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8 speakers (Teo Mayer, Mike Schuster, Eddie, Jacqueline, Chag Lowry, Rhasan Ekedel, Christopher, Catherine)

[0:00:07]

Teo Mayer: Welcome to World Centennial news, it's about world War I then, what was happening a hundred years ago this week, and it's about world war I. News and updates about the centennial and the commemoration. Today is November 29th, 2017 our guests this week include Mike Schuster from the great war project blog, Jacqueline Farrow and Eddie bullrings from the Godfrey Triangle Restoration Committee in Springfield, Massachusetts. The graphic novel team of Chag Lowry and Rhasan Ekedel, author and historian Christopher Kelly and Catherine Ag, the show's line producer and the commission social media director. 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 Teo Mayer, the chief technologist for the commission and your host. Welcome to the show It's sometimes difficult in our media overloaded, multifaceted, social and general media inundated world. Not to get cynical, but in 1917 many people genuinely believed that they were answering to a higher calling. That makes Thanksgiving 1917 a hundred years ago this past week an interesting moment of reflection for millions of Americans both within our nation and those who found themselves over there. We're going to look at this plus a series of other stories that occur as the American military finds itself on the precipice of major battle action. So let's jump into our way back machine and see what was happening a hundred years ago this week in the war that changed the world. Thanksgiving 1917 at home, President Wilson uses the official bulletin, the government's Daily War Gazette, published by George Creel, the head of America's propaganda machine to get a short statement from each member of his cabinet. Dateline. November 28th, 1917 the masthead of the official bulletin reads, cheering Thanksgiving messages to Americans at home and fighting forces abroad from the president's cabinet are in this issue. From William Mcadoo, secretary of the Treasury. For the first time and more than 50 years, thanksgiving day finds America at war. In this chaos of civilization. The power of America was needed to tip the scales in favor of freedom and democracy as against the enslavement of the world, which would inevitably follow the triumph of military despotism. Terrible as war is and fearful is are the sacrifices it entails. Nothing is comparable to freedom and liberty. From Newton Baker, secretary of war, "I'm glad to take advantage of the opportunity which the official Bolton gives me to send a word of appreciation and good cheer from the men of the war department who are in this country to the men who are now in France. We are striving our hardest to send them promptly and plentifully the material things they need as they take their stand by the side of the gallant men who for so long have been holding the battlefield for a world that shall look forward and not look backwards." From Thomas Gregory, the attorney general, "Nearly a century and a half ago, our forefathers, hungry and poorly fed, clothed, disciplined, and armed gave when they needed their all for liberty to live, undefiled by licence that men are free and self-governed. They dreamed and labored so that real freedom and free institutions were born. Today, you battle that these principles do not die but may live on and reach untold millions who now live under the blight of despots." From Albert Bursleson, postmaster general, "Our Thanksgiving holiday is like many other good things of New England origin. It came into the national use during the civil war. The people of the United States in celebration of this festival now have special cause for returning thanks to the Almighty ruler of the universe. For the many blessings he has showered upon us. While Europe, Asia, and Africa are ravaged by war, no-fault has invaded our country. Our cities have not been destroyed and our people go about their business and live in peace and plenty and in security. After every honorable effort had been exhausted to avoid it, we were thrust into the world's war. In the name of allied nations we have entered into the contest. We have met the crisis on selfishly patriotically and knowably. Today our sons true to the traditions, ideals and standards of their heroic fathers are mustering on the battlefields of Europe." From Franklin Lane, secretary of the interior. "I cannot give thanks for war nor for the methods that men make war, nor for the turning of the minds of men from things constructive to things destructive. But I can give thanks that this nation is a nation unashamed, that the spirit of bunker hill in San Diego is still quick and aggressive, that men are willing to die, that liberty and justice may live, that we are not to see the free people of the earth humiliated or crushed. That fear is not to master the world." From William Wilson, secretary of Labor. "I have traveled through the most diverse parts of the country and come in contact with every variety of our citizenship, the rich and the poor, those who have sprung from old English stock, as well as naturalized citizens who came to us from the different lands of Europe, including the central powers. In the midst of all this diversity of place and people behind all differences, I find a common and complete devotion to this country and an unquestioning devotion to the aims of freedom and democracy, which are the purposes of the countries going to war. Meanwhile, in Europe, the US army tries to bring a bit of home to the boys." Dateline. November 29th, 1917. Headline, a story in the New York Times, cooks prepare feast for Pershing's men. Thanksgiving dinner expected to be the best ever served to an army on foreign soil. And the story reads in every village in France where American troops are stationed, the company cooks started to make cranberry sauce and to lay out great piles of plump Turkey, sweet potatoes and everything else that goes to make a real Thanksgiving dinner. Thanksgiving Day for the American forces will be one of resting eating and recovering. After the dinner settles, they'll be real American doings such as football games in which some American stars who are there will play. The back on the fighting front, early this month. In episode number 45 we told you the

story of a company of American soldiers who were the first to contact the enemy. After months of waiting American soldiers finally head to the front. Early in the month. It's a quiet area, but in the actual war zone. The Americans are essentially still training when they suddenly find themselves in an unintended engagement as the Germans attack. This week the incident is in the news again as the French government endeavors to decorate 15 men of this unit. Dateline. November 27th, 1917. Headline from the pages of the New York Times French decorate 15 of our troops, French war crosses conferred on men who met German trench raid on November 2nd but told not to wear the metals. Recipients must wait until Congress authorizes them to accept honors from a foreign nation. The story in the times includes the French general in referring to the actions of this American company said, "On the night of November 2nd this company which was in the line for the first time meant an extremely violent bombardment despite which it seized arms and offered such stubborn resistance that the enemy though numerically superior was obliged to retire." Also this week, another group of Yankee Doughboys find themselves in the fight again unintentionally during the battle of Cambrai, the 11th engineers are helping to build the rail system that's been transporting a new power weapon to the front in preparation for the British Cambrai campaign that was for the first time to make major use of the tank. Suddenly near the town of Guso cue the Germans counter attack and the engineers find themselves in combat. The following is from an article printed in a UK magazine called I was there. The author is Major General Seeley of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade as he describes the German counter attack had Cambrai around November 30th. "I have to say that a good many stragglers from the battle gallantly came forward with me. Amongst others, we found a curious and most interesting party. American engineers whom we had seen 12 days before engaged in making a light railway some five miles behind the front lines. They were pursuing their peaceful advocacy near goes Gusoku which had been close to the front lines before our advance on November 21st, they belonged to the American 11th engineers. Colonel Hoffman was the regimental commander and I think Captain Holsen was commanding the Party when the German advanced fell upon them. Some had rifles with them and in the case of others, the rifles were far away. But that made no difference to these gallant Yankees. With spades and pickaxes they fell upon the advancing Germans and although many were knocked out, I am assured that they got the best of it in a hand to hand combat. It was a brave thing to do for surrender would have been easy and for once justifiable. When I came home on leave a month later, I gave some account of this at a luncheon given by Lord Beaverbrook. I do not know if this account has reached America from other sources, but I'm glad to put it on the record now." By November 1917 the Americans are mobilized. They've sent troops over there. They've been busy training and helping to build infrastructure, and they're beginning to engage the enemy though not intentionally yet. None of this is deemed fast enough or big enough by the British who warn that the pace and power projection of the Americans is crucial. But lacking, 100 years ago this month in the war that changed the world. Tanks were to be a major strategic shift in the planning for the battle of Cambrai. Nearly 500 were deployed for the campaign, but apparently they didn't come out of the gate quite as planned. Here to tell us it is Mike Schuster, former NPR correspondent and curator of the Great War project blog.

[0:12:00]

Mike Schuster: No, you're right about that Teo. The headline reads, Our Tanks, the Answer, the first grade tank battle of the war for the British and other disappointment tanks alone are not enough and this is special to the great war project. There's no let up in the battle for Cambrai in northern France in these last days of November, a century ago. At the same time reports' historian Martin Gilbert, the first snowfall, just one factor making it difficult to use tanks. The war of tank movement, Gilbert reports was replaced by that of hand-to-hand fighting. The British had hoped with nearly 500 tanks and more than a thousand artillery pieces that the battle for compri would be a turning point, but it is not. Within two weeks race historian Gilbert, it failed utterly to be the hoped for turning point. The bitter send in tanks to seize the village of Fountain on the road to Cambarai. It is a terrible and disastrous mistake. Thus did the combatants begin to understand the limits of tank warfare Writes Gilbert. Cambrai pointed the way to a new kind of war, observes historian Michael Nyberg, but also showed that tanks alone were not enough. Tanks were sent into the narrow streets for which they were quite unprepared. Gilbert race. There was horrible slaughter in Fontan. One tank officer reports he had spent weeks planning the use of tanks in the pedal, but had never tackled the subject that village fighting. It had never occurred to me, he reports that our infantry commanders would thrust the tanks into such places. The German officer sees the battle from his side. Armored vehicles have entered the village. He writes and they can see his ground but not hold it. Their movements are hemmed in on all sides, which certainly should have been obvious to the officers planning the attack. The terror they have spread amongst us disappears. The German officer writes, we get to know their weak spots, a ferocious passion for hunting them down is growing. Reports Gilbert, the Germans had discovered that individual hand grenades thrown on the top of the tanks or at their sides were ineffective. But if we tie several grenades to them, exploded beneath the tanks. The new weapon that found a new adversary as a result of fighting is at a standstill and the British command orders a halt in the combat. Cambrai racist story in Gilbert would remain in the unreachable distance. The Germans though have their own plans for Cambrai. The next day they order a huge offensive. It begins with the German guns firing 16,000 shells among them, gas shells. Reports Gilbert, many British companies fought until every man was killed or wounded. Many British soldiers turned and fled. The German combination of gas shells and low flying attack aircraft was as effective for the Germans as the tanks had been for the British. The British successfully regroup and hold the lines, but like some of the other bottles in this dreadful war, the casualties on both sides were crushing. 44,000 British and Canadian dead and wounded, a total of 53,000 on the German side. And that's the news this week from the Great War project.

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Teo Mayer: For video about this week in world a hundred years ago. And from a more European perspective, we recommend the Great War channel on Youtube hosted by Indiana Neidell. Their episodes this week include the end of Passchendaele and Jagdakommandos, Austria-Hungary Special Forces and tank corps unleashed. The battle of Cambrai and finally dropping bombs on Germany. Indie takes audience questions in an episode of out of the trenches. Follow the link in the podcast notes or search for the Great War on Youtube. Now it's time to fast forward into the present to World centennial news. Now this section's not about history, but rather it explores what's happening to commemorate the centennial of the war that changed the world. In commission news. When commission chair Robert Delassandro retired from the US World Centennial Commission, it left a seat open for a new commissioner. So last week, House minority leader Nancy Pelosi, fill that seat with Commander Zoe Dunning, US Navy, retired of San Francisco. We welcome commissioner Dunning, who was also our first commissioner from the west coast. Read more about commissioner Dunning by visiting the link in the podcast notes. In more commission news. On Tuesday, November 28th in Philadelphia, the US mint hosted a ceremonial coined strike event for the new 2018 world centennial silver dollar. A distinguished group who were involved with the coin project were on hand including congressional sponsors of the legislation that authorized the coin. And Don Everhart, legendary US mint coin and Graver. Terry Hamby, the chair of our World Centennial Commission and Gerald York, grandson of World , hero Sergeant Alvin York. This commemorative coin, which will be produced in limited quantities and will be available for purchase from the mint beginning in January, 2018 we'll support our endeavors with a surcharge on the sale of each coin. That will go directly to help us honor, educate, and commemorate the centennial of World . You can learn more about it by going to www1cc1.org/coin or by following the link in the podcast notes. And now for our feature speaking World where we explore words and phrases that are rooted in the war. Fashion is not exactly top of mind when you're dodging shells, machine guns and sleeping with rats in the trenches, but those very conditions lead to some pretty iconic and common contemporary fashion items. Two of these that are very much with us today were created to solve very issues. The first of course is mud, mud, mud everywhere, so get yourself a trench coat. Mud clung to the clothes and the trenches caking and weighing men down. The traditional Serge Gray coats of the French and the British armies were impractical in such conditions, so the lighter, more water resistant trenchcoat was developed. Secondly, how the heck are you supposed to begin an attack on time with everyone going over the top simultaneously, when your units are strung out over the horizontal miles of the trenches? Audio doesn't work very far because there's these big guns and shells exploding all over the place and there is no internet or chat and radio and telephones are large and clunky things. The answer. Create a fashion forward trench adapted wristwatch for every officer in commander. No fumbling with the device in the pockets. It's right there and available. Oh wait a minute. That's Apple's new pitch for their generation three apple watch. Anyway, a hundred years ago, especially with the development of tactics like creeping barrages, the precise synchronization between the artillery gunners and the infantry advancing just behind the barrage. Coordinated timing became essential to a successful campaign. No wristwatches existed in some fashion since the 1500s. The watches produced during the war were especially designed for the rigors of trench warfare with luminous dials and unbreakable glass. Now those luminous dials have a whole horror story attached to them as well. Check it out in the buzz section of episode 19 for a story about the radium girls. With a watch on nearly every commander. The whole division could synchronize their time pieces and be sure to jump off altogether. By the end of the war, almost all enlisted men wore a wristwatch and after they were demobilized the fashion soon caught on. Wristwatch and trench coat, words for items with their roots in the trenches of World . See The podcast notes to learn more. Moving on to our 100 cities, 100 memorials segment about the \$200,000 matching grant challenge to rescue and focus on our local world memorials. As you listened to our guests tell us about their project, remember that we're taking grant applications for the second round of awards. The deadline to submit your application is January 15th, 2018 go to [wwwonecc.org/100 memorials](http://wwwonecc.org/100%20memorials) to learn all about it. This week we're profiling the Indian Orchard Godfrey Triangle Project in Springfield, Massachusetts. With us to tell us about the project or Jacqueline Farrow and Eddie Bull Rise from the Godfrey Triangle Restoration Committee. So Eddie, tell us a little bit about the Indian Orchard Heroes of World memorial. It's past, it's current, it's future role in your community.

[0:20:44]

Eddie: Well, it's been in Russia 1927 women noted raise the money after the war was over 10 years later to erect this memorial. Currently it's been like 90 years. So like it's been worn out in the fact that it was vandalized. We're trying to raise the money to bring it back to what it was before and even better than what it was. And for the future of it, it's still like for kids would know what veterans are bound, why these war memorials are erected in the first place.

[0:21:14]

Teo Mayer: Well, Eddie likes so many other, a hundred year old memorials. Your memorial is both weather worn and unfortunately it was vandalized. And tell us about the eagle.

[0:21:22]

Eddie: Yeah, the eagle was taken the 1990s probably someone stole it, which really bad problem because the fact of matter these days are war veterans who died for this country. And I believe in my whole heart that it's the right thing to do for this critical city and for this neighborhood. Matter of fact and say it's a place where people can go and remember their family members and stuff like that.

[0:21:43]

Teo Mayer: So the memorials in the city of Springfield, Massachusetts is Indian orchard and neighborhood?

[0:21:49]

Eddie: Yes, it is sir. It's one of 17.

[0:21:52]

Teo Mayer: Hey, Jacqueline in March, you held a fundraiser with the Indian Orchard, American Legion Post 277 ladies auxiliary. How'd that go?

[0:22:01]

Jacqueline: It come about because a mutual friend was just an avid person who had been fundraising for the Godfrey triangles for quite some time. So when we started fundraising at the Indian Orchard Citizen Council or were considering fundraising and specific grants in the area, we did reach out to the woman's auxiliary because we had known of some fundraisers that they had had and see if they wanted to join forces, and we had roughly \$2,000 and they have \$1,900 and they agreed when we move forward with this plan that they would make those funds available to us. As far as fundraising, we are going to do, a hundred year anniversary Godfrey Triangle celebration at the Godfrey Triangle. And then we're going to have a dinner afterwards that's going to be on Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018 and project that we're actively working on together once again to raise funds for vitalizing this monument.

[0:23:09]

Teo Mayer: So Jacqueline, do you guys know about the poppy seed program?

[0:23:13]

Jacqueline: No, we don't.

[0:23:15]

Teo Mayer: Okay. Go to www.onecc.org/poppy we've put together a fundraising mechanism for folks like yourself where you basically can get the poppy seeds really inexpensively. They're packaged and prepackaged world poppy seeds. You get them for a buck, you sell them for two or three and you keep the money. So take a look at that. It's www.onecc.org/Poppy it might help you.

[0:23:40]

Jacqueline: Yes, Poppy. Okay, that's great information. Thanks. I appreciate that.

[0:23:45]

Teo Mayer: Eddie, your project was submitted in round one and has continued on to round two of the a hundred cities, a hundred memorials project. Now, what would you say directly to the selection committee about why this project should be selected over the others?

[0:23:59]

Eddie: Well, I think for the fact that[in audible] is pretty unique, it was the first evission in this nation's history. We awarded the highest award from the French government for the bravery of these men. That sense for itself that everybody sacrificed in World , but these men who died so bravely. I really think they should be. No. People should know to do the memorial in Indian origin for these brave people sacrifice for our freedom. For command, trying to get everybody educated about cause war memorial. A lot of people are Newton's neighborhood. Some people can live there for generations. Some people know the history of it, some people don't. That's why we're trying to get the word out about this and we storing it because in fact the matter is our future, you know, time repeats itself. So if we don't teach our children about these things. It may repeat itself.

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Teo Mayer: Well, thank you both.

[0:24:53]

Eddie: Okay. Thank you very much.

[0:24:55]

Teo Mayer: Jacqueline Farrow and Eddie Boulrice are from the Indian orchards citizens council in Springfield, Massachusetts. If you have a local project that you want to submit for a grant, go to www.wonecc.org/100 memorials or follow the link in the podcast notes to learn more about how to participate in the program. In our write blog, which explores world 's influence on contemporary writing and scholarship. This week's post is a perfect dovetail to our weekly hundred cities, a hundred memorial segment. The title reads Forgetting to Remember making America's Great War monumental again. As the new National World memorial materializes in Washington DC, we want to look at other war memorials and the narrative of their construction. Reading the story of the way the memorials are conceived plays an important role in the understanding of public cultural memory. You can delve into the subject with this week's blog post written by World Centennial Commission intern, Sarah [inaudible]. Read about some of America's interesting World monuments and their stories by visiting [wwonecc.org/wwrite](http://www.wonecc.org/wwrite) or by following the link in the podcast notes. For our first spotlight in the media segment this week we're speaking with Chag Lowry and Rahsan Ekedal the author and artist for a graphic novel, Soldiers Unknown, which tells the story of Yurok soldiers, native Americans, who were part of the 91st infantry division in World . Welcome gentlemen.

[0:26:37]

Chag Lowry: Hello.

[0:26:38]

Teo Mayer: This first question is to you Chag, to start, can you tell us a little bit about the Yurok people and drew you to the story of the 91st Infantry Division?

[0:26:47]

Chag Lowry: I am a year off Yurok native ancestry on my mother's side. We are from the Northwestern part of California along the Klamath River and in the redwoods. And I had two great-great uncles who served in the 91st infantry division in the war. And I wrote a couple of other books on native veterans of World War II and the Korean War. And a lot of the men who I interviewed would tell me, oh, their father, or they had an older brother that served in world . So that's where I first started to learn about stories of Yurok and other native veterans. And they shared a lot of photographs of these men in their uniforms with me. And so it always stayed in my mind how to try to prospectively convey their stories and their history. I was very blessed to be able to meet Rahsan Ekedal at a comic con, and he drew an image of Sargent rock for me, which is a DC comic war comic character. And he did it with such detail. It was so hostile because there was like a thousand people walking around. It was so loud in that convention hall and he was also chatting with me and I still have that image that he created and that's how we met.

[0:28:15]

Rhasan Ekedal: That was the best thing. Andrew, that convention too, I can tell you that.

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Teo Mayer: What made you decide that a graphic novel was the best way to tell the story?

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Chag Lowry: That's a good question. The graphic novel is being treated, I think with more respect in today's society as a potential a learning tool. It's also, I mean everyone loves comics and young people are drawn to comics and the imagery, and I always thought of Rahsan because he can convey emotion in such powerful ways with his art. And the emotions of generations of my native people who have been in combat starting in World and then all the way up to the present day conflicts. You have something that most people are completely unaware of the emotions and the sacrifices and so that is what Rahsan is providing when people will see his images, this world story, which is basically historical fiction. I did a lot of research on the 91st infantry division where those soldiers went in the Muse Argon battle, and it's really going to be the first time, I think for most readers to view a war story through the lens of native American soldiers.

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Teo Mayer: I understand the native American commitment to serving is huge. Probably as a community, the largest percentage of veterans see of any ethnic group in the country. Rahsan as the artist what did you find is the biggest challenge with doing the illustrations

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Rhasan Ekedal: For me of course there are challenges in terms of like getting historical details, making sure that the uniforms are correct or that it's the right weapon for the right month of the war and all that stuff like that. But for me it's most challenging to represent your art culture with accuracy and respect is really a great honor for me to be invited into very private and special place and asked her to pick your art imagery that people never seen before, like Chad mentioned. So I'm not trying to do that justice and that I'm always sending Chag stuff like, is this oka? Did I get it right? And sitting there sweating, waiting for him to respond. That's what keeps me up at night.

[0:30:28]

Teo Mayer: Chag, did you have experts on your side to consult with you?

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Chag Lowry: The Yurok imagery I have my family, no, I don't believe in coincidence in life. I can't conceive of anyone else other than Rahsan being able to accurately and respectfully and lovingly convey these images of Yurok soldiers. And these were young boys. These were 18, 19, 20 year old boys who were thrust into this or half a world away. They were living in traditional villages at that time as Yurok people. And Rahsan is showing a side of our people's history and our legacy. That's why I titled The book, It's Soldiers Unknown because it's not just the individual but it's most native soldiers to stories or marines or sailors from world that completely unknown and the images are not in the public consciousness.

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Teo Mayer: What a great project. So where will I be able to get the book and when is it coming out?

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Chag Lowry: Book is being published by Heyday, and it will be out by early summer of 2018.

[0:31:42]

Teo Mayer: Gentlemen, thank you for coming in.

[0:31:44]

Chag Lowry: Yes. Well thank you.

[0:31:46]

Rhasan Ekedel: Yeah, thank you so much. It was a really special book and we're looking forward to bringing it out for people to see it finally.

[0:31:52]

Teo Mayer: Chag Lowery and Rahsan Ekedel creators of the graphic novel Soldiers Unknown. You can learn more by following the link in the podcast notes. In another spotlight in the media segment. This week we're speaking with Christopher Kelly, an American historian writer based in Seattle in London and editor of an adventure in 1914 the true story of an American family's journey on the brink of world war I. Welcome Chris.

[0:32:23]

Christopher: Great to be with you.

[0:32:24]

Teo Mayer: Okay Chris, this book is in fact a memoir that you edited. Tell us a little bit about the man whose memoir it is Thomas Timesten wells.

[0:32:33]

Christopher: Yes. Thomas Wells was my great grandfather. He was a lawyer from New York and he was born in 1865 died in 1946 is, and it's interesting that this book appeared seven years after his death, that which is somewhat unusual and he titled it an adventure in 1914 his experiences on the brink of world War I.

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Teo Mayer: Now, Chris, you've written and co-written a number of other books but came to this one as an editor. What kind of work is done by an editor of a preexisting texts like this one?

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Christopher: We tried to be as faithful to his original intent as possible. We tried to make as few changes as possible. I mean there were some changes of spelling. I mean he'd spelled the country Serbia with a V instead of a B. So we just have updated things like that. But aside from that, there was the kind of a journey of discovery of retracing his steps. Because I went in the steps of footsteps of my great grandfather on his voyage through Europe at the start of World and I took photography along the way to try to bring it home to readers of what he might've seen and what it looks like today as well. Kind of charting the map of his adventure.

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Teo Mayer: Okay. Chris, what's the story actually about?

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Christopher: Well he was traveling as a tourist going through Europe in the summer of 1914 and while he was literally onboard the ship going across the Atlantic was when you had the assassination of the archduke Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo, which was the catalyst for the beginning of the war. But it didn't start immediately. And he was on a pleasure trip to holiday traveling through Switzerland and Austria from Paris. And he bought a return ticket, which was no longer valid because all of the trains were being used for the mobilization of troops. So he kind of got stuck, if you will, and had to figure out how to get his family home was the challenge that he was up against.

[0:34:23]

Teo Mayer: That story is just incredible made for the movies almost just for fun. If there were a film version of the story that was going to be made, who would you cast as your great grandfather, Mr. Wells?

[0:34:35]

Christopher: Well, I kind of like the idea of Tom Hanks being cast as my grandfather. You have this kind of a story of a family in jeopardy. He travels with his wife and two children and the dramatic highlight occurs in a place called Riva, which is called Riva del Garda today, the biggest Kenyon Lake in Italy. It was then Austrian territory. Today it's, it's Italian territory. And Riva was briefly arrested by Austrian authorities accused of being a Russian spy and tried with execution. Fortunately for me and for him, he managed to talk his way out of that. I also have to say I'm tempted by the idea of a movie, but I'm most attempted idea of a video game. I mean that the story could be turned into a video game as well. There's so many games that are war games out there. This could be a piece game and it could be kind of a single person game where the object of the game is to prevent the outbreak of World War I as opposed to actually fighting it, which I think it could be interesting. We'll see.

[0:35:28]

Teo Mayer: I understand there's a romance side of the story. Tell us about that.

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Christopher: Well, after the war, my great grandfather, Thomas Wells became the chairman of Serbian relief, which was an organization founded to bring humanitarian aid to Serbia, which of course was a war torn country in the course of the war. And they were trying to bring medical supplies, food and agricultural equipment to war torn Serbia. And in the course of that, he met with Queen Maria of Romania, who actually ended up becoming in essence his boss and his friend, he became the honorary console from Romania to the United States although he was an American and there were rumors that he might even have had an affair with Queen Maria Romania as well. I mean that's at least according to family lore, that's what may have taken place as well. Warhead does interesting things to relationships. I mean you'd have sometimes it did tear people apart. Sometimes it brings people together.

[0:36:20]

Teo Mayer: Okay. Finally, Chris, where do I find the book and how can I get it?

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Christopher: Absolutely. Listeners can find the book and adventure in 1914 on our website, which is called an adventurein1914.com. It's also available on Amazon and on kindle as well.

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Teo Mayer: Thank you Chris.

[0:36:35]

Christopher: Thank you. Appreciate it.

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Teo Mayer: Christopher Kelly is an American history writer based in Seattle in London. You can find links to Chris's website and his books in the podcast notes. Our website at wwonecc.org is home and archive to a lot of things. World O with over 3,700 articles, 2000 locations listed in our map database and nearly 1400 world War I related events in our national events register. It's a great place to explore and new articles are published weekly. First from the Badger State, Wisconsin about 200 people gathered on Veterans Day to commemorate 28 Ho-Chunk men known as the Winnebago Indians in 1917 there from the areas surrounding Volks field, national guard training basin Wisconsin. The families of these warriors known as the descendants of Red Arrow have met at Volks field since 1977 to celebrate their service, their memory, and the 32nd Red Arrow division, which continues today is the 32nd infantry brigade combat team. Read the story about the ceremony and it's World War I origins by following the link in the podcast notes For the aviation buffs out there. Some exciting news coming out of Kentucky. There's a team of enthusiasts that's hard at work, restoring the first war plane built in America, the Dayton right DH4. The groups members hope to remind the public of the plane's importance by restoring the DH4 in time for test flights. This coming

spring with plans for air show is across the country and even a trip to France. Read more about the ongoing efforts to get the so called liberty plane flying again by visiting wwone.cc.org/news or following the link in the podcast notes. And that brings us to the buzz. The centennial of World War I this week in social media with Catherine Achy. So Catherine, what do you have for us this week?

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Catherine: Hi Teo. This week we shared the story of one of the worst accidents of the war, certainly the worst in North America in the port city of Halifax, Nova Scotia. On December six 1917 a ship carrying aide collided with a ship carrying high explosives causing an explosion and tsunami wave that destroyed the north end of the city. It killed some 2000 people and injured a further 9,000. At the time, the explosion was the largest human made blast that the world had experienced, reaching a measured height of 2.25 miles to make things worse, the explosion was followed by a blizzard that severely restricted efforts to help the city for days. Commemorations of this disaster are taking place soon and you can read more about both the explosion and the upcoming commemorations at the link in the podcast notes. Finally, let's end on a lighter note with some music. And articles shared on Facebook this week comes from classicfm.com and features a video of a very special and special looking cello being played. The cello is a long narrow rectangle rather than the large curvaceous instrument where you're used to calling a cello. This is a holiday, cello and instrument you can pack up and take away with you so you can still practice when you're away from home. And indeed it went very far from home as its British owner Harold Triggs was sent to the trenches and took the cello with him. He played it in the trenches of EIP and he wasn't the only one. There were reportedly other instruments there with them. Some made from ammunition boxes and pipes in that Blake place, people needed music. Decades and decades later. It found its way into the hands of a stringed instrument expert in the video. Chellus Stephen is serverless plays it for us so we can all hear the music that once filled the war torn landscape a hundred years ago. And that's it this week for the buzz

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Teo Mayer: And that's World War I. Centennial News for the end of November, 1917 and 2017. Our guest this week, Mike Schuster explaining the growing role of the tank and the war. Jacqueline Farrow and Eddie Bull bullies from the Godfrey Triangle project in Springfield, Massachusetts. Chag Lowry and Rahsan Ekedal telling us about their graphic novel Soldiers Unknown. Christopher Kelly sharing the story behind the memoir and adventure in 1914 Catherine Achy, the show's line producer and the commission social media director. Special thanks to Eric Marr for his great help in researching our stories. And I'm Teo Mayer, your host. The US World war I. Centennial Commission was created by Congress to honor, commemorate, and educate about World I. Our programs are to inspire a national conversation and awareness about world war. You're listening to this podcast as a part of that, and thank you. We want to bring the lessons of 100 years ago into today's classrooms. We're helping to restore world War I memorials in communities of all sizes around the country and of course we're building America's National World War I memorial in Washington DC. This week's featured website is wwonecc.org/coin where you can learn all about the US mince, 2018 commemorative world War I silver dollar. We want to thank the commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker military museum and library for their support. The podcast can be found on our website at wwwonecc.org/CN on iTunes and Google play at wwonecentennialnews and on Amazon Echo or other Alexa enabled devices. Just say, Alexa, play wwonecentennialnews podcast. Our Twitter and Instagram handles are both at wwonecc and we're on Facebook at ww. One centennial, thank you for joining us and don't forget to share the stories you're hearing here today about the war, the change the world. I'm putting on my matrix trench coat snapping on my third generation, Dick Tracy, apple. Watch. All in costume and set to take in a special showing of all quiet on the western front at my local movie house so long.

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