with the army somewhere in the south Pacific. Her brother, Capt. Lester Houdyshell, a veteran of 28 years' service, was at Corregidor when that bastion fell to the Japs. Last word Mrs. Allen received from him was a stereotyped postcard mailed in a Jap prison camp last January.

Mrs. H. C. Cook, a driver on the night shift, lost a son in the air forces shortly after the outbreak of war. Another boy is stationed with the infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Home after receiving a medical discharge for wounds received in combat in the Pacific is one son of Mrs. Lee McCormick. Another son is serving with the engineers in Alaska.

(Take off to page four)

New Seats Make Movie Man Happy

There was a happy smile on the usually complacent face of S/Sgt. Wayne Noblitt, base theater manager, this week as he kept his fingers on workmen installing new cushioned seats in the "little theater off Calisthenics square."

"At least, I won't have to worry about showing pictures that'll keep the customers in their seats," he sighed as he watched another row go into place.

Installation of seats is expected to be near completion within the next 10 days.

Sergeant Noblitt said another improvement for the theater will be the hanging of curtains at exits and in the entrance leading from the lobby to the auditorium. Already in place on auditorium walls are models of American fighting planes and the insignia of the army air forces and the Second air force. Decorative tapestries created under the supervision of Walter Druce, chief painter at the post engineers.

Sergeant Noblitt said the small lobby will feature large framed photographs of base activities, while the larger lobby will house a war information center.

With the exception of Sundays, daily matinees have been discontinued. They will be resumed when the new seats have been completely installed.

Aviation Team Gets Top Honor

Outstanding recognition was paid members of the negro aviation squadron's basketball quintet last week when a "good sportsmanship" trophy was awarded the team at the finals of the Aberdeen Outlaw tournament held at Aberdeen.

Awarded because of their display of sportsmanship throughout the meet, the trophy was inscribed, "To the best all-around sportsmen."

Members of the negro team were: S/Sgt. William L. Meade, Pfc. Lyle Moffett, Pfc. William Pratt, Pvt. Charles E. Barner, Pvt. Lucius Magee, Pfc. Willie Tooles, Pvt. S. T. Newsome and Pvt. Sam Ratliff.

To Sgt. Ed Shahady of the base team at the same tournament went an all-tournament trophy. Shahady was picked as guard on the all-tournament team. This is Shahady's second basketball honor, having previously been picked as guard on the recent Rupert all-tournament team.

Could Be

S/Sgt. Howard A. Miner of the base ground training office has renamed the base school building.

Located halfway between the chapel and the guard house, Sergeant Miner has dubbed the schoolroom, "Purgatory."

"I believe the name is fitting one," said the amateur theologian. "Because to my way of thinking, purgatory belongs in between."

Despite the sergeant's brilliant idea, no effort has been made by the post engineers to change signs now on the building.

Red Cross Drive Brings Challenge

A challenge to beat civilian air base employees in the current Red Cross drive was issued this week by civilian personnel at the naval ordnance plant.

In announcing the challenge, Orin B. Beckstrand, Red Cross field director for the Pocatello area, said naval employees were leading air base workers at present by an approximate average of \$1.50 per person. Average per capita donations at the ordnance plant are \$2.34.

Beckstrand expressed the belief, however, that the contributions will jump into the lead following the forthcoming payday. Officers and enlisted men, he said, have given generously. The drive closes the first week in April.

At the same time he announced the ordnance plant challenge, Beckstrand disclosed that his office has received two letters in the past week from men overseas who were formerly assigned to this base. One man wrote from Italy and the other from New Guinea. Both writers, Beckstrand said, expressed their appreciation for the services provided them by the Red Cross while they were at Pocatello.

The field director said the letters were typical of many received from soldiers overseas who laud the work of the Red Cross and especially the job being done by the home service department.

Explaining Red Cross home service, Beckstrand said the department operates in 5,756 chapters in more than 6,000 Red Cross branches in the United States. When other resources are not available, he said, home service is always ready to provide for the families of service men.

Beckstrand pointed out that 90 per cent of all home service workers are volunteers.

Classy Dayroom Meets Approval

"Home was never like this" was the expression used by many G.I.s in the base squadron this week when the newly renovated squadron dayroom was opened following more than a week of alterations.

Divided into two sections, the building houses both a lounge and game room. In the lounge section are writing desks, magazine racks, books and easy chairs. A combination radio-phonograph and a piano can be used for entertainment, while a phone booth is available for personal calls. New rugs and electrical fixtures have been installed and the appearance of the room greatly improved by using wallboard on both walls and ceiling.

Pool tables, ping pong and miscellaneous table games have been provided for the game room.

Lt. William Rosen, squadron adjutant, said the game room would remain open 24 hours a day. The lounge will open at noon and close at midnight.

Alterations were made by members of the base squadron, with materials donated by Pocatello building firms. Technical advice was given by the post engineers.

Lieutenant Rosen, who drew the plans, said two other dayrooms on the base will be renovated in the same manner.



ADVERSE to publicity is this powerful member of the Pocatello army air base K-9 Corps. The photographer was safe behind a steel fence, but trespassers meeting the dog on duty won't find such protection.

K-9 Corps Always on the Growl for Any Uninvited Air Base Visitors

Most soldiers like dogs, but there's no love lost at Pocatello between G.I.s and members of the post K-9 corps.

Selected for guard duty, the dogs have been trained "to walk their post in a military manner" and bite everyone in sight.

First dogs to arrive on the base were escorted from Fort Robinson, Nebraska, by Sgt. Floyd Toon last October. Assisting him in caring for the animals is Pfc. Royce Stauffer. Together, they have trained the dogs for sentry duty, teaching them commands and instructing them in obedience.

Not all training was done at Pocatello, however. The first dogs brought in by Toon received their basic training at Fort Robinson. There they went through a regular reception center, were given serial numbers, got disease prevention shots, footprinted, given a service

record, classified and sent to school. Toon, more or less, met them at the schoolhouse door, and they attended classes together. K-9 corporals have even received close order drill.

Recently, more dogs arrived from California, to swell the ranks, but according to Toon, the T.O. is still not filled.

Squadron headquarters for the K-9 corps is in a remote area where their training can be carried on without danger of on-lookers being attacked.

Proud of his outfit, Toon boasts of their ability. "My dogs," he says, "can smell a man 400 feet away. When we use a man and dog team, we're actually doubling the guard."

Though the dogs have been trained for wartime duties, Toon explained that before they are returned to their civilian owners, they will be given a "softening up" course to readjust them to a future of peaceful home life.

The Bloomin' Things Are Out

Soldiers touched with spring fever will find a suitable gift for the one and only in the shipment of luminous flowers received this week at the PX.

Lt. Richard C. Pongo, PX officer, said the flowers have been best sellers in the past and should prove popular this year as Easter gifts. Designed as costume jewelry, the flowers are made in the form of gardenias and orchids and are covered with a luminous chemical which causes them to glow in the dark. Selling price is 75 cents.

Lieutenant Pongo also announced he had received word from luggage manufacturers stating that new orders for luggage cannot be filled before July. The lieutenant said the PX has a limited supply of luggage on hand. Kleenex, he said, will be sold in small boxes only, when the present supply is exhausted.

Officers Hire Herbie Kay for Dance May Play Free for Enlisted Men

First "name" orchestra to hit the Pocatello army air base will play Sunday evening, April 2, when Herbie Kay's orchestra plays a formal dance in the Officers' club.

Hired by the officers, Lt. Charles Goldberg, officer in charge of the club, said he has requested that Kay's men appear before the enlisted men at the theater matinee free of charge. An answer to Lieutenant Goldberg's request has not yet been received, but it is believed the plan will be approved by the popular orchestra man and that everyone on the base will have an equal opportunity to hear the rhythms of the Kay orchestra.

Long a favorite in hotels, smart supper clubs and on the air, Kay has presented his entire organization featuring Woody Wilson and

Kay Hughes as singing stars. With an impressive list of engagements behind them, Kay's musicians hold the distinction of being the first orchestra honored with five record engagements at the Edgewater Beach hotel in Chicago, first nationally known name orchestra to play four consecutive seasons at the smart Meadowbrook Country club in St. Louis, and first prize winner in attendance records in orchestra popularity at the Texas centennial.

During their years on the road, Kay's men have appeared at nearly every leading night spot in the nation, including the Trianon and Aragon ballrooms in Chicago, Blackhawk restaurant in Chicago, Catalina Island Casino, Coconut Grove in Los Angeles, and the Mark Hopkins and Sir Francis Drake hotels in San Francisco.

Bannock County School Head Gives Okey to New Type Army School

Scholastic recognition by the state of Idaho was given the Aviation squadron's Self-Improvement school last week following a meeting of air base representatives, Pocatello teachers and Scott D. Lowe, superintendent of Bannock county schools.

Lowe approved a suggestion that credit be given students as they advance in their studies and said diplomas will be awarded those who pass the standard eighth grade tests. Receipt of a diploma will qualify the student for promotion to high school in Idaho.

The superintendent pointed out that scholastic standards in Idaho are high and a diploma certifying completion of the eighth grade under Idaho standards will be recognized throughout the country. Because some of the men in the squadron have had no schooling and many have received only two or three years, Lowe said they will be given certificates of completion for each grade they advance.

Lt. H. B. Travis and Herschell L. Johnson and members of the Westbrook McPherson and Don Perkins represented the air base during the discussions. Mrs. Earl Rainey and Miss Lorene Hendricks appeared for the teachers.

Started more than two months ago by the American Association of University Women, the school has had a rapid growth in attendance to nearly 100. Classes were held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 1900 to 2100 in the squadron mess halls. More than 15 teachers from the Pocatello city schools are donating their time to instruct classes ranging from beginner's reading, writing and arithmetic to advanced history, English, Textbooks and materials are furnished jointly by the county school system and the air base.

The Self-Improvement school is believed to be the only one of its kind in the nation and has proved a highly successful demonstration of the cooperation that can exist between civilian organizations and the military.

Provost Marshall Warns Drivers

"Three strikes and you're out" was the substance of the warning issued this week by Lt. Alexander K. Johnson, base provost marshal, to civilian drivers who violate base driving regulations.

Warning civilians as well as bases personnel who drive private cars on the base, Lieutenant Johnson said the drive is on to apprehend all persons who violate driving regulations. Civilian cars, he said, will be barred from the base after the driver has received three warnings. Service men will receive disciplinary action from their commanding officers.

Particular signs of the major violation, the lieutenant said, with illegal parking a close second. "A particular effort will be made," he said, "to cite drivers exceeding the 20-mile speed limit and those who make 'U' turns on the base."

Lieutenant Johnson said privately owned motor vehicles operated on the base must be registered with the provost marshal, and must display on the windshield a Pocatello army air base identification sticker. All privately owned cars on the base must carry \$5,000 property damage insurance and \$10,000 public liability.

Housed in its newly renovated quarters, the base library was open for business this week with a new collection of books in fiction and non-fiction best sellers. Marie Gregerson, base librarian, said many new books have been added to the library and are waiting to be loaned to literary loving G.I.s. In stock are such current favorites as Ernie Pyle's "Here is Your War," "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," and "The Robe," by Lloyd C. Douglas. In addition, a new shipment of technical works, western stories and mystery novels has been received.

Located in the rear of the special services building between the base theater and post office, the library is open daily from 0930 to 2300.

Library Stocks Best Sellers

Write your suggestion on a piece of paper with your name, rank, organization and the date. Then mail or bring the entry to the special services office next to the base theater. In the event several persons submit the prize-winning name, the bond will go to the first person submitting the title.

Each Sunday evening the club presents an informal musical program using the talents of soldiers and civilians. The latest G.I. movies are shown on Tuesdays and Fridays. Thursdays, at 2130, the air base radio program, "Pass in Review," broadcasts from the main lounge. When attendance warrants it, the Monday night bingo games will again be scheduled.

Historical Film For Orientation

"Land of Liberty," a review of American history in motion picture form from colonial days until 1938, will highlight the two remaining orientation lectures on this week's orientation program. Viewed for the first time at today's program in the base theater, the film will be shown twice on Friday, April 19 and 20, 1940.

"Land of Liberty" is a documentary film prepared by the war department, presenting in an entertaining manner the social, industrial and military changes that have occurred in U. S. history. The picture was followed by a Hollywood cast and will be shown in four parts, with part two scheduled for next week.

The latest war news, including a biographical sketch of Lt. Gen. Mark Wayne Clark of the American Fifth army, and the Quarter Quail will round out the Friday program.

War Bond Award For New Name

It's been "Bombardier" since Sgts. Joe Lepo and Harry Fleischman won the contest to name Nov. 20, 1942. Since that time, the Bombardier has been widely reprinted and quoted throughout the nation. The current edition of Esquire magazine carries two gags taken from Bombardier Cocktails. Other material from the base paper has appeared in newspapers from coast to coast and in Army Times and Yank magazine.

But now, the editors feel a more appropriate name is needed. And for you, Joe Jeep, there's a \$25 war bond if you come across with the winning suggestion.

Contest rules are simple: Write your suggestion on a piece of paper with your name, rank, organization and the date. Then mail or bring the entry to the special services office next to the base theater. In the event several persons submit the prize-winning name, the bond will go to the first person submitting the title.

Fun For Free At EM Club

"Never a dull moment" is the motto followed by Esther Nyström, Lenore Williams and Rosemary Walters, hostesses at the Enlisted Men's Service club. From 0930 in the morning the club closes at 2330, the girls see to it that there's always something doing for their guests.

Each Sunday evening the club presents an informal musical program using the talents of soldiers and civilians. The latest G.I. movies are shown on Tuesdays and Fridays. Thursdays, at 2130, the air base radio program, "Pass in Review," broadcasts from the main lounge. When attendance warrants it, the Monday night bingo games will again be scheduled.

A piano and a record library, embracing both classical and popular music, can be used by visitors any time. Recently, several new popular records have been added to the club's collection. In addition to entertainment activities, the club operates a free sewing service on Wednesdays. Soldiers are invited to bring their clothes in for the sewing of stripes, patches and minor alterations. Stationery and ink are furnished free and packages will be wrapped for mailing without charge.

Bombardier. The Fighter Pilot. June 14-1944

Commencement Ceremony



A SCROLL commemorating the occasion is presented to Miss Lorene Henricks, director of Pocatello Base School No. 1, by Pfc. Roscoe Hardaway on behalf of Section B students. Sgt. Julian W. McPherson and 1st/Sgt. Raymond B. Hoge are the observers.—AAF Official photo.



CERTIFICATES of recognition for having satisfactorily attended school of the past semester are awarded by Mrs. Earl Rainey of the American Association of University Women, one of 18 teachers who donated their time and talent to the project. Reading from left to right are 1st/Sgt. Raymond B. Hodge, Mrs. Rainey, Pfc. Homer McGowan, Pfc. Napoleon White, Pvt. Renzie Williams, Pfc. Roscoe Hardaway and Pvt. Charlie Harvey. AAF Official photo.

Air Field Soldiers To Get Certificates

Certificates to some 60 colored soldiers at the Pocatello army air field will be distributed at ceremonies at 7 p.m. Sunday at the field. The certificates mark completion of a school course given at the field in Pocatello base school No. 1. The course opened Jan. 25 with teachers from the Pocatello system acting as instructors.

The certificates will be distributed by Second Lieut. Joseph A. Giradina. Maj. William H. Clark, director of training, will also speak.

Classes have been held every Tuesday and Friday with instruction in the work of the first eight grades. The school is under the direction of Mrs. Lorena Hendricks and is recognized and accredited by the state superintendent of public instruction. According to the instructors the soldiers have proven industrious and interested students, many of those enrolled having had much of their preliminary formal education interrupted through various causes. Having attended a school recognized by the state educational system the men are given scholastic credits for the work which they have done, which will allow them to continue their studies in any recognized educational institution.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

SYMBOLS
DL=Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

1201

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

PZA13

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WUCA131C(NINE)

NL=MADISON WIS 17=

MISS LORENE HENDRICKS=

1944 MAY 18 AM 6 34

PRES BRANCH AMN ASSN UNIV WOMEN (POCATELLO IDA)=

I WISH I COULD BE WITH YOU BUT UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENTS HERE
MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE I THINK YOUVE DONE SPLENDIDLY=

HELEN C WHITE.

No.	To
By	At To Be

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Pocatello Tribune
MAY 24th



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Lineage and Honors

148th FIELD ARTILLERY

Organized 1 September 1989 from new and existing units in the Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon Army National Guard as the 148th Field Artillery, a parent regiment under the United States Army Regimental System, to consist of the 1st Battalion, an element of the 116th Cavalry Brigade

Reorganized 1 June 1993 in the Idaho and Oregon Army National Guard to consist of the 1st Battalion, an element of the 116th Cavalry Brigade

Reorganized 1 December 1996 in the Idaho, Oregon, and Utah Army National Guard to consist of the 1st Battalion, an element of the 116th Cavalry Brigade

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

Headquarters Battery (Pocatello, Idaho), 1st Battalion, entitled to:

World War II - EAME

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

World War II-AP

Papua

New Guinea (with arrowhead)

Luzon

Southern Philippines

148th FIELD ARTILLERY

Battery B (Smithfield, Utah), 1st Battalion, entitled to:

World War II - AP
Bismarck Archipelago
Luzon (with arrowhead)
Southern Philippines

Korean War
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
UN Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

Battery C (Rexburg, Idaho), 1st Battalion, entitled to:

Vietnam
Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969

DECORATIONS

Headquarters Battery (Pocatello, Idaho), 1st Battalion, entitled to:

French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, Streamer embroidered PONT-BROCARD

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the Ardennes

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944
TO 4 JULY 1945

Battery B (Smithfield, Utah), 1st Battalion, entitled to:

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944
TO 4 JULY 1945

148th FIELD ARTILLERY

Battery C (Rexburg, Idaho), 1st Battalion, entitled to:

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM
1968-1969

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John S. Brown".

JOHN S. BROWN
Brigadier General, United States Army
Chief of Military History

NAVAL ORDNANCE PLANT PHOTOS



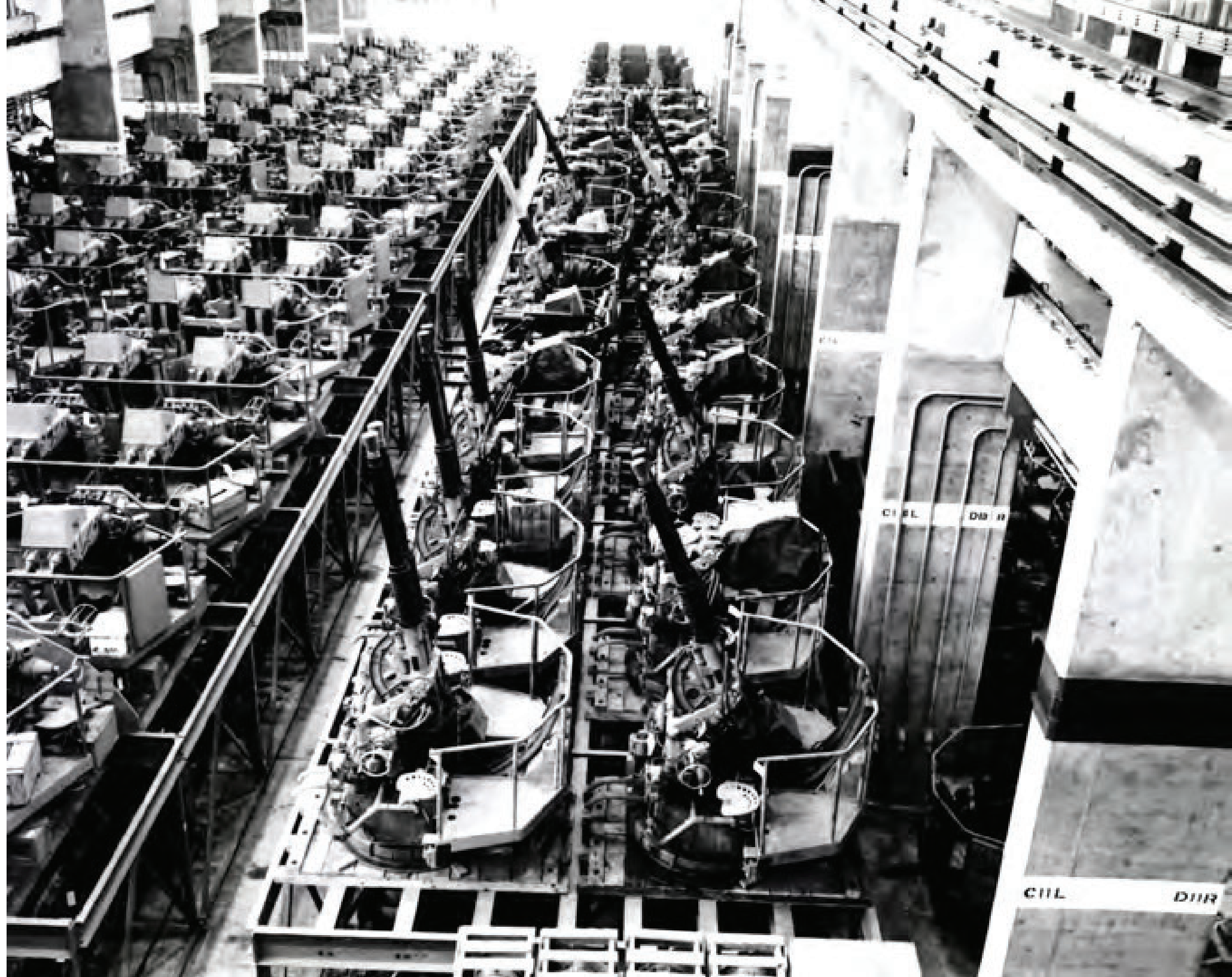
A WPA PROJECT
ARMED & DANGEROUS
NO ENTRY WITHOUT PERMISSION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



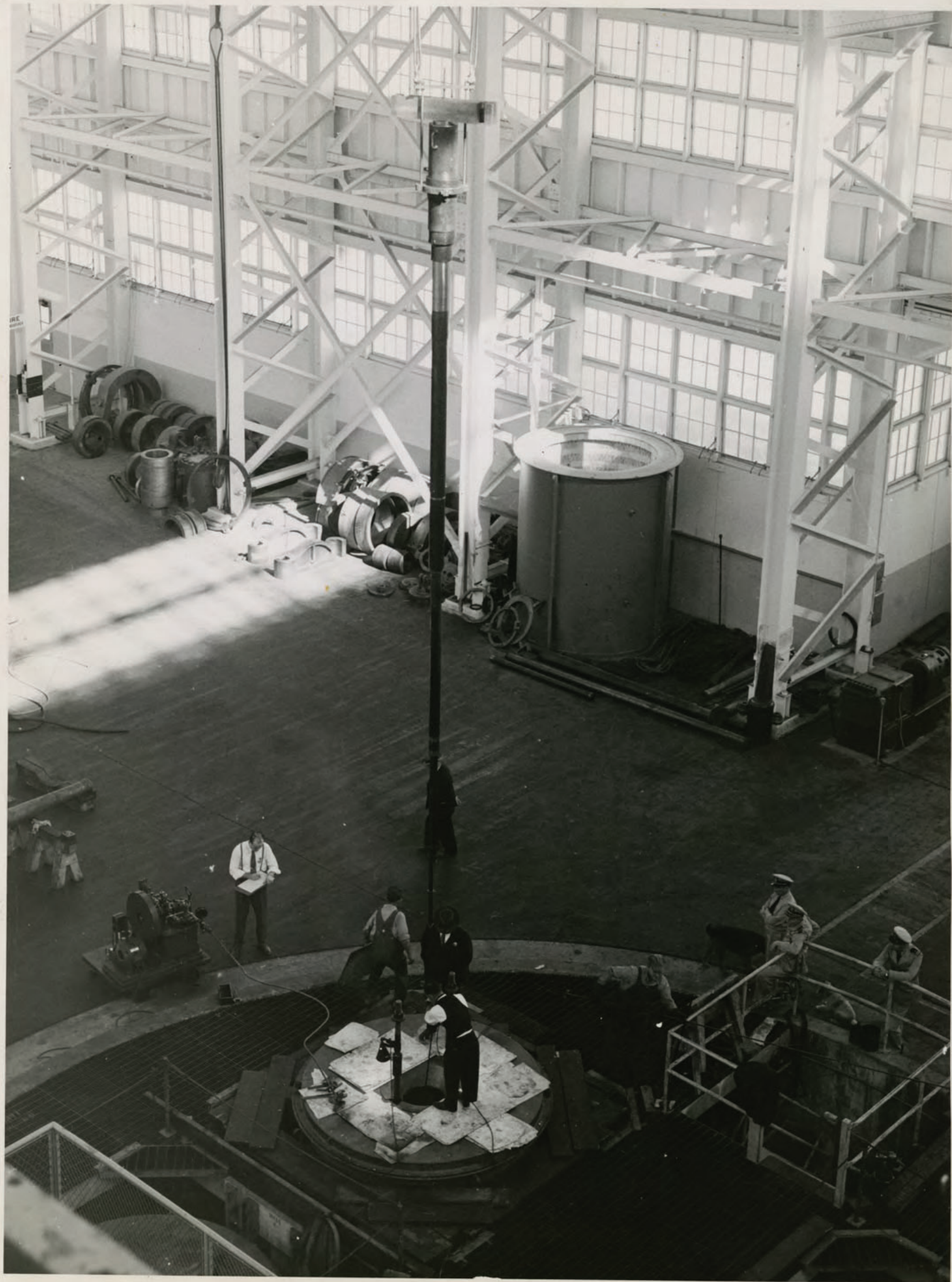
U. S. Naval Ordnance Plant
Pocatello, Idaho.

Buildings and yard area 170 acres. Four large warehouses for Ordnance storage in foreground. Gun Plant and overhaul shops middle area. Large 16 inch caliber gun plant in upper L.H. corner.



















2016.11.22









POCATELLO USO PHOTOS

POCATELLO RAILROAD PHOTO
1941



POCATELLO

THE GATE CITY THROUGH WHICH PASSENGERS
AND REPRESENTATIVE TRAVELERS
AND COMMERCE.

A FORMER INDIAN WINTER CAMPING
GARDEN NAMED AFTER A DANISH
SETTLER (DANISHES VILLAGE) FOR
ALL SHAPING (LEGION) BY AT
COMPLETION THROUGH THE LINE.

ELEVATION 4463 FEET
POPULATION 28500

OVER 1000 DANISH SWEDISH
INDIANS IN THE 1930s FUTURE ADJACENT
POCATELLO ADMINISTRATION AND
SCHOOL BUILDINGS LOCATED AT FORT
BULL 10 MILES NORTH OF CITY

RAIL DISTANCES FROM POCATELLO
DENVER 104 MILES
CHICAGO 1040
PORTLAND 324
LOS ANGELES 453
SALT LAKE CITY 150
SAN FRANCISCO 631
YELLOWSTONE 184
SUN VALLEY 174



USO Hut, Pocatello, Idaho where coffee, milk, sandwiches, cakes and stationery are distributed by volunteer workers to service men and women traveling on the Union Pacific Railroad.





POCATELLO USO HUT

VETERANS HERE FOR THE RODEO
ON THEIR WAY TO LAVA FOR A PICNIC

USO Hut, Pocatello, Idaho where coffee, milk, sandwiches, cakes and stationery are distributed by volunteer workers to service men and women traveling on the Union Pacific Railroad.





MEMORIALS & SUPPORTING PHOTOS



POCATELLO ARMY AIR BASE



96TH BOMB GROUP B-17
382ND BOMB GROUP B-24
453RD BOMB GROUP B-24
464TH BOMB GROUP B-24
362ND FIGHTER SQUADRON P-30
265TH FIGHTER PILOT
TRAINING SQUADRON P-47
201 SQUADRON MEXICAN A.F. P-47
382ND BASE AND H.Q. SQUADRON



1942 — 1949

SOUTH EAST IDAHO
VETERANS MEMORIAL

DEDICATED TO
THOSE WHO SERVED AND SUPPORTED.

We are forever grateful
to the many who made
the ultimate sacrifice.





Southeast Idaho
**VETERANS
MEMORIAL**
Dedicated
November 5, 2005

Small rectangular plaques on the ground, each containing a name and a small circular emblem. The names are arranged in rows, and the emblems are small circular medallions. The plaques are set into a concrete base.

ENDORSEMENTS & LETTERS OF SUPPORT

MIKE SIMPSON

SECOND DISTRICT, IDAHO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2312 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225-5531

FAX: (202) 225-8216

DISTRICT OFFICE:

802 WEST BANNOCK STREET, SUITE 600

BOISE, ID 83702

(208) 334-1953

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simpson.house.gov



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 25, 2025

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
CHAIRMAN

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Jessica Bowron
Acting Director, National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: American World War II Heritage City Nomination for the City of Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Ms. Bowron,

I am writing to support the nomination of Pocatello, Idaho as an American World War II Heritage City. The city of Pocatello fully supported U.S. involvement in World War II and like many other communities, eagerly signed up for the fight to defend our nation's freedoms. Pocatello, however, was uniquely positioned to contribute to the war effort even further. Due to its inland location and the presence of major railroad facilities, the United States Military sought to locate wartime manufacturing and training facilities in Pocatello.

In 1942, the U.S. Armed Forces established an air base (which now serves as the Pocatello Regional Airport) as a training facility for B-17 and B-24 bombing units. In 1943, the U.S. Navy constructed a V-12 unit at the University of Idaho Southern Branch (now Idaho State University) and a Naval Ordnance Plant, which was primarily used for relining naval weaponry and was one of only two such facilities in the country.

Over the years, efforts have been made to preserve the legacy of Pocatello's contributions to the war effort. These include the renovation of air hangers at the Airport and facilities at the Naval Ordnance Plant as well as establishment of several memorials and events including the Pocatello Air Base Monument, the Southeast Idaho Veterans Memorial, the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge, the Gold Star Monument, the annual Veterans Day parade, the annual Pearl Harbor commemoration event, and the Idaho Field of Heroes Memorial. Pocatello is exceptionally well suited and highly deserves the honor of this program. I urge you to give this nomination your full and fair consideration applicable to all rules and regulations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

April 4, 2025

Jessica Bowron
Acting Director, National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington ,DC 202040

Dear Ms. Bowron,

I and the Board of Directors of the Bannock County Historical Society are in full support of the nomination for Pocatello, Idaho, to be designated as an American World War II Heritage City.

This designation will increase the accessibility of the general public to important aspects of local history—major contributions of our city and county to the U.S. effort during World War Two, the Pocatello Air Base, the Naval Ordnance Plant, as well as university and community contributions not only to the war effort, but continuing reminders through Veteran's Day and Memorial Day celebrations, and a Yearly field of Honor for those who gave their lives in service to our country..

Pocatello is also home to a Veterans Memorial building, Museum and event center open to the public.

Pocatello is a city proud of its history and the contributions of its citizens in all times of national emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arlen Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Arlen Walker
President
Bannock County Historical Society

March 25, 2025

Jessica Bowron
Acting Director, National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: American World War II Heritage City Nomination for the City of Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Ms. Bowron,

I write to you to endorse the nomination of Pocatello, Idaho as an American World War II Heritage City. Pocatello and its citizens were in full support of U.S. involvement in World War II and like many other communities, Pocatellans eagerly signed up for the fight to defend the nation's freedoms. Pocatello, however, was uniquely positioned to contribute to the war effort even further than just soldiers. Due to its inland location and the presence of major railroad facilities, the United States Military sought to locate wartime manufacturing and training facilities in Pocatello. In 1942, the U.S. Armed Forces established an air base (now serving as the Pocatello Regional Airport) as a training facility for B-17 and B-24 bombing units and performed. In 1943, the U.S. Navy established both a Naval Ordnance Plant, used primarily for the relining of naval weaponry (one of two such facilities in the nation), and a V-12 unit at the University of Idaho Southern Branch (now Idaho State University).

Over the years, efforts have been made to preserve the legacy of Pocatello's contributions to the war effort. These include the renovation of air hangers at the Airport and facilities at the Naval Ordnance Plant as well as establishment of several memorials and events including the Pocatello Air Base Monument, the Southeast Idaho Veterans Memorial, the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge, the Gold Star Monument, the annual Veterans Day parade, and the annual Pearl Harbor commemoration event. It is clear that Pocatello is more than fitting for the honor of this program. I urge your positive consideration of Pocatello's nomination as an American World War II Heritage City.

The American Legion Post 4 has been in Pocatello serving the Veterans and community since 1920. We have had many WWII Veterans in our Post but sadly there are very few remaining.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Wangelin
Commander American Legion Post 4
Pocatello, Idaho

Mayor Brian C. Blad

Rick Cheatum | Linda Leeuwrik | Corey Mangum
Josh Mansfield | Brent R. Nichols | Hayden James Paulsen

April 9, 2025

Jessica Bowron
Acting Director, National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: American World War II Heritage City Nomination

Dear Ms. Bowron,

I am writing to submit a nomination for Pocatello, Idaho, to be designated as an American World War II Heritage City. Pocatello's rich history, strategic location, and vital contributions to the war effort during World War II make it a fitting candidate for this distinction. The city's development as a railroad hub, its role in war-time training and production, and its enduring legacy of honoring veterans and preserving historical sites highlight the importance of Pocatello in both wartime and peacetime history.

During WWII, Pocatello fostered an active and supportive home front. The establishment of an Army air base, a Naval Ordnance Plant were two hot beds for war-time activity in the community. The USO Hut and the University of Idaho – Southern Branch (now Idaho State University), also provided essential support for the war effort, further solidifying Pocatello's role in the larger national context.

Pocatello has taken significant steps to honor its WWII legacy, with memorials such as the Southeast Idaho Veterans Memorial, Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, and the Pocatello Army Air Base Monument. Annual events like the Veterans Day Parade and the ongoing efforts to support the Honor Flight Network ensure that the contributions of those who served are continually celebrated.

I believe that Pocatello's history, military significance, and ongoing efforts to preserve and honor its wartime past make it a deserving candidate for the title of an American World War II Heritage City. I am confident that this designation would not only recognize the city's vital role in the war effort but also provide an opportunity for continued education and reflection on Pocatello's historical importance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Blad, Mayor

An American World War II Heritage City Nomination for Pocatello, Idaho

Pocatello, as a city, began as a boxcar depot along a narrow-gauge rail line that connected Salt Lake City to Montana mining operations in the mid to late 1800s, following earlier stagecoach routes. In 1889, Pocatello was incorporated and quickly became a major railroad hub. Its location became a critical junction point for rail and auto, becoming known as the "Gateway to the Northwest". The period between 1889 and the events leading up to World War II included the development of a strong mercantile town and the establishment of an academy which is now known as Idaho State University, all centered on a strong railroad-industrial center. Due to its inland location, and robust railroad services, the stage was set for Pocatello to enlist in support of the war effort during World War II. "Pocatello could offer much to the war effort. Besides the people who served in the armed forces from Pocatello, the city's most visible assistance to the war was as a railroad center, as the location of an Army Air Force training base, and as the site of a Naval Ordnance Plant (NOP)." (Balmforth, 1987) This identity and associated transportation facilities became a critical asset as the United States entered World War II.

The Army Air Base

In 1942, the U.S. Army established an airbase seven miles northwest of Pocatello (which has since been incorporated in the City's boundaries). The airbase, encompassing just over 3,500 acres, became a crucial site for the training of aircrews and was designed to land B-17 and B-24 bombers. One of the B-24 Bombers, named Pocatello Chief fell casualty to the war on March 15, 1944 after being shot down during a bombing mission to Brunswick, Germany. P-39 and P-47 fighters were used for training at the airbase as well. Stationed at the airbase included the 96th and the 382nd Bomber Groups as well as the 453rd (the unit in which movie actor Jimmy Stewart was assigned to during the war) and the 464th. Pocatello was a main flight training facility and just about every pilot, navigator, and bombardier was sent to the airbase for training.

The Pocatello Air Base was a main transfer station for aircraft destined for the Soviet Union as part of the Lend Lease Act. There, U.S. markings were removed from the aircraft and replaced with USSR markings before being sent to Alaska for transfer to the Russian military. The airbase operated as if it were its own city, complete with housing, schools, post office, dining, hospital, chapel, offices and machine shops.

The University of Idaho - Southern Branch (now Idaho State University) provided civilian support for the war effort. The University featured an airfield, University (Ham's) Field, an airframe mechanics program and even featured anti-aircraft weaponry in defense of any possible air attack.

The Pocatello Air Base operated between 1942 and 1945. After being decommissioned, the airbase was deeded to the City of Pocatello on February 20, 1949 and within 2 years began operating as the city-owned Pocatello Municipal Airport (now Pocatello Regional Airport).

Recreation & Education for the Armed Forces

As the airbase came online in 1942 it was quickly made apparent that needed and desired services weren't available. Opportunities for recreation and daily welfare quickly filled this need. An airbase newspaper, *The Bombardier*, was started in November 1942 increasing the servicemen's morale. In the same year, the United Service Organization (USO) established a recreation center in downtown Pocatello which included the use of the Trinity Church's Parish House, housing parties and dances for service men. The USO Hut also provided goods and services for the benefit of service men.

In 1943, the American Association of University Women's Club at the University of Idaho - Southern Branch in Pocatello started the Aviation Squadron Self-Improvement education program at the airbase.

Classes were open to any enlisted man on the base and during the first two months, the school had a rapid growth in attendance. More than 15 teachers from the Pocatello city schools donated their time to instruct classes ranging from beginner's reading, writing, and arithmetic to advanced history and English.

The Naval Ordnance Plant

Local factories and businesses shifted production to support the war effort, including manufacturing parts, equipment, and other military necessities. In April 1942, the U.S. Navy commissioned an industrial facility located just outside of Pocatello (which has since been incorporated in the City's boundaries) which primarily refurbished and manufactured naval gun barrels, artillery, and other ordnance components. Known as the Naval Ordnance Plant (N.O.P), this approximately 200-acre complex included about 50 buildings at the height of wartime production. This facility was one of only two such facilities in the country, and the only one west of the Mississippi. Pocatello was selected for this facility due to it being far enough inland to reduce the risk of enemy attack and the fact that the city was equipped as a major railroad-highway hub.

As weapons were manufactured and refurbished in Pocatello, they were then transported about 50 miles north out in the Arco Desert where the Navy established the Naval Proving Ground to test weapons in preparation for them to return to service in the War. This remote site became the future location of the Idaho National Laboratory.

At the end of the War, the N.O.P. was decommissioned and in the 1950's was sold. The facility then became an industrial park with a portion of the complex eventually including facilities for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a reserve center for the Armed Forces, and a public park named in memory of the wartime facilities (N.O.P. Park).

In June 2021, Industrial Realty Group, LLC (IRG) acquired the complex and rebranded the site as the "Titan Center". Since 2021, IRG has made significant updates to the facilities, sprucing up exterior facades of buildings, infrastructure improvements, and preparing sites to attract a mix of both industrial and commercial tenants.

Honoring Pocatello's WWII Legacy

In Pocatello, there are several memorials and events that honor both home-front and war-front contributions to the war:

Southeast Idaho Veterans Memorial – Dedicated on November 5, 2005, this monument honors the veterans in Southeast Idaho. Bricks laid within the plaza feature the names of servicemen from various wars and conflicts.

Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument – Dedicated on May 28, 2021, this monument honors Idahoans lost during military service and their families. This monument was made possible with the help of Mr. Hershel "Woody" Williams, last surviving veteran from WWII and a Medal of Honor recipient. (<https://idahogoldstarmemorial.com/>)

Pocatello Army Air Base Monument – On the 50th anniversary of the Pocatello Army Air Base (1992) a monument was erected near the front of what is now the Pocatello Regional Airport terminal. This monument is dedicated to the veterans from Pocatello and the Squadrons and Bomb Groups who trained and were stationed at the base.

Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge – Located on W. Fremont Street, crossing the Portneuf River and adjacent to Memorial Park and the Veteran’s Memorial Building (ca. 1924-1926). Each year, Bannock County Veteran Services hosts a Pearl Harbor commemoration ceremony honoring the lives lost in that attack. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBI_5MrYizQ)

Annual Veterans Day Parade – Veterans day parades ceased in Pocatello near the end of WWII. In 2022, efforts were made for such a parade to return to the community. Since 2022 this parade has been an annual event. (<https://www.pocatelloveteransdayparade.com/>)

Living History Flights & Honor Flights – The Commemorative Air Force has selected Pocatello as a stopping point to display and fly arounds for WWII era planes including B-17 and B-25 bombers. (<https://commemorativeairforce.org/>) The City is actively working with the Honor Flight Network for Pocatello to serve as a hub for its program. (<https://www.honorflight.org/>)

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