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14 speakers (Theo, Katherine, Dr. Lengel, Mike Shuster, Indy Neidell, George, Charles, Sanders, Dr. DesRosier, Gordon Aleshire, Aliza Chin, Keri Kukral, Molly Marr, Vintage recordi)

[0:00:09]

Theo: Welcome to World War I Centennial News, Episode Number 61. It's about World War I then. What was happening a hundred years ago this week? And, it's about World War I now; news and updates about the Centennial and the commemoration. Today is March 2nd, 2018, and our guests for this week include Dr. Edward Lengel joining Katherine Akey and I in a March preview round table. Mike Shuster from The Great War Project Blog with an update on the fallout from the Russian defeat on the Eastern Front. Charles Van Way, George Thompson and Sanders Marble on medicine in World War I and their new website on the commission's server. Dr. Marjorie DesRosier on the struggle of African-American nurses in World War I. Gordon Aleshire telling us about the Hundred Cities 100 Memorials Project in Raymond, Washington. Aliza Chin, Keri Kukral and Molly Marr telling us about the short documentary, "At Home and Over There: American Women Physicians in World War I." Katherine Akey with a special report on an amazing French World War I photography curator. It's a great line-up today on World War I Centennial News, a weekly podcast brought to you by the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, and the Star Foundation. I'm Theo Mayer, the chief technologist for the Commission and your host. Welcome to the show. Last month, we did an experiment. Dr. Edward Lengel, Katherine and I sat down as we often do in our editorial meetings and talked about the upcoming month of February. We got great feedback from you, so we're going to do it again here at the top of March. I put a side-car on our Centennial time machine so we'd all fit, as we roll back 100 years to the war that changed the world. So, guys, I understand that this is our last chance to take a breather. Starting this month, the action gets pretty hot and heavy with the Germans getting ready for their big Spring Offensive. Katherine, you used the term Kaiserschlacht, or Emperor's Strike. Is that the same thing as the Spring Offensive?

[0:02:40]

Katherine: Yeah. It is the same thing. It's just what the Germans happened to call it. This happens a lot throughout the war. There are a lot of offensives that get called battles, like the Battle of Verdun. And we have a lot of different countries and a lot of different combatants, so things get called different names and it can be really confusing. But the 1918 Spring Offensive – the Kaiserschlacht – also known as the Ludendorff Offensive – all the same thing. It's a big offensive that stretches over several months and is made up of four or five big main attacks.

[0:03:16]

Theo: This is going to go on for months going forward. Can you give us an overview of what the Germans have in mind?

[0:03:23]

Dr. Lengel: The important thing to remember, Theo, is what they're not trying to do, and they're not trying to capture Paris despite all the legend that developed over the years about their 1918 offensive. What they're really trying to do is, first and foremost, to split the British and French armies. The British are in the north in the North of France and then Flanders and Belgium; and the French are to the south. So, they're trying to split them and they're trying to drive the British back towards the channel port so that they will evacuate back to England in an early preview of Dunkirk. And then they expected that they would be able to wipe out the French at their leisure, and all the subsidiary offensives later on were pretty much bent toward the same objective.

[0:04:10]

Theo: This is going to start in March, or this is going to start in April?

[0:04:15]

Dr. Lengel: It's going to start on March 21st. There is the first Operation Michael and then there is a subsequent offensive at the beginning of April. Then a few more toward the spring and the summer. The final German offensive takes place along the Marne River on July 15th. That's where American troops come in of the Third Division to play a major role in stopping that last German strike.

[0:04:44]

Theo: Katherine, you said earlier that there were five major offensives, or was there four?

[0:04:47]

Katherine: So there's Michael, Georgette, Blücher-Yorck, Gneisenau and then the last one, the Marneschutz-Reims/Freidensturm. And, of course, again, these all have slightly different...

[0:04:58]

Dr. Lengel: Sure to pronounce that.

[0:05:00]

Katherine: Yeah. My German is not great. Operation Michael is usually called that. That's the first one that hits on the 21st of March. Georgette is sometimes called the Battle of the Lys. The Blücher-Yorck is called the Third Battle of the Aisne. And then there's two more after that. But that last one is the Second Battle of the Marne that Ed was just speaking about.

[0:05:22]

Theo: A quick change of subject. As we get into the military action, we keep throwing out all these names like military formations, like divisions and corps and regiments and brigades, and I'll wager that 80 per cent of the people who listen to this show have no idea what that means. So, maybe we can do an overview. I know we sent over a field army, okay. That's it. That's the American expeditionary forces. So, we sent over an army. Ed, can you break it down for us sort of from big to small and tell us about how many soldiers in each of these formations?

[0:05:52]

Dr. Lengel: Let's keep one principle in mind for all of our listeners. These American formations are really big. They're extremely big. They're about twice the size of their European counterparts. So, the American First Army is formed in August of 1918. The basic American unit is the division and they called these square divisions. Again, they were monstrously large. They were about 28,000 officers and men, plus about 12,000 support personnel. So you're talking 40,000-man divisions. Each division has two brigades and each brigade has two regiments, including artillery, engineers, machine gun units and other support troops. Each regiment is roughly about 4,000 officers and men. And each regiment contains three battalions, plus a machine gun company. The battalions have four companies of about 250 officers and men, plus support personnel. So, that's the breakdown, but again, these are just huge units.

[0:07:10]

Theo: Was that a structure that they rejiggered or re-invented for World War I? We didn't have a giant standing army, so I imagine that they sort of had to invent this as they went along.

[0:07:20]

Dr. Lengel: Yeah. Much of this was Pershing's idea. He thought that by creating these, what he called, block-buster divisions, that he would be able to build units that would have greater staying power on the Western Front. That they would stay in the line longer. That they would be able to grind down enemy divisions and, so, combat fatigue will become a major problem because of this.

[0:07:46]

Theo: Do we have some kind of a sense of the scale and how it built?

[0:07:49]

Katherine: We're sort of looking at this like a war that's going to go on another three years, not another six months. So, we're building up, but that's not necessarily... We don't have the timeline in our minds in 1918 that we would be done within that calendar year. The Allied forces surpassed the Germans in rifle strength, is one figure that I've seen. In late June coming into July, that now there's more Allied forces than German forces on the Western Front.

[0:08:22]

Theo: Was that a real tipping point, Ed?

[0:08:24]

Dr. Lengel: By the time you get to spring in May, there are probably about 10 American divisions that are ready to go and the build-up really escalates after that. More and more American divisions start arriving in France and in Flanders toward the late spring and early summer of 1918, and tipped the balance in terms of rifle strength. But much of that is a result of how many American divisions are there training behind the lines. How many the British and French have been able to move those American divisions up to quiet sectors, and then the British and French can redeploy their own, high-quality divisions toward the more important sectors of the front. So, it is vastly accelerating by the late spring and early summer of 1918.

[0:09:16]

Theo: So, Ed, remind us again of how many people approximately in an American division.

[0:09:20]

Dr. Lengel: About 40,000.

[0:09:23]

Theo: Katherine, you were talking to me earlier about a book that you use as a reference. What is that?

[0:09:29]

Katherine: Ernst Junger's "Storm of Steel," which both sort of cover this battle in particular. Not just the Kaiserschlacht, but this first operation in March. And I would say March 21st, I know that the sun looms large in the memory of the British forces in World War I. But March 21st was a really bad day for them. It was super foggy and the Germans are so hyped. I think we so often, being part of the Allied forces as Americans, we forget the German perspective on the war. Ernst Junger described them ripping off their coats because they're boiling hot, running through the fog and they run through the fog past the British lines. And they only realize once they start hitting the artillery lines that they've gone past the British front lines and turned around and start attacking the British from both in front of their lines and behind them. And the British, because of the fog, don't notice this at first, so it's absolute chaos for the British.

[0:10:32]

Dr. Lengel: That's an incredible book, "Storm of Steel," and I would just add to that one of the things Junger shows very well is that the Germans had developed these infiltration or storm-troop tactics that they used to break into the gaps in the British lines and surround them, and cut off troops to the front. It was very effective.

[0:10:54]

Theo: Pershing needs to integrate with the French and the British command. How does all that lay out and how do we see that evolving over the next month and couple of months?

[0:11:04]

Dr. Lengel: President Woodrow Wilson and his Secretary of War, Newton Baker, had been telling Pershing for some time that his objective is to create independent American armies on the Western Front under solely American command. And Pershing has been carrying out that task very effectively. He's an exceptionally stubborn man. When the British and French tried to get him to agree to amalgamation into their units, he simply refuses to agree.

[0:11:33]

Theo: Let me answer, and the reason that was so important to Baker and Wilson is because they were setting up for their seat at Versailles.

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Dr. Lengel: That's quite true, and Pershing has that in mind as well. One of Pershing's qualities is he was a very good political general. The French and British had become so desperate that Pershing has no choice but to accept compromise and to agree to begin sending American units to the front under French and British command. So you will find American units through the spring and summer integrated into French and British units, but not amalgamated. So, they're not putting on French and British uniforms, but they are fighting under French and British officers. This is a way to get them to the front more quickly than they otherwise would have done and to give them an opportunity to learn.

[0:12:24]

Theo: And Katherine, are there any other major stories that you're aware of that we should get ready for this coming month?

[0:12:29]

Katherine: Yeah, you know. The first recorded cases of the flu come out of Kansas in mid-March. At least that's when a doctor in Kansas City at one of the military hospital sort of goes, this is not a normal flu. This is a really bad one and he starts getting kind of nervous about it. So, it's the start of something that's going to kill more men than the war did.

[0:12:57]

Theo: And that's our preview for what's coming up. Next week, we'll back to our regular 100 Years Ago This Week format, including our regular feature, America Emerges: Military Stories from World War I. Now on to the Great War Project with Mike Shuster, former NPR correspondent and curator for the Great War Project Blog. Mike's recent posts have told us about the devastating suffering of the German people in the Fatherland. But the Kaiser and his generals are feeling pretty hot and empowered by the total defeat of the Russians on the Eastern Front. They think they're

going to win this thing. The spoils of war from that campaign include vast territorial gains, massive stashes of captured arms, repatriation of huge numbers of soldiers, all now available to put the big wallop on the French and the Brits. Hopefully before the Americans can really join in the fight. So Mike, the details of the Russian collapse are really monumental, aren't they?

[0:14:01]

Mike Shuster: Extremely monumental, Theo. Our headline reads, "German attack in West is imminent; On Russian front, their eyes set on Petrograd. The Kaiser celebrated with champagne," and this is special to the Great War Project. It's a crucial moment in the war for all sides. The peace treaty that ended the war between Germany and Russia fundamentally redrew the map of Europe. The Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, reports historian Martin Gilbert, gave up all claims to the Baltic provinces; Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Poland, Belarussia, Finland, Bessarabia – which is now Moldova – Ukraine, and the Caucasus. Then, a century ago, the Germans looked set to enter Petrograd, the Russian capital. In their rapid and virtually unopposed advance, reports Gilbert, the Germans had captured 63,000 Russian prisoners, 2600 artillery pieces and 5000 machine guns. The weapons would be of great value to the Russians on the Western Front. Finally, Russia signs a formal peace treaty with Germany. The Bolsheviks accept the harsh reality of the battle field that they could no longer resist. "A German high command was relieved," Gilbert writes. "They were eager to turn Germany's military might against the Western Front. There's much talk now of an imminent German offensive on the Western Front. The Germans think they can finish this war before the waves of American soldiers hit the battlefield." Now, Russia as an empire – indeed, Russia as a nation – may not have a future. According to historian Gilbert, the territory Russia had been forced to give up constitutes a third of its pre-war population; a third of its arable land; and nine-tenths of its coal fields. Almost all the territory, in fact, Gilbert observes, that had been added to the czarist dominion since the reign of Peter the Great more than 200 years earlier. Nearly all of Russia's naval bases are turned over to the Germans. The Russians lose their naval bases in the Black Sea and in the Baltic Sea. Writes Gilbert: "The Kaiser celebrated with champagne." The Russians are to release 630,000 Austrian prisoners of war that they hold. One other development that will echo down through the years; Russia agrees to turn the Armenian territories it conquered earlier in the war to Turkey; now the remnants of the Ottoman Empire. Many Turkish soldiers are deserting, effectively taking the Turks out of the war. Lenin surveys Russia's circumstances fearing that the Germans will seize Petrograd, the Bolsheviks hold an urgent meeting of their leadership and decided to move their capital city to Moscow. Soon the Germans will occupy Odessa in Ukrainian territory on the Black Sea. As historian Gilbert observes, for the first time in history, one power's control of Europe stretched from the North Sea to the Black Sea, something even Napoleon had not achieved. The German triumph in the East was unprecedented and complete, and now the Germans turned to preparations for a massive offensive; one that will destroy the British and French armies before the Americans get to the Western Front in large enough numbers to make a difference. And that's some of the news from the Great War Project this week a hundred years ago.

[0:17:14]

Theo: Mike Shuster from the Great War Project Blog. The Great War Channel on YouTube is hosted by Indy Neidell. Here's Indy.

[0:17:24]

Indy Neidell: Hello World War I Centennial News listeners. I'm Indy Neidell, host of the Great War YouTube Channel. American troops are about to experience their first major battle of the war, the Kaiserschlacht. Join us every Thursday for a new episode and follow this massive German offensive as it unfolds. Find us on YouTube and like us on Facebook.

[0:17:43]

Theo: This week's new videos from the Great War Channel include "Operation Faustschlag; Germany Advances in the East Again," and "Amphibious Landing Craft," and "The Czechoslovak Legion's Odyssey Through Russia." To see their videos, search for "The Great War" on YouTube, or follow the link in the podcasts notes. Okay. It's time to fast-forward into the present with World War I Centennial News Now. In this section, we explore what's happening now to commemorate the centennial of the war that changed the world. We've got a lot to unpack here, so let's get going with medicine and World War I. We have three guests with us today who not only know a whole lot about the subject, but they've also bundled that know how into an amazing new website on the commission's server at ww1cc.org/medicine, all lowercase. Charles Van Way; a retired army colonel, professor emeritus at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. George Thompson; adjunct associate professor in the Department of the History and Philosophy of Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. And Sanders Marble; the senior historian with the Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage. These are the three gentlemen responsible for the website and they did an amazing job. It may be one of the most authoritative, in-depth, well-illustrated and concise subject sections on the whole site. Welcome gentlemen.

[0:19:25]

George: Thank you.

[0:19:26]

Theo: Gentlemen, at the very top of your website, you put a statement. It reads, "A century ago, American medicine went to war." I love that. It's really illustrative. How did the three of you get together to do this?

[0:19:39]

George: The three of us knew each other through working together at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City on some prior projects dealing with military medicine. So, we just clicked right from the beginning and we realized that we could communicate well with each other. So, our first step was to say, is this an important topic? And the answer was, of course, yes. How do we get at it and we used all of our skills and prior experience with each other to formulate a syllabus that permitted us to then detail it out and develop it.

[0:20:15]

Theo: Charles, let me give you this one. What do you think was the biggest impact of the war on American medicine?

[0:20:21]

Charles: Theo, that's very good question and the fact is that medicine had been going through a lot of changes in the previous few years. Medical education had gotten better, medical care had gotten better. There were a huge number of medical advances and the war required that these advances be implemented, moved overseas and applied to a mass casualty health care system on the battlefield. I think the organizational impact may have been the single biggest impact, but when you get down to it, the reason that World War I is associated with so many medical advances is the necessity of the situation. They simply had to make a generation's worth of progress in a few months.

[0:21:11]

Theo: Okay. A round table question. What do you think was the most important innovation in medicine coming out of this war. Let's start with you, Sanders.

[0:21:18]

Sanders: Sure. First I need to say that my comments are not the views of the Department of Defense. I would unpack medicine into three facets. I think there was a tremendous advance in surgery during the war. They do surgery much further forward closer to the fighting front and closer in time to the time of wounding. Surgery saw tremendous advances, areas that were really uncommon like plastic surgery. We think about the mutilated men from the war. Tremendous advances there. Psychiatry comes on people's radar and they're aware of it, but not sure what to do about it. Not sure if it's really a thing, and even the doctors are bickering about it to a degree. And that's going to take several generations to come much progress.

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Theo: George?

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George: I'm going to say orthopedic surgery since they had such a massive number of cases and the specialization that evolved, and that carried right on into modern times.

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Theo: And Charles?

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Charles: The surgical treatment of wounds in trench warfare virtually guarantee that all wounds would be dirty, contaminated and since two-thirds of the wounds were from artillery, the wounds were very messy, if I can use a non-medical term. The fact that they are able to treat these wounds far forward as well as treat them adequately was a tremendous advance. The mortality of soldiers once they had reached medical care was far lower in this war than it ever had been before.

[0:22:59]

Theo: Okay. We just had a question come in from a member of our live audience to the chat room. They asked, "When influenza cases started to appear on the in-transit troop ships, what kind of isolation units were set up on these over-crowded transports to lower the contagion rate.

[0:23:17]

Charles: The fact is that many of those ships were not able to isolate the flu victims and there were a couple of death ships where a quarter or more of the people who fell ill died. These ships, as you point out, were very crowded. We

discussed that in the Diseases category, but we just gave it a once-over lightly compared to the real magnitude of this. In point of fact, about half of the 50,000 or so soldiers who died of disease actually died of influenza or the pneumonia that followed it.

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Theo: Let me turn to the website. It's a very, very comprehensive work. You could literally do a semester course with it. Let me ask you, Charles. What will I find if I go there?

[0:24:07]

Charles: Sure, Theo. You know, getting the incredible amount of documentation down to just the website was, I think, our biggest challenge. The way we decided to do it was to break it up into eight separate topics. We had an introduction, and then we talked about the common diseases in World War I, which are not the diseases we see today. And the common injuries in World War I, which included such exotic things as gas injuries. And then we divided medical care into things that were done on the battlefield in what we would now call a combat zone, and delivery of medical care off the battlefield and what we would now call the rear area. We put a section in on practice of medicine in World War I, which included some historical elements as well as a discussion of how mobilization was carried out just to get the Army medical department big enough to be able to take care of all of these folks. And finally, we had a chapter on further study of medicine, which we talked about our sources and pointed people to further resources that they could use to explore particular topics.

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Theo: Hey, thanks to all three of you for coming in and introducing to the subject of medicine in World War I. But most of all, thank you for the huge effort – the months-long effort – that you put into building this scholarly, in-depth, well thought through website.

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Sanders: Certainly, Theo. Thank you very much.

[0:25:45]

Theo: Charles Van Way, George Thompson and Sanders Marble are the curators of Medicine in World War I, the amazing new resource at www1cc.org/medicine. Or follow the link in the podcast notes. To kick off our Remembering Veterans section this week, let's talk about VSOs. That stands for Veterans Service Organizations, organizations like the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars or VFW, the Daughters of the American Revolution or DAR, and a whole lot of others. These organizations are very important partners for the commission, with closely aligned goals and missions. Many of you listening today are, in fact, members of a VSO. But if you're not, let me give you an overview of who they are. First of all, they're amazing and amazingly dedicated organizations focused on the men and the women who served and sacrificed for our nation. And although they have national organizations, for the most part, they're very grassroots by nature, with thousands of local posts and chapters all around the country that do the real hands-on stuff. VSOs have been deeply involved in many of our commemorative programs, including A Hundred Cities: A Hundred Memorials, centennial commemorations with states, and they've been key financial contributors to the National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C. But as I said, it's all about the local level, so for the local posts and the chapters, we've just published a special new landing page on our website just for them. The landing page is a series of subject and activity tiles that make it easy to see how to get involved with the centennial commemoration of the war that changed the world. It's actually not a bad resource for anybody, at www1cc.org/veteran, all lowercase. And, of course, you can always find it by following the link in the podcast notes. Staying with veterans, wrapping up African-American History Month, and leading us into Women's History Month, this segment is about the experience of African American nurses in World War I. Joining us again is Dr. Marjorie DesRosier, who was on a few weeks ago. Dr. DesRosier is an international nurse historian and independent scholar. She, herself, is also a registered nurse and former clinical professor from the University of Washington School of Nursing in Seattle. Welcome back, Dr. DesRosier.

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Dr. DesRosier: Thank you, Theo.

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Theo: Dr. DesRosier, the story of African American nurses in World War I is pretty fascinating, but to start with, could you tell us about how an African American women would go about becoming a nurse in that era?

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Dr. DesRosier: There was an advent of hospital training standards of a two to three year curriculum now that led to a diploma or certificate in nursing, so increasing their profile in America, African-American women entered into nurses training with extreme disadvantages of racial segregation across American society. Most of the established hospital

training schools had refused to accept black women. Many actually believed that they were incapable of receiving the professional training. The programs, because they were residential, were leading to issues of segregated housing and living quarters, and there were also restrictions against black nurses in training caring for white patients. The Black communities responded to this by opening their own separate hospitals and training schools. Though these were also very, very few in number, then once nurses were trained, they were other racial exclusions and things encountered after graduation. One in some states was the outright denial of right to gain RN licenser. They were barred from membership in the very powerful ranks of the American Nurses Association. They were unable to obtain post-graduate training in public health nursing, and there were also up against lower wage structures in the United States.

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Theo: How did these women respond to this? How did they overcome this?

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Dr. DesRosier: The American Red Cross was the organization that was responsible for enrolling nurses in time war for the U.S. Army. And it was not known at that time that segregation in the Army was going to be the policy placed by the War Department. So in 1916, even before the war was declared, there was not sense that African-American nurses would be excluded from enrolling in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps through the Red Cross enrollment mechanism. As a matter of fact, one of the lesser known stories is that one of the major Black hospitals in America, Lincoln Hospital in New York, had actually set up in 1916 plans for becoming one of the 50 U.S. Army-Red Cross authorized base hospitals that would be going to France in the event of war. So, in order to become a base hospital, nurses would need to be enrolled in the Red Cross and involved in the U.S. Nurse Corps, but it began to emerge in 1917 that with the segregation of Black and White troops instituted as policy that Black nurses were going to be excluded from enrolling in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps simply because the Secretary of War and the Surgeon General had announced that it would be a problem of segregated housing. These nurses would not be able to expect to serve in camp hospitals in the United States or to go to France.

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Theo: Was there a resolution to that?

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Dr. DesRosier: The activities that occurred then in 1918 were intensified by the Surgeon General's announcement of an extreme nurse shortage in the Army Nurse Corps. He was calling for an additional thousand nurses to be recruited nationally per week for induction, and yet Black nurses had been sidelined and told in unequivocal fashion, Black nurses could put themselves on a membership list, but they may not be called because, again, of the issue of segregated housing. This was infuriating to the Black community. These nurses were basically being prohibited from the exercise the rights [inaudible] of citizenship while their own African-American men were serving in the military. So, there was a [inaudible] to the offices of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses which would represent Black Nurses of America. The NAACP was involved in protest, and the news media throughout the United States became inflamed about this restriction. Nothing changed and it was not until December, 1918, after the armistice was signed and when the influence of pandemics was creating even more pressure for nurses, that 18 African-American women were enrolled in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. And they were allowed to serve in Illinois at Camp Grant and in Ohio at Camp Sherman.

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Theo: Dr. DesRosier, where can people learn more about this?

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Dr. DesRosier: This information can be located quite easily; Internet sites.

[0:33:03]

Theo: Okay. We've posted some of those links in the podcast notes for our listeners. Dr. DesRosier, thank you for coming back on the show to bring us this story.

[0:33:11]

Dr. DesRosier: Yes. Thank you.

[0:33:12]

Theo: Dr. DesRosier is an international nurse historian, independent scholar and Registered Nurse. Follow the link in the podcast notes to learn about African-American nurses in World War I and Dr. DesRosier's work. Moving on to our 100 Cities: 100 Memorials segment about the \$200,000 matching grant challenge to rescue and focus on our local World War I memorials. This is a perfect tie-in to the VSO story we just told you about because this project is being

done by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 968 in Raymond, Washington. With us to tell us about their city and the project is Gordon Aleshire, adjutant of VFW Post 968. Gordon, welcome.

[0:33:56]

Gordon Aleshire: Welcome. Thank you for having me on the show.

[0:33:58]

Theo: Gordon, you live in a beautiful and pretty remote part of the country. Tell us about Raymond, Pacific County and the area's role in World War I.

[0:34:07]

Gordon Aleshire: Well, Raymond is a city of about 6000 now, primarily logging and fishing, and the post was first started in 1922 shortly after World War I. And they dedicated this first memorial in November of that 1940, and over the years, it sort of fell into disrepair and when this 100 Cities project came alive, it caused us to take a look at the memorial and the condition it had fallen into. It was the initiative to get us going to bring it back to life.

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Theo: So, it sounds like the 100 Cities: 100 Memorials program is what got your project going.

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Gordon Aleshire: Yes, it was. It really, kind of brought it to our attention and it was an opportunity to not only restore it, but to move it five blocks across town to where we had another memorial listing all of the fallen veterans in Pacific County through all the wars and put them in the same park setting.

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Theo: How did you hear about the program?

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Gordon Aleshire: I think it was from a national email from Veterans of Foreign Wars office.

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Theo: That's terrific. So, I see you're doing a lot of things to restore the memorial. Tell us a little bit about the memorial itself and what you're doing for it.

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Gordon Aleshire: Well, it was a concrete column about seven feet tall and we had to have it re-stuccoed. Then we had to pick it up and physically move it across town. There were three rifles that were on top of it that had fallen into disrepair over the years. They actually had wood stocks and they just deteriorated, so we had Valley Bronze work out of Joseph, Oregon cast a bronze sculpture of three rifles that has now been placed on top of the old base to bring back the appearance of what it was when it was first dedicated.

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Theo: Do you have any rededication plans for the memorial?

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Gordon Aleshire: We do. We're looking at May 19th, Armed Forces Day to try to get some community leaders and other groups to participate and rededicate it. Hoping by then to have the plaque that, I believe, is coming from you folks to go on it at the same time.

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Theo: Gordon, it's a wonderful project and you live in a beautiful place. Thank you and thank everybody from Post 968 for the great work that you're doing remembering our Doughboys.

[0:36:38]

Gordon Aleshire: Oh, thank you very much for all of your work, too. It's just a great collaboration.

[0:36:42]

Theo: Gordon Aleshire is the adjutant of VFW Post 968 in beautiful Raymond, Washington. As we mentioned, March is Women's History Month, so this week for our Spotlight in the Media, we're joined by Aliza Chin, Keri Kukral and Molly Marr. They're the team that researched and produced a documentary called, "At Home and Over There: American Women Physicians in World War I." Aliza, you're the executive director of the American Medical Women's Association. Briefly, what is it? What's the organization represent.

[0:37:17]

Aliza Chin: The American Medical Women's Association is an organization that was founded in 1915. We've been around for over a hundred years. We encompass women in medicine from all different specialties and our mission is two-fold: to advance women in medicine and to improve women's health.

[0:37:34]

Theo: There were not many women physicians when the organization was formed, right?

[0:37:40]

Aliza Chin: Right. They were less than six per cent of all physicians in the country at that time.

[0:37:45]

Theo: Okay, Keri. You're the founder and CEO of Raw Science TV. Again, briefly; what is that?

[0:37:51]

Keri Kukral: Raw Science TV is an online network in a video on demand platform for science media, specifically.

[0:37:58]

Theo: Thank you. And Molly, you're the executive chair of the American Medical Women's Association Branch at a university. How does that work?

[0:38:07]

Molly Marr: The American Medical Women's Association has branches all over the country and they are those undergraduate institutions and graduate institutions, so I have a branch in the School of Medicine. And it's a wonderful way of connecting young women who are pursuing the field of medicine, the study of medicine, or women who are currently in medical school with mentors and physician leaders and scientists to really guide and direct them on their path.

[0:38:34]

Theo: All right. So the three of you came together to create this wonderful documentary and I have to add, a really impressive companion online web exhibit. How did you all get together on this? Aliza, can you tell us?

[0:38:45]

Aliza Chin: Absolutely. We had heard about the activities around the country commemorating the centennial of World War I and, of course, as part of our history in the American Medical Women's Association, was the fact that we helped send a group abroad and got very involved with getting women registered to help mostly in a volunteer capacity with the war effort both abroad and at home. When we heard the news about the activities surrounding World War I, we wanted to tell the story about women physicians, which is a very little known story. There are some chapters published, books and field books and articles about it, but the public at large, those people don't know about the women doctors. This started the work for our exhibition, and as we created the exhibition, we realized there were so many wonderful stories, photographs, documents that we wanted to share in a more public way and coincidentally our interim leadership meeting was going to be in Kansas. And the National World War I Museum and Memorial, of course, is there, so we decided to put together some of our materials into a film. I happened to meet Keri Kukral. We got talking. She was very excited to participate and that's what started the collaboration between...

[0:40:02]

Theo: Okay, Keri. The film has a 3-D component to it. Tell us about that. What was the intent of doing 3-D?

[0:40:09]

Keri Kukral: Well, the intent of doing that was to really, kind of, be able to better bring the history to life in an almost animated, 3-D way where people; the women in World War I, kind of, almost come out of the screen to us and come to life. And this was inspired by the great work that was done, a documentary film with bringing cultural revolution in China to life in a similar way. So, that's why we chose to do that.

[0:40:37]

Theo: Molly, you did a lot of the research. Anything particular surprise you?

[0:40:41]

Molly Marr: I did a lot of the research in the Oregon Health and Science University Archives and looking through artifacts, letters and materials from that time from women physicians in Oregon specifically. What really struck me the entire time was this ongoing fight for women suffrage. I think someone today whose been voting since I was 18, I

really took that for granted and I never considered that ongoing interaction between the Women's Suffrage Movement and the war effort. My favorite story that came out of that is the citizenship was one of many ways the military really restricted potential recruits. So there's a group of women in Oregon who were like, 'We can take care of this.' So they really looked through the restrictions carefully. All of the different War Department regulations and there was nothing there that explicitly barred women. So they looked up every single requirement. They made sure they met every single requirement, letter for letter, and they showed up at one of the recruitment drives and said, 'We're here. We have our license. We have our references. We have our certificates. We have diplomas. We have everything that you require so that we can volunteer. And we're ready. We're ready to start basic training.'

[0:41:51]

Theo: As I recall, the Surgeon General had no option but to accept that, right?

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Molly Marr: No. They denied it.

[0:41:57]

Theo: Oh.

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Molly Marr: They still denied entry, in fact. That's interesting because they did petition to the Surgeon General. There were multiple petitions. There was a resolution that came out of California. People, women really fought this because they wanted to contribute and in every instance, their [inaudible] were returned and they were prevented from enlisting.

[0:42:16]

Theo: Okay. Aliza. If somebody wanted to book the film for a local screening or World War I event, how would they do that?

[0:42:22]

Aliza Chin: We're happy to share the film with anybody who would like to screen it, so we have a link on our website to contact us and we're happy to give you a copy of the film to screen. We would really like this story to be shared.

[0:42:34]

Theo: Well, we're going to put that link in the podcast notes as well. Thank you all for joining us today and telling us the story.

[0:42:40]

Molly Marr: Thank you.

[0:42:42]

Aliza Chin: Thank you so much.

[0:42:43]

Theo: Aliza Chin is the executive director of the American Medical Women's Association. Keri Kukral is the CEO of Raw Science TV, and Molly Marr is an MD-PHD student at Oregon Health and Science University. You can learn more about their project, "At Home and Over There: American Women Physicians in World War I," and how to access the documentary for your World War I events by following the link in the podcast notes. And now our feature, Speaking World War I, where we explore the words and phrases that are rooted in the war. During World War I, as planes flew over the front, little puffs of smoke appeared in the sky. Actually, each one of those puffs was a deadly expanding ball of shrapnel designed to mangle planes and pilots. So, true to British humor, this deadly deterrent for flyers got a silly nickname, which is our Speaking World War I word for this week. Archie was the British nickname for anti-aircraft fire and it has two contested origins. Origin number one: A pilot in the Royal Air Force, Vice-Marshall Borton, who upon encountering enemy anti-aircraft fire, apparently quoted a lyric from a popular music hall song of the time. 'Archibald. Certainly not,' a popular, contemporary, cultural exclamation of defiance.

[0:44:06]

Vintage recordi: (Singing) Archibald. Certainly not. About this cricket game I've read a lot. Besides, the last time you played at Dover I heard you'd bowled a maiden over Archibald - certainly not!

[0:44:24]

Theo: Origin number two: The training ground for the RAF pilots back in England at Brooklyn's and Surrey neighbored a sewage farm; the Archibald Sewage Farm. Apparently, the farm which processed sewage to irrigate

and fertilize the land had notoriously difficult air currents above it, creating a wafting turbulence the pilots found quite similar to that of anti-aircraft fire. Either way, Archie, a humorous and very English term for the explosives that trailed and tormented the pilots as they flew over the front in World War I. See the podcast notes to learn more. For World War I War-Tech this week, we're taking a look at the Browning machine gun. It got a lot of press this week a hundred years ago because, apparently, on February 27th, 1918, in the vicinity of Congress Heights in southeastern Washington, D.C., it sounded like the war in Europe had suddenly spread to America. This was because they were test firing the new Browning at the U.S. Government shooting range. The gun, the Browning automatic rifle BAR, and the Browning M-1917 were being demonstrated to a crowd of American politicians, foreign army officers and the press. The firearms were being touted as the finest gun in the world. The machine guns were the brainchild of John Moses Browning, a man also known as the Father of Modern Firearms, whose weapon designs included the pump-action shotgun. When the Army sent out a request to all American inventors asking for new firearm designs in 1917, Browning personally traveled to the Capitol to present his new prototypes. The Ordnance Department demanded that these weapons be put to the test by shooting 20,000 rounds of ammunition. When the test was performed at the government proving grounds in May of 1917, Browning's gun fired the 20,000 required rounds with no complications, then fired another 20,000 only breaking a single part. Besides reliability, another impressive feature was a design so simplistic that the officers who demonstrated the weapon could take it apart and put it back together while blindfolded. This made such an impression on the War Department that the blindfold test soon became an essential part of military training. Mass production began soon thereafter, with the first Browning guns arriving in France in June of 1918. Although only 1,168 Brownings saw combat, the general design proved so useful that the Browning M-1917 was an essential part of the American arsenal all the way until the Korean War. Read more about the Browning at the link in the podcast notes. This week for the Write Blog, which explores World War I's influence on contemporary writing and scholarship, the post reads, 'Brest-Letovsk;' Eastern Europe's forgotten father. The post was written by Adrian Bonenberger. In his lifetime, the world-famous Polish dancer, Vaslav Nijinsky, might have also claimed Russian, German or Ukrainian nationalities. The future of Nijinsky's Europe and his identity was decided on March 3rd, 1918. Veteran author Adrian Bonenberger calls the event, 'The moment when the old world falls apart and creates space for the new to arise.' In this week's Write Post, Bonenberger gives us a rich overview of the Brest-Letovsk Treaty and its implications for the former Soviet Block countries. Read the story at ww1cc.org/wwrite, or follow the link in the podcast notes. Changing formats a little. Katherine Akey is going to close out this week with a story about an article we posted on our website at ww1cc.org/news, about an American painter and ambulance driver, Waldo Peirce. But her story is equally about Corinne Rice, the author of the article and a dedicated French curator of World War I stories and images. Katherine, you're the one who came across Corinne that led to the article. Maybe we should start with her. Her curated images are truly amazing.

[0:48:46]

Katherine: Hey, Theo. Yeah, the project Corinne has been working on is something else. Published on our website and included in our weekly email dispatch is an interview with Corinne. She's a French citizen historian and the great-niece of American painter and ambulance driver, Waldo Peirce. He was one of the many students voluntarily leaving their lives at home – for him, his studies at Harvard – to aid the French years before America joined the war. Corinne meticulously and with a great sense of storytelling, curates and shares his photographs, artwork and writings on her Tumblr and Facebook pages chronicling his experience throughout the war. In the interview, Corinne discusses her passion, the incredible archive left behind by her great-uncle Waldo, and her plans for documenting the lives of volunteers during World War II as well. Additionally, to reading the interview, I really, really encourage you to take time to scroll through her Tumblr, which can be found embedded in the interview at World War I C-C dot org. To say that Corinne is a dedicated storyteller is an understatement of the highest order. I first came across her Tumblr during my weekly search for photographic content for the Commission and was really surprised at how few of the images were familiar to me. So much of what she has rediscovered and shared with the world is quiet, quotidian and somehow spectacular. An image of a woman ambulance driver holding a kitten and casually wearing the *croix de guerre*. An over-the-shoulder shot of a young British officer staring longingly at the photo of a woman tucked inside his hat. Or an image of a man sitting in the midst of a dense, unspoiled French forest, the sunbeams glance through the trees and a crowd gathering around a deep sheering hole in the Parisian street; the result of a recent German air raid. The collection Corinne has assembled and continues to assemble is exceptional. The hours of work as well as her very artful eye and deep passion for the subject are evident in every post. We've included links in the podcast notes to the interview we did with her, as well as to her Facebook and Tumblr pages.

[0:50:54]

Theo: Thank you for listening to this week's of World War I Centennial News. We also want to thank our guests; Dr. Edward Lengel, military historian and author; Mike Shuster, curator for the Great War Project Blog; Charles Van Way, George Thompson and Sanders Marble, the curators of the new Medicine in World War I website; Dr. Marjorie DesRosier, nurse, author and historian; Gordon Aleshire, adjutant of VFW Post 968; Aliza Chin, Keri Kukral and Molly Marr, the production team behind the documentary, "At Home and Over There: American Women Physicians in World War I;" Katherine Akey, the Commission's social media director and line producer for the podcast. Thank you also to our intern John Morales for his great research assistance. And I'm Theo Mayer, your host. The U.S. 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 podcast, and you're listening to it, is a part of that. Thank you. We're bringing the lessons of a hundred years ago to today's classrooms. We're helping 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, D.C. We want to thank the Commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, as well as the Star Foundation for their support. The podcast can be found on our website at ww1cc.org/cn; on iTunes, Google Play, TuneIn, Podbean and new this week, on Stitcher, Radio on Demand; as well as other places you get your podcasts, even on your Smart Speaker. Just say, 'Play WW1 Centennial News Podcast.' Our Twitter and Instagram handles are both @ww1cc, and we're on Facebook at WW1 Centennial. Thank you for joining us and don't forget to share the stories that you're hearing here today, about the war that changed the world.

[0:53:26]

Vintage recordi: (Singing) [inaudible]

[0:53:27]

Theo: Archie, Veronica and Jughead; three types of deadly munitions from World War I. Not true. Just kidding. So long.

[0:53:36]