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7 speakers (Theo Mayer, Mike Shushter, Denzil Heaney, Alicyn Ehrich, Jim Yocum, Eric Dehm, Katherine Akey)

[0:00:06]

Theo Mayer: Welcome to World War I Centennial News. It's about World War One then. What was happening a hundred years ago? And it's about World War I now, news and updates about the Centennial and the commemoration. Today is September 6th, 2017 and our guests this week are Mike Shuster from the Great War Project Blog... Alicyn Ehrich, secretary of the Pershing Park Memorial Association... Denzel Haney, the administration of the General Pershing Boyhood Home Site... and Jim Yocum, from the 100 Cities 100 Memorials project in Santa Monica California. World War I Centennial News is brought to you by the US World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. I'm Theo Mayer, the Chief Technologist for the Commission and your host. Welcome to the show. Before we get started today, we wanted to let you know that next week and the week following we'll be presenting a World War I Centennial news two part special: In Sacrifice for Liberty and Peace. Part one examines the great debate in America about getting into the war, and part two, which we'll publish the following week, is about how events overtook the debate and brought us to the Declaration of War. But today, we're on our regular format and ready to jump into episode number 36. (music) We've gone back in time 100 years to explore the war that changed the world. It's the first week of September 1917. On the last day of August, New York's Deputy Attorney General Roscoe Conkling certifies that New York City has fulfilled its quota of 38572 soldiers for the draft. This is notable because the last time there was a draft in New York, for the civil war, it ended in the deadly Draft Riots of 1863. The 1917 draft, however, goes smoothly...mostly. It turns out that one of the local boards is selling exemptions, which was permitted in the Civil War draft, and, coincidentally, one the flash points for Draft Riots. In any case, in 1917 this is seriously not okay. The first draftees are scheduled to leave for training at Camp Upton. The camp is so new that the first men to arrive are going to get to help finish building it. The men trained at Camp Upton starting September 1917 will become the 77th Division, and will be the first division of draftees to arrive in France. Moving to the headlines and stories of the Official Bulletin. America's War Gazette published daily by the Committee on Public Information, the US government's propaganda ministry headed by George Creel. This week we've pulled a variety of stories that mark what was happening this week 100 years ago. Dateline: September 9, 1917. Headline: Life unbearable in Belgium, says workman who escaped. The following story provides some insight into life inside German occupied Belgium. The story reads... I had to leave the seaside place where I had lived since my childhood, because life became unbearable. It was slavery. The Germans announced, at the beginning of January last, that every man or woman from age 15 to 60 would be compelled to work for them. They did not take everybody at once, but once you had begun to work for them, you were never left free again. In order to avoid people escaping to an other parts of the country, they obliged us all to go to the command center, where our identity cards and our passports were confiscated. As you cannot walk a mile in the army zone without showing your papers, we were practically prisoners. Every week an officer with two soldiers went from house to house requisitioning more laborers. They had taken 300 already from my village when I left, and I have no doubt that the whole village is forced to work by now. The work was done either on the spot, where you had to repair and clean buildings, cut wood, and so on, or along the Dutch frontier, where we had to build trenches and concrete works, or behind the German lines in the region of West End, where we were mainly employed in building roads and railways. That was by far the worst place since we were frequently exposed to shell fire and gas attacks. Having no masks we were obliged to take shelter when a bell rang to warn us. We were paid one mark per day, but as the food was very scarce we had practically to spend our wages to appease our hunger, so that, when we came back home for one day every three weeks, we had nothing left to bring back to our families. It was no use trying to protest. It only meant more trouble and misery, prison and blows. One of my friends who struggled to escape was nearly killed by a bayonet thrust. Besides, the Germans are only too happy if you resist. They made a rule to send any man or woman who gets more than three months' imprisonment back to Germany. And none of those who have been deported have ever come back. Six months ago one of my neighbors, a widow, who had to protect her daughter against a German officer, received four months for having shouted that all Germans were pigs. She was sent to Germany and we have heard since that she is obliged to work in a labor camp and has no hope of returning. This is only one case among hundreds. The German tribunals have provided many Belgian workers for the Fatherland. This next story is a lot lighter, and truly a story of the times. With the airplane providing the enemy with a new level of unprecedented intel, a new military assignment surfaced as a key man role... That of "magician", sort of. Dateline: Sept 5th 1917. Headline: Ingenious men who can cast magic veil of invisibility over military works wanted for service with army in France. The story reads... The first American Camouflage company is now being organized for service. In official English, the camoufleure practices the art of military concealment, but a more literal translation of that French music-hall phrase, for that is what it is, proves him to be a "fakir." Now this has developed to a point where specialists in all manners of devices for concealing the whereabouts and design of our troops from the eyes of the enemy are grouped together in military units. Therefore, the Chief of Engineers in the War Department is looking for handy and ingenious men who are ready to fight one minute and practice their trade the next. Wherever a machine is set up, or a trench is taken and reversed, or a battery

of artillery goes into action, or a new road is opened, or a new bridge is built, or a sniper climbs an old building, or an officer creeps out into an advanced post to hear and to observe, there must go the camouflage man to spread his best imitation of the magic veil of invisibility. There is in store for our camoufleurs plenty of excitement and no end of opportunity to use their wits. The article goes on to tell about some examples including Papier-mâché steel line counterfeits of dead horses serving as observing posts. Or, of a river-painted canvas pulled over a bridge by day and used as a crossing by dead of night. The article closes with: Though this work has long been organized abroad, in this land it is only beginning, so wherever ingenious young men are longing for special entertainment in the ways of fooling Germans, they should waste no time in getting in touch with the Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D.C. Our next story will be particularly interesting to our regular listeners. If you heard last week's episode number 35, we profiled the 100 Cities 100 Memorials project from Muscle Shoals Alabama, where you heard all about the giant Ammonium Nitrate plants that were built there. This week 100 years ago, there's a story in the Official Bulletin that precedes what you learned about last week. Dateline: September 6, 1917. Headline: Preparations for production of nitrates by government announced by War Department. Location of proposed plant is withheld. The story goes on to explain how the creation of the plant is a priority project for the government war effort, but the location is still secret. But you know where it's going to be built! You even know about the giant Hydro-electric plant they're going to build as a part of it. Isn't history fun? Dateline: September 8, 1917. Headline: Red Cross to communicate messages about persons in Central Powers' territory. The Red Cross plays an ever more important and diverse role in the complexity of this global crisis. In this case, it's not nursing the wounded but helping acquaintances, families and loved ones torn apart and separated by the ravages of war. The article goes on to read... Individuals wishing to make inquiries concerning the welfare and whereabouts of friends or relatives in territory belonging to or occupied by the Central Powers, may communicate with the Bureau of Communication, American Red Cross, Washington, D. C. Proper inquiries and messages will be transmitted on a special form to the International Red Cross in Geneva. From Geneva, they will be forwarded to the individuals for whom they are intended. Answers will be returned to the International Red Cross and by them will be sent to Washington. The American Red Cross will then communicate the information received to writers of the original letters. Two 2-cent stamps must be enclosed for postage. A similar method is being devised for the transmission of inquiries from the Central Powers back to America. This will also be handled by the Red Cross. And our last story this week from the official bulletin harkens back to a story we told you about in episode number 26, about Chautauqua. The word "chautauqua" 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 entertainers and culture into the far flung regional communities of the time with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "one of the most American things in America." Dateline: September 8, 1917. Headline: Chautauqua entertainers to be sent to cantonments. The War Department can't complete the theaters they had planned for the tens of thousands of men being sent to the training camps... And they're being sent right now. So instead, they're going to create an entertainment system using the traditional American Chautauqua. The article goes on to explain... Entertainment for soldiers will begin September 10th. In four days 10 tents, each with a seating capacity of over 3000 will be moved to cantonments and programs will be given beginning Monday. The week following, the entire 32 cantonments will be equipped with similar tent auditoriums in which programs will be given. The new project involves the mobilization of a force of over 2000 chautauqua entertainers and the creation of tents with an aggregate seating capacity of more than 100000 people in the short space of less than two weeks. The economics affected by pursuing the chautauqua method of circuiting attractions makes it possible to give the best entertainment to soldiers at motion picture prices. And those are some of the stories we selected from nearly 100 stories published in this week's issues of the Official Bulletin. You'll find the Official Bulletin on the Commission's website where we're re-publishing this amazing resource on the centennial anniversary of each issue's publication date. If this podcast just isn't enough weekly World War I history for you, dig in daily. Go to our website and read the full daily issue of the Official Bulletin at ww1cc.org/bulletin. I sometimes do, and it makes me feel a whole lot better about the chaos in our modern world by tapping into the even more chaotic world 100 years ago this week! Next we're joined by Mike Shuster, former NPR correspondent and curator of the Great War Project blog. Today Mike's post highlights the beginning of the American actions over there with a series of memorable incidents and stories including the sinking of submarine U-88 whose captain sank the Lusitania in 1915. Welcome Mike!

[0:13:52]

Mike Shuster: Thanks Theo! Here are the headlines from the Great War Project: First Americans killed in France. French are bled white, but are Americans sufficiently trained? What a way to get leave, special to the Great War Project. Some of the first Americans arrive on the battlefield. On September 6th a century ago, General John J. Pershing, commander of the American army in France, known as the American Expeditionary Force, moves his headquarters from Paris near to what would most probably be the American sector of operations, reports historian Martin Gilbert. But, Gilbert continues, "it was proving a hard time to have his men ready for action." That same day the French president, Raymond Poincare, came to review the American troops. The parade ground was muddy and churned up. Neither Pershing nor Poincare was impressed with the readiness of the American troops. The American Secretary of War insists no American soldiers shall be sent to the front before they are trained thoroughly. When he

hears this, the French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau replied acerbically, it was not a question of being ready, nobody was ever fully ready. It was a question of helping France which was exhausted and bled white and needed help. By this time, reports historian Thomas Fleming, Pershing had no illusions about what he and Woodrow Wilson were confronting on the Western Front: defeat. Pershing, reports Gilbert, understood the almost desperate needs of his allies. Still, it looks like Pershing does not intend to bring large numbers of American troops to the French battlefield until the summer of 1918. In the meantime, the first American soldiers in France are killed. On September 4th, writes Gilbert, four Americans die during a German air raid on a British base hospital. On the following day two American soldiers, both engineers, were killed by German shellfire while repairing a light railway track behind the lines. The following day a British mine sank the German submarine U-88. There's an American side to this story. In 1915, Captain Walther Schwieger had sunk the Lusitania. Many Americans died in that attack, and it was responsible for increasing pro-war sentiment in the United States. Shortly before Schwieger's death, he was awarded Germany's highest decoration for bravery. Yet his sinking of the Lusitania went unmentioned in the citation. Another incident at the same time illustrates the sadness and irony of this war. A British soldier, Private James Smith, is executed for desertion. He joined the army in 1910 and fought at the battle of Gallipoli in 1915. Was buried by a German shell in the trenches, but survived. His good conduct began to deteriorate after that. Finally, he deserts, is caught, put on trial, convicted and sentenced to death. Martin Gilbert picks up the story... Among those who were ordered to take part in the firing squad was Private Richard Blundell who knew Smith well. After the executioners' volley had been fired, it was discovered that Smith was still alive. The officer in charge, who by tradition would then have shot Smith with his revolver, could not go through with it. Instead, he gave his revolver to Blundell and ordered him to fire the shot. Blundell did as he was ordered. As a reward he was granted ten days home leave. Many years later when Blundell himself was on his deathbed, he repeated again and again, "what a way to get leave, what a way to get leave." That's some of the stories from the Great War Project, this week 100 years ago.

[0:17:27]

Theo Mayer: Thank you Mike. That was Mike Shuster from the Great War Project blog with an interesting collection of anecdotes from the front 100 years ago this week. For videos about World War I, visit our friend at the Great War Channel on YouTube. They have well over 400 episodes about World War I, covering the conflict since 2014... And they do it from a more European perspective. This week's new episodes include: The Moscow State Conference. Another video is Battlefield 1 Historical Analysis, where Indy Nydel, the shows host, takes the new game additions and puts them into historical context. And finally a new episode on Georges Guynemer, the flying icon of France. Follow the link in the podcast notes or search for "The Great War" on YouTube. We've moved forward in time to the present. Welcome to World War I Centennial News Now. This part of the program is not about history but about how the centennial of the War that changed the world is being commemorated today. For our Activities and Events Section, we're going profile 2 events selected from the U.S. National World War I Centennial Events Register at WW1CC.org/events... Where we're compiling and recording the World War I Commemoration events from around the country. Not just from major metros but also local events from the heart of the country, showing how the World War I Centennial Commemoration is playing out everywhere. Our Major Metro pick of the week is Camp Doughboy. The Second Annual WWI History Weekend is an immersive, weekend-long, living history experience on Governors Island in New York City happening on September 16th and 17th. According to Kevin Fitzpatrick, author and citizen historian who helped put the event together, it promises to be the largest World War I themed events on the East Coast this year. It all starts with a ferry ride to historic Fort Jay at Governors Island National Monument in New York Harbor. Entry to the event is free and open to the public. There will be more than fifty reenactors, vintage World War I-era vehicles, free talks by leading authorities on the Great War and much more. Camp Doughboy is a family oriented event that's sure to create a memorable experience all about the war that changed the world and gave birth to modern America. You'll find links in the podcast notes with all the information you'll need to have a great time at Camp Doughboy. Our second event pick of the week is from Our Second event pick of the week is from Laclede Missouri. We have with us today two guests to tell us about an upcoming annual event celebrating the life and service of General Pershing. They are Alicyn Ehrich, secretary of the Pershing Park Memorial Association, and Denzil Heaney, the administrator of the General Pershing Boyhood Home site, which is part of the Missouri state parks system. They're here to tell us about Pershing Days, an annual event in Laclede, Missouri, hometown of the General of the Armies, John J. Pershing. The event will be celebrated this year on September 13th, the weekend closest to the General's birthday. Additionally, this year, a new documentary, Black Jack, will be making its debut on Sunday, September 17th following activities on the 15th and 16th. Welcome to both of you!

[0:21:03]

Denzil Heaney: Morning.

[0:21:03]

Alicyn Ehrich: Good morning.

[0:21:04]

Theo Mayer: Okay, let's start with you, Alicyn. Can you give our listeners an overview of what happens during Pershing days, and also how long has this tradition been going on?

[0:21:14]

Alicyn Ehrich: The tradition of Pershing Days in Laclede was started in 1960 as a celebration of the General's 100th birthday. We have typical small hometown activities, such as Queen contests and Baby Pageants. This year we have activities like bicycle rodeos and corn-hole and washer tournament. We also have a new event this year. For kids' games, we're going to set up a military bootcamp for kids to participate in, in which they would go through a lot of the obstacle courses and such that they would in bootcamp. Then we're going to present awards to the kids later in the afternoon. A bedding company here in town is sponsoring bed races for the first time, as well as our typical bandstand entertainment this year... Our headline entertainment is Doug Stone. Our local little theater group have been participating in a group called Black Jack Theater. We always try to present a patriotic-themed musical program for the audience. We've been doing this... This will be our 29th performance and our theme this year is Made in the USA. We're looking forward to building on the theme of our World War I hometown hero and getting ready for 2018, in which we can commemorate the victory of World War I.

[0:22:46]

Theo Mayer: That sounds like a really fun family weekend. Thank you. Denzil, to you, can you tell us a bit about the upcoming film, Black Jack? Who made it? I understand a lot of it was filmed in Laclede, right?

[0:23:00]

Denzil Heaney: Right. The story behind the film Black Jack: The Life and Legacy of General John J Pershing, took some Pershing Rifle College fraternity folks and the high school junior ROTC, the Black Jacks, over to Europe and traveled the different battlefields. The cemeteries, monuments, and museums. Then the last portion filmed was the beginning. That's when they brought everyone here to find out what it was that perhaps Pershing took with him from this small community, which led to the triumphs in his life.

[0:23:39]

Theo Mayer: When is the film going to be finished?

[0:23:42]

Denzil Heaney: The film is finished and it's going to be premiering on September 17th at 1 PM in our local theater at Real Time Cinema and Brookfield, Missouri. At that premiere event we'll have, I believe, the producer and several of the young men who were in the film. We're going to present that... The format is an hour-long film so that it could be shown in classrooms across the country.

[0:24:11]

Theo Mayer: Will I be able to watch it online after it premieres?

[0:24:15]

Denzil Heaney: I'm not really sure how they've got that set up yet. Joe Hartnet is the producer of the film. You can visit their Facebook page. It's the Pershing Project, and it goes into the making of the film as well as, I believe they have the final trailer or premiere of the film on there as well. A link to view that. It goes a little more in-depth to what I can really go into today.

[0:24:42]

Theo Mayer: Thank you Alicyn and Denzil. That was Alicyn Ehrich and Denzil Heaney talking about Pershing Days in Laclede Missouri and the new Pershing documentary Black Jack. Learn more by following the links in the podcast notes. This week in our education section we've got something very special for the budding researchers in our audience... A shot at \$10000. There's a new academic competition that was just announced for scholars under the age of 30. In this competition you can apply to research and write a paper on a major aspect of how scientists and engineers in the United States were engaged in World War I. You know, this was one of the most fervent times for technology, science, engineering and medicine, ever. And so the Richard Lounsbery Foundation has funded this academic competition. Five scholars will be chosen and awarded \$5000 each to conduct their research. Additionally, the winner of the competition will be awarded a \$10000 prize, which they can use anyway they want. Proposals are due by November 30th, so spread the word. And check out the link in the podcast notes for how to participate in this program run by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council. And now for our feature "Speaking World War 1" where we explore today's words & phrases that are rooted in the war. This week's word is "cooties". You might remember the taunting chants of your classmates as a child, accusing you of having cooties. Or maybe cooties were the reason you gave why you didn't like girls, or boys, or whatever. Personally, as a kid my english was pretty bad and had no idea why everyone laughed at me when I asked for chocolate chip cooties. Just kidding. The term cooties goes back to World War 1, when soldiers lived in horrific conditions that included being

covered in lice. Indeed, using a lighter to burn lice and their eggs out of the seams of clothing was a daily pastime for a lot of folks. As a nickname for body lice, cooties first appears in trench slang around 1915. It's apparently derived from the coot, a species of waterfowl known for being infested with lice and other parasites. I bet you didn't know that. Cooties-- you don't want them, and it's this week's Speaking World War I word. See the podcast notes if you really need to know more than that. Next we're going to profile another 100 Cities 100 Memorials project. That's our \$200000 matching grant giveaway to rescue ailing World War I memorials. Last week we profiled a project from Muscle Shoals, Alabama. This week, we head to Santa Monica, California. Joining us is Jim Yocum, past Commander of Squadron 283 of the Sons of the American Legion. Welcome, Jim!

[0:27:44]

Jim Yocum: Thanks for having me, Theo.

[0:27:45]

Theo Mayer: Jim, a lot of our listeners know about the American Legion but may not know about the Sons of the American Legion. Can you give us a quick heads up on that?

[0:27:53]

Jim Yocum: Sure. The Sons of the American Legion are a program of the American Legion. We're affiliated with them, since we were founded in 1932. The Legion itself was founded as a result of the Great War in 1919. One reason that we were founded as a separate entity within the Legion umbrella is that the Legion members had become concerned by the 30s that there'd be no more veterans of the Great War to carry on the mission of memorializing their service. That remains a cornerstone of what the Sons of the American Legion's mission is.

[0:28:28]

Theo Mayer: That's very interesting. Okay, so let's move on to your project. Your team is refurbishing a memorial plaque in Santa Monica, California. Tell us about that.

[0:28:37]

Jim Yocum: Sure. So Squadron 283 is actually in a neighboring time called Pacific Palisades. We're book-ended on the north by Malibu and on the south by Santa Monica, but I live in Santa Monica and my son graduated from and my daughter currently attends Santa Monica High School, which has been there in Santa Monica since 1898. During the time of the Great War, a number of service men left Santa Monica and went on to the camps up in the Pacific Northwest and/or went off after the camp training to Europe itself. During a parents' assembly for my kids, I noticed that there were a couple of book-ended memorial plaques in an open air amphitheater. Come to find out that the amphitheater itself was built as a war memorial in 1921, to those men who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Great War, who were from the local area. I say book-ended... There was a World War I memorial which was placed in the theater when it was built, and then in 1946 a World War II memorial was placed on the opposite side of the stage itself. Both of these memorials had seen better days. They're both exposed to the elements. The corrosion and proximity to the ocean itself added to some of the issues. So the Squadron took it on itself to try to take a look at what we might be able to do with these things some years ago, but it really wasn't until last years' American Legion Convention when executive director Dan Daton of the Commission came to Cincinnati and spoke about participating in the 100 Cities 100 Memorials effort. That's when we decided to really make a push on restoring both memorials. We really felt that we couldn't just restore the World War I and leave the World War II one looking really really sad by comparison. We sought out some expert help. We have a very large Veteran's administration facility in the area that was undergoing partial renovations to the grounds. We found a bronze restorer who'd done some work with the National Park Service on the Golden Gate Bridge plaques and had been doing local work with the Veteran's administration, and worked very closely with them to sort of assess what needed to happen, how we might be able to do this in fairly short order... Given the needs of the school year. The memorial theater is used daily by the school system for assemblies, films, and evening entertainment. It's a very large outdoor stage, and of course school ceremonies like graduation assemblies, what have you. We had to squeeze in our work so that it would fit in certain gaps of the school year. We also wanted to make the rededication of the plaque as personal as possible. We uncovered a lot of history about the 16 men who were memorialized, largely through the work of the Santa Monica Public Library, who had digitized every single newspaper of the Santa Monica Outlook back to 1879. These are actual word-searchable electronic documents for every single daily issue. It made it much easier to find out extensive biographies for about 13 of the 16 folks who were named. I think it really brought home that these young men were very much like the students themselves, and maybe some of their older brothers who are currently serving in the military right now.

[0:32:20]

Theo Mayer: Well, thank you very much for the great word that you and your Squadron are doing, Jim.

[0:32:25]

Jim Yocum: Thank you Theo, and thanks for the opportunity to talk about this. It's been very gratifying for the Squadron members to see the connections we were able to draw. We found some descendants of one of the men named on the World War I plaque. They were able to attend the ceremony. It served as a big family reunion for them, and they were extremely gratified we made the effort to reach out to find them, to let them know we were doing this.

[0:32:52]

Theo Mayer: That was Jim Yocum, past Commander of Squadron 283 of the Sons of the American Legion. We're going to continue to profile the submitting teams and their unique and amazing projects on the show over the coming months. Learn more about the 100 Cities 100 Memorials program at ww1cc.org/100memorials or follow the link in the podcast notes. This week for our Spotlight in the Media section, we'd like to direct you to CBS Radio's ConnectingVets.com.

[0:33:28]

Eric Dehm: Good morning and welcome to the Morning Briefing for Tuesday, September 5th, 2017. I'm your host Eric Dehm. Jake Hughes is your producer. I think it's safe to say both of us hope your long weekend was good. We have one heck of a show coming up for you. We'll talk to two Representatives of the National World War I Centennial Commission, Chris Isleib and Theo Mayer, about all of the latest events and news surrounding the remembrance of the United States' entry into World War I a hundred years ago. Theo is the host of their podcast. That's right, so he will definitely know the latest news coming out of the Centennial Commission. A big show is on the way, and it all starts now.

[0:34:12]

Theo Mayer: It was a really good interview and we invite you to take a listen by following the link in the podcast notes. And yes, Theo and Theo are the same person. For our Articles and Posts segment we explore the World War I Centennial Commission's rapidly growing website... Now over 3000 pages of articles, information and stories that you'll find at ww1cc.org. Our first highlight today is a new article about an often overlooked part of our military: the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard and its aviators played a vital role in World War I. In 1916, Congress authorized the Coast Guard to develop an aviation branch, including aircraft, air stations and pilots. Historically, the Coast guard was originally with the Treasury Department, you know, to catch pirates and smugglers. For World War I they get put under the U.S. Navy and today after 9/11, they're part of Homeland security. We invite you to read the story about a Commanding Officer of a Coast Guard Naval Air Station, Phil Eaton, who led the first fight between the U.S. Coast Guard's naval aviation and a German U-Boat menace in U.S. Waters. Learn more about Phil and his other contributions as one of the Coast Guard's first aviators by following the link in the podcast notes. Okay. It's time for an update for our WWWRITE blog, which explores World War I's influence on contemporary writing and scholarship. This week's post is "Champagne, champagne, and World War I." This article is for literature, history, and, yes, champagne lovers. Motivation for weary WWI soldiers? Try champagne. In 1915, the French government voted to send champagne, the bubbly, celebratory drink, as a morale booster to the troops. Meanwhile, Champagne, the French region and source of the world's most elegant wine symbolizing celebration and peace, amassed severe wounds as a strategic point on Western Front. Don't miss this well-researched, insightful post written by journalist, Marsha Dubrow, about the region, its signature drink, and what happened to it during World War I. À votre santé! That brings us to the buzz, the Centennial of World War I this week in social media with Katherine Akey. Katherine, you have two articles to tell us about today. Take it away!

[0:36:41]

Katherine Akey: Hey there, Theo. Following up on the Bulletin article calling for Camouflage Magicians, we shared a photo from the Great War Channels' Facebook page this week, featuring some interesting camo. The image is from Company F of the 24th Engineers and was taken at American University in DC in November 1917. In it, an Army Engineer Corps soldier stands in a black and white striped uniform meant to conceal him while climbing trees. He stands in front of a house camouflaged to represent a fence and trees, one of the many tests run by the Army Engineer Corps to figure out the best way to use interference camouflage in the war. Lastly for the buzz this week, we shared a link on our Facebook page from Rex Passion, a man who recently published a new book: *The Lost Sketchbooks, a Young Artist in the Great War*. The book follows the service of Edward Shenton, who served with the Pennsylvania National Guard and saw action at the Marne, Fismes, and the Meuse Argonne. He carried a canvas-bound sketchbook with him throughout it all, and the book features many of his detailed and beautiful drawings and watercolors. Follow the links on the podcast notes to learn more about these stories. That's it for the buzz this week.

[0:37:56]

Theo Mayer: Thank you, Katherine. That's World War I Centennial News for this week. We want to thank our guests. Mike Shuster from the Great War Project blog with an interesting series of anecdotes from 100 years ago this week. Alicyn Ehrich and Denzil Heaney, giving us a taste of the annual Pershing Days and the upcoming Black Jack documentary. Jim Yocum from the 100 Cities 100 Memorials project in Santa Monica, California. Katherine Akey the Commission's social media director and also the line producer for the show. And I am 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, and of course this podcast is 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 in communities of all sizes across the country, and of course we're building America's National World War I Memorial in Washington DC. If you like and appreciate the work that we're doing, please support it with a tax deductible donation by going to ww1cc.org/donate, all lower case. Or if you're on your smart phone, you can text the word "WW1" to 41444. That's the letters W-W and the number "1" texted to 41444. You can text any amount. We want to thank 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... On iTunes and Google Play WWI Centennial News. Our Twitter and Instagram handles are both @ww1cc and we're on Facebook @ww1centennial. Thank you for joining us, and don't forget to share the stories you're hearing here with someone about the war that changed the world. (music) Did you know that Cooties were also known as arithmetic bugs? It's true... Because "they added to your troubles, subtracted from your pleasures, divided your attention, and multiplied like hell." So long!

[0:41:01]