

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

THE FRONT LINE

A WISCONSIN SOLDIER REPORTS

little more than one year ago we departed Ft Bragg for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Being away from family and loved ones gave me time to reflect on the genesis of our unit,

the 5th Squadron 73rd Recon. I took command of the 3rd Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment 82nd Airborne Division, comprised of 700 paratroopers, in June of 05. We had just been selected to become the first Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron as part of the Army's overall transformation to a more

mobile lethal force.

Col.

Wisconsin Soldiers review a map of the area. WVM is accepting archives and collections from local soldiers to document their experiences permanently.

MG Caldwell, the Division Commander, wanted to ensure the success of this keystone formation and he directed the successful resourcing of the organization, its training, equipping, and especially, its personnel. He provided me the latitude to identify and select our leaders, officers and NCOs. plus many of the soldiers who would be part of this elite organization. By early July, we had established our organization to focus on development and refinement of the technical and tactical expertise required to operate in Iraq, while simultaneously forming the social foundation that would carry us through some of our most trying times during combat. We have now been together for 2 years, having built a strong, cohesive, and professional unit in which discipline is the hallmark. We have trained together, deployed together, and continue to fight together.

We received accolades from peers and superiors on the unit's military prowess. Our approach is somewhat unique—living in the desert or within the villages, often operating in austere

environments that are only overcome through constant interaction. We fight for intel using infiltration and long duration stealth observation, local populace sources, and technology to develop a clear picture of our enemy's activities. From this we conduct a series of shaping operations to confirm our assumptions and set the conditions for the main effort. A detailed plan is cre-

ated, briefed, and rehearsed to ensure success. Operations begin by dominating the battle space with forces isolating the objective area so as to deny the enemy the ability to retreat, followed by aggressive clearance operations. We capitalize on this success with patrol base operations, which facilitates population engagements, builds trust, and contributes to the long term security of the area.

The strength of any organization is its people. I am blessed by the quality of paratroopers I serve with. My field grade officers are brilliant, with unmatched work ethics and unfailing commitment to both mission and men. The troop commanders (Captains) are shouldering burdens at 25 years of

INSIDE:

"777" Success / Unusual Iraqi Banner/ Rare Civil War Documents / 2007 Gala/ **Talking Spirits** Cemetery Tour/ and more...

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**

MORE THAN EXHIBITS

ometimes things seem to just go the way one hopes they will. The lunch time program series produced by the staff of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum this summer,



The 777 series attracted new faces

for example, exhibited the quality of doing no wrong—everything seemed to just work perfectly.

To the delight of the audiences attracted to the programs, entitled Seven Weeks,

Seven Wars, Seven Objects, or, "777," Museum curators discussed and displayed a variety of interesting materials from the collections that are not part of any exhibit. Some of the items had recently been acquired. The presentations dealt with the background of the objects selected—"provenance" in museum lingo. The material culture represented by the objects—how they were made, who made them, who used them, their stylistic elements, or how they fit into or did not fit into the practices of their eras— seemed of great interest to the attendees. Archives staff members presented a program that focused on some of the holdings of the Research Center as well, and they sparked considerable

interest. Audience evaluations are overwhelmingly positive.

Historians are reluctant to admit this, but luck plays an important role in human affairs. Gambler Nathan Detroit, protagonist of the Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls*, understood the role of chance when he prayed that "luck be a lady" on the occasion of an especially important dice game. Good fortune cannot be taken for granted.

Of course, certain advantages can contribute to the possibility of attracting luck. Some people might differ in their explanations, but the "777" series benefited from the great idea of developing the programs in the first place and the willingness of the WVM to plan it. Understanding the provenance of the objects certainly provided a knowledge-based foundation for the presentations. Staff presented information in an appealing and informal fashion that encouraged audience interest and participation.

The WVM has great exhibits. It also offers public educational programs that are informative and appealing. The Museum also provides research services to people seeking information in its specialized archives. For these reasons, and others, the Museum is lucky to be more than the sum of its parts.

By Richard H. Zeitlin

Continued-Frontline

age that I never experienced at that point in my career; the dynamics of command have increased exponentially. They work with a grace and calm, under fire, that is inspiring. In the morning they are clearing houses in direct fire fights, controlling attack helicopters, ensuring our wounded are medevaced, and by the afternoon they could be sitting with a group of local sheiks drinking tea discussing future civil works for their respective villages. Incredible. The paratroopers themselves are nothing short of heroic. The physically demanding nature of our business, the roller coaster of human emotions generated by the tempo of our job, and the fact that day after day they continue on while taking pride in themselves and the unit, ensures mission success.

Unfortunately we have not been without losses. We lost 22 heroes in the past year of fighting and presented over 100 purple hearts to our wounded. In desperation, the insurgents attacked us with suicide bombers and by driving bomb laden vehicles into our positions. We have had direct fire fights in houses, trenches, palm groves, and it is a continuous fight to destroy those emplacing IEDs along the transportation

routes. CPT Schiller, who was honored in the June issue of The Bugle, was an inspirational leader for the men of his unit. He died in a fire fight while leading paratroopers during a clearance operation. Each loss is irreparable, both for us, and, especially, for the families of the men that we lost. I fully realize the depth of sorrow this entails. As a hand selected smaller unit, we know each other as brothers, making every loss all the more grave and all the more personal. We conduct a memorial service for them, and each soldier in the unit provides a final salute to their fallen comrades.

These paratroopers take great pride in their accomplishments as warriors. We are aggressive, and, with the austere conditions we now live in, have renamed the unit TF 300 in reference to the battle of Thermopylae (Stephen Pressfield's *Gates of Fire* is required reading for all the officers in the unit). TF 300 epitomizes the Spartan quality of enduring physical hardship, fighting spirit, commitment to our brothers in arms, and never failing in any mission.

By Lt. Col. Andrew Poppas

Curator's Chronicles

DEATH BANNERSUNUSUAL OBITUARY FROM IRAQ

ccasionally when we receive a donation, the first question we have is, "What is that?" That was the question Jen Kaye, Curatorial Assistant, asked about one of the objects within the collection of Sergeant Norra Prohaska.

Prohaska served as a military police officer in Baghdad from 2003 to 2004 with the 32nd Military Police Company of the Wisconsin Army National Guard. While in Iraq, her unit was attached to the 18th and 89th Military Police Brigades, active

attachment in Jen's email to me. After verifying my translation with a fellow instructor, I emailed Jen a description and translation of the banner. This banner that Prohaska brought back from Iraq is a funeral banner. Saddam Hussein banned obituaries from local newspapers during the Iran-Iraq War in an attempt to hide the high number of Iraqi casualties. As a result, a new tradition of announcing the death of a loved one was developed in Iraqi society. Iraqis now paint an obituary on a black cloth and then hang it up on a wall so that



The death banner was donated to WVM Collections by a military police officer who did not know its significance.

duty units from Germany and Fort Hood, Texas. The 32nd MP Company assisted in restructuring the Iraqi police force after the fall of the regime in 2003, and Prohaska's unit received the Valorous Unit Award for its 441 days of combat while in Iraq, the first National Guard unit in Wisconsin to receive this award.

The Prohaska collection consists of some remarkable objects she acquired during her tour in Iraq, including an Iraqi "Victory in the Gulf War" Medal, an Osama bin Laden lighter, and a fan with Saddam Hussein's picture on it. Among some of these strange objects and her military equipment was a large black banner with white and yellow Arabic script painted onto it. Since neither Prohaska nor Jen knew what this banner was, Jen had to find some help.

Sometimes we have to call or email for help on an object, whether for a translation or identification of an object on which we are just plain stumped. For this black cotton banner, Jen sent me an email about it in June 2006. At the time, I was finishing up my tour at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, as an instructor in the U.S. Army Reserves and preparing to return to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As an Arabic linguist and a prior donor, Jen took a shot in the dark that I would know what this banner was and be able to translate it for the Museum.

Fortunately, I knew what it was as soon as I opened up the

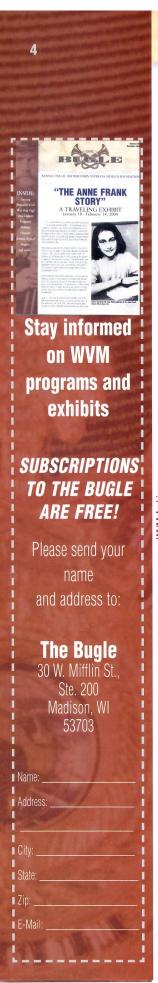
the local neighborhood can know that someone died.

Written on this particular banner is the announcement of an Iraqi police officer: "By the promise of Allah the True, the police department of 'Athamiya [a neighborhood in northern Baghdad] announces the death of the commander of the police department, the hero First Lieutenant 'Abdul Jabar Muhammad Sa'id, who was martyred while performing his holy duty on September 28, 2003." Prohaska unknowingly picked up the obituary of a fellow police officer.

Donors sometimes have no idea what the objects are that they picked up during their tours. For whatever reason, they decided to hold onto these "mystery" objects in their duffel bags during their tour and bring them back home with them to Wisconsin. When veterans decide to donate these objects a few months or decades later, it can take a team of historians, language specialists, and veterans using email, internet searches, and library research to figure out what an object is. In the case of this banner, it took a few emails and a little luck of knowing someone who happened to see a few of these banners in Iraq to solve the riddle of Sgt. Prohaska's black Arabic banner.

By Jeff Carnes





From the Archives

CIVIL WAR RELIVED

RARE FINDS SHED NEW LIGHT

he Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) Research Center contains hundreds of original documents that help bring the Civil War to life. Letters exchanged between soldiers and their loved ones at home, quartermaster

Government may demand." This is, in fact, the original "call to arms" for the state of Wisconsin! Its language, including use of the word "treason" and references to maintaining law and order, reflect the early views that any fighting would be

to punish the rebel leaders and bring the seceded states back into the Union.

Second is a letter written to Randall, also on 16 April

1861, from Henry P. George, proprietor of the Wisconsin

Wisconsin. The Shot Tower took advantage of nearby lead mines to make lead shot

for rifles, muskets, and pis-

his "tower and machinery at the service of the State." He

any time, and I would do my

best to fill your orders...,

tols. George wrote to offer

further stated, "the lead could be furnished here at

Shot Tower in Helena,

The of Morseman The Loya Cityin of Wisconsin; in the history of the federal I wennesh, cyanizar wasan fine manigenter itself with several States of the ithere and arred relet with several States of the ithere and arred relet are making war was young the President of the President of the President of the United States tells of mulawful combinations

A letter from Governer Alexander Randall, preparing Wisconsin citizens for the Civil War

records showing the supplies men used at that time, cartes de visite photographs depicting the young men who fought to save the Union, and so many more. These materials really bring the momentous event down to a personal level, showing how it affected one person, one family, or one company. Three historically significant documents recently acquired by the WVM widen that focus on the Civil War to

the state-level.

The first is a handwritten proclamation "to the loyal citizens of Wisconsin" signed by Alexander Randall, the governor of the state at the start of the war and the man after whom Camp Randall is named. Dated 16 April 1861, a mere four

days after Fort Sumter, the document mentions "a demand made upon Wisconsin by the President of the United States for aid to sustain the Federal Army" in its efforts to restore order to the country. Randall stated that "One regiment of the Militia of this state will be required for immediate service, and further service will be

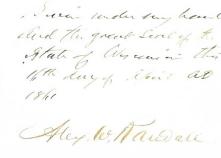
war and is one of many generous offers of supplies and men that Randall received in the days and weeks after news of Fort Sumter spread. It also hints at the perception that the war would be a short affair, as very few business people would make such an open-ended offer if they knew the war would go on for four more years! I wan under four heart

the State paying merely the actual mining expenses, and I

strong patriotic feelings and hopes." This letter documents

the patriotism that swept through the state at the start of the

furnishing the raw material," and closed the letter "with



required as the exigencies of the
The seal and signature of Governor Alexander Randall

Supporting History

2007 GALA ANNOUNCED

NEW PROGRAM PLANNED

his year is not your average gala, folks. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 3, 2007! We have

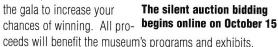
made some exciting changes. including an online silent auction, which will be available to the public on October 15 at www.wvmfoundation.com. Be the top bidder on a silent auction item and you will be entered into the gala's prize drawing. Additional tickets for the drawing will also be available for purchase online and at the gala to increase your

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with musical entertainment. drinks and hors'duerves in the ambiance of the museum galleries. The prize drawing winners will also be announced. At 7 p.m., join us for dinner and learn about the experiences of Saddam Hussein's former Personal Military Physician, Brigadier General Roger Lalich who is currently the Assistant Adjutant General of the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Reserve your spot for a night to remember by calling Jennifer at (608)264-6086, or register online by credit card at www.wvmfoundation.com.

Tickets are limited, so reserve yours quickly! Be sure to check out the online auction for a broad selection of gifts. treats and surprises!

By Jennifer Carlson



Continued- From the Archives

The final document shows hand-drawn plans for the barracks built at Camp Randall. This incredibly detailed document lists the materials and dimensions used to make the shingles, floors, doors, windows, tables, bunks, and sky lights for the barracks. Created by Napoleon Van Slyke, an assistant quartermaster in the federal Army, the plans have drawings that show all of the exterior and interior views of the barracks. The floor plan is fascinating, showing how seven-

teen bunks (each with its own gun rack), two large stationary tables, and two stoves fit into the 22' x 83' buildings. For scholars and genealogists alike, this shows in detail the type of building in which the vast majority of Wisconsin's troops slept as they trained for service in the Civil War.

These three documents provide fascinating insight into the Civil War on the state level in Wisconsin. They are a tremen-

> dous addi-Doo tion to our collection and will prove of great interest to researchers for generations to come.

> > By Russ

MVM Archives

Stationary Table 27- x 241

Horton

Hand-drawn plans for Camp Randall reveal dimensions and materials used in the original barracks



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**

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Museum Programs Online!

This summer, the WVM entered into a partnership with Wisconsin Eye, a not-for-profit television and internet network based in Madison, to produce and distribute museum programs over the internet and the state's basic cable system. Wisconsin Eye filmed four of "7 Weeks, 7 Wars, 7 Objects" programs. These programs are available on their site, and include a one-on-one interview with each week's presenter, along with detailed closeups of each featured object. The links for the archived programs are:

6/28 (World War II by Jennifer Kaye) http://www.wiseye.org/wis Eye_programming/ARCHI VES-June3-June9.html

7/12 (Korean War by Jeff Kollath), 7/19 (Vietnam War by Bill Brewster), and 7/26 (Iraq & Afghanistan by Jeff Carnes) http://www.wiseye.org/wis Eye_programming/ARCHI VES-July07.html

You will need to scroll down the list to find the program you want to watch or listen to. If you like what you see, let Wisconsin Eye know! **WVM Programs**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FALL PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

he fall brings a ful! docket of interesting, informative, and thought-provoking programs to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Beginning October 2, the Museum will host five programs on such diverse topics as the war on terror, the life and times of Henry Kissinger and Winston Churchill, and the Pacific Theater during World War II. As usual, each program will be free and open to the public.

Again this season, the Veterans Museum is excited to work with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of History and the Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy to present our Distinguished Lecture Series. Colgate University's Andrew Rotter, a Madison native, will present "Narratives of Bombing: Hiroshima and Tokyo" on Tuesday, October 2, while Jeremi Suri of the UW-Madison is our featured speaker on Wednesday, October 10. Both programs will begin at 7 p.m. Suri's new book, Henry Kissinger

HENRY KISSINGER
AND THE AMERICAN CENTURY

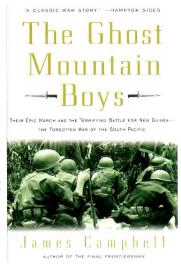
Kissinger

Book signing on October 10

and the American Century, has received dozens of positive reviews since its release this summer. Examining the career of Kissinger through the prism of formative years as a German émigré and academic. Suri sheds new light on the decisions Kissinger made as National Security Adviser and Secretary of State.

Suri is one of the featured speakers on the first night of the Wisconsin Book Festival (WBF). A program of the Wisconsin Humanities Council, the WBF brings local, national, and international authors to Madison. For a complete list of authors and schedule and location information, please see www.wisconsinbookfestival.com. The Veterans Museum will also host an additional WBF event, *The Ghost Mountain Boys*, by Wisconsin author James Campbell. This new book highlights the actions of the men who fought at the Battle of Buna during World War II, a terrifying battle in nearly impassable terrain. Many of the men who made their way

across New Guinea were from Wisconsin's 32nd Division. Using personal interviews and archival documents from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Archives, Campbell has woven together a harrowing tale of triumph and tragedy that is certain to enthrall everyone who attends. Campbell will present his book on Saturday, October 13 at noon. Both Campbell and



Book signing on October 13

Suri will sign copies of their books following their respective lectures.

On Wednesday, October 17, the Veterans Museum welcomes Daniel Benjamin, Director of the Center on the United States and Europe and Senior Fellow of Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institute. This special event is co-sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities andthe Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy (WAGE). Benjamin will address the current state of the war on terror, as well as status of Islam in Europe and the rest of the western world. The program begins at 7 p.m.

Lastly, we are proud to welcome the Honorable Nicholas Soames, a member of British Parliament (Mid-Sussex) for the past twenty-four years and the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill. Soames is the keynote speaker for the annual Wimmer-Churchill Lecture, which honors the life and accomplishments of the late statesman. Soames' program will be held on Friday, November 9 and will commence at noon. Please arrive for optimal seating.

For more information on these programs and other museum events, please refer to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation at www.wvmfoundation.com or contact Jeff Kollath, Curator of Programs and Exhibitions, at 608.261.0541.

By Jeff Kollath

TALKING SPIRITS IX

FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION

he Wisconsin Veterans Museum is proud to announce the ninth annual "Talking Spirits," Forest Hill Cemetery Tour, held on Sunday, October 7th. The award-winning living history program, which takes place on

Madison's near west side, will illuminate the lives of many prominent—and lesser known—figures in Wisconsin history. Focusing on the contributions of Wisconsin's men and women during the Civil War, the theme for this year's event refers to their incredible service and sacrifice "for the sake of Union."

Visitors will meet soldiers like General Theodore Read and Colonel Cassius Fairchild. Read, who served with the Eighteenth Corps of the Army of the James and was killed at the Battle of High Bridge in 1865, was largely responsible for the Confederate surrender at Appomattox after preventing Robert E. Lee's retreat from Virginia. Similarly, Fairchild also had a distinquished military career. A Major with the 16th Wisconsin Infantry, he quickly rose through the ranks to become Colonel after proving his gallantry in subsequent campaigns. Injured at the Battle of Shiloh, Fairchild would be wounded twice more before the end of the war. In 1868 while acting as a pall-bearer at a friend's funeral, he reopened a war-wound, placing him on his deathbed. Despite his condition, Fairchild and his

"Talking Spirits IX" will emphasize the contributions of a number of civilians whose efforts in Wisconsin and elsewhere were just as crucial to the war effort as those fighting on the front lines. Viewers will become acquainted with the work of William Francis Allen and Harriet Grannis Morris. Allen, who after the Civil War would become one of the most revered historians in the country, served as an early member of the Freedman's Bureau, teaching freed African-American slaves on the islands off the South Carolina coastline. As a professor at the University of Wisconsin, he founded the History Department and even mentored Frederick Jackson Turner. Morris, a resident of Madison, was in many ways a woman ahead of her times. During the war, she participated

fiancée married, just ten days before he passed away.

in the Women's Aid Society, heading up local efforts to collect and distribute much needed supplies to soldiers across the nation. She continued her philanthropy after the war.

> Visitors will also hear the stories of William H. Noland and Bascom B. Clarke, two characters deeply affected by the Civil War. Noland, the

> > first permanent African-American resident of Madison, overcame racial discrimination to become a popular and successful businessman. He was

denied appointment to state office because of his race, and his offer to raise a company of black Union soldiers was rejected by the governor. Following the enfranchisement of African-American voting rights, he was nominated as the Democratic party's mayoral candidate against his wishes. Perhaps meant as a cruel joke, nevertheless, Noland received a quarter of the ballots cast, despite calling on

Madisonians to vote for the Republican ticket! Clarke, on the other hand, was a young boy and a native of Arkansas when war erupted between the states. Losing his father to illness and his mother to a broken heart, he

became an orphan and refugee as his adoptive family moved to Indiana to escape the war-torn South. Hardworking with an entrepreneurial spirit, Clarke surmounted the challenges he faced. Moving to Madison in his later years, he was the publisher of the American Thresherman Magazine.

These intriguing individuals and many others will be featured during the two-hour guided walking tour. Directed for the third year by playwright, John Sable, local actors and actresses will don period dress, giving visitors the once-ina-lifetime experience of meeting these characters on the cemetery grounds. Included along with six vignettes will be informative discussions of the cemetery's rich history and gravestone art.. More information about the tour is listed in the right-hand column, or online at wvmfoundation.com. Talking Spirits IX is supported by the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from the Eviue Foundation and the Overture Foundation.

By Peter Kraemer

Talking Spirits IX

When: Sunday, Oct. 7 Group tours: Oct. 4&5 call (608) 264-6086 for group rates and reservations.

Where: Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery (1 Speedway Road)

Time: Noon-4 p.m.

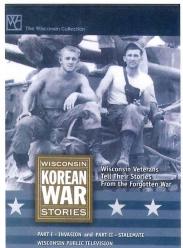
Admission: Adults \$5 Children \$2

Tickets will be available at the cemetery gate on October 7. Golf carts are provided free of charge for those who are unable to take the tour on foot.

Parking: Free at West High School or along Speedway Road

For more info.: call Jennifer at (608) 264-6086 or go to: wvmfoundation.com

From the Gift Shop



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

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

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The **Bugle**

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