

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Frontline

KHE SANH REMEMBERED STUBBE TELLS OF SIEGE, SERVICE



Russell Horton

Rev. Ray Stubbe describes his experiences as a Navy chaplain in Vietnam

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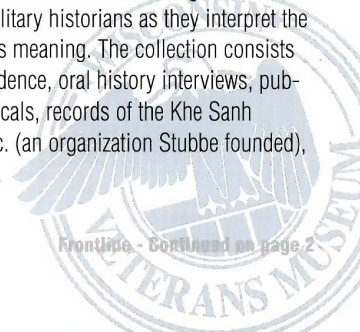
and more...

On November 10, Reverend Ray Stubbe spoke at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum about his experiences as a Navy chaplain with the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines at Khe Sanh before and during the siege. Stubbe had a number of close calls during the siege as he moved between bunkers and trench lines ministering and performing services for troops as NVA shells rained down upon them. As a front line chaplain, he walked patrols and spent time at the various hill outposts surrounding the Khe Sanh fire base. Stubbe served two tours in the I Corps region of Vietnam. He founded the Khe Sanh Veterans Association and co-authored several books on the siege of Khe Sanh, including the authoritative *Valley of Decision*, and a book on Marine Force Recon. Prior to the lecture, Stubbe received a commendation from WDVA Secretary John Scocos, honoring him for service to his country and also for donating his archives and artifacts to the WVM.

In his own words, Stubbe's research about Khe Sanh began in 1970 as an attempt "to make sense of what I had experienced, trying to find some meaning..." He began by typing his daily Vietnam diary. Over the next two decades he added material from military archives throughout the country and from conversations with thousands of Khe Sanh veterans. His final re-write, completed in 1989, was 1,106 pages of extensive research.

Stubbe's manuscript collection is of national significance and will be used by future military historians as they interpret the siege of Khe Sanh and its meaning. The collection consists of his diaries, correspondence, oral history interviews, published books and periodicals, records of the Khe Sanh Veterans Association, Inc. (an organization Stubbe founded), maps, and research files.

Frontline - Continued on page 2



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.

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Director's Corner

SIR MARTIN GILBERT LECTURE

Sir Martin Gilbert delivered the Wimmer-Churchill lecture at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) on October 21. Supported in partnership with the UW Department of History and the Other Other Club, the annual Wimmer-Churchill lecture is devoted to a topic involving Winston Churchill as presented by an outstanding British historian. Gilbert, Churchill's official biographer, wrote eight volumes on the life of the British statesman and edited twelve volumes of his papers. In addition, Sir Martin wrote more than fifty other scholarly books on topics dealing primarily with World War II. Gilbert taught at Oxford University.

Gilbert spoke on the subject of "Churchill, Eisenhower, and the Preparations for D-Day" to an audience of some 150 people. Gilbert's knowledge of the topic impressed all present. His familiarity with source materials, interesting historical asides, and sonorous voice fascinated the audience who went on to ask a number of thoughtful questions.

Sir Martin described the use of deception in the preparations for D-Day. Churchill and Eisenhower cooperated fully with one another and their use of complex deception methods reaped significant rewards. Anglo American deceptions involved the reading of high level encrypted German radio message traffic through the breaking of various codes sent

via the "Enigma" machine, turning the enemy's spy network into double agents, and creating phony armies to give an impression of greater strength than actually existed.

Gilbert examined all of the thousands of intercepted Enigma messages as well as espionage materials. He explained how Enigma intercepts helped the Allies turn the German spy network. First rate German mechanized divisions were dispatched to the Black Sea, Norway, and Italy rather than to France, where the Allied invasion would actually take place. The fake army "encamped" in Scotland deceived the Germans.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has been very fortunate to host the annual Wimmer-Churchill presentation. Sir Martin Gilbert's talk represented history at its best. The WVM will be looking forward to next year's session. We have a wonderful tradition to uphold.

By Richard Zeitlin

Continued - Frontline

The more than 300 objects donated as part of the Ray Stubbe collection document the experiences of the Marines and soldiers who served in I Corps during the Vietnam conflict. Stubbe collected everything from the mundane to the unique and highly unusual during his two tours. A metal shipping box, called a mount-out-block, acquired from C-Med at Khe Sanh served as a bath tub when he was later stationed at Quang Tri and provided a safe container to store the many items picked up along the way. There are pieces of artillery, mortar and rocket shrapnel from different shellings. When the ammo dump at Khe Sanh took a direct hit it covered the base with the remains of different U.S. ordnance. Some of these materials also made their way into the box.

A set of lower torso armor given to Ray by the boys in the battery section provided some feeling of comfort as he made his way around the base during the siege. The chaplain also covered the Special Forces camp at Lang Vei. From that isolated location he brought back a cargo parachute and various uniform pieces made of distinctive tigerstripe camou-

flage cloth worn by the Vietnamese troops and their Green Beret leaders.

Stubbe collected trash dropped by the North Vietnamese as they surrounded Khe Sanh; it was acquired by Marine recon teams as evidence of the impending attack. He donated the helmet and boots he wore during the siege that are still covered with the red laterite dirt that is so distinctive and memorable for the men who lived in it. A cup made from a c-ration can and .50 caliber cartridge, a 3rd Marine Division sweat-shirt (because it got cold in the mountains, though it seems hard to believe), and a cross that saw use on the hill outposts are all included in Stubbe's collection.

These objects and the wealth of detailed history that accompanies them will speak to future generations, telling of heroic deeds and the great cost of war.

By Bill Brewster, Jeff Kollath, and Gayle Martinson

WVM Outreach

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The WVM had a busy fall season, offering a number of educational and entertaining programs. Read below for a summary of completed events and see the sidebars on pages 6 & 7 to learn about upcoming programs and exhibits.

TALKING SPIRITS VII

The 2005 Forest Hill Cemetery Tour on October 2 covered a wide range of topics, from the Civil War through the Vietnam War. Familiar characters from past tours, including Civil War nurse Emilie Quiner and Civil War hospital founder Cordelia Harvey, joined compelling new characters such as three term Wisconsin Governor Phil La Follette, Vietnam veteran Charles J. Thoma, and World War II veteran "Sailor" Art Thomas. Local actors brought John Sable's scripts to life with evocative performances. Fresh research brought to



Actor Tom Lodewyck portrays Capt. Charles Thoma

light interesting aspects of veterans' experiences, such as Joseph Meek's service as a Marine in 1920's Haiti and Charles J. Thoma's tour of duty in Vietnam.

Thanks go out to WVM volunteers and staff, the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, the Overture Foundation, Woodman's Market, Wal-Mart, Greenbush Bakery, People's Bakery, Milio's, Glenway Golf Course, Resurrection Cemetery, Cress Funeral Homes, and Forest Hill Cemetery.
By Mari Dresner

Charlotte Deleste

TWO DAYS IN OCTOBER

More than 140 people attended a panel discussion at the WVM on October 6. The panel, moderated by Dr. Jeremi Suri, featured Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Maraniss, Brig. Gen. James Shelton, and Col. Clark Welch. The event marked the premiere of "Two Days in October," a PBS documentary based on Maraniss' book *They Marched Into Sunlight*. The panelists discussed the events detailed in the book, particularly the ambush of the 2/28 Black Lions unit in Vietnam on October 17, 1967. Questions from the audience led to an insightful discussion of the Vietnam War and its legacy.



Suri, Welch, Shelton, and Maraniss (l-r)

Russell Horton

A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM GALA

The weather outside may have been frightful, but the evening of November 12 was delightful at the WVM. The fourth annual Gala had its highest turnout ever, and thousands of dollars were raised to support the activities of the museum. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and a silent auction before hearing presentations from Dr. Richard Zeitlin, Secretary John Scocos, and former Congressman Scott Klug, the keynote speaker. Each speech reminded guests of

the necessity to recognize those who have served our country, and how the WVM and Department of Veterans Affairs are instrumental in educating our citizens about the sacrifices made by veterans. A resounding "thank you" goes to the WVM Foundation and staff, everyone who attended, and to those who support the WVM.

By Kathleen Quigley

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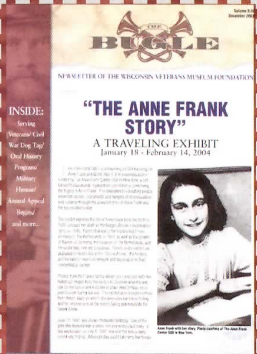
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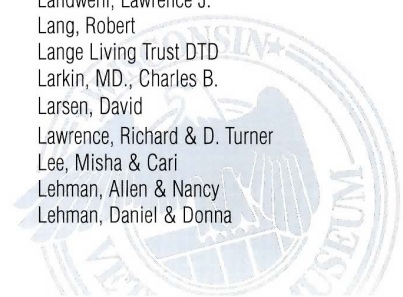
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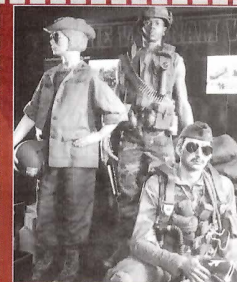


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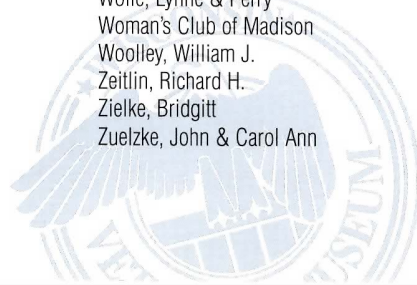
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Curator's Chronicles

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THE SAVAGE WARS FOR PEACE: THE PHILIPPINE WAR AND WAR IN IRAQ
Monday, February 6, 2006
7 p.m.
Lecture and discussion

Join distinguished military historian and professor Brian Linn as he draws comparisons between the current conflict in Iraq and the Philippine War of 1899-1902. He argues that the Army of 1900 was much better suited for its mission because of superior strategy, command, and a strong emphasis of integrating civil war military aspects of counterinsurgency.

IRAQ WAR PROGRAM SERIES
Coming in March 2006

Join us for a series of programs examining the current conflict in Iraq from a variety of perspectives. Featured events will include the opening of a brand new photograph exhibit highlighting the experiences of Wisconsin's own Golf Company, 2/24 Marines in the Middle East. Other activities include an in-service program for secondary school teachers and several lectures by nationally-known scholars.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER UPDATES AND BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN LATE FEBRUARY 2006!

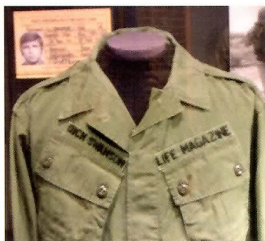
SERENDIPITY STRIKES

LUCKY FIND LEADS TO EXHIBITS, COLLECTION

In the museum world, we often find a connection between sources. That one donor may lead to others does not sound so unusual. Why wouldn't a veteran of a particular unit be able to put the museum in touch with others from that same unit or even other units? While this is true, it is the connections guiding us through improbable story lines that are both surprising and most rewarding. A case in point starts at an antique mall in Maryland.

During the spring of 2000, my family visited relatives in Northern Virginia. While there, we spent a day antiquing through the region. Perusing the merchandise in a Frederick, Maryland mall, I found a Vietnam War era tropical coat reportedly worn by *Life Magazine* photographer Dick Swanson.

Skeptical, I noted the name with the intent of looking him up later. Finding Mr. Swanson proved to be easy as he maintains his own website. With my interest piqued, I contacted him to find out why he had let this jacket go. The response was swift, as he had not intentionally disposed of the coat. During a move, the box containing his Vietnam clothing remained in the basement of his former residence where the new homeowners and promptly took the contents to the local mall for some quick cash. I put Swanson in contact with the dealer who returned the coat in exchange for a photo print.



About a month after the opening of the Swanson show, Curator of Exhibits Jeff Kollath made his way to my office with a startling revelation: the chaplain in the photograph was a Wauwatosa native. Chaplain Ray Stubbe (U.S.N. retired) had loaned his letters to the Wisconsin Historical Society for their book, *Voices from Vietnam*. The book includes the photograph of Chaplain Stubbe leading the Marines in prayer. In the process of preparing a Vietnam exhibit to open in the spring of 2006, Kollath was looking for information on Wisconsin veterans. The thought hit us both, "Is the chaplain still in Wauwatosa and does he have any of the objects in the photograph?" A quick check of the phone book found a listing for Ray Stubbe. Within a few minutes, I was speaking with Ray, who said he indeed still possessed the crucifix, bible and uniform worn in the photograph. These objects along with a full size photo of the scene and other pieces collected in Vietnam will be included in the upcoming exhibit, "In the Belly of the Dragon: Life and Death in I Corps." And it all started with a faded green coat, a name, and a little curiosity.



By William Brewster

It occurred to me that the WVM might obtain a travelling show of Mr. Swanson's work. He readily agreed and provided a variety of images taken in Vietnam from which we selected twenty views for display. The photos included some lesser-known pieces as well as those that made *Life Magazine*. Of particular interest is a shot taken in early 1968 that stands as one of the truly poignant images from the Vietnam era. It shows a chaplain conducting a service for a small group of Marines at Khe Sanh prior to the siege.



Ray Stubbe leads three Marines in prayer at Khe Sanh

Dick Swanson

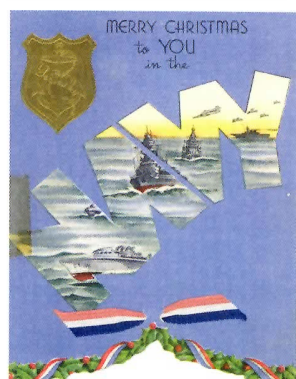
From the Archives

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Archival Materials Show How Men and Women in the Military Observe the Season

Many visitors to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center want to learn about the daily lives of men and women in the service. This focus on military life both personalizes the military experience and establishes connections between service people. The holiday observances of those in the military are one aspect of military life and the focus of this article.

Bill Mauldin wrote in *Up Front* "a soldier's life revolves



Wesley Schwoegler Papers, WVM Mss 762

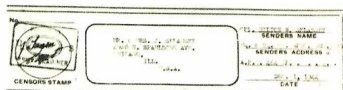
around his mail." This was particularly true around the holidays and can be seen in the creation of patriotic Christmas, Chanukah, and New Year's cards. The family of Walter Schwoegler sent traditional folded holiday cards with a military theme. The inside is

printed with a message wishing the recipient "smooth sailing, and a happy, lucky cruise."

Soldiers also sent cards to their families at home. Milton Sklansky used illustrated V-Mail to greet his family during the holidays. V-Mail forms were published with pre-drawn holiday messages and specific references to theater or unit. Sklansky, a Jewish soldier,

sent home this Chanukah card, which is one of a few designs specifically for Jewish holidays. He also sent a combined

Christmas and New Year card with specific references to his unit and theater.



Milton Sklansky Papers, WVM Mss 626

Soldiers commemorate the holiday season through more than just sending cards. Some units were served special meals, giving soldiers a chance to sit down and eat hot food for the first time in months. In contrast, the 57th

Signal Battalion had coffee and donuts along with a concert for their holiday celebration. Eugene Alexander served in the Battle of the Bulge and spent Christmas 1944 in a slit trench. Despite that, in the evening he attended a party thrown by his commanding officer.

Dean Rockstad, on occupation duty in Korea, received a Christmas care package from home. He shared a few treats with his service buddies. Rockstad's unit also hosted a Christmas party for Korean orphans complete with a tree. Stationed in Vietnam for Christmas of 1966, Jim Kurtz saw a Bob Hope show.

Wisconsin men and women currently serving in the deserts of Iraq still find ways to display their holiday spirit. The decorated helmet worn by Andy Wentworth is just one of



Golf Company Marines Photographs

Andy Wentworth displays some holiday spirit

the ways the Golf Company, 2/24 Marines celebrated the season.

These are just some of the holiday related materials at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. To see these items and more visit the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center, open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 3:30 pm.

By Abbie Norderhaug

Exhibit Schedule

EARLY 2006

**NEVER FORGET:
THE KNIFE DRAWINGS
OF MICHAEL HECHT**
January 3 - March 10
First Floor Gallery

Join us for this special exhibit highlighting the knife drawings of local artist Michael Hecht. These unique pieces of art highlight the Jewish perspective on prominent dates in World War II, from Hitler's invasion of Poland to the fall of the Third Reich in May 1945. Hecht grew up in New York City following the war and his experiences dealing with friends and family liberated from the concentration camps still shape his artwork forty years later.



From the Gift Shop

2005 Capitol Holiday Ornament

The 2005 Capitol Holiday Ornament is now available. The "Wisconsin" statue from the top of the capitol building is accurately portrayed in this custom made, one-of-a-kind collectible. Purchase this unique item for your personal collection or as a thoughtful gift for family and friends. Available in the Museum gift shop for \$17.00. If you wish to buy it by mail, please include \$4.00 for shipping for the first 2 items, \$6.00 for 3-5 items. (Wisconsin residents add 5.5% sales tax)

Send form & payment to: WVM Gift Shop, 30 W. Mifflin St., Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703

Check Money Order Visa Master Card Amer. Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Name: _____ Ornament \$17.00 each

Address: _____ Shipping _____

City/State/Zip: _____ 5.5% WI Tax _____

Phone: _____ Total: _____

Email: _____



The Bugle

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation
30 W. Mifflin St., Ste. 200
Madison, WI 53703

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