



NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Frontline

# ZEITLIN MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

## DECEMBER 10-12, 2009

INSIDE:

“Boys” and  
Civil War Battle

Flags

Notable

Military

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Capitol

Ornaments are

in!

and more...

Join us as we honor the academic legacy of Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin, longtime director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and distinguished alumnus of the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Zeitlin was one of Wisconsin's finest military history scholars and helped propel the field forward with his work on Wisconsin soldiers in the Civil War and the development of the nation's finest military history museum, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Dr. Zeitlin passed away in December 2008, but his memory will live on through his family, friends, colleagues, and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

This symposium, which features two special lectures, three paper presentations, and the dedication of the Museum's Education Center, is free and open to the public, and is presented in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of History, Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy (WAGE), the Grand Strategy Program, and the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA).

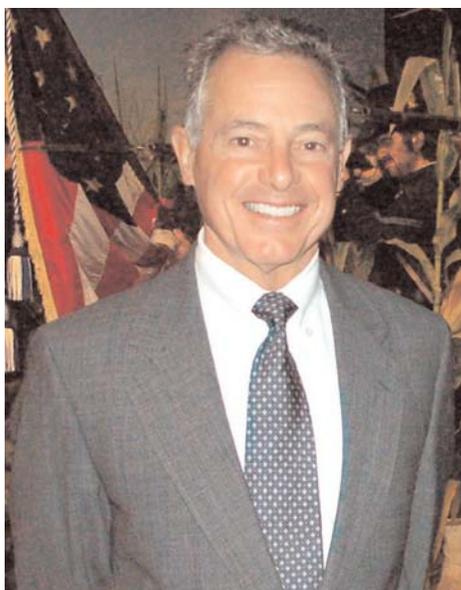
A full program description can be found on the sidebars of this issue of *The Bugle* beginning on page four. The event will culminate with a dedication of the museum's education center in honor of Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin on Saturday, December 12, at Noon.

University of Wisconsin Professor of History Jeremi Suri and University of Vermont Professor Emeritus of History Mark Stoler will share reflections about Dr. Zeitlin's career, but also discuss the current state of the military history field and history of the Military History program at UW-Madison. WDVA Secretary John Scocos will discuss Dr. Zeitlin's legacy. A plaque honoring Dr. Zeitlin will be unveiled at the outset of the event.

On December 3, 2008, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Director Richard H. Zeitlin, Ph.D. passed away. A published author, a respected historian, and an accomplished scholar, Zeitlin led the Museum and Foundation for nearly three decades, overseeing the move of the facility from the State Capitol to 30 West Mifflin, and increasing the status of the Museum from a once quaint room of military relics to an internationally-known and revered military history institution. He took special enjoyment in hosting his

friends and colleagues during the museum's Distinguished Lecture Series, and was always impressed at the intelligence, interest, and caliber of our museum audience. While he is no longer with us, Zeitlin's legacy remains – in our exhibits, in our educational programs, and in our future – his vision for a grand showcase to honor the service and sacrifice of Wisconsin's citizen-soldiers.

By WVM Staff



**Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin, Ph.D. 1945-2008**

## The Bugle

The purpose of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past by means of instructive exhibits and other educational programs.

The Bugle is a publication of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation which serves to further the museum's mission by providing funds for the acquisition of artifacts, exhibit production, and development of educational programs.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WISCONSIN  
VETERANS  
MUSEUM  
30 W. Mifflin St.,  
Madison, WI 53703  
- On the Capitol Square

HOURS  
Mon. - Sat.  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday Noon - 4 p.m.  
(April-Sept.)

### From the Collections

# THE BOYS OF THE 24TH WISCONSIN INFANTRY

## A STORY OF TWO SOLDIERS

Like many of the great Wisconsin regiments during the Civil War, the 24th Regiment Wisconsin Infantry had its share of battle tested heroes. Although the term "boys" was used loosely at the time, in this case it was accurate. Some of the most celebrated heroes of the 24th Wisconsin were boys, at least in calendar years.

Probably the most famous member of the regiment was

Arthur MacArthur. The son of a prominent judge and a student at a military academy, MacArthur was determined to volunteer at the age of 16. His father insisted he wait a year, eventually allowing him to join in August 1862 after turning 17 only months earlier. His military academy experience, family connections and an exaggeration about his age allowed MacArthur to enter service as a First Lieutenant and adjutant with the 24th Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Veterans Museum Archives, Arthur MacArthur Collection. WVM Mss 1251

**Arthur MacArthur, probably June or July 1865 as indicated by his shoulder rank of Colonel and Headquarters Badge, Military Division of the Mississippi.**

His age and short stature provoked initial teasing, but Arthur MacArthur quickly earned respect. His most gallant action came at the battle of Missionary Ridge on November 25th 1863. Barely 18 years old, First Lieutenant MacArthur grabbed the fallen national colors of the regiment and charged up the ridge under heavy fire, shouting "On Wisconsin!". He was quickly promoted, eventually taking command of the regiment and going on to a successful military career. In 1890 he received the Medal of Honor for his bravery at Missionary Ridge.

Perhaps a less prominent, but equally daring, member of the 24th Wisconsin was Edward Reed Blake of Port Washington. Edward Blake was also 17 at the time of his enlistment, another young man whose age did not deter him from military service. Blake was a product of public schools and although his family was successful and respected in the local community, he came from more modest means than MacArthur. Like MacArthur, Blake's father was against his decision to enlist at such a young age, even offering him \$10,000 if he would reconsider. Blake replied "Father, you cannot bribe me to desert my country".

## Continued - WVM Programs



Wisconsin Veterans Museum Archives, Edward R. Blake Collection, WVM Mss 1176

**Edward Blake, photo taken at close of Civil War with 24th Wisconsin National flag he carried throughout the Atlanta Campaign.**

Blake was an enlisted man and served as a member of the color guard of the 24th Wisconsin. He became color corporal, likely carrying the blue regimental flag, shortly before the battle of Missionary Ridge. Like MacArthur, he was one of the first men to charge up the ridge. Promoted to color sergeant, Blake went on to prove his merit again at the battle of Franklin, where he held the national colors aloft through fierce fighting. When the flag's staff was shot to pieces, he wrapped the flag around his body to save it from capture, buttoned his coat and grabbed a musket to join the fight.

Blake was commissioned to First Lieutenant only days before

the unit left service but, so attached to his duty as color bearer, he obtained MacArthur's permission to continue carrying the flag. In June 1865, as the regiment mustered out of service, Blake had the honor of bringing the regiment's colors home to Wisconsin, turning the tattered flag back over to the state. Like MacArthur, Blake went on to a successful career after the war. He was a well liked businessman and eventually became a state senator. Both men took pride in their military service with the 24th Wisconsin and retold their experiences for years to come.

Coming up: Where are the famous flags of the 24th Wisconsin today?

## Museum Staff

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**INFORMATION**  
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www.museum.dva.state.wi.us

## Zeitlin Symposium

Thursday, December 10,  
2009 – 7pm

### President Obama and the Military

Lecture and discussion

Richard H. Kohn, Professor of History and Peace, War, and Defense, University of North Carolina

The controversy over Iraq strategy and the recommendations of General Stanley McCrystal raises the issue of President Barack Obama's relations with the American military. Obama came into office determined to avoid the distrust and conflict between his Democratic predecessors and the military, and the harm it did to the national defense and the political standing of those presidents and their party. He promised to be strong on national security, respect military advice, and support the armed services. Once in office he made good on those promises, even appointing highly respected retired senior officers to key posts. Then the controversy over Afghanistan policy and strategy burst onto the public scene. How did this happen? What does the controversy portend for civil-military relations, and thus American national security, for the Obama Administration and the country?

From the Archives

# HARRY NEWTON'S BRIEF BRUSH WITH HISTORY

Wisconsin can boast its fair share of notable service people and units from America's military history. Names like Douglas MacArthur and Billy Mitchell, as well as the Iron Brigade and Red Arrow Division are known throughout the state, and even the nation. But in addition to those, there are many more that are

lesser known but just as notable. Milwaukee native Charles King is credited with over seventy years of military service, from the Civil War through the early 1930s, the most in U.S. history. Beaver Dam native Mortimer Lawrence shot down the last German airplane in World War I. Poplar native Richard Bong shot down more enemy aircraft, forty, during World War II than any other American airman. And another Wisconsin man helped end a war that had been dragging on for over two years.

Harry W. Newton, a Superior native, served in Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War in 1898 and, afterward, enlisted into the federal Army for service in the Philippines. Often confused with, or thought to be part of, the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Philippine War was a separate conflict entirely. The Spanish abandoned Manila to U.S. forces in August 1898, angering Filipinos who had dreams of establishing an independent nation. In January 1899, they declared Emilio Aguinaldo president of the Philippine Republic and, one month later, attacked American forces in the Battle of Manila. While the Filipinos were soundly defeated, they began a guerrilla-style warfare that dragged on for months, then years. Newton earned several promotions during his time there and in early 1901 was serving as the Assistant



The officers who captured Aguinaldo; Newton is second from the right.

Superintendent of Police in Manila.

American officials realized one of the quickest ways to end the war would be to capture Aguinaldo. In 1901, General Frederick Funston developed a daring plan in which five American officers would pose as prisoners of war and, escorted by allied Filipinos, gain entrance into

Aguinaldo's secret camp. At the appropriate time, they



Inverness-style rain coat that Newton took from Aguinaldo as a souvenir

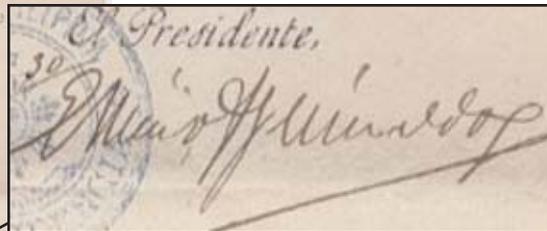
Continued- From the Archives



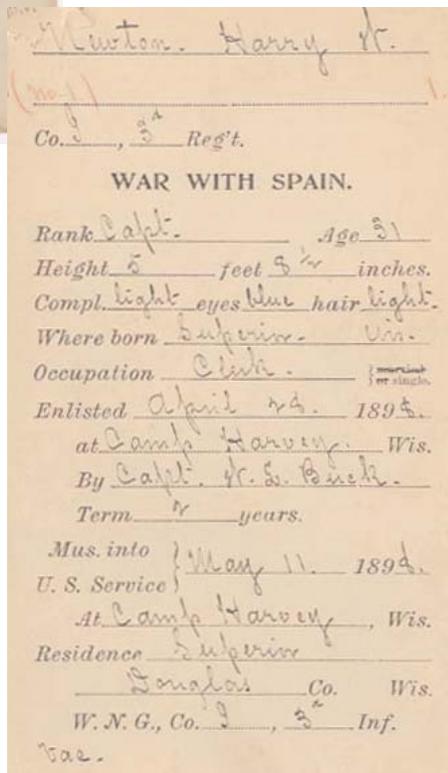
directly from Aguinaldo during the capture.

The WVM Research Center preserves thousands of stories, like this one, of Wisconsin men and women from all branches of service, whether they took part in momentous battles or honorably served stateside during peace time. Please visit us to see our collections, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 to 3:30, and by appointment. Contact Reference Archivist Russ Horton if you have any questions: 608.267.1790 or [russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us)

By Russ Horton



President Emilio Aguinaldo's signature



Muster card for Harry Newton, showing his personal information and service record.

Juan Peralta Papers. WVM Mss 521

**Certificate of promotion signed by President Emilio Aguinaldo.**

would drop their ruse, take the camp by force, and capture Aguinaldo. He recruited Newton to his plan, knowing that Newton had previously been on an expedition to the area where Aguinaldo was thought to be and, thus, was familiar with the terrain and the residents of that region. The expedition left on March 6 and reached Aguinaldo's camp a little over two weeks later. As ill-conceived as the plan may sound, it worked and they captured Aguinaldo in March 1901. While some scattered fighting continued, this in effect ended the Philippine War. Also of interest, the Army officer to whom Funston and Newton turned over Aguinaldo was another famous Wisconsinite, Arthur MacArthur.

Newton described his part in this historic event to an annual Wisconsin National Guard officers meeting in Milwaukee in January 1902 and the entire text was reprinted in the "Wisconsin National Guard Review" (January 1927), available in the WVM Research Center. Also in the collection are a photograph of the officers who captured Aguinaldo, a document signed by Aguinaldo, and a raincoat that Newton took

Harry Newton Papers. WVM Mss 35

# Zeitlin Symposium

**Paper presentation #1 – Friday, December 11, 2009 – 9:30-11:15am**

**“Civil-Military Relations: At the Center of Military History Since Ancient Times,”**

Richard Kohn, Professor of History, University of North Carolina

**“Rewriting the History of Colonial Warfare,”**

Bruce Vandervoort, Editor, Journal of Military History

**Commentary:** John Hall, Ambrose-Hesseltine Professor of Military History, University of Wisconsin

**Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 – Noon**

**George C. Marshall: Soldier-Statesman of the American Century**

Mark Stoler, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Vermont and Editor, George Marshall Papers Project

As Army Chief of Staff from 1939-45, Secretary of State from 1947-49, and Sec. of Defense in 1950-51, Marshall was the architect of both the Allied WW II victory and key U.S. Cold War policies, most notably the European Recovery Program that bears his name and for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Generally considered our greatest soldier-statesman since George Washington, this lecture attempts to explain why, by assessing Marshall's extraordinary accomplishments and character.

## Zeitlin Symposium

Friday, December 11, 2009 -  
2:30-5:00pm

Paper presentation #2 –

“Civil War Military Histories,” Joseph Glatthaar, Professor of History, University of North Carolina

“The American Citizen-Soldier Since 1898,” Jerry Cooper, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Missouri-Saint Louis

Commentary: John Milton Cooper, Jr., Professor Emeritus of History, University of Wisconsin

Saturday, December 12,  
2009 - 9:30-11:15am  
Paper presentation #3 –

“The Historians’ Wars over World War II,” Mark Stoler, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Vermont

“Casualties at Leavenworth: 1920-40: A Research Problem,” Timothy Nennering, Chief, Textual Records Reference Staff, NARA

Commentary: Jeremi Suri, Professor of History, University of Wisconsin

Saturday, December 12,  
2009 – Noon

Dedication of the Education Center in Honor of Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin

Join us as we dedicate the Education Center in honor of our late director, Dr. Richard

### Curator's Corner

# “THE CLOUDS WERE MY SALVATION”

Here at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum we are all about getting the story. Our readers know that the most important component in a donation is the history of an object's use. What we refer to as provenance, that history of use allows the staff to effectively place objects in exhibits and to breathe life into what otherwise might be history lacking a human face. For many older objects, our ability to obtain a story is lost with the passing of the veteran. Sometimes through research, museum staff can reassemble the particulars of a story as you see in Kris Zickuhr's article on the 24th Wisconsin (see page 2). Of course, when the veteran is gracious enough to leave notes and clues about the significance of an object our job becomes easier.



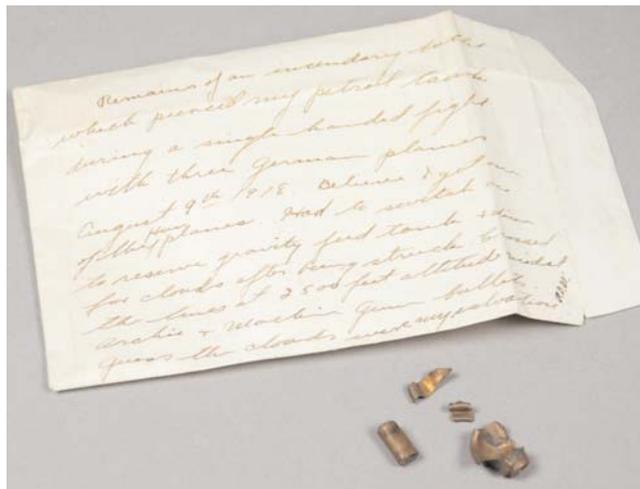
Note 1 (above):

The big piece is a fragment of an archie shell (slang for anti-aircraft round) which struck the main spar of my upper left wing on July 18th. The small pieces are parts of a Hun (slang for Germans) bullet fired from a Fokker Triplane into the base of my propeller about July 17th.

Note 2 (right):

Remains of an incendiary bullet which pierced my petrol tank during a single handed fight with three German planes August 9th 1918. Believe I got one of the Hun planes. Had to switch on to reserve gravity feed tank + dive for clouds after being struck. Crossed the lines at 2500 feet altitude midst archie + machine gun bullets. Guess the clouds were my salvation.

Lieutenant Rodney Williams of Waukesha flew a Sopwith Camel with the famed 17th Aero Squadron in the summer of 1918. Wounded during aerial combat on August 23 of that year, Lt. Williams' flying days came to an end. Like many veterans, Rodney Williams saved objects that he used during his service and, like some veterans; he saved objects used against him. On at least two occasions, German machinegun fire struck Williams's aircraft, while anti-aircraft fire scored another hit. We know this because of the fragments he retrieved from the plane and his written description of the events that provided these relics of service. From Rodney Williams, here are three short accounts of the early days of dog fighting.



Between the frailties of the aircraft, pilot error and hostile fire, the life expectancy of a World War I pilot was several weeks. Rodney Williams survived nearly two months of combat before he was wounded. For him, these few small metal pieces undoubtedly served as evidence of how close one could come to death. Without the notes, they would be unidentified remains. We should view his comments not as accounts of thrilling adventure but records of a pilot's survival.

By Bill Brewster

From the Gift Shop

# CAPITOL ORNAMENTS IN!

The inspiration for the 2009 limited edition Wisconsin State Capitol Ornament is the majestic exterior of the State Capitol building and grounds. The stunning white granite Capitol is captured in springtime when it is brilliantly adorned in blankets of colorful tulips.

For over three decades spring is ushered in with 32,000 blooming tulips. The flowers fill 28 flowerbeds adorning 13.5 acres of the Capitol grounds. The tulips are Darwin Hybrids from the Netherlands and represent many different colors. Each May the bulbs are removed and replaced with a different design of flowers keeping the Capitol Square in bloom until October when the tulips bulbs are planted.

The one exception, a special circular flowerbed which honors the 'Gold Star Mothers', mothers who have lost a son or daughter in service to the United States. Since 1922, the Capitol grounds have been home to a floral tribute of a golden star blossoming in spring and throughout the garden season.



To order, call (608) 267-1799, visit <http://museum.dva.state.wi.us/Giftshop.asp>, or mail your order, along with \$16 for each ornament and \$2 shipping to:

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Gift Shop  
30 West Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Help WVM

## 'TIS THE SEASON

Still wondering what gift to give this holiday season? The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has some wonderful ideas for you. Choose one of the following meaningful gifts for your loved one.

Honor your loved one with a donation to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation.

Provide your special someone with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Veterans Museum's unseen treasures.

Shop for a holiday gift in the Museum's gift shop. Lots of great gifts for all ages!

Honor a veteran with their very own bookplate.

To learn more about our holiday giving programs, contact Jennifer Carlson at (608)264-6086.

All proceeds from our holiday giving programs support the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's award-winning programs and the development of new exhibits. All donations to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For a current list of gift shop items, go to [www.museum.dva.state.wi.us](http://www.museum.dva.state.wi.us) and click on "gift shop." To make a donation online, visit [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com).

## Send Us Your Publication!

Veterans and veteran's organizations all over Wisconsin, and the nation, are producing unique, interesting and extremely significant historic publications that the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center would like to preserve in its library. Regimental histories, personal memoirs, biographies, post or chapter histories and newsletters are all examples of items that the WVM library would like to add to its collection. If you would like to donate a publication to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum please contact: Amy O'Shea, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Librarian, 608-261-5408 [amy.oshea@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:amy.oshea@dva.state.wi.us)

## INSIDE:

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Battle Flags

Notable, but  
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and more...

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# The Bugle

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