

Of note are the 1903 Sniper Rifle, the Garand sniper rifle and the rare Johnson rifle.

17 Firearms of the Axis & Allies 1897-1945

On display are most of the common types of longarms used in war by countries other than the United States, including the scarce sniper rifles.

18 "Bring Backs" 1914-1973

Many soldiers brought back trophies or souvenirs from their time overseas. The items in this case are a collection of Bring Backs brought by returning soldiers, including a large Nazi banner taken from Hitler's mountain retreat, and a small piece of pottery found in Nagasaki after the dropping of the atomic bomb in 1945.

"Bring Backs" from troops who have been and lived through wartime experiences give us a glimpse into the time period and memories of a soldier.

19 Korean War Desert Storm United State Marine Corps

On display are the battle uniforms of the U.S. and Korean soldiers in the Korean War (1950-1953) followed by the soldiers who served in the "sand wars" of Iraq and Afghanistan. Finally, the Marine and Navy. Dress uniforms from 1904-1950 are displayed.

20 Hap Arnold Flying Tigers

Hap Arnold was the Founder of the United States Air Force in 1946. He was a 5-star general in WWII – also see his uniform displayed in the 5-star Generals area of the museum.

David Lee "Tex" Hill was a squadron leader with the **Flying Tigers**; a group of U.S. pilots hired by China to fly over China, Burma and India in the 1930s. These pilots wore a Blood Chit on the back of their jacket– a small gesture of peace as well

as a plea for help if a service member was ever shot down and unable to speak the local language. The example shown is a beautiful one.

During WWII, blood chits were printed in 50 different languages for various servicemen to wear, all promising a reward for the safe return of the pilot.

21 Handguns of War 1910-Present

Innovative and resourceful hand weapons used by many countries in various wars throughout the decades, including the new and current U.S. Military issue Sig Sauer pistol.

22 Early Air Service - U.S. Army

The very first uniforms worn by U.S. Soldiers who flew airplanes are exhibited here. The early uniforms are understandably rare as there were few pilots and they generally wore their tunics until they were worn out.

23 U.S. Civil War Weaponry and Uniforms

In the lower left side of the case, you'll see Hardtack – a 150-year-old biscuit made of only flour and water and sometimes a pinch of salt or sugar. It has been a staple for militaries around for world for centuries as it is filling and keeps for a very long time as long it stays dry. During the Civil War, rations of 9 or 10 per day were given to soldiers. Oftentimes, because of the density and hardness, they would be dipped or soaked in coffee or soup before consumption.

Photos and firearms are represented here as well. This was the last war fought primarily with percussion firearms.

24 U.S. Indian War Weaponry and Uniforms

During the Indian War, developments in arms and ammunition created a far more lethal battlefield than any soldier had ever experienced. The firearms and bullets used during these wars included the introduction of the cartridge firearm, which caused more bloodshed and casualties than in wars in

previous decades. The rifles and pistols could be easily loaded, quickly fired, and shot accurately at very long distances.

25 U.S. Military Longarms 1855-1903

This display shows the relative improvement of U.S. Military longarms beginning immediately after the Civil War and up until WWI. Some of these are so rare as to be considered experimental.

26 U.S. Dress Helmets

In the 19th century from 1872-1891 the U.S. Army dress uniforms included these dress helmets. Designed after the German dress helmet of the time, they went out of favor by 1900.

27 Insignia

All members of the Military throughout the world rely on insignia to differentiate ranks, units, jobs, etc. This insignia collection is quite complete for U.S. ribbons and medals and also shows many fancy sashes and medals presented by foreign countries.

Your donations to our educational and military programs are greatly appreciated.

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MAIN LEVEL

1 Col. Edward Daniels - U.S. Army 1915-1947

A highly decorated soldier, Col. Edward Daniels began his military career as a Cavalryman during the time of General George Patton. He later became the man who purchased all horses for the Army Quartermaster Corps from the 1930s to 1943 when horses were no longer being used. He fought in WWI and WWII.

View his various medals and certificates as well as the bullet and shrapnel that wounded him during his time in the service.

2 WY National Guard 115th Cavalry

The WY National Guard fought with honor in the First World War and throughout the 1920s and 1930s they served the state of Wyoming. They were sent to fight in WWII and were merged into other units in 1943.

3 U.S. Army Uniforms 1902-1912

After the Spanish American War the number of soldiers needed was greatly reduced. Between 1902 and WWI, the uniforms changed in design and are difficult to find today.

4 Women in the Service

Featuring Lt. General Susan Helms, who was not only a test pilot, but an Astronaut. She attained the rank of Lt. General and head of the 9th Air Force before retiring from her Air Force career. Two uniforms are displayed on the east wall of this room. Perhaps she is the only astronaut represented in a museum in Wyoming.

Other female General Officers are shown together with WWII uniforms of the WASP, WAC and Nurses who served.

5 Military Honor Room Bill Bergan

Pilot Bill Bergan, born in Chappell Nebraska, was sent to New Mexico for training and later went to Benghazi, Libya in 1943 where he flew B24s on over 30 raids. The hole in the left arm of his leather flying jacket is from shrapnel during a raid over Germany. However, Bergan wasn't wearing it at the time – it was hanging on the back of his seat.

Capt. Bergan's most important mission was flying a B24 on the Ploesti Romania air raid, which destroyed the oil field and helped to shorten the war. For this flight he was awarded the Silver Star for bravery.

6 Buffalo Soldiers Medal of Honor Room

Buffalo Soldiers were black Americans who served in the Army from the Indian Wars through WWII. The primary task of the Buffalo Soldiers was to help control the Native Americans of the Plains and to protect settlers, stagecoaches, & railroad crews along the Western plains.

Francis E. Warren was Wyoming's first Governor and first U.S. Senator. During the Civil War he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for Bravery. That medal was traded in for the second style in 1896 and in 1904 he received the third style. Both of these medals are displayed.

7 U.S. Army Artillery 1860-1912

The **artillery** branch of the Army from the Civil War era to present day has always had red trim on their uniforms. The saddle on the horse is configured so as to be able to pull artillery or ammunition.

8 U.S. Army Cavalry Garrison Uniforms

While not in the field, the **cavalry** wore the uniforms you see here. Cavalry high boots and rider pants set the branch of service apart from the other services. The horse cavalry was discontinued in 1943.

LOWER LEVEL

9 5 Star Generals

During WWII there were five important Generals who were promoted to 5-Star rank- note the shape of the General Officer's insignia.

Dwight Eisenhower, Hap Arnold, George Marshall, Omar Bradley and Douglas MacArthur were these five Generals.

10 MACV Generals

Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was established in February 1962 in response to the growing U.S. Military assistance to South Vietnam.

Paul Harkins was the first commanding general of MACV, succeeded by William Westmoreland in 1964, followed by Creighton Abrams in 1968 and finally by Frederick Weyand in June 1972.

The Westmoreland, Abrams and Weyand uniforms were obtained directly from the families of the Generals. General Westmoreland is a particularly rare uniform to have on display.

11 Infantry Uniforms

The battle uniforms of the U.S. Infantry are shown in this display. Beginning with the Spanish American War (1898), going on to WWI (1914-1918), then to WWII (1940-1945). These uniforms are complete with original weaponry and insignia. Note the differences between the Officer's and Enlisted men's uniforms.

12 Axis/Allies - WWII

This exhibit shows an officer and an enlisted soldier dressed in their battle uniforms of WWII. The British and Russians are at the beginning of the display (Allies), followed by the Germans, Italians and Japanese (Axis). All show original uniforms and weaponry as would've been worn in WWII.

13 Ronald Bliss

A POW in Vietnam, the uniform displayed here is the one he wore following his return to the U.S. after being released from the Hanoi Hilton.

The framed 1973 volume of LIFE Magazine features his photo on the cover as he was being taken captive by the Vietnamese after his plane crashed into a lake in Hanoi. The cover states his name as "Ronald Dodge," which was retracted and corrected in the following volume.

He spent 7 years as a POW and took the camp rules off the wall when he left (see framed rules in Vietnamese and English).

Ron Bliss was raised here in Cheyenne and graduated from Cheyenne High School in 1960 with the founder of our museum, Bob Nelson.

14 Vietnam

Under Ho Chi Minh, the communist leader of North Vietnam, women were expected to support and fight to unify their country. The majority of Vietnamese women involved in the war played a role in nursing or ensuring that the soldiers had food and shelter, but those who joined the Viet Cong often worked behind enemy lines in combat positions. Shown here are several uniforms worn by the Viet Cong, our U.S. troops and an ARVAN trooper.

15 Uniforms of Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs & Chiefs of Staff of the Air Force and Army

Only one General at a time holds these important positions and all are 4-Star rank. This exhibit is one of the most popular at the museum. Many of these men graduated from our Military Academies and many began at the lowest ranks, working their way to the highest.

16 U.S. Longarms 1897-1970

The span of U.S. Military Longarms of War show all types of rifles and shotguns used during this period.