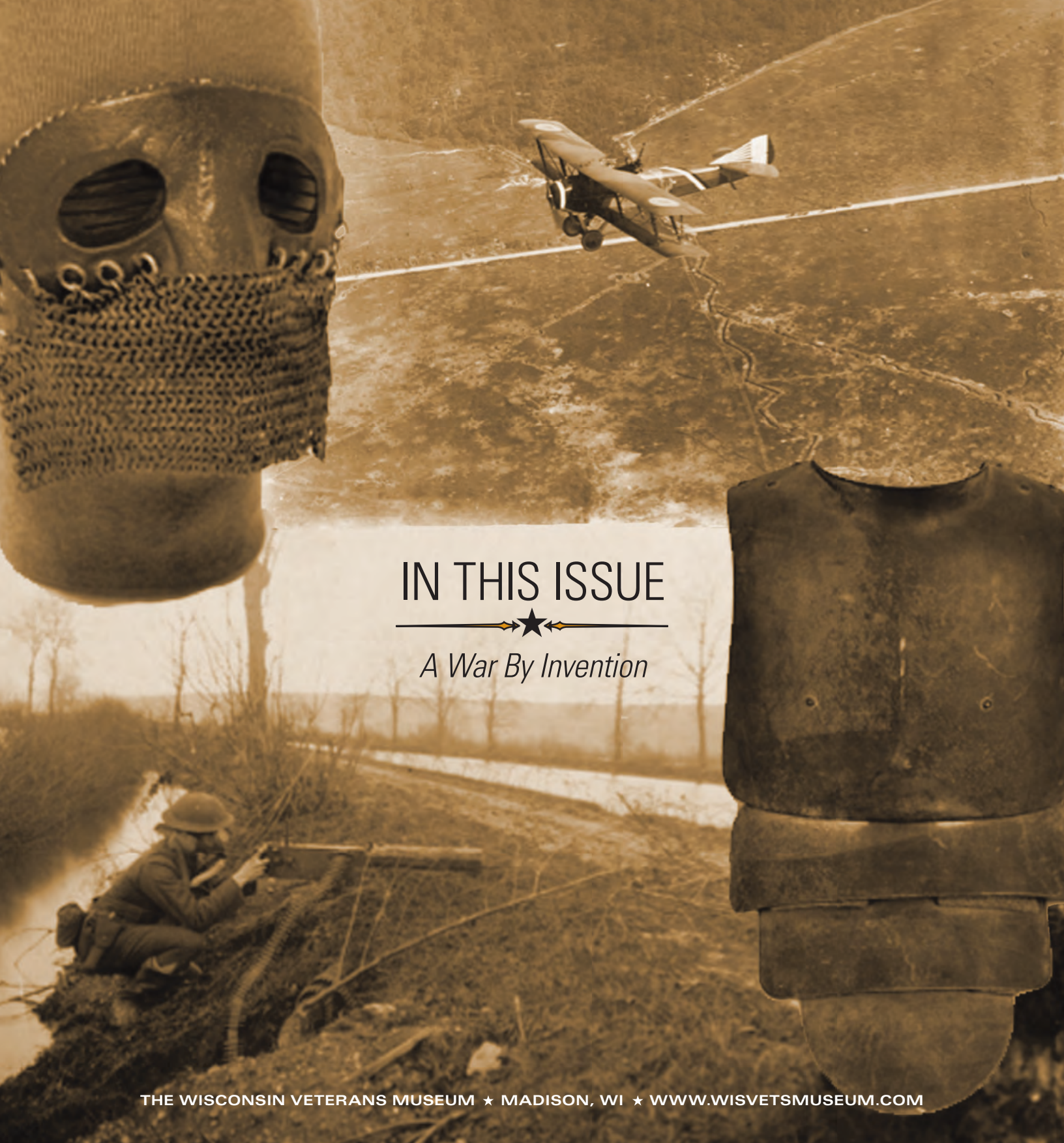


# THE BUGLE

SPRING 2014  
VOLUME 20:1

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM



## IN THIS ISSUE



*A War By Invention*



FROM THE SECRETARY  
**DISCOVER WISCONSIN**

I am pleased to announce that the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is going to be showcased on the television show “Discover Wisconsin” on an episode that features handicap accessible attractions around the state.

Being featured on “Discover Wisconsin” will help us spread the word that the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is the place for everyone to

come and learn the stories of the men and women of Wisconsin who have served their country.

From the Civil War exhibit that opened last summer to a newly added Congressional Medal of Honor display which showcases four medals given to Wisconsin veterans from WWII and the Korean War, we are proud to preserve and share the real stories of real people who served in battlefronts near and far, and the loved ones who supported them.

We invite everyone to come learn about the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry and see Philander Wright’s Army hat - pierced with a bullet hole - that he wore as he marched into the Battle of Gettysburg. They can learn about Rhoda Ann Ziesler, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day the Japanese attacked, whose personal items we recently acquired, including photographs and a journal.

In order to share these and other stories with as many people as possible, we work hard to ensure that the Wisconsin Veterans Museum

is a place where everyone feels welcome. We are very proud of the fact that our museum is designed to accommodate those with special needs. With wide open walkways, cases low to the ground, and interactive displays that are accessible, we are able to share these and many other stories with all who come to visit.

The “Discover Wisconsin” episode will air on May 24th and 25th, and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will be showcased along with other accessible attractions around the state like Lambeau Field, SailAnyWay at the Egg Harbor Marina, Lifestriders therapeutic horseback riding in Waukesha, and others.

I hope you have the chance to tune in and see for yourself why we are honored to have the museum included on this episode. Check your local listings for channel information.

John A. Scocos  
Secretary

## WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM SPECIAL PROJECTS

Your membership supports the mission of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. In 2014, we have a number of special projects you may be interested in giving to:

★ **ACQUISITIONS**

- Help WVM acquire significant objects and archival materials.

★ **TRAVELING EXHIBITS**

- Support a series of newly developed traveling exhibits that will increase WVM presence throughout Wisconsin.

★ **STEM PROJECT**

- A developing educational initiative that integrates science, technology, engineering, and math into our school curricula.

**REMEMBER, YOUR GIFT MAKES *YOUR* MUSEUM STRONGER!**



FROM THE ARCHIVES

# A WITNESS TO HISTORY

This newly acquired image shows Spencer Bronson, a Fall River soldier who served in Company B, 7th Wisconsin Infantry (Iron Brigade). Bronson was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, and was later wounded in the Wilderness. On April 14, 1865, Bronson was in attendance at Ford's Theatre and witnessed the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.



Mss 2014.2



FROM THE DIRECTOR

## NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Despite this brutal winter, WVM continues to move forward with major initiatives that will shape its future. Indeed, the operational environment has changed significantly over the last year, and moving forward will require new strategies to ensure institutional strength as we realize the culmination of several major initiatives, and the continuation of others.

### Public Programs

We will continue with our usual foundational programs that remain popular, but we will add a few new ones over the next year. Already, our educational team is developing curricula that promise to provide a new way into the minds of students. This approach begins with an educational strategy that integrates science, technology, engineering and math. Imagine students learning about geometry as it relates to gunnery by making connections between the

inclination of a barrel and the distance to a target, or perhaps the physics associated with the force of a projectile and how that might be measured. To help make these connections, we are also looking at new delivery methods to demonstrate digitally-based concepts. Alternative methods include the use of gallery tools like iPod Touch units that offer the ability to engage students by challenging them through active problem solving.

### Exhibit Development

In addition to enhancing our educational programs, the Museum is looking at limited renovation of a portion of its permanent exhibits. In particular, the section dealing with the Persian Gulf War is slated for redevelopment to include a more appropriate treatment of the Iraq conflict and the ongoing operations in Afghanistan. Traveling exhibits will play a greater role in our outreach activities in 2014. In an effort to spread awareness of the Museum throughout the state, WVM will develop an exhibit program that will highlight two-dimensional work from our collections and archives.

### A New Home

The long-awaited State Archives Preservation Facility is poised to break ground before the end of the year. When completed, this facility will provide an unmatched level of safety and security for our collections. WVM will occupy approximately 25,000 square feet of specialized space within the building. By 2017, the entire collections inventory will be housed at the facility located at the former site of the State's auto fleet operation.

### Collections

Collections acquisition has increased over the last year and the pace will likely continue for the foreseeable future. The amount of unsolicited object donations remains steady. In addition, we have taken a particularly aggressive approach with a focus on Civil War photography, adding a number of significant examples largely through public auction activities.

### A New Message

Like all museums, we typically work on a pretty tight marketing budget. This year, however, saw us launch a new major marketing campaign through a Milwaukee ad firm – a first for the WVM. Over the next few months you may expect to see everything from increased social and print media presence to strategically placed billboard ads, all delivered in a new branding campaign that speaks to the mission of the Museum in a new and exciting way. Already, the arrangement has paid dividends. The ad value of the exposure realized is estimated to be in excess of \$2 million.

So, 2014 promises to be challenging and your continued support is a major part of the effort. As always thank you for your membership and remember that you make the Wisconsin Veterans Museum stronger.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Telzrow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael E. Telzrow  
Director

# WVM FOUNDATION WELCOMES JENNIE CASAVANT

Recently hired as Annual Giving Manager, Jennie Casavant is the first full-time employee for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. Jennie, her husband Adam, and then 5-week old son Sam, relocated to Madison last spring from Chicago, Illinois after her husband accepted a position at US Bank in Madison. Jennie was hired by the WVMF in January to help grow the Foundation's annual giving program and plan special events. Jennie says about her new role "I am very excited to be part of this new chapter for the Foundation. I am looking forward to getting to know our members and donors, and working with them to support the important exhibits and programming of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. My main goals for the annual giving program are to continue to let our donors know how grateful we are for their ongoing generosity and support, and to make sure that giving opportunities are reaching everyone who wants to be part of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, so we can grow donor support that will see the museum well into the future."



Jennie spent most of her childhood in Monmouth, Illinois and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2000. Jennie has extensive experience working with nonprofit organizations like the American Cancer Society, and most recently at the American Bar Foundation (ABF). Located in Chicago, the ABF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing justice through rigorous research on the law, legal processes, and the law's impact on our society. As Director of The Fellows and Assistant Director of Development at the ABF, Jennie oversaw the membership program and a nationwide network of volunteers, and helped launch a capitol campaign to fund an endowed research chair in diversity and law. Jennie worked to expand membership, growing it by more than 25% to its current roster of more than 10,000 leading lawyers, judges, and legal scholars internationally. She also led a team in the planning of week-long biannual conferences which included receptions, banquets, Board and committee meetings and continuing education programs.

Currently, Jennie is working under Interim Managing Director Eileen Mershart, as the Foundation continues its search for an Executive Director. Please see the position listing on the Foundation's website at <http://www.wvmfoundation.com/>. Applications will be accepted until the right candidate is chosen for the position.

Jennie encourages you to call and email with your comments, questions, donations, membership renewals, address updates, etc. Please contact Jennie at (608) 261-0536 or [jennie.casavant@wvmfoundation.com](mailto:jennie.casavant@wvmfoundation.com), and help us welcome her to the WVMF!

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION AT**  
**[WWW.WVMFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.WVMFOUNDATION.COM)**



**KEVIN HAMPTON**  
CURATOR OF RESEARCH &  
PUBLIC PROGRAMS



# A WAR BY INVENTION



Commonly referred to at the time as the “War to End All Wars,” World War I was in fact not a “last” but a “first.” Innovations in technology, tactics, and equipment ushered in a new era of warfare that defined how wars were fought for the next one hundred years.

While most people associate World War I with the start of trench warfare, it was by no means a new strategy or idea. Employed at great lengths during the American Civil War, trench warfare was a siege tactic that had been around for centuries. So what then was “new” about World War I and how did it shape warfare in the 20th Century?

In terms of military tools and equipment, World War I saw the first use of aircraft carriers, flamethrowers, chemical weapons, tanks, and airplanes. Battlefield medicine also evolved with the introduction of guide dogs, x-ray machines to treat battlefield casualties, and established blood banks. Though there are many more “firsts” that were introduced during World War I, with the centennial commemorations of the outbreak of the war coming up in July of this year, now is a great time to reflect on some of the more recognizable innovations.

## DID YOU KNOW?

During the American Civil War, Union troops dug 53 miles of trenches during the Battle of Petersburg. At its peak, the trench system along the Western Front of WWI ran for over 400 miles.



*Seeming more ‘medieval’ than ‘modern’, this plate armor is an example of what was commonly worn by German machine gun teams during the war. (V1999.1.16)*

*An American soldier poses with a German machine gun. (WWM Mss 15)*

## Machine Guns

Employed for the first time *en masse*, machine guns ruled the battlefield and in many ways were one of the primary causes of the stalemate of trench warfare. By the end of 1914, with each side realizing the devastating combination of massed infantry assaults against fortified machine gun emplacements, the Allied and Central Powers both dug in for a long war. Despite knowing the lethality of this new battlefield technology, the European powers still stuck to their strategies of massed infantry assaults, leading to some of the most costly battles in military history.



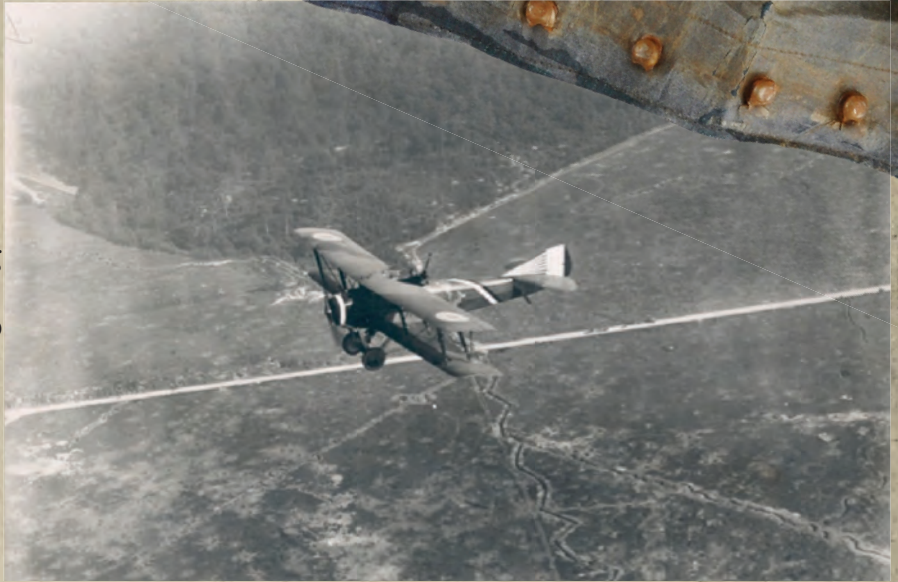
*When the U.S. entered the war, it had produced less than one hundred tanks. Borrowing from their French allies, U.S. troops used the newly designed Renault FT light tank for its speed and maneuverability. (WWM Mss 710)*



The only protection a pilot had in the open, exposed canopy of a WWI aircraft at 15,000 feet, was the plane's canvas skin (like the one pictured above). (V1999.1.344)

### Airplanes

In 1903, the Wright brothers made the first controlled, manned flight, staying aloft for 59 seconds. Ten years later, this new technology was being adapted for warfare. Daring pilots were almost more at risk learning to fly than they were in the dogfights in the skies of Europe. In the case of the famed Sopwith Camel, 413 pilots are documented as having been killed in action while 385 died in training accidents. As the war progressed, aerial dogfights took the war from a stalemate on the ground, to a highly maneuverable battle above the trenches.



A French model SPAD airplane on an observation mission. Trench lines are visible on the ground below. (WWM Mss 710)

### Tanks

Developed to break the stalemate of trench warfare, the “tank” was an incredibly influential innovation of World War I. Initially these slow, metal behemoths were mobile pillboxes that could advance and provide direct heavy fire support for an infantry assault. By the end of the war, the Allies had produced over six thousand tanks, while Germany had produced only about twenty. The lessons learned about the effectiveness of mobile warfare with this new piece of equipment were not lost on the Germans who would use it to introduce a new style of warfare twenty years later.



Ironically, these innovations developed to break the stalemate, and end “The War to End All Wars” were, in fact, the catalysts for a whole new modern era of warfare.

Many World War I battlefield innovations have defined new tactics that are still used today. Machine guns remain a staple on battlefields. Tanks have become the workhorse of ground troops. Airplanes, manned and unmanned, are now the primary strike force of any military operation.

So as we prepare to observe the 100th anniversary of World War I, let's remember the modern innovations brought about by the Great War, as well as the brave Wisconsin men and women who played witness to an era of battlefield inventions.

# 2014 SPRING EVENTS AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

★ PROGRAM LOCATION IS THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM, 30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET, MADISON, WI UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ★

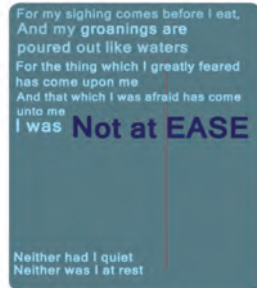
## NOT AT EASE TRAVELING EXHIBIT PROGRAM AT THE NEVILLE MUSEUM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 - 7pm

Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay, WI

Yvette Pino, Founder of the Veterans Print Project

### Veteran Panel Discussion



### VETERAN PRINT PROJECT

*Not at Ease: A Veteran Print Project*, provides a forum for 20 female veterans from Wisconsin to share their stories by pairing them with 20 artists, who created an edition of prints inspired by the resulting dialogue. Join us on the evening of March 11th at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay for a panel discussion with female veterans featured in this traveling exhibit. Stop by the Neville Museum and view this exhibit on display from February 22 through June 1, 2014.

## EVOLUTION OF U.S. STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN: SHAPING PROSPECTS FOR AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE

Thursday, March 13, 2014 - 4pm

Ingraham Hall, Room 206, 1155 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI

Christopher Kolenda, Senior Advisor, Department of Defense

### Lecture and Discussion

Having just returned from Afghanistan as Senior Advisor to the Commander of U.S. and Coalition forces, Christopher Kolenda will outline how the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan has evolved since 2001, assess its outcomes, and discuss strategic risks and opportunities as U.S., Afghan and regional actors look toward 2014 and beyond. A veteran of four tours in Afghanistan, Christopher led the team that produced the McChrystal assessment, and has been instrumental in reforming U.S. and coalition strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is also the author of *The Counterinsurgency Challenge: A Parable of Leadership and Decision-making in Modern Conflict*.

*In partnership with the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CRECA) of the University of Wisconsin - Madison*

## WISCONSIN GERMANS, THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY, AND THE CIVIL WAR

Thursday, March 27, 2014 - 7pm

Dr. Alison Efford, Assistant Professor, Marquette University

### Lecture and Discussion

Wisconsin's large German population has always been a major feature in the state's history. By exploring the Civil War career of one of their colorful leaders, the soldier, editor, and Milwaukee's most vocal German opponent of slavery, Bernhard Domschke, Alison Efford illuminates the role of Wisconsin Germans in the conflict and grapples with the issue of their attitudes toward slavery.

## CAMP HOME: PICTURING JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION DURING WORLD WAR II

Thursday, April 3, 2014 - 7pm

Dr. Jasmine Alinder, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Public History, Department of History, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee and Kevin Miyazaki, Artist, *Camp Home* Exhibit

### Lecture and Discussion



National Archives

*Camp Home*, a photograph series by artist Kevin Miyazaki, documents repurposed barracks used as internment camps for Japanese Americans

(including some of Miyazaki's own relatives) during WWII. Miyazaki's images capture the experience of the Nisei as well as the barracks' subsequent owners. Join Dr. Jasmine Alinder and Kevin Miyazaki for a discussion of Japanese American incarceration during WWII and a look at Miyazaki's photographs of former internment camps.

*In partnership with the Jerome Watrous Gallery of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, & Letters*

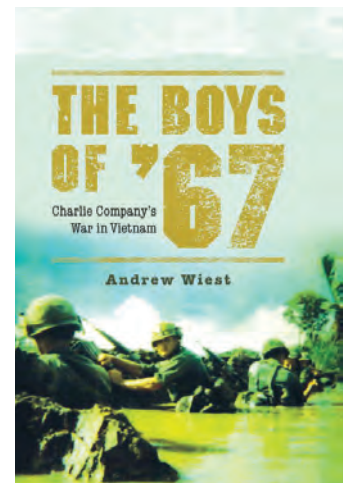
## THE BOYS OF '67: CHARLIE COMPANY'S WAR IN VIETNAM

Thursday, April 17, 2014 - 7pm

Dr. Andrew Wiest, Distinguished Professor of History and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of War and Society, the University of Southern Mississippi

### Lecture and Book Signing

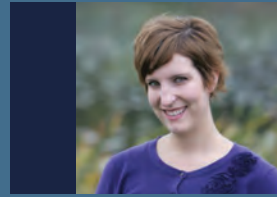
Even though it is often remembered for battles like Khe Sanh or Hamburger Hill, at its heart, Vietnam was a brutal, small unit war. In *The Boys of '67: Charlie Company's War in Vietnam*, Dr. Wiest tells the story of one single company in the Vietnam War from its drafting, through its training, year of combat (in which 25 were killed and 105 were wounded), and reintegration into society. Vietnam irrevocably changed the lives of the men who fought in the war, a transformation that is at the heart of Wiest's study.



*A 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Series Event*



# HISTORYPIN.COM



**LAURA FARLEY**  
REFERENCE ASSISTANT



Social media has changed the way we do many things, like how we socialize, how we consume information, and now how we view historical photographs and documents. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum recently created a channel on Historypin ([www.historypin.com](http://www.historypin.com)), a new social media platform that allows anyone to upload photographs, videos, audio, and documents and “pin” those records to a location on a map. Outdoor images at street level can be layered onto Google Maps Street View, where you can “fade” the image in and out to see how the area around the photograph has changed over time. Below is a perfect example of the Street View feature in use, taken from our collection Base Hospital 22. The original photograph is of a Liberty Loan Parade in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1918. The image has been “pinned” to the intersection of East Wisconsin Avenue and North Broadway Street. Using the “Fade” bar, you can get a sense of how much the area has changed over the last 96 years.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has a vast collection of images from all over the world and Historypin allows us a unique way to display and organize those images. Every image on Historypin has a date and location so visitors to the site can search a variety of ways including by geography, date, and keyword. We are also posting “Collections” of photographs, which bring together images that may be spread over time or geography, but are still related.

We’ve just posted our first collection of photographs taken from the Base Hospital 22 Collection. Base Hospital 22 was organized in 1917 by the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Red Cross and the hospital was located near

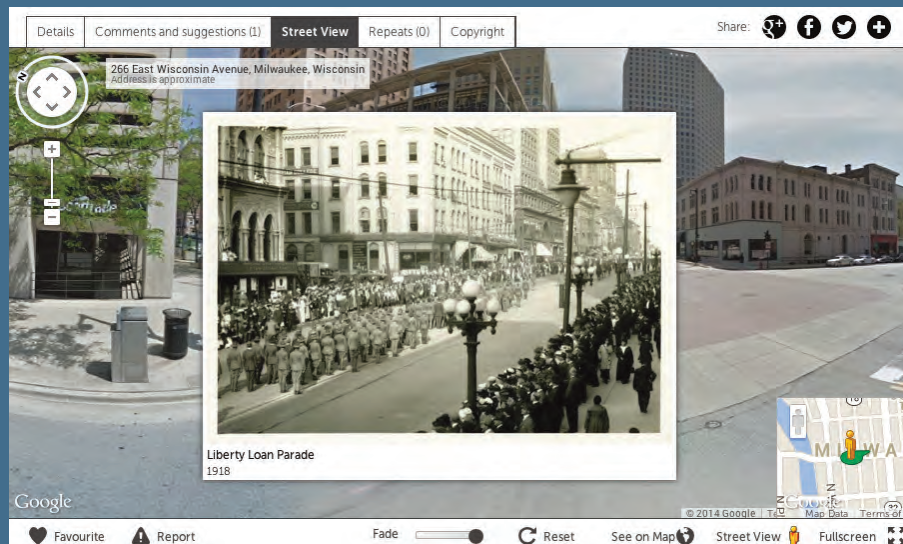
Bordeaux, France at Camp Beau Desert. Soldiers stationed at the hospital treated casualties from numerous battles including Chateau-Thierry, as well as epidemics like pneumonia and Spanish flu. Included in the collection are two scrapbooks now posted on Historypin. The collection follows the staff’s deployment from Milwaukee, across the United States, and over to France. Besides photographs of life in a World War I base hospital, there are snapshots of soldiers’ and nurses’ leisure time taken all over France.

Museum staff are excited about the possibilities and have started a list of visually rich collections that are perfect for Historypin. Images from Southeast Asia will be a particular focus. Additionally, in the future we hope to craft “Tours” on our channel that will take you on a

geographical journey of a specific set of images. For example, you could follow soldiers of Base Hospital 22 from their deployment in Milwaukee to Camp Beau Desert, France.

You can help make our collections on Historypin

more complete. One of the unique features of Historypin is that it encourages interaction from viewers in the form of comments. Do you know someone in the photograph or where the photograph was taken? We’d love for you to leave a comment so we can add to the story of the collection and the images. Likewise if we’ve made a mistake in the geography or description, we want to know. Find us on Historypin ([www.historypin.com](http://www.historypin.com)) by searching for our Channel. Use the ‘Channels’ option on the top of the home screen and enter ‘Wisconsin Veterans Museum.’ Become a fan of our channel so you’ll always know when new images are added.





**ANDREA HOFFMAN**  
COLLECTIONS MANAGER



## A FATEFUL DAY



*Rhoda Ann Ziesler*

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is rich with stories of World War II veterans who eagerly and patriotically answered the call to service following the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Fewer are the accounts of Wisconsin service members who had already enlisted prior to the decisive moment in history. Because of the scarcity of such collections, the museum is privileged to have recently received the highly comprehensive collection of Rhoda Ann Ziesler, a Manitowoc, Wisconsin native who served in the Army Nurse Corps beginning in 1940. Not only was Captain Ziesler one of the first--if not the very first--nurses from Wisconsin called to active duty, chance had stationed her on the island of Oahu on that fateful day, making her a firsthand witness to the harrowing event and its aftermath.

Ziesler had begun her nursing career at Manitowoc's Holy Family Hospital. When she later signed up to assist the Red Cross,

she was asked to indicate whether or not she'd be willing to serve her country, a question she answered in the affirmative. Ziesler then entered the Army Nurse Corps on December 16, 1940, almost one year to the day before the Pearl Harbor attack. During November of 1941 she was transferred from her training grounds at Camp Custer, Michigan to the 215th General Hospital located at Schofield Barracks in central Oahu, appointed head nurse of a 112 bed ward. During this time she served as the assistant to the chief nurse for the 600 bed hospital as well as acting supervisor of six other nurses.

While Schofield Barracks, a long-established mobile defense post for Pearl Harbor, was not a direct target that December morning, the adjacent Wheeler Army Airfield was a primary point of attack preceding the assault on the harbored fleet. Ziesler later recounted her experience while applying for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, recalling, "On the morning of the attack, I and several other nurses were on duty and stepped outdoors to see what was happening. The Japanese planes were flying so low. We could see the rising sun [on the planes]."

Ziesler's collection represents both ends of the spectrum of her service experience, from souvenirs reflecting a carefree tourist to those that document the realities of day-to-day existence while at war. Souvenirs given to the museum include a carved wooden blossom-shaped perfume holder still scented by its original ginger blossom contents, a full length



*Artifacts from the Rhoda Ziesler collection.*



NEW APPAREL FROM THE WVM COLLECTIONS

WI VINTAGE

native grass “hula” skirt, several Hawaiian-themed linens and a cloth sugar sack from the nearby Honolulu Plantation Company. Donated objects also include her uniform, watch and wallet, as well a flashlight retaining its original blue cellophane used during the strictly-enforced nightly blackouts on the island. She also returned with the hunting knife her father gave her before leaving, having alternatively hidden it in her girdle or beneath her pillow for her full tenure stating “they’re not taking me alive” in the event of an invasion.

Ziesler remained at Schofield Barracks through the rest of the war, her care given to numerous ailing service members likewise documented in other pieces she brought home, including a Japanese teacup recovered from the ruins of Okinawa given to her by a grateful Marine. The nurse also returned with another souvenir of sorts—a friendship with fellow Wisconsinite soldier Raymond Weller—that turned into a romantic relationship after their return home. In 1948 they were married and went on to have four children, one of whom, Dennis Weller, donated this collection.

Ziesler’s experience is a reminder of the important role ordinary people played in extraordinary times. The completeness of her collection—which further consists of her diary, various ephemera, letters, scrapbooks, and even a recording of a radio interview she did while still stationed in Hawaii—gives the Wisconsin Veterans Museum a unique and significant means to continue to share her story for years to come.

THANK YOU ARTIFACT DONORS!

A most sincere thank you to all who donated artifacts between October 2013 and February 2014. We cannot provide quality programming and award-winning exhibits without your help.

DALE BENDER  
NINA BRANDT  
MAE BRYANT  
BRIAN BUECHNER  
THOMAS CANNON  
ALBERT CZLAPINSKI  
LINDA DEVITT  
DOOR COUNTY  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
ALAN DUNWIDDIE  
AL ENGELHARDT  
FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM  
AT CANTIGNY  
PATRICIA FEIRTAG  
JAMES GARDNER

JAMES L. GRUENERT  
AND FAMILY  
MATTHEW GRAY  
CATHERINE HOSIG  
CHARLES KERWIN  
FAYE KRAUSE  
LINDA KRAUSE  
LINDA LUDDEN  
MIKE MOE  
WILLIAM MORAN  
JUDIE OHM  
LORRAINE POPLASKI  
BARBARA H. RICE  
ALEX P. SAUNDERS  
MARSHA SCHILLER

DONALD E. SCHWANDT  
LEE SIDERAS  
GORDON SNOREK  
WILLIAM SPRAGUE  
SHIRLEY SUCKOW  
SARA STEELE  
DOROTHY SULLIVAN  
PENNY TAKIER  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
GREEN BAY  
BILL WEBER  
MARGARET WEINSTEIN  
DENNIS WELLER  
MARJORIE ZWICKEL



This white shirt reads “U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES CHANUTE FIELD, ILL.” and is based on a design found on an Army-issue sweatshirt worn by a member of the famed 8th Air Force. 100% cotton, available in Small-2XL.

Now only \$17.95



This cream colored womens shirt reads “U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES CHANUTE FIELD, ILL.” and is based on a design found on an Army-issue sweatshirt worn by a member of the famed 8th Air Force. 100% cotton, available in Small-2XL.

Now only \$17.95



This white shirt reads “CAMP MCCOY OFFICERS’ OPEN MESS CAMP MCCOY WISCONSIN” and is based on a design found on a matchbook carried by a member of the 3rd Infantry Regiment during WWII. 100% cotton, available in Small-2XL.

Now only \$17.95



This cream shirt reads “CAMP MCCOY WISCONSIN” and is based on a design found on a matchbook carried by a member of the 3rd Infantry Regiment during WWII. 100% cotton, available in Small-2XL.

Now only \$17.95



This white shirt reads “PT. BOAT BASE NO 17 PHILIPPINES” and the design is associated with a WWII Navy Veteran who served in the Philippines, 1945-1946. 100% cotton, available in Small-2XL.

Now only \$17.95



This grey shirt reads “115TH FIGHTER GROUP WIS. AIR NATIONAL GUARD TRUAX FIELD, WIS.” and the design comes from a matchbook once owned by a member of the 115th Fighter Group, Wisconsin Air National Guard. 100% cotton, available in Small-2XL.

Now only \$17.95

QUESTIONS? CALL 608.261.0535 OR EMAIL GIFTSHOP.MANAGER@DVA.WISCONSIN.GOV.

PURCHASE ONLINE TODAY AT WWW.STORE.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM!



# STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## WVM ORAL HISTORIAN ELLEN BROOKS



I couldn't be more excited to have recently joined the staff here at WVM. I graduated from Columbia University's Oral History Master of Arts program in October of 2013 and I spent this past summer at the Tenement Museum in New York City, working with their Education Staff to develop ways to incorporate oral history into their programming. With these academic and field work experiences under my belt, I feel like I've found my niche here overseeing WVM's Oral History Program.

People may very well wonder, "What is oral history?" Or, "What does an oral historian do?" There is no single, succinct answer to these questions, but at WVM our Oral History Program consists of collecting interviews with veterans from across the state who served in any branch of the military, in order to create a document about the veteran experience that is both personal and educational. Begun in 1994 (but containing interviews pre-dating its inception), our Oral History collection currently contains nearly 1,900 interviews, with more being added regularly. The primary goal of the program is to preserve the voices of veterans for generations to come for our spectrum of patrons ranging from the veteran's family, researchers, school children and the everyday visitors to the Museum. It is my job to not only arrange for the growth of our collection, but also

to maintain the Oral History archives and develop ways we can make the Oral History collection more accessible.

Why is collecting these oral histories so important? Oral history is invaluable because it allows us to get diverse perspectives on events in history. Artifacts and documents can tell us a lot about how wars were fought or how the military was run, but it is rare to get an in-depth, personal look into what it means to be a veteran. Oral history offers this first-person account in the narrator's own words and gives a human voice to the veteran experience. When we create and collect oral histories we are less concerned about dates and facts and more interested in learning about what it feels like to be a veteran – how someone makes the choice to serve their country, memories of the first experience of combat, reactions to how they are treated when they come home or leave the service. Each oral history interview is unique and many raise issues that are complicated or conflicting, but that multi-layered complexity is all part of creating a complete narrative – every interview is one part of the entire story that we tell here at the WVM.

After the interviews are recorded they go into the archiving process, which consists of typing up a transcript, writing an abstract and creating a catalog record so that the interview can be made available on the Museum's website. All of this (including many of the actual interviews themselves) is done with the help of a very dedicated corps of volunteers. The goal is to have a transcript available for each interview. We also plan to digitize all of the interviews and may eventually have them available online to listen to in full. For the time being, interested patrons can visit our Research Center or contact me about obtaining copies of the interview audio files or transcripts.

In addition to continuing to build the impressive collection already in existence at the WVM and tweaking the processes in place when I started, my primary emphasis will be developing and implementing a strategy to use oral histories in every way possible here at the Museum; from designing oral history-based lesson plans for teachers, to incorporating oral histories into our exhibit planning, to featuring oral histories on our social media platforms. I am really looking forward to the challenge that this new position presents, and I feel so honored to be a part of a program and an institution that enables veterans' voices to be heard.

If you have any questions about the program or you know of someone who may be interested in participating, please contact me: (608)261-0537 or [ellen.brooks@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:ellen.brooks@dva.wisconsin.gov).



## TORPEDO BOAT DECAL

THIS WORLD WAR II-ERA GLASS DECAL DEPICTS THE INSIGNIA FOR MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SQUADRON 34 (RON 34). IT IS ONE OF MANY ITEMS RECENTLY DONATED FROM THE COLLECTION OF DONALD E. FISHER, A BELOIT-NATIVE RAISED IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN WHO JOINED THE NAVY IN 1943. FISHER SERVED AS A RADIOMAN ON PATROL TORPEDO (PT) BOATS.

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The mission of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past.



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*The Bugle* is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation for our members and friends. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation provides funds for the support of artifact acquisition, exhibit production and the development of educational programs.

## COMMENTS & SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your comments and editorial submissions concerning *The Bugle*. Comments and submissions should be sent to Jennifer Carlson at [Jennifer.Carlson@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Carlson@dva.wisconsin.gov).

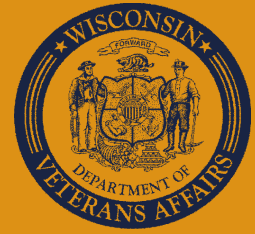
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