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12 speakers (Theo Mayer, Mike Schuster, Richard Ruben, Jonathan B., Kevin F., Speaker 6, Speaker 7, Speaker 8, Speaker 9, Speaker 10, James Portnow, Catherine Achy)

[0:00:06]

**Theo Mayer:** Welcome to World War I Centennial News. It's about World War I news 100 years ago this week, and it's about World War I news now. News and updates about the centennial and the commemoration. Today is July 19, 2017 and this week, we're joined by Mike Shuster from the Great War Project blog, the storyteller and the historian, Richard Ruben and Jonathan Bratton. Kevin Fitzpatrick, World War I historian an expert on New York's Governors Island and James Portnow whose Extra Credits YouTube channel has just crossed the million subscribers, showing that history is not a snooze. World War I Centennial News is brought to you by the US World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library. I'm Theo Mayer, the Chief Technologist of the World War I Centennial Commission and your host, welcome. Our way back machine has moved back in time 100 years, it's the week of July, 16, 1917 and there's big happenings in Washington, D.C. Dateline, July 20, 1917. Headline, draft of men for new national army is begun, it will continue for 22 hours. The scene is a large room in the Senate office building, chalkboards cover the back wall. A double wide table is set in front and on the table, a large glass bowl filled with 10,500 capsules that contain numbers. The room is filled with press, at 9:30am Newton D. Baker, the US Secretary of War calls the room to order and states. "We are met here to conduct a lottery or draft by which the national army and such additions as may be necessary to bring the regular army and the national guard towards strength are to be selected. This is an occasion of very great dignity. It represents the first application of the principles believed by many of us to be democratic, equal and fair in selecting soldiers to defend the national honor abroad and at home." Blindfolded, Baker announces, "Let us begin." He reaches into the large bowl and pulls out a capsule. I have drawn the first number, says Mr. Baker in a tone of a man who has done something epaco. He holds the tiny capsule a loft, an announcer takes it from him and breaks it open, taking out the tiny slip of paper that will change lives forever. The number is 258 he cries. 258 echos, a voice of the tally chief, another attendant post the number 258 on the blackboard in the rear. This begins a process that lasts for 22 hours, with 600 numbers being drawn every hour. And so the first men are chosen through the new American selective service system. Dateline, July 20, 1917. Headline, naval gunners on armed American merchant ship battle with German submarine after merchant crew takes to lifeboats, men cheered and congratulated by the U-boat sailors for their gallant fight. This is a first person account by the chief petty officer in charge of the armed guard aboard the US steam ship, Merranie. We were attacked by a submarine at 4:05am on June 12th, 1917 she was off our port quarter about 9,000 yards away. She fired four or five shots before we located her. We swung around until our stern faced the submarine and return fire at a range of about 7,000 yards. After a half hour fight, we were hit in the gasoline tank aft and a fire started. It was reported to me that the ammunition aft was running low. Immediately, I lined up the forward guns crew with the merchant's crew to pass ammunition from forward to aft. About an hour later, fire broke out all over the ship and it became impossible for the men to pass any more ammunition. I went for and reached the bridge being burned on the way there. About this time, our steering gear was shot away and we started to go around in circles. Coming down off the bridge, I saw the captain and the boatswain ready to lower the lifeboat. The captain said to come and get in the lifeboat as it was starting to burn. I asked him to wait, he said he would hold onto the boat as long as possible for me. I then noticed two of the guns crew in the lifeboat. I ordered them out to come with me. We went forward and man, the forward gun, which we fired four times before the firing pin went out of commission. As we could fire no more, and as the captain called that the lifeboat was burning, we got into the boat. Seeing us in the water, the submarine called the boat alongside. They congratulated us, shook hands with the captain and told us that it was the best fight they had ever seen any merchant man put up. The Germans treated two of the men who had been wounded and returned us to our boats. The commander of the submarine said, he would have towed us towards the beach, but for the fact that we had called for assistance. Both of these stories were in the Friday, July 20th issue of the official bulletin, volume one, issue 60. Now the official bulletin, is the US government war gazette, published by order of the President by George Creel, his propaganda chief. We republish each issue of the bulletin on the centennial anniversary of its original publication. This is an amazing resource for historians and history buffs, educators and students, social and media anthropologists and folks like me, who just happen to be deeply interested in the actual words published by the US government 100 years ago this week, in the war that changed the world. The URL is easy to remember, just go to [ww1cc.org/bulletin](http://ww1cc.org/bulletin) or follow the link in the podcast notes. Now we're joined by Mike Schuster, former NPR correspondent and curator for the Great War project blog. Eastern Europe is still a major aspect of this conflict with Russia disintegrating as an allied power and for Balkans, who started all this. Mike, we look forward to your post.

[0:06:48]

**Mike Schuster:** Thank you Theo. Our headlines for this week, allied war effort foundering, Russian revolutionaries call for an end to war. A new nation emerging from the ashes, and this is special to the great war project. Outside the western front, there are many political and military developments a century ago in the first world war in Russia and in

the Balkans. It is in Russia race historian Martin Gilbert, that the main threat laid to the allied ability to make war or to plan for a peace based on the conflict. On this day, July 16th and uprising in Petrograd the Russian capital is led by Leon Trotsky, the communist revolutionary. The demand according to historian Gilbert, an immediate end to the war. 6,000 sailors join the revolt and Trotsky believed that would lead to revolution, it did not. In reaction, officer cadets loyal to the provisional government and supporting the continuation of the war, attack the headquarters of Pravda, a Communist newspaper. They smashed the facilities to pieces. These developments forced Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader to go into hiding. Lenin is certain he is targeted for arrest or worse, assassination. Russia is still fighting the war, but just barely. Its opponents have not succeeded to force Russia to declare it as making a separate peace with Germany. That is the goal of the revolutionaries. But as Gilbert reports, the Russian military successes were coming to an abrupt end. The Germans open up a 12 mile breach in the Russian line. In the process, the Germans take 6,000 Russian troops' prisoner, thousands more fled from the battlefield. When news of this debacle reaches Petrograd, it forces the Prime Minister to resign. The Russian advanced that turned into a retreat almost a route writes Gilbert. Tens of thousands of Russian soldiers simply threw down their rifles and fled from the war zone, hundreds of officers are murdered. Elsewhere, in the little war in the Balkans, indeed, where it all started, negotiations are taking place all through July on the Island of Corfu in Greece. Present we're representative of several of the South slob, ethnic minorities among them, Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes. Their goal, to create a new nation carved out from some of the ethnically dominated territory that Austria, Hungary has lost in the war. More specifically a South slob nation, Yugoslavia, bringing together the three largest ethnic groups. The meeting in Corfu is a success, it results in the pact of Corfu. The pact calls for the formation of a government led by the Serbian royal family with a constituent assembly elected by secret and universal suffrage. The idea of this new nation appealed in particular to the United States where there were many south slob immigrant groups, and where the possible emergence of democratic nationally cohesive systems on the ruins of an imperial structure was welcomed as an advanced in human relations. The Post-war world is beginning to take shape. And that's the news from the Great War project for this week, a century ago.

**[0:09:56]**

**Theo Mayer:** Thank you Mike. That was Mike Schuster from the Great War project blog. As we do every week, we want to tell you what's going on, on The Great War channel on YouTube. World War I, 100 years ago this week, from a more European perspective. This week's new episodes include, a new out of the trenches, where [inaudible] the host, addresses your feedback and comments. Operation Beach Party, Mustard gas unleashed and Maria Bochkareva, the first Russian women's battalion of death. Follow the link in the podcast notes or search The Great War on YouTube. We've talked about the Espionage Act and the government crackdown on dissent a few times this month. We're going to give the last word on this to art and trepid duo, the storyteller and the historian. With us, are author and storyteller, Richard Ruben and historian Jonathan Bratton.

**[0:10:54]**

**Richard Ruben:** With the United States at war in 1917, the US government made a concerted effort to crack down on any voices that might dissent against the war, the government and even the military. To that end, the congress passed the espionage act of 1917 and then added more restrictions in the sedition act of 1918. In fact, congress passed the Espionage Act on June 15th, 1917 just two months after we entered the war. And the Sedition Act, which was passed 10 months later, went so far as to make it a crime to display the flag of any of our enemy nations on your wall or in your window or anything like that. So if you happen to be an immigrant from Germany who was nonetheless a loyal American, you had to take down that German flag or else you risk going to prison. People went to prison for a lot things back then, it's something that we forget. The most chilling story I think is, one of a traveling salesman who was passing through Montana and he went to a bar one evening. And somebody overheard him referring to Herbert Hoover's food restrictions and service of the war effort as quote a big joke. And he ended up being sentenced to seven to 20 years in prison.

**[0:12:18]**

**Jonathan B.:** And what's amazing about this is, if you look at the history of the legislation on it, this was, the wheels were going into motion on this before war was declared. The first request from Wilson to Congress came in February, of 1917, we didn't declare war until April. So he very obviously had this in mind. And one of the things that held up the passage of the legislation so long, from April to June, was nothing less than the freedom of the press, he wanted complete censorship of the press. And that motion failed by one vote in the Senate, otherwise it would have had complete censorship, which is just absolutely [crosstalk]

**[0:12:59]**

**Theo Mayer:** So in 1917, we came within one vote of losing freedom of the press-

**[0:13:05]**

**Jonathan B.:** Right.

[0:13:05]

**Theo Mayer:** ... A time on our tradition in this country that goes back to colonial days?

[0:13:09]

**Jonathan B.:** Right, and I mean, even as it was, as you pointed out, freedom of speech essentially disappeared because now... And not only freedom of speech for civilians, but freedom of speech for the military. You couldn't say anything in the military that was anti-military, you couldn't complain about, the food at Chow, you couldn't complain, my uniforms too tight. It's restrictive, I mean, if you wanted to go fully letter of the law, that's how bad it would be.

[0:13:35]

**Theo Mayer:** And these acts, especially the Sedition Act of 1918 gets into stunning detail. You can't say anything about the flag, you can't say, "Gee, I think green, white and blue would be more pleasing to the eye than red, white, blue." You could have gone to prison for that. If you'd set up an apple cart selling apples in front of, an army recruitment center, you could have been arrested for interfering with recruitment and sent to prison for that. If you were overheard saying, "Gee, I joined the navy, but I think those bell bottoms sailors have to wear look ridiculous." You could be arrested and sent to prison for that, and we laugh about it. But a lot of people were arrested and sent to prison and in fact, weren't freed until after Warren Gamaliel Harding was elected president in 1920, including by the way, the socialist leader, Eugene Victor Debs, who went to prison, not for criticizing the war, but for criticizing the arrest and imprisonment of other people who, who'd criticize the war. That was enough to get him arrested and sent to federal prison for 10 years, from which, by the way, he ran for president in 1920 and got a couple of million votes.

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**Jonathan B.:** And the amazing thing, the Espionage Act, you can kind of see some reason for it to be passed considering there was considerable, espionage-

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**Theo Mayer:** Oh! Absolutely.

[0:15:02]

**Jonathan B.:** ... Happening. Of course, here in Maine, we have our own very incident of the bridge bye, the attempt to blow up the bridge between, Canada and Maine, in 1915 with a German agent who didn't really know his dynamite too well and put it out of action for one day. But that was enough to frighten everybody within the entire continental US [crosstalk]

[0:15:24]

**Theo Mayer:** If he'd succeeded, it would've just been game over.

[0:15:27]

**Jonathan B.:** Yeah, [inaudible]

[0:15:28]

**Theo Mayer:** But no, there were, Sabotage Acts throughout the country by German agents. This is no joke, this was not mere paranoia. The Island of Black Tom in New York harbor, which was an ammunition depot was blown up, sending trapping ole into the statue of liberty and skyscrapers in lower Manhattan. The blast was hurt as far away as Philadelphia and even Maryland. So things really were happening, and perhaps something was needed, but this went, way too far in the cause to make the world safe for democracy. It's often forgotten, we came very close actually to destroying our own democracy. That was the storyteller, Richard Rubin and the historian Jonathan Breton, talking to us about the crackdown on dissent, and the espionage act of 1917. The Storyteller and the historian, is now a full hour long podcast. Look for it on iTunes or follow the link in the podcast notes. We've moved forward into the present with World War I Centennial News now, news about the centennial and the commemoration. In Commission News, over the past three weeks, we've been talking about president Trump's visit to Paris as the guest of French President Macron to participate in their July 14th Bastille Day ceremonies. This year included the traditional parade, a French military might down the [foreign language], but with a slight twist. The inclusion of American troops and vehicles joining the thousands of French soldiers, 241 horses, 63 airplanes and 29 helicopters were 150 US soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines, including a doughboy clad color guard and American jet flyovers. The inclusion of the American armed forces was to commemorate the arrival of US troops to France 100 years ago. As president Trump and president Macron stood in review, Macron remarked, "On this day of national celebration, we must not ever forget the price that we paid for winning our freedom and our rights. The price, which we are prepared to pay to defend them because it is they, our rights and freedom which unite us and make France, France." "The United States is one of our friends, nothing will separate us ever. The presence at my side of Donald Trump and his wife, is a sign of our friendship that travels time. I want to thank them here and to thank the United States for the choices made over a hundred years." You can access videos, photos and articles about the event by browsing our social media wall at

ww1cc.org/social. From the US National World War I Centennial events register at ww1cc.org/events, here's our upcoming event pick of the week. This week we focus on Topeka, Kansas. The Kansas Historical Society has an exhibit on view at the Kansas Museum of history in Topeka, which opens through May 2018. It's entitled, the extraordinary adventures of Colonel Hughes and features the story of one extraordinary Kansan soldier, James Clark Hughes. Hughes began his service as a member of the Kansas National Guard and was sent to the Texas border with the American expeditionary forces in 1916. He joined the US army, and then served from 1917 to 1948 and fought in both world wars, spending a cumulative 41 months as a POW, a prisoner of war. As a member of the US army, he photographed battlefields and towns in Europe during World War I. These photographs are being made public for the first time at the exhibit. During the Second World War, Colonel Hughes was captured at Barton and recorded his daily survival as a Japanese prisoner of war. The exhibit displays his photographs, his diary excerpts, and many of the belongings from the wars, which he donated to the Museum of History. Learn more about Colonel Hughes and preview this unique and special exhibit by following the link in the podcast notes. For our next featured event and for a profile of 100 Cities / 100 Memorials project and just because he's an interesting guy. We want to welcome our next guest, Kevin Fitzpatrick, author of World War I New York, a guide to the cities enduring ties to the great war. Kevin is also the program director for the World War I Centennial Committee for New York City, welcome Kevin.

[0:20:20]

**Kevin F.:** Hey Theo? Thanks for having me on as a guest today.

[0:20:22]

**Theo Mayer:** Kevin, let's start with Governors Island itself. Give us a quick synopsis of what it is and what it was?

[0:20:28]

**Kevin F.:** Well, anyone that's been to the Statue of Liberty, you have to pass Governors Island its on your port side. Governors island, it's in New York harbor, it's 172 acres. It gets its name because, back in the colonial era, it was the domain of the Dutch and then English governors. So there's no hyphen in it, it's not possessive, it's plural, governors. And since the colonial era, it's been a US army base. So the army was there until 1966 and the coast guard moved in and they were there until 1996 and since 2003, it's been a city park. And it is actually the biggest World War I collection of monuments memorials than any other place in the city or the state, even more than central park. And so there's a lot of history and it has a lot of monuments and memorials to visit.

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**Theo Mayer:** Kevin, you've been the organizing force for a reenactor event on the Island. It sounding like quite an event for 2017, what can you tell us about it?

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**Kevin F.:** Yes, we started it last year, as a one day event and we had 30 reenactors. We drove 12,000 people to the Island, to the Governors Island National Monument, which is run by the National Park Service. And it's really great because we are at Fort Jay, and Fort Jay was a very important army post during the great war. It's also where General Pershing departed New York or, while sailing to France. It's also where the first military action took place in the war, shortly after the US declared war on Germany and central powers, just after midnight troops went from Governors Island and seized all the ships in the harbor. And those ships then became troop transports to take the doughboys to France. So we really are in a fantastic World War I location right on the parade ground. This year, it's September 16th and 17th, it's open to the public. And we think it's the biggest World War I event on the East Coast. We'll have around 70 reenactors or more, we're going to have a tank, a 1917 Renault, ambulances, dodge utility vehicle, motorcycle and probably my favorite person whose coming is General Pershing, David Shuey with his horse Aura Lee. So we'll have a tank and a horse in the same place, I'm really happy about that. So we've had a lot of back and forth with the, ferry and the park service, the tank owner, the Collins Foundation, about getting a tank through Manhattan and onto a ferry, onto Governors Island. So it's, it will be really special to see. So combined with the authors and experts were going to have out there and living historian, it's going to be two days of really, really fun events to see. And we're going to [inaudible] on the Island too. So we'll, camping out on the playground.

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**Theo Mayer:** So Kevin, I first met you in my capacity as the Program Manager for the 100 Cities / 100 Memorials Project and you submitted some memorials to the program. How do they tie in?

[0:23:17]

**Kevin F.:** Sure, well, after the war, the 16th infantry was located on Governors Island. And of course Governors Island was the headquarters of first army. And so they named all of the roads on Governors Island for soldiers killed in the war from the 16th. And over time, a couple of them have gone missing, so we're going to restore and replace those. Another one was damaged, and so we will be rededicating those on September 16, 17 as of the activities for

World War I history weekend. One, it's very important, it's for Private Merle David Hay from Iowa, who was one of the first three Americans to be killed in the war in November 1917. So we're going to be rededicating Hay Road, Captain Herrick Timbol, a distinguished service cross [inaudible]. We're going to be rededicating his monument and General Pershing. There's a Pershing memorial tree planted on the centennial of his birth in 1960. The tree is doing fantastic, it's about six stories tall, but the bronze plaque has gone missing. So we're going to rededicate that as well on Pershing Day, on the Island.

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**Theo Mayer:** Kevin, it's always a pleasure speaking with you.

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**Kevin F.:** Thanks, and I hope to see you on the fair this year Theo.

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**Theo Mayer:** Thank you, that was Kevin Fitzpatrick, citizen historian, World War I Centennial advocate, author, event organizer and man about Manhattan. Mark your calendars for an extraordinary event taking place on Governors Island, a short ferry hop off the tip of Manhattan. Coming up this September 16th and 17th, follow the link in the podcast notes. In our international report this week, we'll start by visiting an art project in New Zealand. This ties in with our story about the draft picks in Washington DC this week, a hundred years ago. The project is called, Luck of the Draw and was commissioned by the New Zealand First World War Centenary Program office. The program reflects on the issues of conscription, 100 years ago. The program office asked several of New Zealand's young emerging artists age between 18 and 25, to respond to film footage of the first conscription ballot being drawn from a small unassuming wooden box, which the Kiwis nicknamed, the death box.

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**Speaker 6:** The lottery of life and death. The word lottery is really contrasting if you were to say it now, and then know what people would associate it with. I mean, now you'd be like, "Oh! That's going to be positive, win the lotter." But then, it was like the lottery of the balance, you're going to get sent off to war.

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**Speaker 7:** The conscription film was super interesting. People were kind of smiling for the camera and pulling out drawers and looking at cards and turning things. It's very demonstratively, they like showing you the model, and it's kind of, there's a certain pride to it. It's kind of disconnected from the fact that they had choosing people to go to war.

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**Speaker 6:** That instinct, when I first received the brief of the project was nothing really. I couldn't even relate to something that happened so far back in history.

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**Speaker 8:** What life was like a hundred years ago. We often forget that the New Zealand population in 1914 during the first World War through to 1919 really when they came home, was only a million people and [inaudible] 50,000 in New Zealand at the time, no more than that.

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**Speaker 9:** Back in the day during the war times, the people were forced into war, forced into compulsory enlistment. If you would've gone and spoken to the people who are going through that, we'd probably be overwhelmed by what they're feeling. Dawn's can be used to portray that really well, and we can portray anger or sadness, maybe even a bit of the happiness when they return.

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**Speaker 10:** Those left behind, a short play by Nathan Joe. Scene, the stage should be filled with a chorus of woman, wives, mothers and daughters. They all smile and speak in a forced, polite and pleasant tone. Not all of them need to speak, some should merely nod and smile robotically. They're lined up dressed in their Sunday best. That is to say the dress to go to Church or for a nice branch or high tea. They wear nice white gloves but they are covered in splashes of blood.

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**Theo Mayer:** The artifact is now housed at the Te Papa, New Zealand National Museum. Turning to the arts and young artists community for a take on World War I commemoration, strikes us as a really innovative approach for commemoration. Learn more, see and hear some of these great works by following the link in the podcast notes. Turning our attention to London, this week to replica World War I planes landed in England to participate in a national tour called Vimy Flight. A commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and Canada's 150th

birthday. The planes will be on display at the Jet Aircraft Museum at London's International Airport through Sunday. Both Nieuport 11's are replicas of the fighter planes that helped Canada win the Battle of Vimy Ridge 100 years ago. Only two, of the thousands of the original Nieuport 11 still exist and both reside in museums in France. These replicas, though made of metal and non-flammable materials not wood, are perfect copies of the originals. Learn more about the Vimy Flight and the planes tour schedule by following the link in the podcast notes. Today in our spotlight on the media section, we're going to feature a YouTube channel called Extra Credits. They have an interesting mix of content that's based on gaming and somehow folds in history, and they recently crossed the million subscriber mark. Joining us is James Portnow, lead writer and co-creator of Extra Credits to talk about how they've managed to make history relevant and interesting to the YouTube generation. James, first of all, congratulations on your million subscriber mark, that's not easy to do.

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**James Portnow:** Thanks, it's been a number of years, it's a good feeling.

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**Theo Mayer:** Now, your YouTube started being about games and gaming and make sense to me, sort of a topical or non-technical approach, and that you'd find an audience with that. But how does history sneak into the mix?

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**James Portnow:** Well, so I'm a game designer by trade and having done this for so long, I started looking at how we could apply this to other fields of things that we've learned, because over the last century, since the first World War, we've spent billions of dollars. We've spent more than in the rest of human history combined on learning how to engage somebody through television, music, film, games. We just study how to get somebody interested in the things we present. And it's high time that we use some of those ideas, on something other than our leisure time. And so, I started talking to a lot of school boards and superintendents and that sort of thing about this. And very often they were like, that sounds great, but show me an example. So Extra History is simply us taking the things we've learned from, making games and making films, and applying them to teaching history.

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**Theo Mayer:** James, I'm curious, did your audience do the transition with you easily?

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**James Portnow:** Oh! Yeah, Extra History is now more watched than Extra Credits. We, it's funny because we did, we got a call from somebody at YouTube because once your channel gets to a certain size there's somebody who kind of like, monitors your channel. And they said, "You can't put history on a gaming channel, you're going to kill your channel." But we said, "You don't know this audience, right?" Because, actually a lot of overlap there. There's a lot of the things that, we explore in games and there's a lot of same thinking that goes into thinking about history. And yet, simply by the way history is often presented, as simply proper nouns and dates, we lose all those people. And so we said, "We're going to do this thing." And they all came with us and it's grown so much more because we've also brought an audience that's interested in history.

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**Theo Mayer:** Oh! You got me curious, what do you think the demographic of your audience is, is it young, is it old, is it a mid-twenties, thirties?

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**James Portnow:** Our audience actually has a fairly good demographic range, but I would say it skews young, it's 18 to 34, is definitely our core demo.

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**Theo Mayer:** So James, why do you think your viewers are responding to the subjects that normally have a pretty bad rep?

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**James Portnow:** I mean, I think that it's simply because of how they're presented. I don't think that there's any human knowledge, which is, I'm interested in error. I think it's simply the way that we try, and convey it that makes the difference. And whether it's talking about highly technical science topics, or economics, or history. We get people in the comments all the time who say, "Oh! Man, in high school I thought I hated this subject but after seeing it presented in a way that appealed to me, that's trying to be relevant to my generation, to who I am, this is something that I'm really interested in. I went and spent all day looking into, whatever the topic was."

[0:32:58]

**Theo Mayer:** Well as you publish new episodes, especially on World War I, be sure to let us know, so we can mention them to this audience.

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**James Portnow:** Absolutely, we actually have one series on Bismarck coming up, which I think is very important. Understanding the lead up and sort of the unification of Germany that puts all the pieces in place for the dominos DePaul for World War I.

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**Theo Mayer:** James, you've immersed yourself in the subject, so why do you think World War I is relevant today?

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**James Portnow:** Well, especially today, I feel like there's so much about World War I. I mean, it was as a society that didn't believe that such a war could happen. They were outside of living memory of the Napoleonic War. And I feel as though we are sitting in the same space where we are outside of living memory of a truly catastrophic war. And there's this common belief that, our society has moved past any such massive destruction. I like to think that's true, but in order for that to be true, we need to learn the lessons of World War I. We need to take a look at this and see, and make sure it doesn't happen again.

[0:34:10]

**Theo Mayer:** That was James Portnow, co-creator and lead writer for the hit YouTube channel, Extra credits. Learn more about James and Extra Credits by following the link in the podcast notes or looking for them on YouTube. It's time for our articles and post segment, where we explore the World War I Centennial Commission's rapidly growing Website at [www1cc.org](http://www1cc.org). This week in the new section is an article, New York National Guard reported for World War I duty 100 years ago. The article talks about how on July 12th, 1917 President Woodrow Wilson had ordered all 112,000 national guard soldiers across the country to report for duty as part of the buildup of the national army. New York's guardsman along with those from Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota and Nebraska were all instructed to report on July 15th to their local armories and begin to prepare to ship out. Read the story about the New York national guards great mobilization by visiting the link in the podcast notes. In our right blog, which explores World War one's influence on contemporary writing and scholarship. This week's post ties into making history relevant to the digital native generation. The Post title is, Journalist Tweets WWI to French Youth plus her exclusive Twitter feeds from Bastille Day in Paris. Stephanie Trouillard is a young French journalist with a rapidly growing following on her blog and her Twitter feed, as she tries to give a fresh face to World War I, using social media. This week on right, France 24 Stephanie Trouillard tells us about her personal and professional passions, driving her innovative historical writing project. And as a special bonus, she shared part of her tweet feed from Bastille Day in Paris where she covered president Trump meeting French president Emmanuel Macron. Don't miss this alternate up-close view of that historic day in our right blog, which is at [ww1cc.org/wwrite](http://ww1cc.org/wwrite) or follow the link in the podcast notes. And that story is a perfect transition to the buzz, the Centennial of World War I this week in social media with Catherine Achy. Catherine, what do you have for us?

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**Catherine Achy:** This week, we shared a great photo on our Instagram and Facebook pages taken on July 17th, 1917 in New York. Two soldiers stand outside the 71st Regiment Armory, one of them an American Doughboy and the other a Canadian Kiltie, a Highlander decked out in kilt and Glengarry hat. The image sparked some lighthearted conversation on Facebook as people compared and contrasted their rifles held up right next to one another in front of each soldier. It's a great view of these two neighboring nations, soldiers, uniforms and gear. And a bit of a reminder that although America was just beginning to ramp up mobilization, Canada had been in the war since 1914 and had just a few months before this photo was taken, undergone the trial and tribulation that was the Battle of Vimy Ridge. You should head over to our Facebook page to check out the photo and participate in the conversation. Lastly, this week we're going to close out with a post on Facebook from Steve Gerard after a two day journey, the 5th Marine Regiment arrived at the French railhead of [foreign language] on July 17th, 1917 the same day as that photo we talked about previously was taken in New York. Shown in the colorized photograph included in the Facebook post, we see the bulk of the 5th Marine Regiment offloading in [foreign language] while the first battalion continued on to the Minnoco Railhead. Soon after settling into their temporary new homes in France, the marines began a new training regime alongside the famed French Blue Devils of the 8th, 30th, 70th and 115th battalion, The [foreign language]. Training that they would certainly need for upcoming fighting in 1918. You should go to Facebook to check out the posts for further detail about the 5th Marines and their journey from America to France, and follow our Facebook to see more posts like this from Steve Gerard.

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**Theo Mayer:** Thanks Catherine, and we welcome your comments and discussion of this week's episode on Facebook. The new podcast announcement will be on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ww1centennial](http://www.facebook.com/ww1centennial), drop in and

tell us what you think of the episode. And that's it for World War I Centennial News for this week. We want to thank our guests, Mike Schuster from the Great War project blog and his post about Russia and the Balkans, Richard Reuben and Jonathan Bratton and their Storyteller and the historian segment about the US government's crackdown on dissent in 1917. Kevin Fitzpatrick, author and tour guide speaking to us about Governor Island's World War I history weekend. James Portnow, lead writer and co-creator for YouTube Extra Credit channel. Catherine Achy, the commission social media director and also the line producer for the show and I'm Theo Mayer, your host. The US World War I Centennial Commission was created by Congress to honor, commemorate and educate about World War I. Our programs are to inspire a national conversation and awareness about World War I, this show was a part of that. We're bringing the lessons of 100 years ago into today's classrooms. We're helping to restore World War I memorials and communities of all sizes across the country. And of course we're building America's National World War I memorial in Washington, D.C. We rely entirely on your donations, no government appropriations or taxes are being used. You can support these programs with a tax deductible donation by going to [ww1cc.org/donate](http://ww1cc.org/donate) all lower case, or if you're on your smartphone, you can text the word WW1 to 41444. That's the letters WW the number one text it to 41444, any amount is appreciated. We want to thank the commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library for their support. The podcast can be found on our Website at [ww1cc.org/cn](http://ww1cc.org/cn), on iTunes and Google Play at WW1 Centennial News, our Twitter and Instagram handles are both @WW1CC, and we're on Facebook at WW1 Centennial. Thanks for joining us and don't forget to share the stories you're hearing here with someone about the war that changed the world, so long.

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