



THE BUGLE



Newsletter of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

MUSEUM SPONSORS WORLD WAR II PACIFIC THEATER LECTURES

by Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin

With financial support from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, the Wisconsin Humanities Council, and the Other Other Club the Museum will offer a series of free public lectures on the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. "The American Experience in the Pacific During World War II" lectures are being presented in conjunction with World War II Commemorative Community activities. The World War II Commemorative Community is a national program organized by the Department of Defense. WDVA Secretary Raymond Boland is the Wisconsin state chair.

This spring, four lectures will be presented by highly respected scholars on Saturday evenings at 7:00 PM in the G.A.R. Hearing Room of the State Capitol. The lectures are scheduled so they do not conflict with other events, such as the high school basketball tournament. The Concourse Hotel has reserved a block of rooms which will be made available at discounted rates for those attending the lectures if they call two weeks in advance (telephone 1-800-356-8293). Kosta's Restaurant is providing a free appetizer to those attending the lectures.

Professor D'Ann Campbell of Austin Peay State University will present the first lecture on March 11, 1995. Campbell's "Women at War" will deal with the

experiences of women service members in the Pacific during the Second World War. Members of the United Women Veterans will be especially interested in this program.

Dr. Allan R. Millett will discuss "Marine Corps Amphibious Doctrine and Operations in the Pacific 1941-1945" on April 8, 1995.

Millett is the author of several books, including *Semper Fidelis: A History of the U.S. Marine Corps*. He is a professor of history at Ohio State University and an international defense consultant.

Professor Ronald H. Spector of George Washington University in Washington, D.C. will speak on May 13, 1995. Spector is an expert on U.S.-Asian military affairs and has written voluminously. His *Eagle Against the Sun*, an account of the Second World War in the Pacific, is frequently viewed as the best single volume history on the subject. Spector will compare "American and Japanese Strategy in the Pacific War."

Professor Michael Schaller will present "General Douglas MacArthur and the Politics of the Pacific War," on June 24, 1995. Schaller teaches history at the University of Arizona. He is best known for his newest book, *Douglas MacArthur: Far Eastern General*. Schaller's talk should be of strong interest to Wisconsinites who remember MacArthur as a native son.



Lt Roy Weeks and Lt Norris Tibbetts
back from patrol, July 6, 1945, Mindanao,
Philippine Islands.

CURATOR'S CHRONICLES

by William Brewster

Welcome to another installment of the Curator's Chronicles. In my last column I discussed the various types of objects that are donated to the Veterans Museum. In addition to donations, the museum obtains objects through transfer from other institutions. One such transfer will benefit the Wisconsin Veterans Museum beginning in 1995.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin will be transferring a large portion of their post 1860 military collection to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. When completed this transfer will involve nearly 5,000 objects, a 50% increase to the WVM collection, related to Wisconsin and United States military history. The logistics of such a transfer are immense and will involve many staff hours for both institutions.

Before a single object is moved from the Historical Society a series of steps must be followed. Initially the staff of both museums and the State Historical Society's Board of Directors create guidelines that define the types of objects to be transferred. Following approval for transfer all materials must be located and inventoried. Next, the records are checked to insure that there are no restrictions and that the written description matches the actual object. The maintenance of accurate records is essential for the preservation of historical and donor information pertaining to each object. Finally, approval of the

actual list of objects to be transferred is obtained from the Board of the State Historical Society.

To insure a successful transfer the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will be using a collections management data base. This data base will allow us to enter basic information about the objects and assign each object a number prior to the actual transfer. Moving the objects will involve the packing of similar materials in padded boxes and the maintenance of yet another inventory to assure complete and accurate records. Once an object is received at the Veterans Museum and unpacked, the description can be completed in the data base and the object numbered and photographed. After processing, the objects will be inventoried and placed in the WVM storage facility where they will be available for research, and use in future exhibits.

The volume of objects involved in this transfer will severely tax our abilities to handle incoming donations during the following year. Therefore we will be limiting our normal intake and asking donors to hold on to their materials until we have completed the transfer. Our ability to properly handle transfers and donations assures that all of the objects involved will be maintained for study and appreciation by future generations.

Until next time...

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

by Karen Gulbrandsen

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum would like to recognize and thank its volunteer staff for their contributions to the museum throughout 1994. A total of twelve volunteers have helped to make the museum's programs a grand success.

Most of the volunteers provide tours to the many school, veterans, and civic groups visiting the museum. In 1994, 346 groups for a total of 16,020 people participated in the group tour program. Dr. James McIntosh, Dr. James Angevine, Tom Brodd, Bill Christianson, Dr. Charles Larkin, James Bartelt, Norris Tibbetts, Larry Hogan, and Andrea Spott have each committed numerous hours to guiding groups through the galleries.

Jim Angevine not only serves as a tour guide, but has been working with the archivist cataloguing the pamphlet collection. Jim McIntosh has recruited and trained several volunteers as well as helped with the museum's oral history project.

Richard Chase and Art Morey have worked in the museum's store. And the volunteer force has two new faces - Dale Bender and Marc Holma.

Without the help of its volunteer staff, the Veterans Museum could not carry out the quality programs offered to the public. We thank them for bringing their talents to the museum with a dedication and knowledge unsurpassed by any that we know.

RUSSELL F. WEIGLEY CONCLUDES EUROPEAN THEATER OF WAR LECTURES

by Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin

Russell F. Weigley, one of the leading U.S. military history scholars in the nation, delivered the final presentation in the "D-Day and the Liberation of Europe" lecture series sponsored by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Weigley is a distinguished professor of history at Philadelphia's Temple University. His talk, "Firepower versus Mobility: the Structure of the U.S. Army in the Campaign for France and Germany," described how the Army was organized and how the organization performed during the Second World War in western Europe.

According to Weigley, the American Army organized itself primarily for mobility. Equipment as well as manpower organization tables reflected the American desire for movement. The long tradition of frontier Indian warfare and actions against irregular forces along the Mexican border predisposed American military planners to opt for mobility whenever possible. Americans also provided a high standard of living for their troops and maintained numerous non-combat personnel. These organizational characteristics meant that the U.S. Army did not have the ability to deliver high amounts of firepower. Professor Weigley described the relationship of fire power to mobility in the U.S. Army "a poor tooth to tail ratio."

During the European campaign, Americans confronted the German army which had superior firepower. German tanks were heavier and mounted more powerful guns. German troops were equipped with more--and in some cases better--crew served weapons such as machine guns, mortars, and the famed 88 mm multi-purpose gun. In addition, German Army organizational doctrine allocated a greater proportion of its men to combat roles than did the Americans.

The Germans Army was highly competitive. Victory in Europe was very close and especially costly in proportion to the numbers of Americans actually engaged in combat. In other words, although the United States had abundant resources they were not

organized in the most effective manner to combat the Germans. American infantrymen took higher casualties than they might have otherwise had to if the U.S. Army had developed forces capable of producing greater firepower.

Weigley is the author of The American Way of War, Towards an American Army, Eisenhower's Lieutenants, and An Age of Battle. He is presently working on a book about the Civil War.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE RECALLED

by Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin

Fifty years ago on December 15, 1944, British Field Marshall Bernard L. Montgomery announced that the German Army would soon surrender. The next morning twenty-eight German divisions, containing nearly 500,000 men and thousands of tanks, launched the largest offensive in the European Theater of the Second World War against Americans positioned in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium. The German onslaught in the Ardennes was backed up with more men, tanks, artillery, and aircraft than faced the Russians on the Eastern Front. Hitler expected to win the war in Europe in one surprise blow.



Battle of the Bulge Exhibit, Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Five understrength American divisions, containing less than 83,000 men and fewer than 250 tanks, held the Ardennes area. Americans had regarded the Ardennes as a "ghost front," where badly shot up units could recuperate and refit. Holding a front of 104 miles with widely scattered outposts, the Americans found themselves outnumbered by as much as six to one by enemy forces. Inclement weather prevented Allied air power from stemming the German drive. The Germans forced the Americans to retreat and caused

Continued on back page

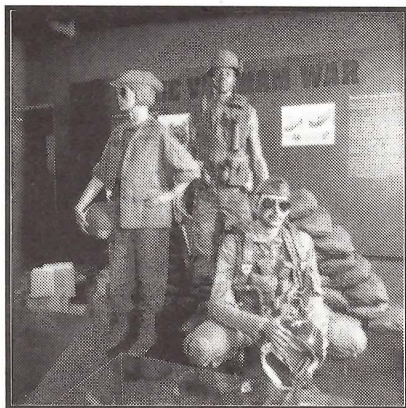
BOOK REVIEW

by Mark D. Van Ells

Review of George C. Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*, 2nd ed., (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1986). Museum Gift Shop price: \$13.50.

America's Longest War is George C. Herring's account of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Viewing America's actions in the region in the context of the Cold War and its policy to contain communism worldwide, Herring argues that American policy makers consistently exaggerated Vietnam's importance to U.S. interests and misjudged the conflict's local rather than global nature. "A policy so flawed," writes Herring, "cannot help but fail" (p. 279). Due largely to the fear of Chinese intervention, America financed and later conducted a limited war against a patient and determined foe. Clinging to a failed policy and a belief in U.S. military might, five presidents - not wanting the blame for "losing" Vietnam - pursued an unworkable policy for thirty years.

Utilizing a combination of primary and secondary sources, *America's Longest War* is a concise, readable overview of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Herring masterfully combines the diplomatic, military, and political dimensions of the war into one coherent package. He presents a fair and balanced account, avoiding partisan rancor without being neutral. However, being under 300 pages, the book is perhaps too brief to address fully a topic as complex as the Vietnam War. In so brief an account, Herring cannot discuss the details of the broad topics he highlights. His treatment of the military, for example, focuses on strategy with little attention paid to tactics. Nevertheless, Herring has produced an exceptional overview of the most controversial episodes in recent American history - and this is no small accomplishment. *America's Longest War* is an excellent starting point for the study of American involvement in the Vietnam War.



Vietnam War Exhibit,
Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

BOOKS WANTED

Many valuable and important historical works are, sadly enough, out of print. The following is a list of works sought by the WVM library for its permanent research collection of military and veterans' history:

Ballard, Jack Stokes, *The Shock of Peace: Economic and Military Demobilization after World War II*, (Washington: University Press of America, 1983).

Daniels, Roger, *The Bonus March: An Episode of the Great Depression*, (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1971).

Glasson, William H., *Federal Military Pensions in the United States*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1918).

Gray, J. Glenn, *The Warriors: Reflections on Men in Battle*, (New York: Perennial, 1970).

Minott, Rodney G., *Peerless Patriots: Organized Veterans and the Spirit of Americanism*, (Washington: Public Affairs Press, 1962).

Olson, Keith W., *The G.I. Bill, the Veterans, and the Colleges*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1974).

Ross, Davis R.B., *Preparing for Ulysses: Politics and Veterans During World War Two*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1969).

Shukert, Elfrieda Berthiaume and Barbara Smith Scibetta, *War Brides of World War II*, (New York: Penguin, 1988).

Ward, Stephen R., ed., *The War Generation: Veterans of the First World War*, (Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, 1975).

Wecter, Dixon, *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1944).

Whalen, Robert Weldon, *Bitter Wounds: German Victims of the Great War, 1914-1939*, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984).

Willenz, June A., *Women Veterans: America's Forgotten Heroines*, (New York: Continuum, 1983).

by
Mark D.
Van Ellis

CORNER

ARCHIVIST'S

Major segments of state and local history are being lost. Veterans organizations often play an important role in a community's social, cultural, and political life. However, precious few of these organizations have records preserved in Wisconsin's historical repositories. In our own archives and those of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, for example, fewer than 10 American Legion posts and auxiliaries have records preserved, and the DAV and the VFW have even fewer. To locate and preserve such records, the WVM has initiated the Wisconsin Veterans Records Location Project (WVRLP). The project involves two main activities. First, we are currently compiling a database of preserved veterans organization records across Wisconsin. Second, we are seeking donations of inactive veteran post records for our archives. If you know of posts which have obsolete records they might dispose of, please let me know. If you are an active member of such a post, we ask that you bring the matter before your organization. Historians cannot record the activities of veterans groups without source materials such as these.

The oral history project is proceeding well. So far, I have interviewed more than 40 veterans, mostly from World War II. In 1995, I plan to focus more on the Korean War, women, and ethnic veterans. Jim McIntosh continues to provide me with subjects. I also want to thank Charlie Larkin, Goldie Campbell, and Phyllis Perk for their suggestions. Finally, we have received many interesting manuscript donations since the last edition of The Bugle. Two stand out. First, I would like to thank the County Veterans Service Officers Association for donating their organizational records. The CVSO papers date from the group's founding in 1936 and run through 1992. Second, I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Marion Kraak of Madison for donating the first installment of the papers of Matthias Lynaugh, a World War I veteran and veterans' activist. According to Mrs. Kraak, only a third of Lynaugh's papers have been donated; the remainder will come in 1995. Both collections are among the most historically significant in our archives.

ARTIFACT AND ARCHIVES DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

As you are undoubtedly aware, tax time is upon us. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum wants you to know that donations of historical materials such as artifacts, manuscripts, photographs, etc., are just as tax deductible as cash donations. However, a written appraisal must be obtained by a qualified individual or antique shop, certifying the value of the donation. Below is a list of persons or antique dealers who do appraisals:

Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc.
357 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 944-3085
(312) 944-5549 (fax)

Dave Taylor's Civil War Antiques
Box 87
Sylvania, OH 43560
(419) 878-8355

Military Relics Shop
Bill Scott
6910 W. North Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 771-4014

Hayes Otoupalik
Route 2 Evaro Rd
14000 Highway 93 North
Missoula, Montana 59802
(406) 549-4817
(406) 543-0040 (fax)

BEGINS

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum will host

Experience in the Pacific during World War II

the Allied line to bulge backward when viewed on a map, thus contributing to the naming of the month
~~long engagement - the Battle of the Bulge~~

The Americans rallied and with the help of more than