



THE BUGLE



Newsletter of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

WORLD WAR II LECTURES POPULAR THIS SPRING

by Richard H. Zeitlin

The spring 1995 series of World War II lectures produced with support from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation attracted strong interest. The lectures focused on the Pacific Theater of World War II, and each lecture presented a different aspect of the Pacific war. All of the speakers recruited to make presentations were nationally recognized experts in the field. Some 150 people attended each of the four presentations, for a total of 600 who took advantage of the public program.

Bugle readers will remember that during 1994 the Wisconsin Veterans Museum sponsored a lecture series dealing with the European Theater of World War II. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation supported the series along with private contributions and a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Commission. The success of the 1994 series encouraged the Veterans Museum to sponsor the Pacific Theater lectures.

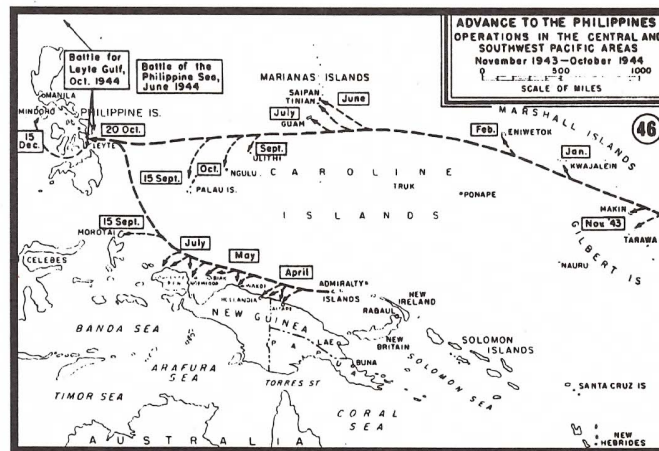
The 1995 series included presentations by D'Ann Campbell, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Austin Peay State University. Professor Campbell discussed the role of women in the military during World War II, with special reference to the Pacific. Campbell provided

statistical details which she developed to illustrate various points. Allan R. Millett of Ohio State University described the development of amphibious doctrine and operations by the U. S. Marine Corps during the Second World War. Millett, a major in the Marine Corps Reserves, came to the lecture dressed in a World War II Marine combat uniform. Professor Ronald

Spector of George Washington University contrasted American and Japanese strategy in the Pacific. Spector is the author of *The Eagle Against the Sun*, a highly acclaimed one volume history of the war in the Pacific. Michael Schaller of the University of Arizona presented the final lecture of the series. Schaller discussed the career of

General Douglas MacArthur using examples from his recent biography *Douglas MacArthur: Far Eastern General*. WHA-Radio, the state educational network, interviewed Schaller and Spector. Their comments were carried on morning news programs across Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum plans to sponsor another series of lectures next spring. Based on the high level of interest in the programs, the Veterans Museum will recruit other experts to deal with the closing days of World War II and possibly the break down of the wartime Grand Alliance.



by
Mark D.
Van Ellis

CORNER

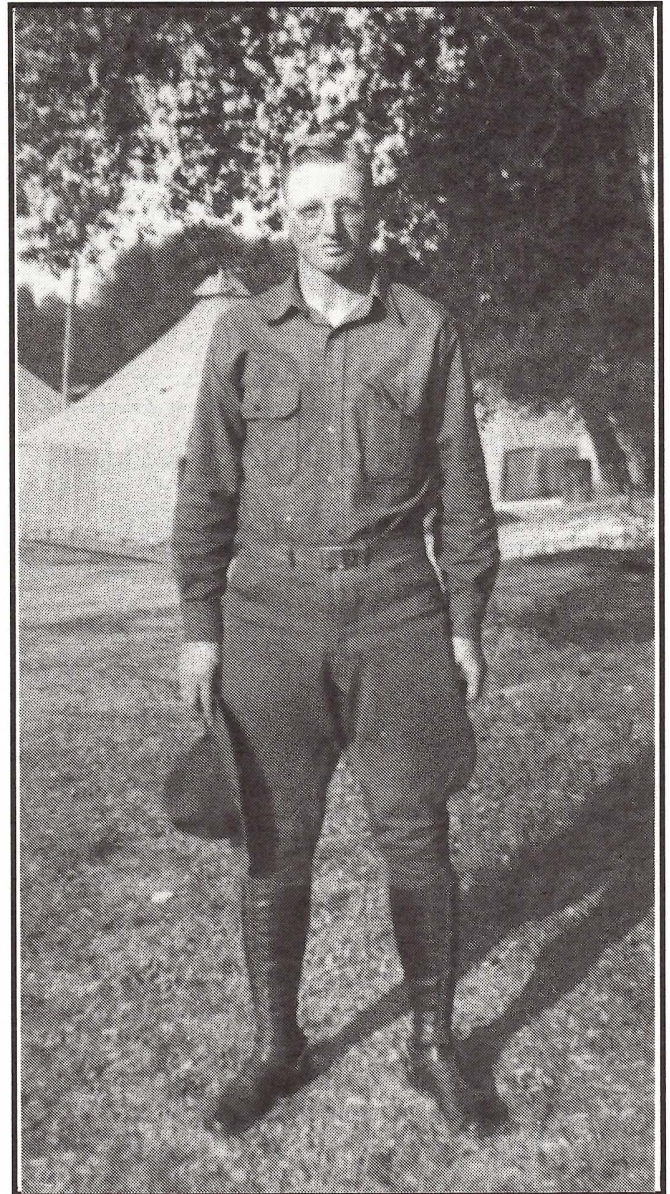
ARCHIVIST'S

Since last Spring my staff and I have been entering the entire Wisconsin Veterans Museum library and archives onto the new collections computer database. By the end of July the database contained nearly 3,000 entries, including most of the library's books and over half of the museum's archives. During the Fall we will concentrate on entering the iconography, map, and periodical collections. I want to thank Dr. Jim Angevine, Warren Chang, Steve Harley, Marc Holma, Kevin Moody, Pete Kaufman, Jeremy Teigen, and Matt Piersma for their endless cataloging and data entry work, and Iban Kubly of the WDVA's Bureau of Information Services for designing the software. Very soon all museum staff members will have access to the database, and the information will be available to the public. The task is a long way from being completed, but enough information has been entered to make the database a useable research tool.

Donations of valuable manuscripts continue to come in. In May, Mrs. Vivian Wang donated the papers of her brother, Wilbur C. Berget. A native of Gratiot, Berget was a Warrant Officer in the 12th Armored Division during World War II, and died in a traffic accident near Mannheim, Germany in December 1945. Special thanks to Brent Ostrowski for helping to process the materials. In July, the surviving members of the Veterans of World War I Barracks 3241 in

Walworth County arranged to have their organizational records deposited at the museum. I would like to thank Walworth CVSO Christine Jordan for delivering the papers to Madison.

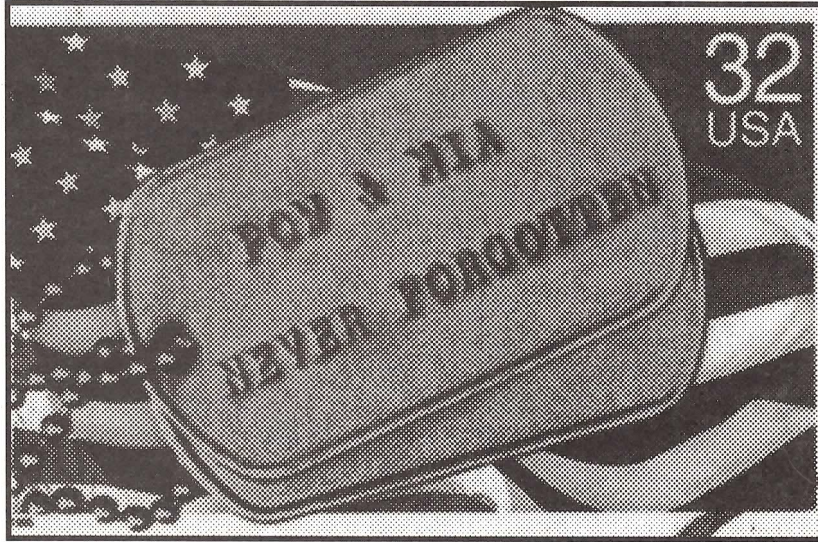
Two other items of note. First, we are currently exploring the possibility of establishing a series of informal history talks for the fall. I have spoken with several people interested in making presentations, so stay tuned for more information. Finally, I want to mark the passing of two of the WVM archives program's best friends, Chauncey Dunday of Beaver Dam and Jim Reininger of Sun Prairie. Their personal donations and outreach efforts among fellow veterans helped to make our facility a valuable research institution. We will miss them.



Wilbur C. Berget of Gratiot, stateside during World War II

MUSEUM HOSTS POW/MIA POSTAGE STAMP CEREMONY

On Tuesday, May 30, at a special ceremony at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a new stamp honoring those Americans who were prisoners of war and those still missing in action.



Speakers for the program included Reverend Ernest Norquist of Milwaukee, a prisoner of the Japanese during World War II, State Commander of American Ex-POWs Milford Roehrborn of Kaukauna, who was imprisoned in German Stalag, and Air Force Colonel (retired) Donald Heiliger of Stoughton, who was a prisoner in Hanoi during the Vietnam War. Heiliger's life-size figure is part of the museum's "Returning Home from Vietnam" exhibit.

Approximately 250 people joined Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Raymond Boland and Madison Postmaster Elizabeth Lieurance in paying tribute to the POWs and MIAs who have sacrificed so much for our nation and its principles. A number of school children were present and were thrilled to be part of the program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 12 - Wisconsin Salute to WWII Veterans, Milwaukee War Memorial (the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will have a booth).
- August 13 - State Fair, Veterans Day (the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will have a booth).
- August 26 - Living History program on the WWII Pacific Theater, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

WISCONSIN'S SECOND LEADING ACE DIES

Following the printing of the April issue of the *Bugle*, the Veterans Museum received word that George Doersch passed away earlier this year. He was Wisconsin's second leading ace.

Born in Seymour, WI, he enlisted in the Wisconsin National Guard in 1938 and was called to active duty in 1940. Operating out of England, he was credited with two victories flying P-47s and 8 1/2 more in the P-51. He was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with 14 OLCs and the French Croix de Guerre. He retired from the Air Force as a colonel in 1967.

This information comes from the Spring 1995 issue of *American Fighter Aces Bulletin*.

MUSEUM STAFF VISIT FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM

by Lynnette M. Wolfe

Last spring, Colonel John Votaw of the First Division Museum in Wheaton, Illinois, invited the staff of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum to visit the Chicago area facility to establish a collaborative staff development program. Ten members of the Veterans Museum staff met with their counterparts at First Division Museum on July 10 and 11 to learn how they handle visitors and tour programs; volunteer recruitment and training methods; collections management and care; exhibit development; fiscal and facilities management; public relations; publications; research facilitation; and historical programming. The new First Division Museum is a medium-sized military museum which opened in 1992 and attracts about the same number of visitors as the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Participants from the Veterans Museum were: Richard Zeitlin, Director; Lynnette Wolfe, Operations Manager; Karen Gulbrandsen, Curator of Programs; Mark Van Ells, Archivist; William Brewster, Curator of Collections; Dr. James McIntosh, Volunteer; Dr. James Angevine, Volunteer; Jason Josvai, Curatorial Asst.; Lindy Waites, Acting Registrar; and Mike Telzrow, Museum Intern.

The First Division Museum is located at "Cantigny," the family estate of Colonel Robert

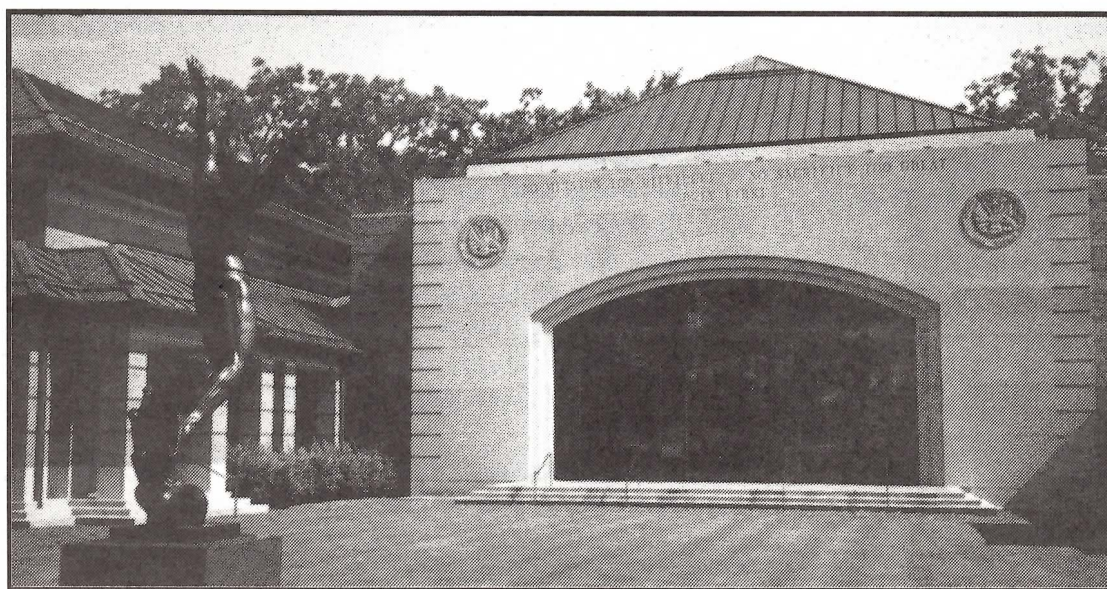
R. McCormick, former Editor/Publisher of the *Chicago Tribune* and commanding officer of an artillery battalion in the U.S. Army's First Division during World War I. Cantigny was named in honor of the French town where McCormick fought with the First Division. Situated on 500 acres, the First Division Museum and elegant McCormick Mansion are surrounded by formal gardens, a golf course, concert area, and woods. Several military tanks dating from World War I to the Vietnam War have been placed on view in front of the museum for children and adults to explore.

Modern interactive displays, videos, innovative exhibits, programs, collections, and a research center assist the Museum in commemorating the history of the First Division. The first of three full-size dioramas highlights the Division's participation in the small battle-torn village and bunkers of Cantigny, France during World War I. A spectacular "D-Day" exhibit depicting the bullet-riddled shores of Omaha Beach is the centerpiece of the World War II gallery. An award-winning audiovisual program and replicated jungle environment are the setting for the museum's Vietnam War exhibit.

Participants from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum were taken behind the scenes at the First

Division Museum and other portions of the estate during the visit. Later in the evening, Cantigny staff hosted a special dinner for all participants at the Macaroni Cafe.

Richard Zeitlin extended an invitation to the staff of the First Division Museum to visit Madison in the fall to discuss the Veterans Museum's operations, programs, and collections.



First Division Museum in Wheaton, Illinois.

CURATOR'S CHRONICLES: KING EXHIBITS

by William F. Brewster

In 1972 the Wisconsin Veterans Museum opened a branch exhibit gallery in the Marden Center at the King Veterans Home. During the development and installation of the exhibit the King facility was home to many World War I veterans. Reflecting this population, eight of the thirteen object cases are dedicated to the events surrounding World War I. In addition the gallery houses a life-size World War I trench scene. Of the remaining cases, four address the World War II period and one case is used for changing exhibits. Through the years the King exhibit has received recognition for its innovative design and presentation of military subject matter.

Twenty-three years after opening, the King exhibit still presents a vibrant gallery space that tells the story of America's participation in "The Great War" and World War II. But a greater awareness and interest in military history by visitors requires a more complete presentation of American military and veterans' history. Indeed, the King gallery contains little information on the Korean Conflict and the Viet Nam War. With this in mind a plan of action was decided on that will ultimately provide an updated exhibit that presents the role played by Wisconsin veterans in each of these conflicts.

Redevelopment of the King exhibit gallery will start in 1996. The first step in this project involves the installation of an improved lighting system that will provide better visibility in the gallery and greater control and ease of maintenance than is currently available. Starting in the summer of 1996 the gallery will begin to be updated with new exhibits that highlight the formation and origins of the state veterans home, as well as providing cases dedicated to all of America's 20th century conflicts. An exhibit on the Persian Gulf War which is currently being shown at King provides an example of what can be expected from the gallery redevelopment. If you have not seen the old King exhibit now is the time for a visit. And while there, plan a trip for the following summer to see what is new.

MORE BOOK WANTS

by Mark D. Van Ells

The following books have been added to the library's list of permanent book wants:

Alvarez, Everett, *Chained Eagle*, New York: D.I. Fine, 1989.

Andariese, Walter S., *World War II through Korea*, Hastings, NE: Snell, 1974.

Bradley, Omar N., *A Soldier's Story*, New York: Holt, 1951.

Davies, Wallace Evan, *Patriotism on Parade: The Story of Veterans' and Hereditary Organizations in America, 1783-1900*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1955.

Donovan, Robert J., *PT109: John F. Kennedy in World War II*, New York: McGraw Hill, 1961.

Eisenhower, Dwight D., *At Ease: Stories I Tell My Friends*, Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1967.

Kerry, John, *The New Soldier*, New York: Macmillan, 1971.

West, Francis J., *The Village*, New York: Harper and Row, 1972.

Wilkinson, Allen Byron, *Up Front Korea*, New York: Vantage Press, 1967.

A complete list of books wants is available upon request. If you have these books, or others you think might be of interest for the library, please contact Mark Van Ells, Archivist/Historian, at 608/267-1790. We are particularly interested in soldiers' and sailors' narratives, or books about veterans and veterans' affairs.

IMPORTANT DONATIONS RECEIVED

by Karen Gulbrandsen

On July 25, 1995, WAVES National Badger Unit no. 39 made a \$1000.00 contribution to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. The organization specified that the money be used towards the reprinting of *Wisconsin's Role in World War II*, a curriculum guide for the state's teachers.

The report was developed last fall by the State Committee of the World War II Commemorative Community Program. The museum distributed copies to hundreds of teachers from around the state. The guide along with the museum's exhibits provided an excellent opportunity for teachers to bring Wisconsin veterans' history to the state's schoolchildren. We are very pleased to be able to make the guide available once again. Thank you WAVES National Badger Unit no. 39.

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WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION
Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin, Executive Director
30 West Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

This donation followed a contribution by the Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Wisconsin. The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$1202.00 to the Foundation's general fund. The general fund supports the museum's exhibits and programs as voted on by the Foundation's Board of Directors. The Foundation is most grateful and cheers the generous spirit of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW.



Still Something Special

