

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Frontline

EYES OF THE ARMY

INSIDE:

Sweet 16

Toasting to
Veterans

Marking Time
in Vietnam

4th Annual
Golf Outing

A Sword for
Bravery

Civil War
Photography

and more...

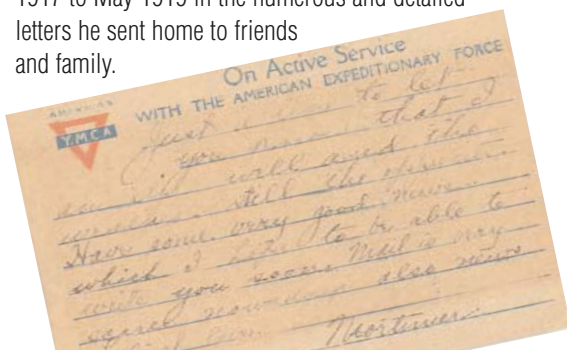
Aerial Observers "are the eyes of the army which is, as you see, one of the most important things of all." These words, written by Mortimer M.



Officers of the 104th Aero Squadron. Lt. Lawrence is in the 3rd row, 5th from the left.

Lawrence in a letter to his parents on October 28, 1917 shortly after completing his first training flight, form the inspiration for the title of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's new online exhibit, *Eyes of the Army: the Life and Letters of World War I Aerial Observer Lt. Mortimer M. Lawrence*. The exhibit, which debuted this spring and is being hosted on the Museum's website, follows the service of 1st Lt. Mortimer M. Lawrence—a native of Beaver Dam—as he travels from basic training at Fort Sheridan, Illinois to the skies above war-ravaged Europe as a member of the 104th Aero Squadron. Lawrence's entire collection can be found at WVM's Research Center.

Participating in daring and dangerous aerial reconnaissance missions along the Western Front, Lawrence not only received the Silver Star for bravery, but is credited with shooting down the last German aircraft of WW I. A prolific writer, he recorded his experiences of Army life from May 1917 to May 1919 in the numerous and detailed letters he sent home to friends and family.



A.E.F. Postcard Mailed home by Lt. Lawrence

These documents, combined with photographs and objects, contain a plethora of information and offer viewers a firsthand account of life as a WWI flyer.

Eyes of the Army, which will showcase nearly the entire Lawrence Collection over the course of the next two years, publishes each letter as well as any accompanying photographs or materials 90 years from the day they were written. Giving viewers the impression that they are experiencing Lawrence's day-by-day adventures in real-time, the online exhibit also invites



Lt. Lawrence's A.E.F. identification card

visitors to interact with WVM staff by leaving questions or comments in the "feedback" section of each letter posting. Indeed, viewers can even subscribe to *Eyes of the Army* to receive the latest in exhibit news and updates.

Utilizing new technologies and especially the Internet to make history more accessible to people everywhere, *Eyes of the Army* offers viewers valuable insight into the experiences of a WW I veteran. With this year marking the 90th anniversary of the end of that conflict, *Eyes of the Army* commemorates this important moment in American history as well as illuminates the central role of Wisconsin's veterans.

By Peter Kraemer

All images on this page are from the Mortimer Lawrence Collection

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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www.wvmfoundation.com

Director's Corner

FOUNDATION BENEFITS

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation is now sixteen years old. An improved level of business related activities is one of the most striking indicators of change. Foundation accounting/auditing, investment, planning, internal committee structure, and level of general development has risen impressively. There is still a long way to go before the Foundation can realize the success envisioned when it became a tax-exempt charitable corporation. Institutionally, however, progress is evident.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation contributes to the development of exhibits, including major displays such as "In the Belly of the Dragon" and the upcoming "Faces in the Sand." The Foundation is purchasing books for the Research Center as well as providing for the acquisition of other collections materials. It supports the public programs of the Museum, including the annual cemetery tour—the Museum's largest educational activity. Foundation contribu-

tions allow the Veterans Museum to recognize its eighty-five volunteers by sponsoring dinners and events. Moreover, the Foundation publishes The Bugle; engages in advertising to market the Museum; and has designed, created, and produced a web site (www.wvmfoundation.com). The web site is being expanded to feature the Wisconsin Civil War Battle Flag Collection, in advance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The new site, www.wisbattleflags.com, will be live July 1.

Foundation fund raising activities regularly engage large numbers of people. The upcoming Golf Tournament and Toast to Veterans, for example, generate major portions of the organization's budget. We are looking forward to a successful year.

By Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin

A TOAST TO VETERANS TWO EVENTS...ONE DAY OF FUN!



Laura Kocum

Students enjoy WVM's hands-on collection of military uniforms as they visit an Original Wisconsin Duck.

Join us and the Channel 3 Morning News Team as we "Toast to Veterans" at Capital Brewery on Saturday, June 21st for two events, sponsored by The Madison Concourse Hotel, VFW Post 8216, Quaker Steak & Lube, Roman Candle and Original Wisconsin Ducks.

The first event is a Family Field Day of fun at Lakeview Park in Middleton from 11:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The field day

includes: an Original Wisconsin Duck, Huey helicopter, Humvee, fire truck from the Middleton Fire Department with a small pan fire demonstration, a ropes course with rock wall, food provided by Middleton VFW Post 8216, face-painting, re-enactors and more! The second event starts at 4:00 p.m. at Capital Brewery. Enjoy some Capital brews, good food provided by Quaker Steak and Roman Candle, great music performances by the event headliner the Cash Box Kings and the opening band RadioSweetheart as well as meet Channel 3's very own Charlotte Deleste, Rob Starbuck, and Jeff Smith. Donate \$20 to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation for the Capital Brewery event and receive an event mug, food coupon and two prize draw-

ing tickets to have a chance to win a NEW video iPod, among other exciting prizes.

For more information, visit www.wvmfoundation.com fundraising events or call 608.264.6086. Make a "Toast to Veterans"!

By Jennifer Carlson

Frontline- Continued

MARKING TIME: VOYAGE TO VIETNAM

OPENING JULY 1, 2008

What do you think soldiers did to pass the time while on the troopship? Ever wonder what the long voyage to Vietnam was like? On July 1, you can find out as the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will open *Marking*

Time: Voyage to Vietnam, a temporary exhibition created by the Vietnam Graffiti Project (VGP). The exhibit features a number of artifacts from the troopship, General Nelson M. Walker, including an original eight-man berthing unit complete with bedding, life vests, and bunks, over a dozen original canvas bunks written and drawn on by soldiers, and a number of photographs taken by Walker passengers in the living quarters and on the deck.



Marking Time features graffiti drawn on bunks, and other Vietnam-era memorabilia

Over 500,000 men traveled to Vietnam on troopships, sometimes up to 5,000 per voyage. They left from places like Tacoma, San Diego, and San Francisco for a journey that would cover over 5,500 miles and take nearly three weeks. For many, this was their first time at sea, and the initial excitement of the trip soon gave way to seasickness, boredom, and discomfort. Recreation was hard to come by, and with the exception of a cache of musical instruments, playing cards, and board games, there was little to do but write letters, clean the ship, and think about home and the war that awaited them.

While in the troop compartments, men used markers to write and draw graffiti on the bottoms of the canvas bunks. They wrote their name and hometown, and DEROS date; they railed on politicians and the war, they told jokes, they drew pictures of pin-up girls, and they wrote song lyrics. Some men used the medium to talk about their favorite bars and beer joints, and to brag about how fast their hot rod was. These canvases are a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the men who served in Vietnam, a snapshot of the world

they left behind, and the uncertainty that lay ahead. This exhibit will feature a number of canvases with Wisconsin ties, including one written on by a Madison grunt that the Vietnam Graffiti Project donated to WVM in 2005.

A special addition to this tour is a cell phone audio tour that can be accessed in the museum gallery. The tour addresses living conditions aboard the ship, entertainment, how the men dealt with seasickness and bad weather, and the not-so friendly welcome to Vietnam. Aside from whatever minutes you use, the tour is totally free! After you complete the tour, a voice prompt will invite you to leave comments about the exhibit, your thoughts on the tour, and any other thoughts you may have.

Created early in 2005, VGP began with the intention of collecting canvas bunk bottoms from various troop transport ships used during the Vietnam War. These transports, currently part of the U.S. National Defense Reserve Fleet and docked in various parts of the country, were

all originally commissioned during World War II, and saw service through Korea and into Vietnam, generally being phased out during the late 60's and early 70's. Currently, the VGP is not only searching out canvases on additional troopships, but making the canvases available for research at the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University, and accessible to the public via this exhibit.

Marking Time: Voyage to Vietnam will close in Madison on September 1, 2008, but it will not travel far. Museum staff will pack up the exhibit and drive it up Interstate 90-94 to the Wisconsin National Guard Museum at Volk Field, near Camp Douglas. The exhibit will open at Volk Field on September 15, and remain on display in the museum's changing exhibits gallery until November 15. For more information on the exhibit and additional public events, please see <http://museum.dva.state.wi.us>.

By Jeff Kollath

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Program Schedule

WISCONSIN KOREAN WAR STORIES

Thursday, June 26, 2008 – Noon

Author Sarah Larsen will discuss Wisconsin Korean War Stories, the companion book to Wisconsin Public Television's documentary. The book collects the firsthand stories of 35 veterans covering everything from being a prisoner in a Chinese POW camp to flying close air support in the skies above the battlefield. A book signing will follow the lecture.

777: CHARLES KING

Tuesday, July 1, 2008 – Noon

Reference Archivist Russ Horton will discuss Charles King, a Wisconsin soldier that served in 5 military campaigns from the Civil War through World War I, a remarkable 50+ years in the service!

777: CASSIUS FAIRCHILD

Tuesday, July 8, 2008 – Noon

Jeff Kollath, Curator of Programs and Exhibitions, will discuss Cassius Fairchild, an officer with the 16th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. Fairchild, brother of Civil War officer and future Wisconsin Governor Lucius Fairchild, was severely wounded at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, and later died of his injuries.

777: JUANITA GOOLD

Tuesday, July 15, 2008 – Noon

Registrar Kristine Zickuhr shares the story of Juanita Goold, a WACS Intelligence Officer with the Army Air Corps during World War II. A cryptographer, Goold worked on the planning of the D-Day invasion and was one of the first WACS in the European theater.

Program schedule continues on opposite page

Preserving History

777 RETURNS!

In 2007, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum hosted a series of programs that featured artifacts from seven major armed conflicts, from the Civil War through Operation Iraqi Freedom. This summer, the series returns, with a new theme, a new presenter, and new artifacts. This year's theme is "7 Weeks, 7 Veterans, 7 Objects," which focuses on an individual soldier's collection of artifacts and archival items each week. The goal of the series – to showcase the museum's vast collection of items that are not currently on display in the exhibit galleries – remains unchanged, as visitors will still get an up-close view of rare uniforms, firearms, souvenirs, and other incredible objects. All events will be held on Tuesdays, beginning on July 1, and will start at noon. Join us in the 2nd Floor Education Center this summer, where the air conditioning is always on!

Scheduled subjects and speakers:

July 1 – Charles King, five active campaigns, 1861-1918 (Russ Horton)
 July 8 – Cassius Fairchild, 16th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry, Civil War (Jeff Kollath)
 July 15 – Juanita Goold, WACS Intelligence Officer, World War II (Kris Zickuhr)
 July 22 – Norra Prohaska, 32nd Military Police Company, Operation Iraqi Freedom (Jennifer Kaye)
 July 29 – Alvin Koser, 305th Infantry Regiment, 77th Infantry Division, World War I (Peter Kraemer)
 August 5 – Earl Ganzow, 237th Combat Engineer Battalion, World War II (Russ Horton)
 August 12 – Jerry Paul, HMM-163, 3rd Marine Air Wing, Vietnam War (Bill Brewster)

TEE TIME AT THE OAKS

4TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Register Using the Center Insert

Who's up for some golf? Have some fun and help ensure the continued success of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum by joining us for a four-person scramble at one of golf's choice destinations, The Oaks Golf Course on Tuesday, July 15, 2008. This year's event is sponsored by Spacesaver Corporation.

Winning best layout and design in 2003, the Oaks features an 18-hole par course with number 18 named "Best Hole" by the Wisconsin State Journal. There will be prizes for the winning teams, opportunities for hole-in-one prizes, a

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chance to win \$1,500 in a putting contest and a prize drawing. The cost to play is \$125 per individual or \$500 per foursome and includes a golf cart with GPS, tee gifts, a delicious lunch and dinner donated by Neesvig's Fine Quality Meats.

Those of you who attended last year's golf outing, we are really looking for your support again this year. For those who did not get the chance to join us last year... be a part of this year's success, and have fun doing it!

Sign-up now! Fill out the registration form attached and send it in or sign-up online and pay by credit card, at www.wvmfoundation.com. Space is limited. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer at (608) 264-6086 or email jennifer.carlson@dva.state.wi.us.

VFW Post 2304

By Jennifer Carlson

Curator's Corner

HOBART'S SWORD

On the evening of February 9, 1864, 109 Union officers made their way down to the basement of Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. As they went, they cautiously stripped off their boots making sure to remain extremely quiet. From nightfall until three in the morning, they crawled to freedom, one by one, through a tunnel under the prison. Colonel Harrison C. Hobart of the 21st Wisconsin Infantry was one of these men.

Born in Ashburnham, Massachusetts in 1815, Harrison C. Hobart graduated from Dartmouth College in 1842 and later studied law. Hobart moved to Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1846 and served as a member of the Territorial Legislature and the first State Senate. When the Civil War broke out, Hobart first served as captain in the 4th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry before receiving a commission as Lieutenant Colonel of the 21st Wisconsin Infantry.

During a retreat at the Battle of Chickamauga in September, 1863, Confederates captured Hobart and 70 of his men; all were sent to Libby Prison. The prison was overcrowded and the conditions were grim. Food was scarce, rats and other vermin plentiful, and disease spread rapidly amongst the prisoners. A group of Union officers spent many months planning an escape from the prison, finally deciding on an abandon area of the basement to tunnel from. Using only a few kitchen utensils, they spent seventeen nights digging a fifty-foot tunnel under the prison that opened behind an adjacent warehouse. Confederate guards did not realize the men were missing until morning roll call. Of the 109 men who escaped, Confederate soldiers recaptured 48 men and 2 men drowned.

Harrison Hobart's lithograph and sword are both part of the WVM's permanent collection.

Returning to the 21st Wisconsin, Hobart was promoted to Colonel in September 1864 and led his men on General William T. Sherman's march to the sea. In January 1865, he mustered out as a Brevet Brigadier General. After the war, Hobart resumed practicing law in Milwaukee and ran an unsuccessful campaign as the democratic candidate for Governor in 1865.

Hobart's heroic escape from Libby Prison and his brave return to lead the 21st Wisconsin so impressed his men that they presented him with a sword. The presentation sword, made by Tiffany and Company, has a silver plated spiral grip, gold plated pommel with an eagle, gold plated knuckle bow and guard, and a lion's head on the quillon. The blade itself is etched with vines, coats of arms, and is inlaid with gold.

What makes this sword especially unique are the engravings on the scabbard. The first inscription, near the hilt reads: "Presented to Col. Harrison C. Hobart Of the 21st Reg't Wisconsin Vol. Infnty By the Enlisted men of his Regiment"

The second inscription, in the middle of the scabbard reads: "As Aristomenes from the Ceadas, so Colonel Hobart from Libby"

This inscription refers to the legend of Aristomenes, the hero of the Second Messenian War (650 BC). An excellent warrior, Aristomenes led his men on a raid against the Spartans near Mt. Taygetyus, but they were captured. The Spartans threw Aristomenes' men one by one down a pit called the Ceadas, holding Aristomenes for last; so that he was forced to watch his men die. Aristomenes survived the fall into the Ceadas but expected to starve to death in the pit. On the third day, a fox came out of the darkness, and Aristomenes followed him to a hidden tunnel and made his way out. Aristomenes returned to the Messenian compound, ready to lead his men back into battle.

The WVM is fortunate to have this sword in its collection. It is a testament to Hobart's courage and his dedication to his men and country.

By Jennifer Kaye

Program Schedule

777: NORRA PROHASKA

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 – Noon

Join Curatorial Assistant Jennifer Kaye as she discusses Norra Prohaska. Prohaska served with the 32nd Military Police Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Hear her story and see several of the incredible objects she donated to the Museum.

HITCHHIKING FROM VIETNAM: SEEKING THE OX

Thursday, July 1, 2008 – Noon

Join Richard Chamberlin, local author and Vietnam veteran, as he reads from his highly acclaimed memoir of his experience readjusting to life in Madison after serving in the war as a Seabee. Alternating between Vietnam flashbacks and a fascinating cross-country road trip, the book is an honest, revealing account of how far reaching the effects of war can be. A book signing will follow the lecture.

777: ALVIN KOSER Tuesday, July 29, 2008 – Noon

Curatorial Assistant Peter Kraemer shares the story of Alvin Koser, a Lieutenant with the 305th Infantry Regiment, 77th Infantry Division, during World War I. Koser was gassed at Chateau-Thierry and spent significant time in the hospital recovering from his injuries.

Program schedule continues on page 6



Program Schedule

HOMEFRONT 1967

Thursday, July 31, 2008 – Noon

While cities like Madison saw great unrest during the Vietnam War, other places saw very few protests. One such city was Charlottesville, Virginia, home to the University of Virginia. This documentary, produced by National Education Television during the height of the war, chronicles how the Vietnam War affected one American city. Interviews with high school students, defense industry workers, college students, community leaders, and parents of soldiers serving overseas provide an interesting look at how Charlottesville viewed the war, and how what they said in 1967 mirrors what many Americans think about the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

777: EARL GANZOW

Tuesday, August 5, 2008 – Noon

Reference Archivist Russ Horton will discuss Earl O. Ganzow, a private with the 237th Combat Engineer Battalion during World War II. Ganzow saw action at the D-Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

777: JERRY PAUL

Tuesday, August 12, 2008 – Noon

Curator of Collections Bill Brewster will discuss Jerry Paul, a crew chief and door gunner with HMM-163, 3rd Marine Air Wing in Vietnam. Paul, who served three tours from 1966-68, saw significant enemy fire during those years, and was involved in at least two crashes.

All programs are free and open to the public.

From the Archives

A SOLDIER AT EASE: TWO UNIQUE CIVIL WAR TINTYPES

When asked to imagine a typical photograph of a Civil War soldier, most people today would likely picture a business card-sized carte de visite (CDV) showing a bust view of a grim-faced young man standing ramrod straight in full uniform with a neutral studio background. And, in fact, the archives at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum contains hundreds of images that match that description exactly, lending credibility to the claim that it is THE typical Civil War soldier photograph.



A stereotypical carte de visite of P.B. Willoughby, 8th Wisconsin Infantry

Augustus Weissert Collection

its status as the stereotypical photograph of the era.

The two tintypes in question depict a Wisconsin soldier named Peleg G. Tompkins. Tompkins enlisted into Company B, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment on April 18, 1861, less than one week after Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter. Standing 5'8" tall with grey eyes, brown hair, and a dark complexion, the twenty-three year old Tompkins worked as a carpenter in Onalaska, Wisconsin prior to his military service. After training at Camp Randall in Madison, Tompkins and the 2nd Wisconsin traveled to Washington, DC in June and joined the Army of the Potomac. Initially placed in a brigade under the command of a little known (at the time) officer named William T. Sherman, the 2nd Wisconsin took part in the battle at Blackburn's Ford and 1st Bull Run in July 1861. The very next month, Tompkins and the 2nd Wisconsin were reassigned to a new brigade, one that would see heavy action in all the major battles in the Eastern theater and earn the nickname Iron Brigade.

That serves to make a recently acquired set of Civil War images all the more unique and interesting. The photographs are tintypes, also known as ferrotypes, a method of photography that developed in the 1850s. A variation of the ambrotype, tintypes used a metallic sheet (ironically not made of tin) and a wet collodion process to create a finished product consisting of a small metal plate with a negative, or reversed, image on it. Tintypes cost very little to produce and proved much more durable in the mail than the glass plate ambrotypes, so they became popular with Civil War soldiers who wanted to send an image home to their loved ones. Only the CDV, created through an albumen process on paper, could match the tintype in terms of low cost, durability, and popularity. In fact, the CDV was so easy to produce, and reproduce, in large numbers that collecting images of prominent military leaders and politicians became widespread. That mass production is one of the reasons that the CDV gained



A glass plate ambrotype of Alonzo Sisson, 2nd Wisconsin Cavalry

Alonzo Sisson Collection

Tompkins, however, would not see much of the Iron Brigade's action. In the spring of 1862, he was detached from the 2nd Wisconsin to work on the construction of bridges near Fredericksburg. After that, he put his skills as a carpenter to use by serving in the Division Construction Corps. Finally, in November 1862 he was permanently detached to the "Engineer troops," in which he performed similar tasks.

Tompkins' three year term of service expired in June 1864

and he mustered out with his company in Madison and, very soon thereafter, married Susan Pattenson. The couple moved to Pennsylvania and Indiana before settling on a farm in western Arkansas in 1883, where they lived out the remainder of their lives.

Continued-From the Archives



Peleg Tompkins Collection

Two tintypes of Peleg G. Tompkins, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry

The first image shows Tompkins in an Army-issued shirt with a left breast pocket, which is a rarity in and of itself. For the second image, Tompkins put on a sack coat and a privately purchased (i.e. not Army-issued) hat while still maintaining a casual stance with his arms crossed. Behind him, in both images, is a very decorative backdrop showing rolling hills, some tents, and a very large American flag that are likely meant to recreate an Army camp. Finally, in the first image, Tompkins' left knee has been tinted blue. Both tintypes are held in an ornate case made by a Connecticut photography studio called Holmes, Booth & Haydens.

None of those elements by themselves are that remarkable. Many soldiers had their pictures taken in their shirtsleeves, in privately purchased hats, in casual poses, or in front of elaborate backdrops. There are certainly instances of soldiers getting multiple pictures taken during the same sitting. The Peleg Tompkins tintypes, however, combine all of those elements and that is what makes them particularly interesting. Those elements also suggest that the undated photograph was likely taken toward the end of Tompkins' service, in 1863 or 1864, probably in a large city near the 2nd Wisconsin like Washington, D.C., and that the case was mass produced by the Connecticut company and sold at photography studios around the country. That the tintypes are identified and various records provide so many biographical details about Tompkins' life during and after the war makes them not only interesting examples of Civil War photography but also important historical sources.

The WVM Research Center contains thousands of photographs of Wisconsin veterans, ranging from Civil War tin-

types to digital images from the current conflict. We preserve these images, along with the accompanying letters, diaries, maps, books, and other papers for the veteran, their families, and for generations yet to come. If you have any materials relating to a Wisconsin veteran that you would like to see preserved, please contact Archives Collections Manager Gayle Martinson at (608) 261-0536 or gayle.martinson@dva.state.wi.us.

By Russ Horton



Peleg Tompkins Collection

A tintype, removed from its case, reveals neatly trimmed corners, more extensive blue tinting, and a deteriorating collodion coating



Commemorate Those Who Served

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