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8 speakers (Tao Mayer, Mike Shuster, Indy Neidell, Emil Bach, Richard Reuben, Jonathan Braton, Jerry Meyer, Catherine Akey)

[0:00:00]

Tao Mayer: Hi listeners. Before we get going today, I want to let you know about this special Fourth of July thing that we're doing, and that you can help with. As you know we're totally donation supported, and so for the Fourth of July we've got some friends to help us with a donation of PL Video. Ambassador and former senator Carol Mosley Braun. Secretary Leon Pineda. Google's Vince Surf, and General Barry McCaffery are all in this 22nd video, which we posted on our Facebook page, and here's how you can help. We're on Facebook at ww1centennial, so go to Facebook.com/ww1centennial. The video is the first post, and share the video with your friends and let them know that we need their help to build America's World War One Memorial in Washington D.C. Each time it's shared we get a few more donations, so if you can, please make small gift to our World War One Dough Boys, and even if you can't, please share the video on your social media. It's really about our remembering the war that changed the world. Here we go with episode number 26. World War One Centennial News. It's about World War One news 100 years ago this week, and it's about World War One news now. News and updates about the centennial, and the commemoration. World War One Centennial News is brought to you by the US World War One Centennial Commission, and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. Today is June 28th, 2017, and I'm Tao Mayer, Chief Technologist for the World War One Centennial Commission, and your host. Looking back at World War One, one hundred years ago this week, we're going to follow just one of the many amazing stories. This week we're following the story of the Red Cross. The American Red Cross, or ARC, was founded by Clara Barton in May of 1881, earning a historic role for serving people in need. When Europe was thrown in to conflict in June of 1914, the American Red Cross was a small organization, still in the process of developing its identity, and its programs. In large part, the American Red Cross we know today was forged by the war that changed the world. When the organization suddenly found itself deeply embroiled in the incredible upheaval, growth and expansion that was America's war effort in 1917. The transformation began as we declared war in April of 1917, and at that crucial time, Red Cross headquarters was reeling under the sudden projected demands on it. So, in May of 1917, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Henry P. Davidson, a successful New York banker to head a war counsel. The war counsel was to direct the Red Cross. Yeah, it looks pretty much like a US war effort take over. By the end of June, one hundred years ago this week, having just knocked it out of the park with the Liberty Bond Drive, the US Government turned its sites on successfully wrapping up a 100 million dollar fund drive from private donations on behalf of the Red Cross. So, think about it, that's over two billion dollars in 2017. Being raised for a private organization with a direct support of the US Federal Government. Here's what it looked like 100 years ago this week in the pages of the official bulletin, the Government War Gazette, headed by George Creole, America's propaganda chief for President Woodrow Wilson. Dateline June 25th, 1917, headline, Believe The One Hundred Million Dollar Red Cross Fund Will Be Raised. The Red Cross issues the following, "A thousand American cities are striving today to boost the big Red Cross war fund to an even one hundred million dollars. With returns well over the three quarter mark this afternoon, the war counsel officers are confident that by the close of the day the Red Cross war fund will be in hand." On the same day, headline, war is but beginning. Lord Northcliff says in outlining task of the Red Cross. The story reads, Lord Northcliff of the British War Mission, who has been to the front and has seen at close quarters the actual part that the British Red Cross is playing in the gigantic world struggle, has given out the following statement, "If as one of the leaders of the British Red Cross, I have a message of any kind to the American Red Cross, it is one of congratulations on the devotion and enthusiasm for the Red Cross work I find sweeping this mass continent." He goes on to state, "The Red Cross must take up the burden of seeing us through, and alleviating the horrors our ruthless foe has added to the usual suffering of war." The next day the drumbeat continues. Tuesday June 26th, 1917. Headline, One Hundred Million Dollar Red Cross Fund is Oversubscribed. The story reads, the Red Cross today issued the following statement, "The Red Cross War Fund of 100 million dollars has been raised. The even some was passed sometime during the night. Today's returns continued to boost the sum by the millions. Before noon the grand total was 104 million, with a prospect that 105 million dollars would be marked up on the big headquarters's blackboard before night." Then one day later on Wednesday, dateline, Wednesday June 27th, 1917, headline, Millions Still Being Raised to the Red Cross War Fund. The Red Cross today issued the following statement, "How much over 100 million dollars the war fund of the American Red Cross will go, is purely a matter of conjecture. Taking into consideration all overlapping over subscriptions that may occur. The funds should be at least 15 or 20 million dollars over the goal by July first. The campaign officially terminated on Monday night, but hundreds of cities throughout the nation have volunteered to go right on with collecting funds for the Red Cross." And on the same Wednesday, dateline, Wednesday June 27th, 1917. Headline, Red Cross War Counsel Announces Plans for Dealing With Problem of Sanitation. The Red Cross today issued the following statement, "Broad plans for dealing with the problem of sanitation and public health, arising out of the war condition abroad, and in the United States, were announced today by the War Counsel of the American Red Cross. To provide expert advice for the counsel in dealing with these problems, the War Counsel also announced the appointment of a medical advisory committee.

Composed of leading sanitarians and public health authorities of the country." And then on Thursday, the US State Department oversteps its bounds, and the Red Cross pushes back very politely. Dateline, Thursday June 28th, 1917. Headline, Red Cross Seeks Change in Base Hospital Ruling on June 20th. The American Red Cross Director General of the Department of Military Relief forwarded to the directors of all Red Cross Base Hospitals, a copy of a letter received from the State Department to the effect that hospital units intended for service abroad, should not include persons of German, Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian, or Turkish nationality or birth, or American citizens whose fathers were born in Germany, Austro-Hungarian, or allied countries. The Red Cross goes on to explain that this type of policy may work in a country with very few people of foreign birth, but in America an immigrant nation, they say quote, "Such unfair discrimination against some of our most patriotic and respected citizens is inappropriate." Finally on Friday the most interesting and intriguing Red Cross article of all. Dateline, Friday June 29th, 1917. Headline, Military Titles Rank and Uniform Will Be Used By Red Cross Agents in War Theater. The headline continues with, war department will commission representatives of the organization to facilitate their work in service of humanity. Appropriate insignias will be provided. What a great topper for a week of stories about the Red Cross. Let's summarize. First, the US Government creates a War Counsel, appoints their man Henry P. Davidson, and effectively puts him in charge of the Red Cross through this War Counsel, and then the US Government puts its imprimatur, endorsement and propaganda machine on a major multi billion dollar, in today's terms, fundraising campaign to fund a private humanitarian organization, generally managed by it. Meanwhile, the UK government sends over their equivalent of Henry P. Davidson, over to the US, to make major support speeches on behalf of the Red Cross. The next day, the official fund drive has ended, but hundreds of local communities and cities just keep on raising money, way more than the original goal. Then on the following day, the Red Cross starts making announcements about what they're going to do for America, and how they plan on doing it, and on that same day, the Red Cross pushes back on a US State Department ruling that basically bans all Red Cross volunteers of German, Austro-Hungarian, Turkish, or Bulgarian descent. Hey, these are loyal immigrants and second generation Americans. What are you thinking? They reply in very polite terms. All of this is capped off by the end of the week with an article that explains that military titles, ranks and US uniforms will be used by the Red Cross in the war theater. The role and relationship of the Red Cross and the US Government, and the interplay between the two during this dynamic time in history, is a story that I find personally amazing, and yet another great example of the echoes we still today from the war that changed the world. Now we're joined by Mike Shuster, former NPR correspondent, and curator of the Great War Project Blog. Mike's post this week looks at the war dissonance in Europe, including a great insight into World War One literary figure, Siegfried Sassoon. Welcome, Mike.

[0:11:17]

Mike Shuster: Thank you, Tao. So, here are the headlines from a century ago. Anti war resistance in the East and the West. Bolsheviks gain strength in Russia. A Poet Speaks Out in Britain, and this is special to the great war project. In Russia on the eastern front the summer of 1917 was a chaotic one, reports historian Adam Hokesfield. Russian troops were killing their officers or replacing them with Soviets and by the hundreds of thousands they kept on leaving the front history had never before seen an army dissolve on such a scale. Political chaos reigned in Petrograd, Russia's capital, reports Hokesfield. The provisional government tried to corral the Bolsheviks and other radical sects into continuing the war, but in Petrograd, soldiers were marching against the war shouting, "Down with capitalism and stop the war." By then Hokesfield writes, "A Bolshevik takeover was on the way." Anti war activists in London tried to bring that spirit to Britain, hoping to spark a similar outbreak of sentiment against the war. Activist Silvia Pankhurst, who ran a radical newspaper in London, published appeals urging soldiers to lay down their arms. She published critical letters from soldiers at the front, reports Hokesfield. Her newspaper was the first to publish a statement unlike any the war had yet seen, an eloquent eval from a frontline officer, and a highly decorated one at that, declaring his intention to stop fighting. Writes second lieutenant Siegfried Sassoon, "I am making this statement as an act of willful defiance of military authority, because I believe that the war is being deliberately prolonged by those who have the power to end it. I believe that this war, upon which I entered as a war of defense, has now become a war of aggression and conquest." Sassoon was a much decorated soldier. He carried a wounded man to safety under heavy fire. He had already published a noteworthy book of anti war poetry. He came also from an imminent family in Britain, with a cousin who was a member of Parliament. Sassoon was sent back to England after being shot in the throat. Silvia Pankhurst's newspaper workers dreadnought, published Sassoon's statement, but government agents raided her offices and seized one hundred copies of the letter. Sassoon expected a court marshal, which would give him and others the opportunity to denounce the war in front of a much larger audience. They would wait in vain, for the last thing the government was an upper class war hero turned public martyr. A breach of discipline has been committed, said a war office spokesman about Sassoon's defiant open letter, but no disciplinary action has been taken since Second Lieutenant Sassoon has been reported by the medical board as not being responsible for his action, as he was suffering from nervous breakdown, according to the war office. Far from being thrown in jail, reports Hokesfield, Sassoon was ordered to wait in a hotel room in Liverpool. He threw his military cross into the river Mersey, but no one was there to see this gesture, and it went unreported. Sassoon was then sent off to the comfortable surroundings of a rehabilitation hospital for shell shocked officers in Scotland, and that some of the stories from the Great War Project a century ago.

[0:14:30]

Tao Mayer: Thank you, Mike. That was Mike Shuster from the Great War Project Blog, and if you're into learning about World War One by watching videos, go visit our friends at the Great War Channel on YouTube. World War One, 100 years ago this week, from a more European perspective.

[0:14:49]

Indy Neidell: Hello, World War One Centennial News listeners, I'm Indy Neidell, host of the Great War YouTube channel. As summer begins in 1917, the intensity of the fighting increases across the globe, as the war enters its third year, and the first American troops finally arrive over here.

[0:15:05]

Tao Mayer: This week's new episodes cover a variety of subjects including, Hero of Burden: King Constantine of Greece, and then a hardware piece about Greek Rifles and Pistols of World War One. A really interesting one, The Dissolution of Lawrence of Arabia, and Spain and the Spanish Arms Industry in World War One. The link is in the podcast notes, or search the Great War on YouTube. This week in our Great War in the Sky segment, we're going to tell you the story of Louis Bennet from West Virginia. The story comes from a letter receive by his mother, Sally Bennet, four years after Louis' death in the skies over the western front. A letter written by a German officer named Emil Merkel Bach, who fought against Louis at that fateful last battle that ended his life. Louis Bennet was Yale educated young man, with big ambitions for his role in the war. He organized the West Virginia Flying Club in early 1917, with the idea of training pilots to join the US Army as part of a proposed West Virginia Ariel Unit, but the War Department rejected the idea, and required that Louis go through the standard Army training program. Something that he was not at all interested in. So, he joined the British Royal Air Force. The best way that he saw to get to the action as quick as possible. Louis only served for 10 days before being shot down, but in those 10 days he fearlessly downed three enemy planes, and nine balloons. This earned him the distinction of being designated a flying ace, becoming West Virginia's only World War One ace, and here is Merkel Bach's account of Louis Bennett's final battle, from the letter he sent to Louis' mother Sally. Although it's a little bit long, we're including the entire passage.

[0:17:03]

Emil Bach: I had an opportunity to admire the keenness and bravery of your son. For this reason, I should like to give you the following short description of his final battle. I had been up in my ballon for several hours, observing and was at a height of 1000 meters. Over the enemy's front, circled continuously two hostile airplanes. I immediately gave the command to my men below to haul in my balloon, as I saw another German ballon plunge to earth burning. At that same moment, I saw the hostile flyer, your son Louis, come towards my balloon at terrific speed, and immediately the defensive fire of my heavy machine gun rifle's below, and of the anti aircraft guns began, but the hostile aviator did not concern himself about that. He open fire on me. The hostile machine was shot into flames by the fire of my machine guns. The enemy aviator, your son, tried to spring from the airplane before the ladder plunged to the ground and burned completely. A bold, and brave officer had met his death. I hope that the foregoing lines, a memorial to your son, will be received by you living. He was my bravest enemy. I honor his memory with respect. Emil Merkel Bach.

[0:18:23]

Tao Mayer: Louis Bennet Jr's courage and skill, clearly inspired those around him. From the enemy German army that buried him with full military honors, to his mother, who went on to memorialize him across multiple countries, and finally to Emil Merkel Bach who was inspired to write a respectful letter, four years after they had fought in the Great War in the Sky, one hundred years ago. The story of Sally Maxwell Bennet, and her son Louis, comes from the Appalachian Magazine. The link is in the podcast notes. We're going to close out World War One 100 years ago this week, with the story teller and the historian, Richard Reuben and Jonathan Braton. We and the Great War Channel on YouTube covered this quite a bit over this past month, so here is a great overview wrap up of French General Robert Nivelle's disastrous June campaign, by the storyteller and historian.

[0:19:21]

Richard Reuben: Greetings. This is Richard Reuben, storyteller. The author of the Last of the Dough Boys, and Back Over There.

[0:19:27]

Jonathan Braton: And this is Jonathan Braton, historian.

[0:19:30]

Richard Reuben: In early April 1917, just as the United States was entering the war, French General Robert Nivelle was beginning a grand defensive against the Germans that was slated to finally break their lines, and end the stalemate on the western front, however, the French assault on a ridge and picardie known as the Chemin des Dames the center of the offensive, was a disaster for the French. On the opening day of their attack, the French took

forty thousand casualties. More than General Nivelle had predicted for the entire offensive. This successive weeks were only slightly better, although gains were slim. After seizing the Chemin des Dames Ridge, the attack ground again to a halt, and was called off as the French soldiers begin to mutiny, and this really was about as close as the French had gotten to losing the war. I mean, even six months earlier at Verdun, while the Germans were moving good or trying to make good on their threat to bleed France white, there was never a sense I think that the French were going to give up, but in 1917, in the spring of 1917, one day after the assaults on the Chemin des Dames went so badly, French troops just said no more. And this spread through the ranks and all of the sudden you had widespread mutiny. Thousands of soldiers threatening to walk away in the midst of a war.

[0:20:59]

Jonathan Braton: Yeah, it was really completely unprecedented. There were whole divisions that just sat down and said no more, and you really can't blame them if you're ever able to go to the Chemin des Dames, and you stand on those ridge lines that just plunge downwards, and then you imagine the German trenches on top, it was just a complete massacre. So, you're actually that any French troops were actually able to get to the top and take the German position. The entire offensive was poorly thought out, and really not well executed. The artillery coordination was poor, and so the lasting effects are not only that you've got more and more French casualties, but now you've got a French Army that as you say, is close to a breaking point where they're talking about executing these deserters, or mutineers rather.

[0:21:56]

Richard Reuben: In the middle of a war.

[0:21:57]

Jonathan Braton: In the middle of war, these are executions that would be of thousands of troops.

[0:22:02]

Richard Reuben: I mean one of the shocking things, if you go to this place, is that the Germans had it to begin with, and the reason they had it was because the French hadn't adequately defended it.

[0:22:13]

Jonathan Braton: Right.

[0:22:13]

Richard Reuben: The Germans had an excellent sense of history, and they knew that Napoleon had used this ridge, the Chemin des Dames, against the Prussians to devastating effect a century earlier, and that the French left it essentially unguarded in September of 1914 after the first battle of the Mar, so that the Germans could take it and that they could seize all of these subterranean chalk mines, which they could use as natural bomb shelters. But the other thing about this is that Nivelle really overplayed his hand. He was overconfident after Verdun. Yes, the French did not submit. They did not succumb, they were not bled white, but they got very, very close, and Nivelle thought that he had the Germans on the ropes, and he didn't understand, I think, the extent to which the Germans had the French on the Ropes at that same time. So, this assault was a very, very bad idea, and many in the French high command knew it was a bad idea, and they were only too happy, I think, to name this the Nivelle Offense.

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Jonathan Braton: And really one of the biggest outcomes of it, what could have been a complete and utter disaster and a complete breakdown of the French Army, is saved by a fairly unlikely figure. We think of him as an unlikely figure now-

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Richard Reuben: -the Nazi collaborator General Philippe Pétain?

[0:23:42]

Jonathan Braton: None other than he, but at the time he was not yet a Nazi collaborator. At the time he was the man who stepped in and said you know what, we're going to change the way that we do business. We're going to establish rest camps. The Germans had been doing all through the war. We're going to rotate, we're going to change the time of our troop rotations on the front lines, and really just make life bearable for the French soldiers, and he pretty much saved the day at that point. Without him there would be no French Army really to fight alongside the Americans and the British and all the other allies to the end of the war.

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Richard Reuben: And it was actually the second time he saved the day at that point, because he really was the hero of Verdun as well. It was he who put into place this system known as Nolea, which just a constant line of trucks going

to and from the battle at Verdun, at this road, this single road called La Voie Sacrée, or the Sacred Way. That was just beyond the reach of German guns, and without setting up this system, Nolea, the French wouldn't have survived Verdun. So, it was really the second time that he saved the day, and everybody was surprised I think when he was passed over after the battle to lead the French Army in favor of General Nivelle, who was most famous I think at that point for coming up with the rallying cry at Verdun. "They shall not pass." After the mutiny spread, to their credit, the top brass in the French Army removed Nivelle from command, sent him off to Africa where they thought he could do less damage and put Pétain in place, and Pétain realized you can't execute all these mutineers, or we won't have anybody left to fight the war. So, instead he made examples of a few men, and instituted these reforms that made the war more bearable for the rest of them, and one of the important reforms that he made was that the French would not launch any more big offensives until the Americans could show up in force and be a big part of them.

[0:25:45]

Tao Mayer: That was the storyteller Richard Reuben, and the historian Jonathan Braton talking about General Robert Nivelle. Be on the look out for their monthly podcast, which will feature a full one hour journey with these two great raconteurs. We've put a link to their websites in the podcast notes. We've moved forward into the present with World War One Centennial News Now. News about the centennial and the commemoration. From the US National World War One Centennial Events Register at www.1cc.org/events. Here is our upcoming event pick of the week. Keith Coleys Mobile World War One Museum has a number of upcoming events this summer, including a visit to New Orleans, Dover, Delaware and Dallas. The mobile museum is a traveling collection of authentic artifacts from World War One. The museum started out as a special event for seniors at retirement villages, and assisted living facilities, but since then the world has gotten out and Coley's Mobile World War One Museum gets booked nationwide. Not only in senior venues, but colleges, universities, schools, special guests of museums, national parks, air shows, and other commemorative events. You can ready more about Keith Coley's Mobile World War One Museum by following the links in the podcast notes, and you can reach out to Keith if you're interested in hosting it. Meanwhile, check out the US National World War One Centennial Register at ww1cc.org/events. All lowercase, for things that are happening in your area, and if you have an event you would like to include in the register, look for the big red button and submit your own upcoming events. It's not only a great way of letting the World War One commemoration community know about, but it also registers your event as a part of the National Archival Record of the World War One Centennial Commemoration. You can follow the links in the podcast notes. Did you ever here of Chaqueta? The world Chaqueta is Iroquois and means two moccasins tied together. At the turn of the previous century, the term was aptly used to signify a unique American gathering that brought together entrainment and culture into far flung regional communities with speakers and teachers and musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. Former US President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying, "Chaqueta is the most American thing in America." Today, most of us know nothing about this American tradition, except our next guess, who's bringing Chaqueta back to Nebraska with a World War One theme. Here to tell us about it is Jerry Meyer, historian at the Nebraska National Garden Museum. Jerry, welcome to World War One Centennial News.

[0:28:47]

Jerry Meyer: Thank you, Tao for the wonderful introduction.

[0:28:49]

Tao Mayer: Oh you're very welcome. Jerry, Chaqueta is like the circus coming to town, without the critters and the Siamese twins. Can you tell us about the history of it?

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Jerry Meyer: Well, I tell you, Tao, a hundred years ago here in Seward, Nebraska we had a traveling troupe called the Red Path Chautauqua out of New York visit here on a yearly basis. They would put up a big white circus tent, minus all the animals and critters you're talking about, and they brought culture out here. Matter of fact, that location that they set up the tent brought in the productions was here at the exact location of the modern day Nebraska National Guard Museum, where we did a lot of our Chautauqua events a hundred years later.

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Tao Mayer: So, now you bring the idea back to Nebraska with a World War One theme, can you tell us about that?

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Jerry Meyer: You bet. The theme for this year, and this was a coordination between Humanities, Nebraska, and the National Guard Museum, and several other entities here, but Chautauqua 2017's theme was Legacy of a Forgotten War World War One, and we brought in a lot of assets to help make this a success. The National Guard Museum Piece was we hosted a lot of the workshops that the Chautauquan free centers did, but we also brought in aviation day. So, we brought in Newport 23 replica plane flown by Tom Martin, to do pilot talks, and talk with children, and they'll share that love of aviation. We did a medical day. We did doctor talks. We brought in a mock World War One trench, and we had a doctor and several modern doctors talk about trauma from World War One to today, and then

we brought in a famous World War One individuals, and our big thing for the National Guard Museum is we brought in General John Pershing, actor Dave Shuey from Pennsylvania, and that was a huge hit not only with the people of Seward, Nebraska, but also the state as Pershing's ties to the University of Nebraska, the Pershing rifles, and his law degree. So, we brought in a lot of things, too, and the Nebraska Humanities brought in the Chautauquans themselves, so we had Woodrow Wilson here. W.E.B. Dubois, Jane Adams, William Jennings Bryant, who's a favorite of Nebraska, and then Edith Wharton, so we had a lot of cast and crew come in here and do presentations in the evening, workshops during the day. It was really quite the event. We really, really enjoyed it.

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Tao Mayer: Jerry, it sounds like a really wonderful event. I'm sorry I couldn't make it out.

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Jerry Meyer: Yeah, we would have loved it if you were here, you know that.

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Tao Mayer: Thank you so much.

[0:31:13]

Jerry Meyer: Well, Tao, I tell you. We also had a surprise visitor. We had to do some [inaudible] from the Pritzker out here. We brought Gene and Mike out here, and it was great to see them, and to share some of the things they see on the national basis, but I noticed Mike before somewhere in my career, and he happened to have deployed to Afghanistan with me in 2003 and 2004, so we had a great talk. So, it's neat to see people I haven't seen in years. So, great event. Great people. We're glad Suzan could make it out here. Thank you so much for your support and allowing us to talk about Chautauqua.

[0:31:46]

Tao Mayer: Thank you. That was Gerald D. Myers. Historian at the Nebraska National Guard Museum. Reviving an old American community tradition, the Chautauqua. There are links in the podcast notes about the events in Nebraska. Now for our updates from the states. From our centennial partners in Ohio, Camp Sherman lies nestled on the banks of US 23, just north of the city of Chillicothe. It was one of the many army training camps built in 1917 as we prepared to go over there, and it was in fact the largest World War One training camp in the nation. Camp Sherman is now a National Guard training facility, and it will be part of a nine day commemoration in honor of its centennial, and of the contribution made by all of those who served in the Great War. The commemoration will last from July first to the ninth, and will include guided tours of the military complex where the original firing range once stood. There will be reenactments, fireworks, live fire demonstrations, and a historical film screening. Learn more by following the link in the podcast notes. In our international report this week, we crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Mary II to France, to commemorate the arrival of the US troops. There have been many commemoration events across France this past week, including the Queen Mary II sailing from San Azar to New York City. Sailing alongside the queen are four sailing crews manning the best multi hull yachts in the world. The Queen Mary II was built solely for luxury, yet at last report she's currently in the lead. Dominating the powerful trimarans for speed. This historic sailing was organized by the Mission Du Centenaire, the French Commission for the World War One Centennial, with support from the French Foreign Ministry. As a celebration of Franco-American friendship over the century, all these ships are headed straight for the foot of the Statue of Liberty in New York City, a fitting testament to the two nation's alliance. Meanwhile, in Breast, France, members of the French military, including the French navy band, participated in an international military ceremony. Robert Delasandro, the Chair of the US World War One Centennial Commission, and the Acting Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, the ABMC, was on hand to represent these organizations for the special moments. The city of Breast as we've noted in previous episodes, is where the famous Harlem Hellfighters first arrived in Europe. They left an impression on the city. Most notably a legacy of Jazz excellence because of the three sixty-ninth regimental band. Fittingly, a large music festival has been organized across France to celebrate the musicians who fought in the war, or created works in response to the war. Events are being held in Breast, San Azar, and Essen Due, Niece, and Chemin des Dames. Each with their own local focus, and many incorporating remembrances of the American presence there 100 years ago. We a number of links in the podcast notes about these events for you. Harley Davidson is one of the most iconic American brands of all-time. Like a number of other companies, World War One was a powerful shaping force for the company that built these iron horses. Anoop Prakash, a Marine Corps veteran, and Director of US Marketing for Harley Davidson says, "General John Black Jack Pershing was convinced that using new technology, like motorcycles, would provide great agility, ease of use of durability in war time. So we've had a long history since that time in serving the military. It's been a continuous link in our history." Today, there are veteran founded motorcycle clubs and rides all over the country. Read more about the World War One connection to Harley Davidson by following the link in the podcast notes. Now it's time for our articles and posts segment where we explore the World War One Centennial Commission's rapidly growing website at ww1cc.org. This week in the news section, you'll find an article exploring the role of the conscientious objector during the conflict. Quakers, Mennonites, Hutterites, Branderhoff, Peace and

History Society scholars and others have planned a symposium to cover the stories of these American conscientious objectors, who resisted and dissented out of conscience in World War One. The conference will take place in October 2017 at the National World War One Museum in Kansas City. Read the whole story by visiting ww1cc.org/news. Or by following the links in the podcast notes. That brings us to the buzz. The centennial of World War One this week in social media, with Catherine Akey. Catherine, what have you got for us this week?

[0:37:06]

Catherine Akey: Thanks, Tao. I'd like to start by thanking everyone who follows us and engages with us on Facebook. Last week we shared the Centennial News podcast link on our Facebook page, and we saw phenomenal engagement. People had comments, stories to share, and questions to ask. So, we started answering back, and the resulting conversation we were able to have on that one Facebook post was phenomenal. The post ended up having 22 comments on it, was share 120 times, and it reached twenty thousand people. We'll keep the conversation going this week and next by replying to your comments and questions on Facebook. So head over to [Facebook.com/ww1centennial](https://www.facebook.com/ww1centennial) to join in. Also, from Facebook this week is a great post from the Great War 1914-1918 the Rage of Men. It's a page I really enjoy following for their variety of content. They post great images, though they are sometimes grizzly, as well as more long form posts. This week I wanted to share one that covers the AEF, or the American Expeditionary Force. We're talking a lot about this newly formed army on the podcast, but the details and the history of the Force is so big, so intricate and so interesting, that we can't possibly cover it all here. The post shared on podcast links is a fantastic in depth look at the AEF, photos included, and I highly recommend you check it out if you've got a hankering for a little more detailed history. Finally this week I wanted to share one final story for PTSD Awareness Month. As June draws to a close. The American Experience, which aired the documentary the Great War on PBS earlier this year, has been releasing various World War One themed short videos and snippets from the documentary on its social media. The most recent one is titled A Soldier's Shell Shock, and outlines the experiences of Ralph John, an American soldier who fought in the battle of the Marston. He suffered incredible trauma after that experience. You should watch the video and more of the American Experience's videos by following the link in the podcast notes.

[0:39:11]

Tao Mayer: Thank you Catherine, and that's all for World War One Centennial News for this week. Thank you for listening. We want to thank our guests. Mike Shuster from the Great War Project Blog, and his post about the anti war resistance movement. Richard Reuben and Jonathan Braton, and their storyteller and the historian wrap up segment on General Robert Nivelle. Jerry Meyer, historian at the Nebraska National Guard Museum, and his Chautauqua events. Catherine Akey, the Commission's Social Media Director and also the line producer for the show. And I'm Tao Mayer, your host. On this fourth of July weekend we want to send a thank you to everyone who has ever served in any capacity to create, maintain, protect, and sustain this dynamic and quite remarkable country of ours. As you celebrate the birth of our nation, we ask you to take just a moment between the burgers and the beer, between the big game and the picnic, and just reflect how much of your world around you today was forged 100 years ago. It's not the forgotten war, it's the war that changed your world. I also want to thank the Commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. They've been the foundation for our organization, conversation, education and commemoration of this Centennial. Thank you, Colonel. The World War One Centennial News Podcast can be found on our website at ww1cc.org/CN. On iTunes, Google Play, and Tune. Search for our World War One Centennial News. Our Twitter and Instagram handles are both at [ww1cc](https://www.facebook.com/ww1centennial), and we're on Facebook at [ww1centennial](https://www.facebook.com/ww1centennial). Thanks again for joining us this week. Have a wonderful Fourth of July holiday, and so long.

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