

★★★ **THE BUGLE** ★★★

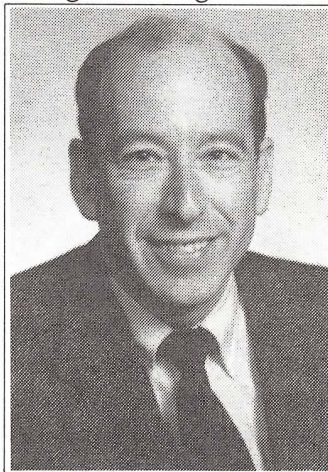
Newsletter of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

D-Day Commemorative Activities

By Dr. Richard Zeitlin

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is sponsoring a series of D-Day lectures with help from the Museum Foundation. Two of the four planned lectures have taken place. Both lectures were held at the State Capitol. The lecture on March 19 filled the hearing room to capacity.

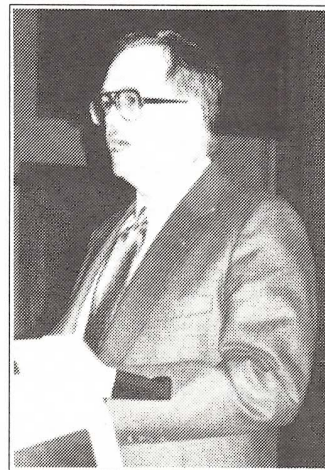
Mark A. Stoler of the University of Vermont delivered the first D-Day lecture. The author of The Politics of the Second Front, Stoler presented "The Road to D-Day," a review of the Allied diplomacy leading to the agreement to invade France in the Spring of 1944. Stoler described the differing aims of the Allies and how difficult it was to arrive at an agreement on how best to pursue the war against Germany. Stoler answered numerous questions from the audience after the conclusion of his presentation.



Mark A. Stoler

Carlo W. D'Este, a retired Army officer from Massachusetts, delivered the second lecture - "D-Day: A Fifty Year Retrospective." The author of Decision in Normandy, a highly

regarded account of the Normandy campaign, D'Este brought a number of audio-visual materials to illustrate his presentation. D'Este spent considerable time answering questions from the audience. D-Day veterans who were in the audience received a standing ovation.



Carlo D'Este

Following the lectures, the public was invited to attend a reception in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Light refreshments were served. The

authors autographed copies of their books.

On June 4, the Saturday preceding the 50th anniversary of D-Day, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum plans to offer a free presentation by local re-enactors who will provide an account of what a typical GI endured at the time of the Normandy operation. In addition, several D-Day veterans will present short talks describing their own experiences. A cake will be served to commemorate the anniversary of the Veterans Museum's grand opening and Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation Board members are invited.

Book Review

By Mark Van Ells

Edward M. Coffman, *The War to End All Wars: The American Military Experience in World War I*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. 1986, 412pp. photographs, maps, index. Museum Gift Shop price: \$14.95.

With all the festivities marking the 50th anniversary of World War II, relatively little attention has been paid to last year's 75th anniversary of the armistice ending World War I in 1918. The museum gift shop contains several titles for those interested in "The Great War."

The War to End All Wars is Edward M. Coffman's survey of America's role in World War I. Unlike many military historians, Coffman includes in his work, "the people who were actually involved," attempting to create a "fuller, truer account" of the war and capture its "experience" (p. vii). He examines America's war effort at various levels. Studying the work of war planners and military brass, Coffman recounts the preparation, mobilization, and conduct of the war. He views the war from the perspective of the trenches, describing the recruitment, training, and fighting of the doughboy. The author also assesses important themes like the fighting character of U.S. troops and America's important contribution to Allied victory.

As a regular feature in *The Bugle*, a member of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's historical staff will review a book currently on sale in the museum's gift shop.

The War to End All Wars is a comprehensive and extremely well-written account of an often overlooked conflict in American military annals. Coffman merges much disparate information into a concise, well-organized format and successfully captures the "experience" of the war. This is particularly evident in the battle scenes, in which the reader can view operations from both the drawing board and through the eyes of the troops. Originally published in 1968, the work has withstood the test of time. *The War to End All Wars* remains the definitive account of America in World War I.



Doughboys in France

Museum Tours

by Karen Gulbrandsen

From the Grand Opening on June 6, 1993 through March 31, 1994, over 77,000 people visited the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Many veterans' and civic groups organized tours of the exhibits honoring the Wisconsin men and women serving in the nation's conflicts. University of Wisconsin history classes, historical associations, educators, and school groups from the state have utilized the galleries as an educational backdrop.

With the onset of spring, hundreds of school groups have scheduled tours of the museum. Seven highly motivated volunteers will assist the museum staff in accommodating the spring rush. If you would like to schedule a group tour, please call or write the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703, (608) 266-1854, at least two weeks in advance for a reservation.

Curator's Chronicles

by William Brewster

Welcome to the "Curator's Chronicles." In this column, we'll highlight recently acquired artifacts and objects. The item featured in this issue was donated by Mr. Ebon L. Phillips by way of Calumet CVSO Bob Timm. Mr. Phillips was a member of the armed guard on the cruiser U.S.S. *Des Moines* in 1918-1919.

During 1919, the *Des Moines* took part in the North Russia Expedition. The North Russia Expedition was a combined allied effort to secure valuable war supplies that had been abandoned in Russian ports after the collapse of the Czarist government. The allies also attempted to aid the White Russian troops in their efforts to overthrow the Bolsheviks.

One of the biggest problems encountered during these punitive expeditions was the cold. Like Napoleon before and the Germans 20 years later, the allied command did not take into account the harshness of the Russian winter. As a result, service personnel were inadequately prepared to deal with the extreme temperatures.

Mr. Phillips' solution to the problem of standing watch in frigid temperatures was to have the ship's sailmaker sew him a wool jumper. Apparently the creation of

supplemental clothing was allowed as long as it retained the correct design.

The materials and construction used in assembling the jumper are of great interest. The yoke is made from a dark blue wool jean of the type used in naval work clothes. The pullover design is enhanced by the addition of a "non-regulation" two button opening at the neck. This opening is secured by hand sewn

buttonholes and two cuff size, hard rubber, U.S. Navy utility buttons. The body of the jumper is sewn from a coarse, white wool Navy blanket. As payment for his services, the sailmaker took the other half of the blanket to make a jumper for himself. For identification purposes, Mr. Phillips inked his initials on the inside of the tail.

This jumper demonstrates the ingenuity of the individual in creating or modifying equipment to meet specific needs. It is also unusual in that it has survived since many pieces of field clothing are worn out or thrown away at the end of

service. The American citizen-soldier has been "fixing" and supplementing what the government has supplied since at least the Civil War. Any items that you may have that show field adaptation or photos of such modifications would be of great interest to the museum. Until next time . . .



Ebon L. Phillips' Jumper, c. 1919

by
Mark D.
Van Ellis

CORNER

ARCHIVIST'S

This being the first "Archivist's Corner" in *The Bugle*, I thought I should start by introducing myself. I am a native of Manitowoc, and I served in the U.S. Air Force just over four years. After discharge in 1986, I attended the Universities of Massachusetts and Wisconsin, where I majored in American history. I received my B.A. from UW-Madison in 1990, and my M.A. in 1992. Aside from my position at the museum, I am working on my Ph.D. dissertation, the subject of which is Milwaukee's veterans after World War II.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum's library and archives section has been very busy of late. In the first three months of 1994, we received a number of interesting donations, among the most significant were the personal and military papers of Martha Selvik, a World War II WAC, and of John Prindle, who served in the 1st Cavalry in Vietnam. Ralph Pope, a POW in World War II, donated yet another lot of POW-related library books. Because of Mr. Pope's generosity, our library has one of the better collections of POW books in the nation, and we greatly appreciate his efforts. By far the most important acquisition was a personal diary of one of America's most illustrious soldiers and native Wisconsinite, General Charles King. The diary was written in 1898, as America was about to go to war with Spain. The item was donated by State Senator Robert Jauch, whose ancestor was a friend of King's. The King diary will undoubtedly attract military historians from across the nation to our archives, and add to the museum's stature among scholars.

Most of the activity surrounding the 50th anniversary of World War II has rightfully focused on the fighting itself. However, the war's aftermath and the return of its veterans also had an enormous impact on American society. This year, for example, marks the 50th anniversary of the G.I. Bill. I would like to remind readers that the museum collects materials related to the social impact of war. The museum seeks the following out-of-print books, or ones like it, concerning WWII veteran readjustment: Dixon Wecter, *When Johnny Comes Marching Home* (1944), Herbert Kupper, *Back to Life: The Emotional Adjustment of Our Veterans* (1945), Charles Bolte, *The New Veteran* (1945), Morton Thompson, *How to Be a Civilian* (1946), Dorothy Baruch and Lee Travis, *You're Out of the Service Now* (1946), Bill Maudlin, *Back Home* (1947), Robert Havinghurst, *The American Veteran Back Home* (1951), Davis Ross, *Preparing for Ulysses* (1969), and Keith Olson, *The G.I. Bill, the Veterans, and the Colleges* (1974). Perhaps some of you remember these books, or ones like them. If you have copies you would like to donate, or know somebody who might, please contact me at the museum. Also, I am interested in locating records related to the American Veterans Committee. The AVC, as many may recall, was active on college campuses filled with student-veterans after World War II, but which has now all but disappeared. These records would be very useful to historians, yet to my knowledge, no AVC records have been preserved.

I would also like to inform the readers that the museum has an extensive collection of periodicals from state veterans' organizations. These materials help keep museum staff up to date on what's going on in the Badger State veterans' community, and in the future they will be historically significant as well. While we receive most of the major statewide publications (i.e. *Badger Legionnaire*, *Wisconsin DAV News*), we receive very few local newsletters. If you are active in a local veterans' organization post or chapter which publishes a newsletter, the museum would like to receive it.

If you have any questions about the Wisconsin Veterans Museum archives and library, please contact me any weekday at (608) 267-1790.