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6 speakers (Speaker 1, Theo Mayer, Mike Shuster, Michael L., Jordan Beck, Katherine Akey)

[0:00:01]

**Speaker 1:** The broadcast is now starting. All attendees are in listen-only mode.

[0:00:07]

**Theo Mayer:** Hey everybody. Hi. Welcome to the recording session for the World War I Centennial News Show. We've got some great guests with us today. Of course, Mike is with us from the Great War project. Also, we have Michael Lombardi, the Senior Corporate Historian from the Boeing Company, and we have Jordan Beck, the Head of Communications for the Fun Academy Motion Picture. He's going to be talking to us about Sergeant Stubby. Be sure to pop your questions in for them if you have them into the question panel and during our live Q&A that we'll do later, we'll be able to get those answered as well as your comments. Also, note, Katherine got the link list posted in the handouts, so for those of you who repost our stories, you'll have all the links today. As usual, we'll have the podcast out for the weekend listening. A little note, just tracking on the growth, it's doing really good. We got a thousand new subscribers just in the first two days of this month, so things are popping on along. Let's get going with the session. For those of you who haven't joined us before, this is really informal. We stop, we start, we do retakes, we grumble at our voices and things like that. Enjoy watching sausage being made and thanks for being part of the live recording. It really helps the energy. Okay, stand by and we're going to start at the moment here. Welcome to World War I Centennial News. It's about World War I news a hundred years ago this week and it's about World War I now. News and updates about the centennial and the commemoration. World War I Centennial News is brought to you by the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. Today is May 3rd, 2017 and I'm Theo Mayer, Chief Technologist for the World War I Centennial Commission and your host today. We've gone back in time 100 years to the week ending April and beginning May, 1917. We'll start taking a look at what's happening here in the US. Although America can't immediately feel the giant fighting force and ship it to the Western Front, the U.S. Government is all in, in other ways. No longer limited under a declaration of war, the U.S. Navy gets busy and sends destroyers across the Atlantic to engage the German U-boats, which are ravaging allied shipping. Remember, the U.S. Navy has been a force to be reckoned with for about a hundred years, ever since it distinguished itself during the war of 1812, a war incidentally against the British, not with them. Meanwhile, we not only have an effective navy, but we also have money. Unlike the European allies and foes, we haven't depleted our economy through years of war. President Wilson's Treasury Secretary, William McAdoo, puts together a ginormous loan for the Bank of England. He hands him a check for \$200 million, equivalent of 4 billion today. That's the largest single check the U.S. Treasury had ever written. But we Americans are a pragmatic lot. The term Yankee trader was earned. This is of course not a gift, it's a loan, and as has become typical with a lot of U.S. International Governmental dealings to this very day, the money is only to be used to pay American companies for products and services on behalf of the UK's war effort. It's a loan to our ally to be paid back and to be used to purchase American goods from U.S. Suppliers. War has always been good for business. One more interesting note and yet another amazing parallel in history, Mr. McAdoo, our secretary of the treasury also happens to be President Wilson's son-in-law. Family in the cabinet is a long standing tradition. Meanwhile, on the Western Front, in Europe, things are near disastrous. The mutinies among the French troops are expanding. For example, the second battalion of the 18th French regimem suffered two thirds casualties in the new [inaudible] of around April 16. Just 10 days later, the general command sends in a new crop of officers, the original ones having been killed 10 days earlier. The men are ordered back to the front. This doesn't go down well. Instead of heading for the front, the troops ransacked the local stores of wine and get soused shouting, "Down with the war." They clearly have had enough. This is unfortunately not an isolated incident. For example, on the same day in the Champagne region, 200 men fled into the woods rather than report back to the front. Joining us to tell us more about how Germans are using the demoralization of the ally troops, not only in France, but also in Russia, is former NPR correspondent, Mike Shuster, from the Great War Project blog. Russia is effectively in revolution costing the allies a crucial partner and delighting the Germans who happily fuel the fires of descent. Mike, what's happening with Russia?

[0:06:14]

**Mike Shuster:** A lot. Here are the headlines from this week, a century ago. "Will Russia stay in the war?" "Lenin calls for end to Russia's role as desertion spreads." "Germans flood the battlefield with propaganda", and this is special to the Great War Project. In Russia, the conflict between pro and anti-war forces is growing and bringing more and more uncertainty to Russia's continuing participation in the war a century ago. "In late April, a century ago, a small contingent of Russian soldiers demanded an immediate peace," writes historian, Martin Gilbert. "With the simultaneous laying down of arms by both sides. At this moment in the war, a larger antiwar contingent of Russian soldiers does not emerge lacking the support from the officer corps. Deep divisions within the Russian army crack into the open. There are threats that soldiers and officers could attack one another. So the pro war forces adopt

increased disciplinary measures," reports Gilbert. Nonetheless, the resistance and indiscipline in Russia are spreading rapidly. The Russian command drafts large contingents of a thousand soldiers who are stationed in the rear, only 150 to 250 troops actually appear at the Front for service. There are more indications that Russian troops are fleeing the battlefield refusing to fight. In the munitions factories, "Bolshevik anti war propaganda was incessant," reports historian Gilbert. On April 23rd, the Bolshevik party's newspaper Pravda asked the Russian soldiers, "Are you willing to fight for this, that the English capitalists should rob Mesopotamia and Palestine?" The Bolshevik fire brand leader, Vladimir Lenin is in Petrograd, the Russian capital, having made the secret journey to Russia from his exile in Switzerland. Lenin's return home is arranged by the Germans. They hope that he will take control and boost support to the anti-war forces in Germany. Looking at the Russian situation from Germany, General Max Hoffmann noted in his diary, "We are showering the newspapers and leaflets on the Russians and trying to get at them in various ways." Observes Hoffman. "The Russian revolution is a godsent to us, but still that is not enough to end Russia's participation in the war. The Germans looked with alarm," reports Gilbert, "... At the decision of the Russian provisional government to remain at war. In these days, a hundred years ago, more than 50,000 wounded Russian soldiers demonstrated in favor of the continuation of the war, much to Lenin's distress," writes Gilbert. "The Petrograd Soviet or council gave it support to the provisional government. Nonetheless, chaos in Russia is only growing," reports historian Gilbert, "The Eastern Front would remain in place despite a massive increase of the number of deserters, as many as 2 million by these days a century ago. At the same time, nightlife and Petrograd remains live-

[0:09:31]

**Theo Mayer:** Mike, sorry to interrupt. We're catching the paper shuffles. Can you pick up a little bit back?

[0:09:37]

**Mike Shuster:** All right.

[0:09:37]

**Theo Mayer:** Thank you.

[0:09:40]

**Mike Shuster:** Reports historian Gilbert, "The Eastern Front would remain in place despite a massive increase of the number of deserters, as many as 2 million by these days a century ago. At the same time, nightlife and Petrograd remains lively despite the desperate conditions in the army and on the Front. The nightlife of Petrograd would also go on," writes one historian, "Theaters and cabarets remained open. The opera and ballet seasons are in full swing, singing at the opera, the Bass, Shirley Oaten had never been in better voice. At the Europe nightclub," writes Gilbert, "... Jimmy, the bar man from the old [inaudible] continued to purvey his famous concoctions to the delight of his late night clientele." That's just some of the headlines from the war a century ago.

[0:10:32]

**Theo Mayer:** Thank you, Mike. That was Mike Shuster from the Great War Project blog. Moving on to the Great War In The Sky. In the Great War In The Sky 100 years ago this week, we're wrapping up bloody April. A disastrous period for the allied flyers, where a new pilot had a life... I will get this, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your patience. A disastrous period for the allied flyers, where a new pilot had a life expectancy of just 11 days. Two allied aces that lost... I'm going to pick it up from the top. In the Great War In The Sky 100 years ago, this week, we're wrapping up bloody April. A disastrous period for the allied flyers, where a new pilot had a life expectancy of just 11 days. Two allied aces that were lost in late April and early March are American pilot, John J. Malone and British Ace, Captain Albert Ball, who was killed in a crash following a dog fight with Loathe Armand and [inaudible]. The brother of [inaudible] Hoven, the red baron. Both brothers are German pilots. Michael, we are going to be going to your segment. You can go ahead and unmute. Are you there? Yeah.

[0:12:12]

**Michael L.:** Oh, hi.

[0:12:13]

**Theo Mayer:** Okay.

[0:12:13]

**Michael L.:** Yep.

[0:12:14]

**Theo Mayer:** Okay. Standby.

[0:12:14]

**Michael L.:** Yeah.

[0:12:17]

**Theo Mayer:** On the U.S. Domestic Front last week, we told you the story about the launch of the Boeing aircraft company. We received a lot of positive feedback. We received a lot of positive feedback and interest on the story. With us today is Michael Lombardi, the Senior Corporate Historian for the Boeing Company. Michael, thank you for joining us.

[0:12:38]

**Michael L.:** Well, glad to be here. Yeah, thanks for the invitation.

[0:12:42]

**Theo Mayer:** Thank you, Michael. Now rebranding his company, the Pacific Aero Products Company, a component manufacturer to the Boeing Airplane Company and airplanes supplier within days of the U.S. Declaration of war carries all the business acumen, entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and technology attributes that define much of the American character that emerged as a result of World War I. We want to know more about Mr. William Boeing. Could you give us some insight?

[0:13:11]

**Michael L.:** Well, you mentioned a couple of words right there, which are key; entrepreneurial and he was a renaissance man. He was a businessman. He came to the airplane business already with his own wealth, which was unlike a lot of the others who are pioneers of the industry, who were engineers and wanted to build their own airplanes. Bill Boeing came to it more as a visionary. He really saw in the airplane that there was a future to this technology. I think that's the thing that really defines him, is his vision. That the airplane had a future both in commercial but also in military. It's really interesting that even far away here in Seattle, which was very isolated at that time, he was already envisioning aero power, the military use of the airplane, when he started the company. He even went about dropping paper bombs over Seattle to alert the citizens here of the danger they're in without having airplanes to defend them. So he was really forward-thinking in that regard. That's what really served him well when he started his business.

[0:14:40]

**Theo Mayer:** Well, Michael, what did the company do during the 18 months of the war? Then what did they do in the years following?

[0:14:47]

**Michael L.:** Sure. Well, during the war, Bill Boeing, when he launched his company based on his first airplane, the BMW, which was named after his initial, Boeing, and his partner, Westervelt, Conrad Westervelt, who was a U.S. Navy officer, they decided that they could build a better airplane. And together they went about it, designed this airplane, the BMW, and managed to get it to fly. It flew fairly well, and based on that, they started the company. Actually, Bill Boeing started it because Westervelt got called back to service on the East Coast. Boeing went forward with the company, and based on that airplane, the U.S. Navy had some interest. Bill Boeing pursued that interest along with prompting from his friend Westervelt and they designed another airplane that was called the Model C. The navy, once the war started and the need here in the United States for airplanes with this large commitment that American made to the allies, the navy enlisted Boeing to build 50 of those Model C airplanes, so they would be trainer airplanes for Navy pilots. Bill Boeing starting with just... He had just about a little over a hundred employees, had to ramp up his factory quickly to build those. Additionally, the navy came back and offered the Boeing airplane company a contract to build 50 Curtiss flying boats under license [HS2Ls]. They went forward with that contract as well. It wasn't a very big contribution to the, of course, the contribution of companies like Curtiss, which was the big company in America at that time and the one that Bill Boeing was chasing. That was the contribution during the war, was to build that small number of airplanes. But what's interesting is that there were probably 30 or so airplane manufacturers during World War I or at the end of the war in the United States. 10 years later, of those 30, there were only three that remained. And that was Boeing, Curtiss, and Martin. Today of course, with Lockheed Martin and Boeing are still the main aircraft manufacturers in the United States. But also 10 years later, Bill Boeing had achieved probably what he had envisioned originally for the airplane. By 1929, Bill Boeing had started his own airline and that airline was on the brink of completing the first transcontinental air route in the United States. So within 10 years after the war effort, Bill Boeing had given the United States an aviation infrastructure, an airline infrastructure, and that the airline would eventually become United Airlines. He had started a very successful airplane company that was not only building commercial airplanes but had risen to the point where it was a direct competitor to Curtiss and had even overcome Curtiss in many respects. He quickly achieved... It was much like you think of his business, airplane business, at that time, much like the computer business software, high tech business of today. He really was the Bill Gates of his day. Just incredible accomplishment in just a short time.

[0:18:53]

**Theo Mayer:** Thank you, Michael. Well, World War I is the war that changed the world and William Boeing and the company he founded are certainly part of it. Thank you, Michael Lombardi, for joining us.

**[0:19:04]**

**Michael L.:** My pleasure. Thank you.

**[0:19:05]**

**Theo Mayer:** Thank you so much. Michael Lombardi, Senior Corporate Historian for the Boeing Company. Thank you. For video about World War I, our friends at the Great War Channel on YouTube have some new posts for you this week. First, they did a segment called, "Out of the trenches". This is another episode where Indian idol, the host answers viewer questions. Another one, "Turmoil in the French army expands on the challenges we've been speaking about ourselves". The last is actually pretty good one, "The fight for air supremacy." Bloody April in 1917 is a great summary for the war in the sky in 2017 as an overview. The videos are really informative and another great way to follow the history of World War I from a more European perspective. So we invite you to join The Great War Channel on YouTube. Let's zoom forward in time to World War I Centennial News now. We'll begin with activities and events. It's spring and the boys of summer are getting ready for another season. We're happy to announce the first of many collaborations with the World War I Centennial and Professional Sports. The commission's been working with the president of the international league, an East Coast Minor Baseball League. This May and into June, they're going to be highlighting centennial commemorations during their games. Each park will have a slightly different approach and a way of showcasing the history of World War I. In Louisville, one of our commissioners is going to be throwing out the first pitch, and in Virginia, the state World War I Commission plans to have a living history track. They're going to invite people to bring in pictures of their ancestors who fought in World War I to be scanned and archived right there and then. They'll also help people do research on the pictures so the family leaves knowing more about their family's veterans and service. Upcoming games with scheduled World War I Centennial events include, May 20 in Scranton, May 21 in Louisville, May 23 in Charlotte, May 27th in Pawtucket, May 29th in Gwinnett, and June 1st through 4th in Norfolk. For a complete list of the league's games, follow the link in the podcast notes. It's time for updates from the states. In the land of opportunity state, Arkansas, at the state archives in Little Rock, there is an exhibit honoring and exploring the U.S. And state's involvement in World War I through artifacts, documents and photographs. Many of these historical items were picked up off the battlefield by a gentleman named Louis C. Gulley, a local working as a postmaster for the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during the war. This month, they're expanding that exhibit, adding a traveling exhibit, the Great War, Arkansas in World War I. The showcases images from the Arkansas State Archives and highlights the achievement and sacrifices of Arkansas in the war. Stop by before May 6 and you'd catch both the exhibits at the same time. In Massachusetts, where 6,500 Springfield residents fought in World War I, One of the regimens in particular is being remembered this week. Brian Willett of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the city's Veterans Services Department organized a ceremony to honor the 104th Infantry Regiment of the 26 Massachusetts National Guard. The 104th were the first American military unit to be given a foreign decoration for valor during battle, the [Quadigear]. Mayor Dominic Sarno and Eric Segundo, Massachusetts's state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars placed a wreath at the monument to the 104th. Later they raised our World War I Centennial commemoration flag. For those of you who haven't seen it, there is actually a World War I centennial flag that you can acquire in our merchandise shop. Okay, Jordan, we're going to be going to your segment next. You can go ahead and unmute.

**[0:24:12]**

**Jordan Beck:** Ready.

**[0:24:12]**

**Theo Mayer:** Okay. Quick sound check. Are you okay?

**[0:24:16]**

**Jordan Beck:** Yup. Yup. Good to go.

**[0:24:19]**

**Theo Mayer:** Okay. You're a little bit more echo-y than you were during the sound check.

**[0:24:22]**

**Jordan Beck:** All right. How's that?

**[0:24:24]**

**Theo Mayer:** Yeah, that's perfect. Thank you. Okay. Moving on to our World War I spotlight in the media. For our listeners who do not know him, let me introduce Sergeant Stubby. He was a dog. He served for 18 months and participated in 17 battles on the Western Front. Stubby saved his regimen from surprise mustard attacks, found and

comforted the wounded and once taught a German... Oh my goodness. I'm going to pick this up from the top. And Jordan, we're catching some noise and stuff from your mic.

**[0:24:59]**

**Jordan Beck:** Right.

**[0:25:02]**

**Theo Mayer:** Moving on to our World War I spotlight in the media. For our listeners who don't know him, let me introduce Sergeant Stubby. He was a dog. He served for 18 months and participated in 17 battles on the Western Front. Stubby saved his regiment from surprise mustard gas attacks, found and comforted the wounded and once caught a German soldier by the seat of his pants, holding him until Human American soldiers arrived. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant and decorated with medals. Back home, his exploits were front page news and major newspapers. Well, Sergeant Stubby's exploits are being turned into an animated film. With us today for an update on the movie is Jordan Beck, Head of Communications... Oops. Let me pick that up. We've got some noise. Sergeant Stubby's exploits are being turned into an animated film and with us today for an update on the movie is Jordan Beck, Head of Communications for Fun Academy Motion Pictures. Welcome, Jordan.

**[0:26:09]**

**Jordan Beck:** Hey Theo. Thanks for having me. That was a really great introduction to our project. You saved me a lot of work.

**[0:26:16]**

**Theo Mayer:** Give us an overview and tell us a little bit about the project.

**[0:26:20]**

**Jordan Beck:** Sure. As you mentioned, Sergeant Stubby is the most decorated canine hero in American history. We're really honored to have found this story and able to bring it to our audiences that might otherwise not get this piece of history. To see early 20th century history through the eyes of a dog really expands the reach of the World War I Centennial Commission, their mission rather... I'll pick that up. ... Really expands the reach of the World War I Centennial Commission's mission to honor and remember that time in American history. So we've assembled a really great alias cast to help us with this. Logan Lerman is voicing Robert Conroy, who was Sergeant Stubby's owner. Stubby was a small stray dog that just wandered onto the parade grounds at Yale University while the 102nd Infantry Regiment also of the 26th Yankee Division were training on the grounds of Yale and this dog just adopted a soldier named J. Robert Conroy. So we have Logan Lerman voicing Conroy and the one who really takes Stubby under his wing and is ultimately... When you look at this history and you look at their story, you see that neither one of them would have survived the war without each other. We have Helena Bonham Carter voicing his elder sister Margaret. Now, we realized early on in our process that we'd written a story that was devoid of a female character. It was really about Stubby and the guys. Going back into our research, we discovered that Conroy was raised in large part by his elder sister Margaret. So we introduced Margaret as a character to help tell the story through letters and journals between her and her brother. That really helps us in expanding. This time we're really fleshing out this period in history for kids and frankly for adults who don't understand what the country was like and what the world was like a hundred years ago. Then who better to voice the Bond V Avant, French Qual Lu soldier who's been in the trenches for years before the Americans arrive, but takes Conroy and Stubby under his wing, who better to voice him than Francis most iconic living actors, Gerard Depardieu. We have a great cast that's really bringing this to life and expanding those black and white photos that we all know into full CGI animated color that the entire family can appreciate and enjoy and learn from. The animation is actually being conducted by [Migros Image]. Migros Image recently worked with Paramount on the Little Prints and just completed Captain Underpants for DreamWorks, so we're going to have top quality world-class animation to do this. Our score is being composed by Patrick Doyle. Patrick Doyle is a two time Oscar nominated as 60 film credits, whose name he did "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire". He did "Bray for Pixar", so we're really excited about the role that music is going to play in bringing this history to life. Now you'll be able to see the film in wide theatrical release on April 13th of 2018, so about a year from now. But leading up into that film, we really wanted to give our audience a chance to join us on the journey from the concept phase to the actual film on screen. We have a really robust social media campaign right now. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram that's @stubbymovie. To follow our progress and also engage with us on some things that are prescient for our audience, you got to remember that Stubby is not only the most decorated canine hero in American history, but he's also the most famous stray dog in American history. We find a lot of traction from our friends in the animal rescue world, and everybody in this country who has a dog is really finding a lot of parallels between their own stories of adoption or rescue of four-legged family members and what Robert Conroy and the men of the Yankee Division went through with Sergeant Stubby. We're honored to have the World War I Centennial Commission as a partner, as well as the French counterpart live missing on center there. We also have received letters of endorsement from the Connecticut State Library because Sergeant Stubby was a Connecticut hero and the National Infantry Museum Foundation here in Columbus, Georgia. We're working with them and with other

educators and nonprofit groups to develop supplemental educational materials and activities, many of which will be hosted on our website when we launch that later in the spring. Because we want to create the kind of film that goes beyond the end credits. We want to have something that people can really sink their teeth into and get good solid educational content from a overall entertaining film.

**[0:31:23]**

**Theo Mayer:** Jordan, I have an interesting question. You guys must've gone through a lot of discussion about whether Stubby was going to have a voice. Does he?

**[0:31:32]**

**Jordan Beck:** That is a fantastic question. And that's a question that is not very uncommon. We decided that because this is a historical film and while it is a work of historical fiction, we want to retain as much authenticity as possible. Stubby didn't actually talk in history. So we made the decision that we aren't going to anthropomorphize Stubby to include a voice. Stubby doesn't talk, but he is very expressive as dogs are. If you have a dog at home, you realize that you can understand an awful lot about what's going through his mind at any given point without him actually having to talk. And really for Stubby to have done all of those heroic actions in history, he didn't have to say, "Gas, gas, gas." He developed his own method of communication that the men of the 102nd were able to understand. They could look at Stubby and realize, "Oh wow, gas attack incoming." Or, "Incoming shells," because he could hear ordinances as it was flying through the air. We wanted to keep that level of authenticity and really allow the historical Stubby's method of communication to be part of this animated film.

**[0:32:41]**

**Theo Mayer:** That's great. Jordan, thank you very much for joining us.

**[0:32:45]**

**Jordan Beck:** Thank you very much.

**[0:32:47]**

**Theo Mayer:** That was Jordan Beck, Head of Communications for Fun Academy Motion Pictures, talking about the upcoming feature film, "Sergeant Stubby". This week we're combining our international and education reports. Here's a story about students at the American School in Paris. They recently started a new class assignment, "The Monuments Project". With more than 35,000 Americans buried and memorialized overseas from World War I, there are thousands of untold stories and the students are uncovering some of these unknown stories and personal histories. The project is a collaboration between the American Battle Monuments Commission, the ABMC, the American School of Paris, and Lopez Island, Middle School of Washing... Okay, I finally... Here I see it. The project is a collaboration between the American Battle Monuments Commission, the American School of Paris and Lopez Island, Middle School of Washington state. 100 students in France and Washington state began working together researching the lives of the soldiers who attended the service. Learn more about this by following the link in the podcast notes. Moving on to news from the commissions blossoming website. There is a new site segment that went live this week. Vande Mataram in the U.S.A. is a site about Asian Indians in World War I America. When the United States entered World War I, only a few tens of thousands of immigrants from colonial India lived in the nation, mostly on the west coast, yet this tiny community received enormous press coverage immediately after the declaration of war. The spotlight came from a wave of arrests of Indian nationalists and Germans accused of conspiring to overthrow the British Raj. But while the press was focused on covering the plot and the trial, many Asian Indian immigrants were serving the United States armed forces. Their record of service and their struggle for civil rights after World War I led eventually to full citizenship rights for themselves and their descendants. Check out their story at [ww1cc.org/vande](http://ww1cc.org/vande). For 100 cities, 100 memorials, the \$200,000 matching grant program for rescuing ailing World War I memorials, we want to put out a reminder that there are less than 45 days before the grant application submissions close. We know this isn't enough time to crank up a whole project, but don't miss the deadline if you're doing one of the projects. Also, if you have a World War I memorial project and you didn't know about the program, you still have time to apply at [ww1cc.org/100memorials](http://ww1cc.org/100memorials). Any restoration project completed after January 1st, 2014 and to be completed by November 11th, 2018 qualifies. Check it out at [ww1cc.org/100memorials](http://ww1cc.org/100memorials). The military times is running a series of articles about each military branch as experienced during World War I. This week, there's a great article about the Marine Corps and their bravery at Bella Woods, authored by retired Sergeant Major Brian B. Bataglia. He served 36 years in the Marine Corps. Read the story by following the link in the podcast notes. In our write blog, which explores World War I's influence on contemporary writings and scholarship, this week, the featured post comes from our blog, "Curator," Jennifer Orth Veil. Her posts discusses World War I French censorship of films and literature portrayed... Oops. Pick up. Her post discusses... Oops, somebody's got a noise. This week's featured post comes from blog "Curator", Jennifer Orth Veil, whose post discusses French... Oops, sorry, Katherine. ... Whose post discusses French censorship of films and literature that portrayed overly negative images of the war. In her post, the film "Path of Glory" by Stanley Kubrick as well as Gabriel Shavaye's book, "Fear" were considered threats to French vision of patriotism and triumph after the armistice of 1918. Read her post at [ww1cc.org/wwrite](http://ww1cc.org/wwrite). Moving on to World

War I and social media with the buzz. With us is Katherine Akey, the Commission Social Media Director. Hi Katherine. What do you have for us this week?

[0:38:28]

**Katherine Akey:** In August, 1917, members of President Wilson's cabinet and other officials were assembled to get in shape for the war. Among them was 35-year-old assistant secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who would be paralyzed by polio four short years later. Mashable recently posted an article of images of this cabinet completing a simple eight-minute exercise called "The Daily Dozen", a sequence of calisthenic motions. The exercises were not meant to be particularly strenuous and could be completed by young cadets and senior government officials alike. The images are wonderfully charming. Rows of men in slacks and button ups, their sleeves rolled up in their cuffs loose, practice with flight smiles on their faces in a treeline field. In one image, FDR balances on one leg, arms outstretched to his sides. In another, the men jump up and down blurred as they were caught in motion. It's an interesting glimpse into how preparations for the war made their way into all nooks and crannies of governmental life. The second story I wanted to share this week is from a hundred years and a few weeks ago, the death of the first American naval officer in the conflict. There's a story at the Annapolis Capital Gazette about the life and death of Lieutenant Clarence Christ Thomas. He was given command of the merchant steamship SS vacuum two weeks before the U.S. Declared war on Germany at the age of 31. Soon after he took command, a torpedo from the German submarine, U 21 hit the SS vacuum while he was on the deck of the ship. The explosion threw Thomas and the guns crew into the water. Although the vacuum sunk, the rest of the crew was able to escape safely getting picked up by a nearby ship. Thomas was picked up as well, but shortly thereafter died from exposure becoming the first naval officer casualty of the war. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and the destroyer USS Thomas was named after him in July, 1918. It was actually the first of several ships named after him. Finally, the single most popular article we posted on Facebook in the past week was one about an unsung hero of the war that saved thousands and thousands of lives. Moss. Yes, the plant, moss. During the war, sepsis was prevalent and an incredible problem for army medics. By December, 1915, a British report warned that thousands of wounded men were threatening to exhaust the material for bandages. Desperate to get their hands on something sterile, doctors started getting creative. They tried everything from irrigating wounds with chlorine to creating bandages of infused with carbolic acid, but ultimately there just wasn't enough cotton. It was a substance in very high demand for uniforms. A Scottish surgeon and botanists duo had an idea. Stuffed the wounds full of moss, peat moss to be exact. Today, this tiny little plant is known for its use in horticulture and biofuels, not to mention it's starring role in preserving thousands of year-old bog bodies, but humans have been using it for over a thousand years to help heal their injuries. This is a fascinating article at the Smithsonian Magazine's website called "How humble moss healed the wounds of thousands in World War I". I really encourage you to go and read it because it is just mind-blowingly interesting. (silence) One moment everybody. We seem to be having some audio trouble. We'll be right with you. (silence)

[0:46:30]

**Theo Mayer:** Hi Katherine, are you on?

[0:46:35]

**Katherine Akey:** Hi. Yeah, I'm here.

[0:46:37]

**Theo Mayer:** Okay. Have I been on through the entire closing segment?

[0:46:41]

**Katherine Akey:** Yeah, it's just like radio silence.

[0:46:44]

**Theo Mayer:** Oh my goodness.

[0:46:44]

**Katherine Akey:** [crosstalk].

[0:46:45]

**Theo Mayer:** Okay. Let's try that closing again then let's rerecord the segment.

[0:46:52]

**Katherine Akey:** Okay, great.

[0:46:53]

**Theo Mayer:** Okay. That's World War I Centennial News for this week. Thank you for listening. We want to thank our guests, Mike Shuster, from the Great War project blog, Michael Lombardi, the Senior Corporate Historian for the

Boeing Company, Jordan Beck, the Head of Communications for the Fun Academy motion pictures, Katherine Akey, the commission's social media director, and also the line producer for the show. I'm Theo Mayer, your host this week. The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission was created by Congress to honor, commemorate, and educate about World War I. We rely entirely on your donations. No government appropriations or taxes are being used. Our programs are to inspire a national conversation and awareness about World War I. We're bringing the lessons of 100 years ago into today's classrooms. We're helping to restore World War I memorials in communities of all sizes around the country and we're building a national World War I memorial in Washington DC. All of this work depends on your support, so please give what you can by texting WW1 now to 41444. That's WW1 now to 41444. World War I Centennial News is brought to you as a part of this effort and we want to thank the Commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library for their support. The podcast can be found on our website at [ww1cc.org/cn](http://ww1cc.org/cn) and on iTunes and Google where you get your podcasts. Our Twitter and Instagram handles are both @ww1cc and we're on Facebook at WW1 centennial. Thank you for joining us and don't forget to talk to someone about the centennial World War I this week so long. Okay. Katherine, let's redo your segment. I don't know if you heard me, but we're getting a lot of breath pops during it.

[0:49:23]

**Katherine Akey:** No, I did not hear you. Okay. I'll move my microphone.

[0:49:25]

**Theo Mayer:** [crosstalk] then that's why... Yeah. If you move it off then let's rerecord your segment. I'll toss it to you and then we'll redo that. Okay. So picking up rerecord on Katherine. Hang on, let me do the toss over. Okay. Talk a little bit and see if we've got the pop.

[0:49:53]

**Katherine Akey:** Okay. In August, 1917, members of President Wilson's cabinet-

[0:49:58]

**Theo Mayer:** That's better.

[0:49:58]

**Katherine Akey:** ... And other officials. Yeah, that's better?

[0:49:59]

**Theo Mayer:** Yeah, that's much better. Okay.

[0:50:02]

**Katherine Akey:** Cool.

[0:50:03]

**Theo Mayer:** Moving on to World War I and social media with the buzz. With us is Katherine Akey, the Commission's social media director. Hi Katherine.

[0:50:11]

**Katherine Akey:** Hi. Well, in August, 1917, members of President Wilson's cabinet and other officials were assembled to get in shape for the war. Among them was 35-year-old assistant secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who would be paralyzed shortly thereafter by polio. Mashable recently posted an article of images of the cabinet completing a simple eight-minute exercise called "The Daily Dozen; a sequence of calisthenic motions". The exercises were not meant to be particularly strenuous and could be completed by young cadets and senior government officials alike. The images are wonderfully charming. Rows of men and slacks and button ups, their sleeves rolled up in their cuffs loose, practice with flight smiles on their faces in a tree-lined field. In one image, FDR balances on one leg, arms outstretched to his sides. In another, the men jump up and down blurred as they were caught in motion. It's an interesting glimpse into how preparations for the war made their way into all nooks and crannies of governmental life. Now, a story from a hundred years and a few weeks ago, the death of the first American naval officer in the war. There's a story at the Annapolis Capital Gazette about the life and death of Lieutenant Clarence Christ Thomas. He was given command of the merchant steamship SS vacuum two weeks before the U.S. declared war on Germany at the age of 31. Soon after he took command, a torpedo from the German submarine, U 21 hit the SS vacuum while he was on the deck of the ship. The explosion threw Thomas and the gun crew into the water. Although the vacuum sank, the rest of the crew was able to escape safely getting picked up by a nearby ship. Thomas was picked up as well, but he shortly thereafter died from exposure becoming the first naval officer casualty of the war. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and the destroyer USS Thomas was named after him in July, 1918. It would be the first of several ships named after him. Finally, I wanted to point out the single most popular article we posted on Facebook the past week about an unsung hero of the war that saved

thousands and thousands of lives. Moss. During the war, sepsis was prevalent and an incredible problem for medics. By December, 1915, a British report warned that the thousands of wounded men were threatening to exhaust the material for bandages. Desperate to get their hands on something sterile, doctors started getting creative. They tried everything from irrigating wounds with chlorine to creating bandages infused with carbolic acid, but ultimately there just wasn't enough cotton, a substance that was already in high demand for uniforms. A Scottish surgeon-botanists duo had an idea. Stuffed the wounds full of moss, yes, moss the plant, peat moss to be exact. Today, this tiny little plant is known for its use in horticulture and biofuels, not to mention it's starring role in preserving thousands of years-old bog bodies, but humans have used it for at least a thousand years to help heal their injuries. Read more about the role of moss in health care in the last thousand years and during the war at Smithsonian Magazine's article, "How humble moss healed the wounds of thousands in World War I".

**[0:53:35]**

**Theo Mayer:** Okay, thank you, Katherine. We're going to... Again, thank you everybody who's still on. We're going to go ahead and end the recording session and Katherine, if you'd meet me on the other side, well, let's do a review.

**[0:53:48]**

**Katherine Akey:** Got it.

**[0:53:48]**

**Theo Mayer:** So long everyone.

**[0:53:49]**