

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

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and more...

WHAT'S IN AN ENVELOPE?

Support for U.S. troops and war efforts has appeared in different ways during military conflicts. Well known are the posters of World War II where Rosie the Riveter encourages everyone "we can do it" or the Norman Rockwell posters symbolizing the four freedoms Americans were fighting for. During the Civil War, civilian support groups like the United States Sanitary Commission were organized to support troops and supply them with necessities and World War I brought patriotic songs and lyrics to the home front.

A smaller way to express patriotism was first used during the Civil War and was later used in World War I and World War II. Patriotic envelopes, or covers, as collectors call them, were a way individuals expressed their patriotism.

Patriotic envelopes feature art on the left side of the enve-



Civil War-era envelopes from John W. Shell, James West, and the G.A.R. Memorial Hall collections, Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

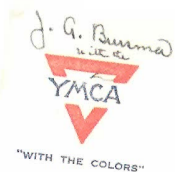
lope front and can be both black and white or in color. Early envelope printing was often simply a decorative return address but later expanded to larger images. These envelopes, and occasionally matching stationery, were created and published by different artists across the country.

Lithography and wood block printing were the common techniques for creating Civil War envelopes. Designs encompass a variety of war-time themes and patriotic images ranging from American flags to eagles to support the union cause. Two other common subjects were reminders of the Revolutionary War and women, who appear both as allegorical figures and as those waiting patiently on the home front.

Postcards were a popular means of communication for soldiers serving in World War I. Service members were able to send quick, short messages as well as images of the places they'd seen.

However, patri-

otic envelopes persisted. Common were those from the Y.M.C.A. that indicated that the sender was "with the colors." Stateside soldiers had access to both stationery and envelopes custom designed for



World War I-era envelopes from John Bursma and Mortimer Lawrence collections, Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WISCONSIN
VETERANS
MUSEUM
30 W. Mifflin St.,
Madison, WI 53703
- On the Capitol Square

HOURS
Mon. - Sat.
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Noon - 4 p.m.
(April-September)

Director's Corner

SAYING GOODBYE TO WVM'S EXHIBIT CARPENTER

Carl Blahnik, exhibit carpenter during the extensive development of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, passed away on December 9 at 69 years of age. A life-long resident of Manitowoc, Carl owned a quality cabinetmaking and carpentry firm in partnership with his brother. When James Kelly contracted to create exhibits for the original



Blahnik was responsible for building many of WVM's casework, including the podium displayed in the G.A.R. exhibit

Manitowoc Maritime Museum in 1980, he selected Blahnik Builders to craft and fabricate the "you are there" type of displays he is famous for designing. Kelly's design involved the re-creation of a historic harbor scene, display panels, and various maritime props.

Blahnik worked on the re-development of the new Maritime Museum several years later, building dozens of display environments, ship exhibits, and the unbelievable host of small as well as large custom made necessities for such a major project. The Maritime Museum became immensely popular and contributed significantly to the upgrading of downtown Manitowoc.

Kelly and Blahnik went on to produce displays at the Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point, Michigan—not far from the site of the sinking of the ore carrier *Edmund Fitzgerald*. Carl's love of local and maritime history stood him in good stead as the Shipwreck Museum took shape.

When the Wisconsin Veterans Museum vacated its museum space at the State Capitol, the Department of Veterans Affairs developed a plan to construct a new 10,000 square foot display commemorating the services and sacrifices of state veterans in American military history. Jim Kelly became the exhibit designer. Carl Blahnik became the carpenter.

Design, fabrication, and installation of exhibits went on simultaneously following the construction and preparation of the museum building's space in 1990. The Kelly design team, museum staff, and Carl Blahnik worked on the exhibits for three years seemingly without stop. Weekends and extended overtime hours characterized the effort. The demands of producing more than 120 display components, some with substantial environmental re-creations; extensive use of custom made human figures cast from life; as well as thousands of artifacts including sizeable ones like aircraft, cannons, and vehicles was challenging.

Blahnik created casework for 3,114 objects, display environments for Civil War encampments, World War I trenches, contrasting dioramas of World War II jungles and snow swept fields depicting the global nature of that conflict, as well as Vietnam and Persian Gulf scenes. The bandstand gazebo featuring elderly G.A.R. veterans was, perhaps, the most interesting of the many things Carl produced. Simple and elegant in appearance, the gazebo is an original as well as complex construction. Fit and finish are of the highest quality—much like the fit and finish of the plexi-glass display case mounts, or the ingeniously modular exhibit platforms. Eight thousand people flocked to the grand opening of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum on June 6, 1993.

In fact, the myriad of details involved in the development of the museum could not have been accomplished without the wholehearted contribution of a first class carpenter like Carl Blahnik. He enjoyed the work and it is reflected in the product. Carl's passing leaves a significant void in the specialized exhibit building industry. We will certainly miss him.

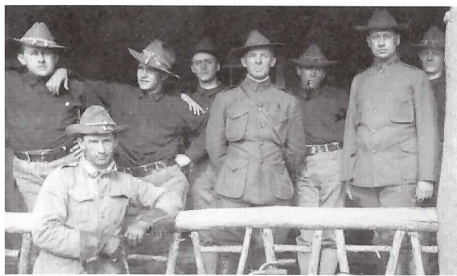
By Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin



Wisconsin National Guard Museum

RECORDING HISTORY

The Wisconsin National Guard Museum is experiencing continued growth, with the last two years resulting in record attendance. Located at Volk Field in Fort



WWI-era officers stand outside the building known now as the WI National Guard Museum.

McCoy, our security situation is back to normal and visitors are once again welcome at any time during our posted hours. Over the past year we've welcomed families of current Wisconsin National Guard soldiers deployed overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. For many, it's a chance to learn about the role their loved ones are playing in the continuing history of the Wisconsin Guard. We have also welcomed current members of the Guard and many returning veterans. In a few circumstances, we've connected current veterans to the veterans of WWII.

Continued Frontlines

the camp at which they were stationed.

The peak for use of patriotic envelopes was World War II. Throughout the course of the war, more than six hundred artists and printers designed and published about twelve thousand envelopes. These were used by soldiers and those on the home front. Images ran from boldly printed designs to the words "let's go keep 'em flying" appearing in white letters on a pale blue envelope. The American Art Service, based in Chicago, Illinois, produced military-themed comics to decorate envelopes. The designs were particularly popular among young service members and show soldiers and sailors interacting with women, on KP duty, and sharing snacks mailed from home. Another subset of World War II envelopes are those pertaining to a specific service branch. The Marine Corps had several styles which allowed the marine to paste in small pictures to supplement the preprinted image.

World War II saw the last widespread use of patriotic envelopes. While some were used during the Korean War, it was not nearly as popular. Soldiers during the Korean and Vietnam War often used service branch stationary and in Vietnam many used envelopes printed an outline of

The past year brought few noticeable changes to the museum, as always budget concerns limit what we can do at this time. There have been several subtle changes to many of the exhibits and new shelving in our storage building. We recently received an outstanding collection of materials relating to the Wisconsin State Guard which was organized in 1941 after the National Guard was Federalized and shipped to Louisiana. This collection will allow us to explain the history of this little known organization and the important role they played during the war. We are also working on several collections pertaining to specific individuals and are planning to rotate displays later this year.

Another goal for the upcoming year is to focus on the recent history of the Wisconsin National Guard. This includes units both home and overseas supporting the War on Terror, and also responding to Hurricane Katrina. In its long history, the Wisconsin National Guard has never seen such a diverse set of missions as they are seeing today. It's important now to collect this history for future generations.

By Eric Lent

Vietnam or military themes. However, none of these envelopes matched the overt patriotism of the envelopes from earlier conflicts.



Robert Tierney and World War II stationary collections, Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

these letters. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center is open to the public from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and other times by appointment.

By Abbie Norderhaug

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Many examples of these envelopes, and the correspondence they carried, can be seen at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center. They provide an extra insight into the individuals who sent and received

WVM Outreach

Upcoming Programs

A 2007 Distinguished Lecture Series Event "THE ROAD TO IRAQ: THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF U.S. INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST"

Mark Stoler, Professor of History, University of Vermont, discusses the history of U.S. involvement in the Middle East
Tues., March 13, 2007
7pm

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT! VETERANS PANEL

Panel discussion featuring women veterans from the Vietnam War, Post-Vietnam era, and Desert Storm
Thurs., March 29, 2007
2 p.m.

"THE USABLE MARSHALL PLAN"

Barry Machado, Professor of History (ret.), Washington and Lee University asks "Could a modified Marshall Plan help reconstruct Iraq?"
Thurs, April 5, 2007
7 p.m. (not Noon, as listed in the Calendar of Events)

"IRAQ: A CONSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE"

Brady Williamson, an attorney with Godfrey & Kahn, discusses how the Iraqi constitution came to be and its current relevance to Iraq's fragile democracy."
Tues., April 10, 2007
7 p.m.

WHY A SURVEY?

Want to keep getting the Bugle? Want to win two free airline tickets? Please complete the survey on this page, and mail it back. The postage is already paid. If you choose to complete the survey online (at www.wvm-foundation.com) you will be entered into a drawing for two free airline tickets, courtesy of Midwest Airlines. As always, your donations are appreciated!

The survey marks our efforts to learn more about the Bugle audience, and tailor future programs, exhibits and Bugle articles to better meet readers' needs. The survey is brief, and will also help us in our efforts to pursue grants and outside funding for future programs.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum ensures that all personal information will remain confidential. Subscribers to our

mailings and e-newsletters are never shared with outside sources.

We want to know your level of interest in all areas of the veteran's experience and military history. Please also tell us your preferred method of receiving our information. While we mail most announcements now, we also distribute e-mails on current programs. Ultimately, we hope to expand the Bugle newsletter to an e-mailed format.

Thanks, in advance, for your participation! We appreciate your support of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's mission to honor veterans and preserve history for future generations!

By Laura Kocum

OUR NEW WEBSITE!

WWW.WVMFOUNDATION.COM

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation is always working to serve our audience better. Now this mission is being carried out online. Welcoming the tremendous opportunities to reach out to veterans and the public alike, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation is excited to announce the debut of our new website: www.wvmfoundation.com.

Numerous visual improvements, including the use of historical images from our archives, make the new website an informative, functional and interesting tool for visitors. Museum news and events are posted regularly, as is information on tours and special events. Check it out, and register for the upcoming "Toast to our Veterans," planned for Saturday, June 23 at Capital Brewery. You can also register for our Annual Golf Outing to be held at The Oaks Golf Course on Tuesday, July 17, 2007; and learn about sponsorship opportunities at these, and other events like the Tribute to Freedom Gala.

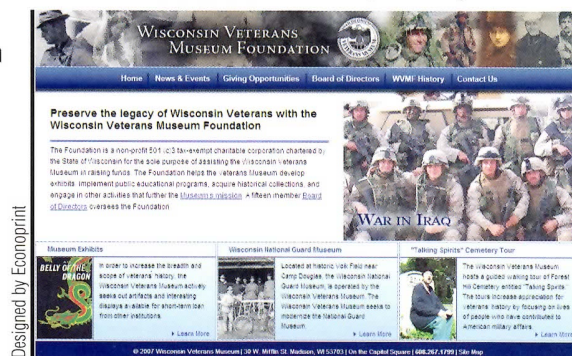
What's more, in an attempt to further reach out to the public, the website incorporates two new features that will undoubtedly make the Museum more responsive to its

patrons: a Foundation blog and an informational request section. These features will allow visitors to not only supply the Museum with useful feedback, comments, or questions, but also personal stories and even program or exhibit suggestions.

In addition to keeping supporters up to date concerning Museum events, the new website offers patrons opportunities to donate to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt charitable corporation. All gifts are tax deductible. It is your continued financial support that makes the Museum's critically acclaimed exhibits and ongoing educational programs possible.

The site is funded by generous donors (Marine Corps League of Waukesha, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Dept. of WI, Richard Sampson, Wimmer & Company, WI Vietnam Veterans, Chpt. 3). Check it out today, and even complete the Bugle survey online. You will be entered to win two free airline tickets, courtesy of Midwest Airlines.

By Jennifer Carlson and Peter Kraemer



Designed by Econoprint

The new website gives current WVM information and features new ways to give feedback on our activities.

From the Archives

THE CATERPILLAR CLUB

The thought of being forced to use a parachute can be terrifying. Yet two manuscript collections in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center reveal an exclusive club that celebrates that very act. The papers of World War II veterans Larry Templeton and Tony Kalupy provide some insight into this unique organization.


CATERPILLAR CLUB
IRVING AIR CHUTE CO. INC.

1670 Jefferson Avenue
BUFFALO 8, N. Y.

T/Sgt. Lawrence Templeton (36221534)
Section D, Box #1027,
Army Air Field,
Dyersburg, Tenn.

April 29, 1944.

Dear Sir:

Congratulations on your recent emergency parachute jump! It is indeed gratifying to know that parachutes are daily serving their purpose and proving their worth.

We are pleased to inform you that your experience entitles you to membership in the Caterpillar Club, and we are accordingly enrolling your name on the membership list of the Club.

The Irvin Air Chute Co. has sponsored this Club since its inception and endeavors to maintain it. You may be enrolled in the Club if you are a pilot and have made a parachute jump. The Caterpillar Club is an international club of pilots who have made a parachute jump. The Caterpillar Club is an international club of pilots who have made a parachute jump. The Caterpillar Club is an international club of pilots who have made a parachute jump.

It is also our custom to present to each new member the official insignia of the Club, engraved with his name and the date of his emergency jump. We are having your pin made and engraved, and shall forward it to you when completed, together with the membership card of the Club.

We await further word from you with interest and welcome you into the Caterpillar Club.

Very truly yours,
IRVING AIR CHUTE CO., INC.
G. C. Krull
G. C. Krull



A letter, membership cards and caterpillar pin given to members

The Caterpillar Club began in 1922 at an informal meeting of several pilots who had been forced to use a parachute to escape crashing aircraft. Also present was Leslie Irvin, the first American to make a successful free-fall parachute jump and founder of the Irvin Air Chute Company. The men realized that with the increase in air travel and the use of aircraft in war, more people would be put in peril several thousand feet off the ground and Irvin wanted a way to commemorate each time someone used his company's product to survive such situations.

They decided to create an international club only open to men and women who were forced to use a parachute to save their lives. The silk worm caterpillar was selected as

the club's symbol because of its ability to lower itself to the ground gently with a strand of silk and because early parachutes were made largely of silk. Irvin pledged to send a small gold caterpillar pin to all new members. Interestingly, while he made dozens of parachute jumps in his life Irvin never became a member of the Caterpillar Club because all of his jumps were voluntary.

Lawrence H. Templeton, a Rhinelander, Wisconsin native and gunner with the 331st Bomb Squadron, 94th Bomb Group, was aboard a B-17 when it collided with a German aircraft on July 14, 1943. One of only two men to survive the mid-air collision, he used a parachute to land safely in German-occupied France. Once on the ground, Templeton relied on French farmers and peasants to help him evade capture and escape to neutral Spain, where he was recovered by Allied forces. His papers include the letter he received informing him of his membership, a membership card, and a copy of the description of his parachute use that he sent to the Irvin Air Chute Company.

North Fond du Lac native Anthony A. Kalupy earned his Caterpillar Club pin a mere thirty-four days after Templeton. A bombardier with the 324th Bomb Squadron, 91st Bomb Group, his B-17 was shot down over Germany on August 17, 1943 while taking part in the Schweinfurt-Regensburg mission. Captured by German forces, he was held prisoner at Stalag Luft III for almost two years. During his imprisonment, Kalupy still managed to apply for membership into the Caterpillar Club. He requested that his pin and other club materials be sent to his mother, and these items are now part of his collection at the WVM.

The experiences of both Templeton and Kalupy, including other stories and details of their military service, are being preserved at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and are available to researchers. Please contact Archive Collections Manager Gayle Martinson (608.261.0536 or gayle.martinson@dva.state.wi.us) if you would like to have your military experiences preserved. If any readers qualify for membership in the Caterpillar Club or would like to have a lost pin replaced, they should contact Irvin Aerospace by phone at (714) 662-1400 or by email at marketing@irvinaerospace.com.

By Russell Horton

Upcoming Programs

"MISTAKING VENGEANCE FOR JUSTICE IN IRAQ: MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TRIAL & EXECUTION OF SADDAM HUSSEIN"

Beth Dougherty, Assistant Professor of International Studies and Political Science at Beloit College, asks: "Was the decision to execute Saddam a victory for justice in Iraq or a response to the cries for vengeance?"

Fri., April 13, 2007
Noon

"FALLING THROUGH THE EARTH"

Join Wisconsin author Danielle Trussoni for this moving tale of life with her Vietnam Veteran father. One of the New York Times' "Ten Best for 2006."

Wed., April 25, 2007
7 p.m.

LANCE SIJAN: AN AMERICAN HERO"

The story of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and Milwaukee native Lance Sijan

Thurs., May 3, 2007
7 p.m. Presented by John and Rose Dorcey

All programs are free, open to the public, and held in the 2nd floor Education Center.

Curator's Corner

A RELIC OF THE REICH

When Madison native Allen Wilson returned from his World War II service, he brought back more than run-of-the-mill souvenirs. While many soldiers came home from Europe toting foreign currency, insignia, helmets, and even weapons, Wilson carried a piece of carpeting from the new Reich Chancellery building in Berlin, purportedly from the private office of Adolph Hitler himself.

The Reich Chancellery, designed by Albert Speer and completed in 1939, served as the headquarters for the Third Reich. Hitler once described the old Reich Chancellery building as “fit for a soap company,” and wanted a building that showcased the grandeur of the German people. Speer created a building with huge galleries, gilded walls, and marble floors. Hitler maintained Nazi headquarters and a private office there throughout the war, and took his own life in a nearby bunker as Russian soldiers approached at the end of the war.

Allen Wilson served with the headquarters company of the 82nd Airborne Division from March 1942 through October 1945. The 82nd Airborne performed occupation duty in Berlin from August to December 1945. According to his family, it was during this time that Wilson had access to the Reich Chancellery building and cut a piece of carpeting from Hitler's private office. The woolen fragment exhibits the Nazi swastika in black on a white field with gold wire oak leaves and the remains of the red surrounding ground.

Russian soldiers had been the first Allied troops in the building at the end of the war and some, enraged by German atrocities, urinated on the carpeting. Wilson had it cleaned before returning to the United States. While cleaning may have improved the odor and appearance of the carpet immensely, it did compromise the historical value. Unlike many war relics, the carpet did not sit forgot-

ten in an attic box, as Wilson's sons regularly took it to school for show-and-tell. That is, until they were outdone by a boy who brought in a paper bag containing a pig's heart!

Along with the carpeting, Wilson's family donated a certificate of authenticity typed on a discarded piece of paper found in the Reich Chancellery. The upper half of the document is a typed request from the office of the German State Secretary, Otto Meissner. The lower half of the document, typed in English by a fellow soldier, states “I have personal knowledge as follows: that the Nazi SWASTIKA rug in possession of Technical Sergeant Allen E. Wilson, ...is an authentic war trophy procured from the former office of the infamous ADOLPH HITLER in the Reich Chancellery, Berlin, Germany.” The certificate is signed by two witnesses and dated September 15, 1945.

Museum staff diligently attempt to verify the provenance, or history of use, for all objects in the collections. We start with the information given us by donors and use other historical resources to either confirm or refute that information. While researching this object, I learned that the Reich Chancellery building sustained significant damage during the Battle of Berlin in 1945 and that the Russians later demolished it and used the materials to build the Soviet War Memorial at Treptower Park. There are a handful of photographs and drawings of Hitler's office in the Reich Chancellery building, but none show floor coverings that match Wilson's carpeting. Of course, the office might have been recarpeted at some point or Wilson's carpet might be from a different office or public area within the building. So after significant research, I am unable to completely confirm that this carpeting came from Hitler's office.

While we cannot say with 100% certainty that this is really a piece of Hitler's carpeting, the object and its story remain a fascinating addition to the museum's collection. If any readers have any information that could help determine whether or not this object is from Hitler's office, please contact Jennifer Kaye at Jennifer.Kaye@dva.state.wi.us or 608-261-0540.

By Jennifer Kaye



Carpeting brought back from Berlin by Madison native Allen Wilson.

Upcoming Programs

CIVIL WAR SATURDAYS

April 14 at 2 p.m.:

OLD ABE AND BLACK HATS: WORLD OF WISCONSIN IN THE CIVIL WAR

LECTURE GIVEN BY DR. LANCE HERDEGEN, INSTITUTE OF CIVIL WAR STUDIES, CARROLL COLLEGE

April 21 at 2 p.m.:

TEACHING THE CIVIL WAR THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

LECTURE GIVEN BY DR. JAMES MARTEN, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

All programs are free, open to the public, and held in the 2nd floor Education Center.

From the Archives

WHO WANTS TO BE A BILLIONAIRE?

GERMAN CURRENCY

What does it feel like to hold one billion dollars in the palm of your hand? How about one billion marks? Earl Ganzow, a Fort Atkinson native, knew. He joined the Army in March 1943 and went to Europe as a carpenter with the 3525th Ordnance Maintenance Company, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge. Like many World War II soldiers, he brought home an assortment of souvenirs from his service overseas.

During his two years in Europe Ganzow acquired a large number of mementos including numerous Nazi pins and buckles, a Prussian sword, Russian and Belgian badges, and several pieces of German currency. While all of the items are interesting and help to reveal the tourist/souvenir collecting aspect of military service, several pieces of currency also shed light on an interesting aspect of German history.

Throughout World War I Germany, like many other countries, sought to conserve metal for military use. Thus the government greatly reduced the amount of small denomination currency, coins called pfennigs, being minted and thereby created shortages. This caused many communities to print small paper currency called notgeld ("emergency money") to replace the coins. Notgeld was not legal currency, but within issuing communities it was generally accepted in exchange for goods and services.

Following the war, the terms of the Versailles Treaty forced Germany to pay billions of marks of reparations to the victorious Allies. This, combined with other problems includ-

ing an excess of notgeld, pushed the German economy into a state known as hyperinflation. Between 1919 and 1923 the value of the German mark plummeted while the national bank printed more and more currency in increasingly larger denominations to try to keep up. Million and even billion mark notes were produced, though even they became relatively worthless. At the height of hyperinflation in November 1923 a loaf of bread cost more than eighty billion marks and the American dollar was equal to one trillion marks. In 1924 the German government introduced a new currency, the Rentenmark, which miraculously cured the economy and ended the hyperinflation.

Among the currency that Ganzow brought home are a ten million mark note, a one billion mark note, and two pieces of notgeld. These

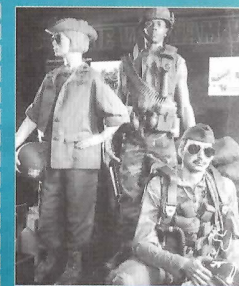
items demonstrate that while the collections at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum document military and veterans' history, there are many objects that also provide insight into social, political, and economic history. Researching and identifying their significance, both military and civilian, is one of the most interesting and enriching aspects of museum work.

By Russell Horton



The collection of German currency documents the inflation following World War I.

Earl Ganzow Collection - Wisconsin Veterans Museum



Commemorate Those Who Served

Help keep the history of Wisconsin's veterans alive by contributing to the educational programs and exhibits of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Please send your contributions along with your name and address to:

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation
P.O. Box 2657
Madison, WI
53701-2657

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

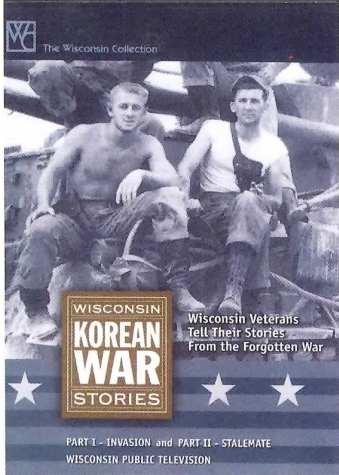
Zip: _____

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In Honor of: _____



From the Gift Shop



WISCONSIN KOREAN WAR STORIES

Featuring interviews and rare, historic footage of the Korean War, the Wisconsin Korean War Stories dvd brings recognition to a war that sometimes is called "forgotten."

To order, clip form and mail payment to:
Wisconsin Veterans Museum Gift Shop
30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703

Payment: Check Money Order Visa Master Card Amer. Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____ Korean War Stories \$34.95

Wisconsin Korean War Stories is produced by Wisconsin Public Television, in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

Name: _____

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Shipping \$4.00

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5.5% WI Tax _____

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The Bugle

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Madison, WI 53703

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