



Newsletter of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

Lectures to Focus on Conclusion of World War II

by Richard H. Zeitlin

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum 1996 lecture series will highlight the ending of the Second World War and the origins of the Cold War. This year will mark the third year that the series has been offered to the public. The 1994 and 1995 public lectures attracted a varied audience of veterans, history buffs, and others with an interest in military affairs thereby establishing a solid attendance base. The spring 1996 series "Legacy: the United States and the End of World War II," features presentations by four nationally respected historians, well known for work in the area of World War II and Cold War history.

Professor Bernard J. Bernstein of Stanford University will appear on March 23 to present "The Atomic Bombing of Japan Reconsidered." Professor Bernstein is the author of *The Atomic Bomb: the Critical Issues*, and two important articles in recent issues of *Diplomatic History*.

Bernard Nalty an historian employed by the Office of Air Force History will speak about the experience of Black Americans in

U.S. military service during World War II and how American racial policies changed during the early Cold War. Nalty compiled the 13 volume *Blacks in the United States Armed Forces: Basic Documents* and wrote *Strength for the Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military*. Nalty's presentation is scheduled to take place on April 13.

Mark Stoler of the University of Vermont will speak on May 4 about the break up of the Grand Alliance. Stoler is a biographer of General George Marshall and he will trace the diplomatic struggles among the wartime allies from D-Day to the creation of the Marshall Plan.

Stephen Ambrose presents the final talk on June 15. Ambrose's "Eisenhower: Berlin to N.A.T.O." will review U.S. military affairs in Europe from the ending of World War II to the creation of the anti-Soviet defensive alliance.

Lecture schedule on page 6.

World War II was among the most important events in human history. Its pivotal role in the history of the 20th century would be hard to overestimate. The origins of the Cold War, which dominated international affairs for 40 years following 1945, had its roots in the Second World War—and especially in its conclusion. The Second World War unleashed social changes at home and around the world that are still in

progress. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum expects to increase understanding of these momentous events by sponsoring first rate public historical programs. The museum would like to recognize the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, the Wisconsin Humanities Council, and the Other Other Club for their continued support of the lecture series.

Wartime allies: Roosevelt (center), Churchill (right), and Stalin (left) 1943.



National Archives

Museum to Reproduce Civil War Issue Blanket

by William F. Brewster

The woolen blanket was an essential part of the 19th century soldier's equipment. During the Civil War, the federal government struggled to supply the millions of blankets needed by the Army. For the production of blankets, as with many issued items, the Quartermasters Department relied on private manufacturers. In most cases, the contractors were able to supply passable goods in quantity. The blanket industry stands out as the singular exception, warranting mention in the report of the Quartermaster General to Congress in 1865: "The only domestic branch of manufacture which has not shown capacity to supply the army is that of blankets. The department has been obliged throughout the war to use a considerable proportion of army blankets of foreign manufacture."

The blankets obtained by the Army through the various domestic and foreign sources were of varying quality. The blanket called for in Army regulations, and ultimately desired by the U. S. Army Quartermasters Department, was to be "woolen, gray ... seven feet long, and five and a half feet wide, and to weigh five pounds." The surviving examples of army blankets that were issued rarely meet these specifications.

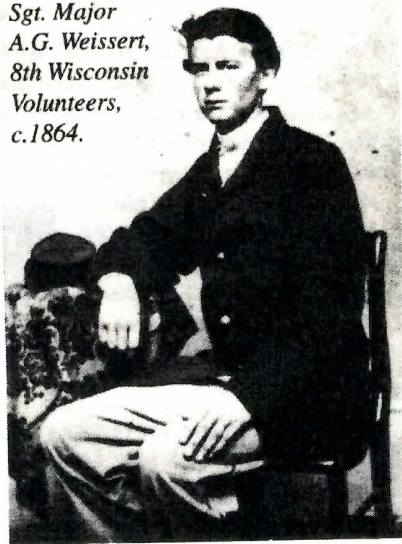
Although gray-colored issue blankets exist, a majority of the documented examples are of some shade of brown. The cause of the brown color found in many issue blankets has been the focus of speculation for years. Currently, there are three hypotheses:

1. The yarns used in these blankets were dyed with some agent such as logwood that initially produced a gray color. The agent then changed over an undetermined period of time to a brown color.
2. The yarns used in these blankets were dyed with some agent that produced a brown color.

3. The blankets were manufactured using undyed wool or "greige goods" that were brown in color.

To date there has been no research conducted on brown issue blankets that supports any of these hypotheses. However, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is currently involved with research that should provide answers on the composition and stability of the dyes used in brown-colored issue blankets.

*Sgt. Major
A.G. Weissert,
8th Wisconsin
Volunteers,
c.1864.*



So what color were issue blankets? The most reliable evidence concerning their color is found in period artwork. Two contemporary artists have provided color glimpses of the federal soldier and his environs. Winslow Homer, the best known of these artists, completed paintings between 1863 and 1865 that show Union soldiers in camp with brown blankets spread out for drying on tents and poles. Lesser known artist, Alfred Bellard, whose watercolors portray the Union soldier on the march and at rest, depicts brown and gray blankets strapped to knapsacks and slung in blanket rolls. Until scientific research provides evidence on the makeup of the brown dyes in issue blankets, these paintings

supply the only color-based documentation available. This information shows that brown and gray issue blankets existed concurrently during the Civil War.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is in the process of creating a reproduction issue blanket based on an original brought home by Sergeant Major A. G. "Augie" Weissert after he was wounded at the Battle of Nashville in 1864. The blanket was issued to Weissert during his recovery and therefore saw no field use. Modest exposure to the elements has resulted in this blanket retaining a considerable amount of its original finish. Because of its definite wartime provenance and overall condition, Augie Weissert's blanket was chosen as an ideal candidate for reproduction.

The blanket is a medium brown color with dark brown end stripes. It is manufactured of woolen yarns that contain large amounts of red, blue, natural and other colored shoddy. The blanket measures six-and-a-half feet long, and four feet and nine inches wide. The end stripes are two-and-one-half inches wide. The weight is approximately four-and-three quarter pounds. The U.S. is of the two-lined serif variety. It is executed in a running stitch. The blanket shows signs of a contractor's stamp but the manufacturer has not been determined.

It is our intent to produce a blanket that closely resembles the one brought home by Sergeant Major Weissert. To accomplish this we are working extensively with the leading woolen blanket producer in the country. We are conducting extensive scientific dye research in cooperation with researchers at the University of Wisconsin to help determine the original color of this blanket. We anticipate production by late spring to early summer.

League of Honor Wall Installed in Museum Lobby

by Richard H. Zeitlin

In December, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation installed the League of Honor wall in the museum's lobby. The wall features the names of those who have made donations of \$1,000 or more to the museum. Brass, laser-engraved name plates identify contributors and their categories of giving. Customized to fit the Veterans Museum space and needs, it is an especially attractive addition to the museum lobby.

Since its incorporation, the Foundation has received donations of \$10,000 or more from the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and Mills Fleet Farm. Donations in the \$5000.00 category include the VFW Auxiliary, the G.A.R. Association, and the Janesville Foundation. These organizations have received permanent name plaques on the wall with donations of \$10,000 receiving the highest and most prominent position. Contributions of \$1,000 receive a name plate for one year. The MOPH, the WAVES National Badger Unit no. 39 and Grant Thornton Accountants have qualified for this category to date. The League of Honor program enables individuals, organizations, and com-



memorative listings to move up in status over time since donations are cumulative.

The Foundation is producing a brochure illustrating and explaining the League of Honor program. They will be distributed to the members of the Foundation Board of Directors as well as to the local veterans posts and interested individuals as soon as they are available. Veterans Museum Foundation President Ted

DeMicchi is leading the effort to raise one million dollars. This base will help the Foundation to support the museum's mission to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin's veterans through educational exhibits and programs. If you are interested in the League of Honor program, please contact Richard H. Zeitlin or Ted DeMicchi at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, 30 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Going On-Line

The information revolution currently sweeping America and the world has reached the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Beginning in early 1996, the museum will have a "page" on the World Wide Web, that is, a permanent site accessible through the Internet. The museum's web page will be a subsection of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs' page, which is already on-line and providing information about the Badger State's various veterans' programs. The

"address" of the WDVA's web page is: <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva/>. When the museum's page is on-line, this page will lead you to it.

Once construction of the WVM web page is complete, you will be able to type in the address and see general information about the museum. You will then have the option to obtain more detailed information about the museum's collections, gift

shop, tour program, and other matters. In the future, we hope to add more text and graphics to create an attractive page that people will want to visit again and again. With the requisite computer hardware and software, Internet users around the world will be able to access the museum's web page. We hope the Internet will help us disseminate information about our institution to a much wider audience.

ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

by Mark D. Van Ells

Nineteen ninety-five was another banner year for the WVM's archives and library program. Overall, we received 157 individual donations in 1995, the second highest total in the history of the museum. In addition, we interviewed 76 veterans for the Wisconsin Veterans Oral History Project, bringing the total to 115 as of 1 January 1996.

On 22 November 1995, Hazel Nowinski of Union Grove, Wisconsin, donated the papers of her late husband, Colonel Stanley M. Nowinski. During World War II, Nowinski served in the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division, one of the first Allied units into the infamous Dachau concentration camp. Nowinski served as the division's Displaced Persons Officer, and in

that capacity worked closely with Holocaust survivors in the area of Salzburg, Austria. The collection contains numerous books describing Nowinski's work with displaced persons, correspondence with concentration camp survivors (including Israeli diplomat Aba Gefen), and reminiscences and other papers related to Nowinski's long career as an officer in the U.S. Army. The WVM competed with several other institutions to obtain the collection, and we are delighted that Mrs. Nowinski decided to keep the papers of her husband in Wisconsin and at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Stanley Nowinski (center) and his wife Hazel (right) at Israel's Holocaust Memorial, 1983.



Book Wants

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

Archard, Theresa, *G.I. Nightingale: The Story of an American Army Nurse*, New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1945.

Ardery, Philip, *Bomber Pilot: A Memoir of World War II*, Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Press, 1978.

Atwell, Lester, *Private*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1958.

Bolte, Charles G., *Our Negro Veterans*, New York: Public Affairs Committee, 1947.

Eichelberger, Robert L., *Our Jungle Road to Tokyo*, New York: Viking, 1950.

Jackson, Donald, ed., *Black Hawk: An Autobiography*, Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1955.

Marshall, George C., *Memoirs of My Service in the World War, 1917-1918*, Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1976.

Mathias, Frank F., *G.I. Five: An Army Bandsman in World War II*, Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Press, 1982.

Mitchell, William, *Memoirs of World War I: From Start to Finish of Our Greatest War*, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1975.

Stallard, Patricia Y., *Glittering Misery: Dependents of the Indian Fighting Army*, San Rafael, CA: Presidio Press, 1978.

Vandergrift, Archer A., *Once A Marine: The Memoirs of General A.A. Vandergrift, United States Marine Corps*, New York: Ballantine, 1964.

Welch, Richard E., *Response to Imperialism: The United States and the Philippine-American War*, Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1979.

Winthur, Oscar Osborn, ed., *With Sherman to the Sea: the Civil War Letters, Diaries, and Reminiscences of Theodore F. Upson*, Bloomington, IN: University of Indiana Press, 1958.

Zablocki, Clement J., *Sino-Soviet Rivalry: Implications for U.S. Policy*, New York: Praeger, 1966.

If you have these books, or others you think might be of interest for the library, please contact Mark D. Van Ells, Archivist/Historian, at 30 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703, 608/267-1790, MVANELLS@MAIL.STATE.WI.US. We are particularly interested in soldiers' and sailors' narratives, or books about veterans and veterans' affairs.

Zingale Exhibition Opening

About 200 people attended the opening reception on December 7 of the temporary exhibition, *Zingale: Artist Turned Sailor, Works on Paper (1944-1945)*. Foundation Board member Ted Duckworth welcomed the crowd and introduced the exhibition. The exhibition features sketches by Santos Zingale portraying the varied military tasks carried out while serving in the Navy, ranging from combat preparations to peeling potatoes, as well as the ways in which



the sailors occupied themselves when not on duty. Also included are portraits of fellow crew members which illustrate the diverse character and spirit of the American sailor during the Second World War.

Santos Zingale is a Wisconsin native. As a young artist, he created murals and painting for the Works Progress Administration during the Depression. In 1953, he completed a mural for Marquette University. He was a professor of art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 30 years before retiring in 1978.

The drawings will be on display through March 1.

THE BUGLE Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

The Bugle is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation.

President: **Ted DeMicchi**
Vice President: **Reba Eslinger**
Treasurer: **Barney Boyle**
Secretary: **Paul Bialk**
Executive Director: **Richard Zeitlin**
Editor: **Karen Gulbrandsen**

Contributing writers: **William Brewster, Karen Gulbrandsen, Mark Van Ells, Lynnette Wolfe, Richard Zeitlin.**

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the entire staff for making 1995 a banner year for museum operations. The dedication and hard work they have given to the museum is sincerely appreciated. Without them WVM would not be where it is today. In addition, I want to mention that WVM staff has increased 550% from 2 full-time and 5 part-time staff in 1989 to 7 full-time, 20 part-time, and 13 volunteers in 1995. Over 50% of our staff are veterans. A new 1996 WVM staff directory will appear in the next issue of the *Bugle*.

Starting April 1, 1996 and ending September 1, 1996 WVM will be open seven days per week (except holidays). New extended hours include Monday to Saturday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., and Sunday noon to 5 P.M. Funding for the additional hours has been provided by a federal grant from the Institute of Museum Services for FY 1996-1997.

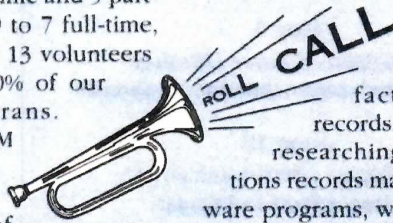
Erin Landa, WVM's new gift store manager, did a magnificent job during her first year on duty, increasing sales by 37% (to \$103,688) for calendar year 1995. Between January and February, the store will run a 40% clearance sale on books and ordering new lines of merchandise for the upcoming 1996 school field trip and summer tourist seasons. On the slate for new products will be an exclusive Civil War reproduction blanket, Civil War battleflag coffee mugs, and museum exhibit guidebook. Erin gained a great deal of retail experience while employed as a gift

store manager with Marriott Hotel chain. She and her husband Juan live in Waunakee where they also run a travel agency.

In December 1995, Jason Josvai of Madison was hired for the position of Museum Registrar. He will be responsible for the difficult and demanding job of computerizing, updating, and maintaining all of the museum's artifact collections records. Jason is now researching new collections records management software programs, which will in the future include digital imaging of artifacts as well as making certain collections records accessible to the public via the Internet. Jason was employed as a Project Assistant Registrar at the Elvehjem Museum of Art and WVM before accepting the full-time position at WVM. Welcome aboard!!

On November 13-14, 1995, seven staff members from the First Division Museum, Wheaton, IL visited their counterparts at WVM. Information on museum administration, educational programs, marketing, exhibit development, volunteer coordination, collections and archival management, and operations were shared. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation hosted a dinner for First Division Museum and WVM staff at Paisan's Restaurant. Both institutions are looking forward to continuing the collaboration in 1996.

Lynnette Wolfe
Lynnette Wolfe



Lecture Series

Legacy: The United States and the End of World War II

March 23

The Atomic Bombing of Japan Reconsidered
Professor Barton Bernstein, Stanford University

April 13

Revising U.S. Military Racial Policies
Professor Bernard Nalty, Office of Air Force History

May 4

The Grand Alliance Dissolved
Professor Mark Stoler, University of Vermont

June 15

Eisenhower: Berlin to N.A.T.O.
Professor Stephen Ambrose,
Eisenhower Center, University of New Orleans

★ ★ ★

Lectures begin at 7:00 P.M.

First three lectures take place at the
G.A.R. Memorial Hall,
State Capitol, 4th Floor North.

Ambrose lecture will be held in the
State Historical Society of Wisconsin's
Auditorium, 816 State Street.

★ ★ ★

In the Gift Shop...

"Augie" Weissert's Blanket!

In the spring of 1996, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will be proud to offer a reproduction of the blanket Sergeant Major Weissert was issued after being wounded during the battle of Nashville. For more information and advance orders please write:

**AUGIE'S BLANKET
WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM
30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET
MADISON, WI 53703
ATTN: ERIN LANDA**

BACK IN STOCK!

Our exclusive line of reproduction tin-ware is available once again. Information upon request. Phone orders accepted.
6 0 8 / 2 6 7 - 1 7 9 9

**THE
BUGLE**

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

*Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin, Executive Director
30 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703*