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12 speakers (Theo Mayer, Mike Shuster, Ed Lengel, Meredith Carr, Chas Henry, Speaker 6, Edward Fountain, Dr. Peter Jacob, Jeff Lowdermilk, Donna Ching, Katherine Akey, Gunny)

[0:00:09]

Theo Mayer: Welcome to World War 1 Centennial News episode number 75. It's about World War 1 then, what was happening 100 years ago this week, and it's about World War 1 now, news and updates about the centennial and the commemoration. This week, Mike Shuster updates us on the fighting fronts around the world. Ed Lengel tells the story of the machine gunners at Château-Thierry. Meredith Carr gives us a preview of commemorative events planned for the upcoming centennial of the Armistice. Dr. Peter Jacob introduces us to the World War 1 programming at the National Air and Space Museum. Jeff Lowdermilk joins us from the New Mexico World War 1 Centennial Commission. Donna Ching shares the 100 Cities/100 Memorials project in Honolulu. Katherine Akey highlights the commemoration of World War 1 in social media, and a whole lot more on World War 1 Centennial News, a weekly podcast brought to you by the U.S. World War 1 Centennial Commission, The Pritzker Military Museum and Library, and the Stars Foundation. I'm Theo Mayer, the chief technologist for the Commission and your host. Welcome to the show. As we screen, the stories running a hundred years ago this week in the New York Times and the official bulletin, the government's war gazette, a major U.S. Domestic fiend took front and center. The Germans were trying to bring the war to our shore. U-boats were cruising off our eastern seaboard, threatening our merchant shipping and sinking ships. Though the loss of life was minimum, the psychological effects were powerful, and the media was speaking to it. With that as a setup, we're going to jump into our centennial time machine and go back 100 years this week in the war that changed the world. From the front page of the official bulletin published by George Creel's Committee for Public Information. Dateline: Monday, June 3, 1918. Headline: Three American ships sunk off New Jersey coast by enemy submarines. Crews are rescued. The story reads: Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels authorizes the following statement. The Navy Department has been informed that three American schooners have been sunk off by this coast by enemy submarines. The secretary's statement closes with: the Navy Department is taking the necessary steps to safeguard the shipping along the coast. The next day in the bulletin. Dateline: Tuesday, June 4, 1918. Headline: Navy announces now five U.S. Ships sunk by submarines off Atlantic Coast, one life known lost, steamship Carolina not heard from since reported under fire of U-boats Sunday afternoon. Oil tanker among the vessels reported lost. Later, in the same issue of the bulletin, there's a first-person account of the attack. It's an account of how these attacks went throughout the week. Headline: Steamer Bristol chased by submarine after picking up schooner Cole's crew. Later saw second steamship sunk. The story reads: The captain of the Bristol reported, "On June 2nd at 4:30, I sighted a lifeboat with 11 men. The crew of the American schooner, Edward H. Cole, the Cole having been sunk by a submarine at 3:30 PM about 50 miles southeast of the of Barnegat light. The crew of the Cole say that the submarine was about 200 feet long and was armed with two six-inch guns. About 3:00 PM, the Cole sighted the submarine on the starboard bow about 2,000 yards away. He circled around and came up on their port side. The submarine commander told the captain and the crew to get in their boats, saying that he was going to sink the vessel. Then he came aboard and examined the ship's papers, and at the same time, gave the captain seven and a half minutes to leave the ship. About 15 minutes after the crew got away from the Cole, it sank. Four bombs have been placed on the vessel, two on each side, and some were placed about the deck. The submarine stayed until the crew rowed to the northwest. One hour later, when we were about four miles from the submarine, another steamship appeared close up to the submarine, which fired five times before she altered her course." On Wednesday, another front page story in the bulletin. Dateline: Wednesday, June 5, 1918. Headline: U.S. Destroyer stopped U-boat attack on French steamer off Maryland coast. Warship also takes onboard man from the Edward Baird bombed and sinking. Another story in the same issue lists 11 U.S. ships reported to navy as sunk by submarines. The articles goes on to read off the names of the ships. The smallest of which was a 436 ton schooner, and the largest, a steamship at 7,200 tons. Then an article from the New York Times. Headline: Texel sunk, 36 survivors landed. Former Dutch steamer attacked by a U-boat 60 miles from the city. Fired without warning, shrapnel rained on deck. Men reach Atlantic City lighthouse in small boats. The story reads: 36 survivors of the steamer Texel, a former Dutch ship which recently have been operated by the United States Shipping Board was sunk without warning 60 miles off New York Harbor. It was Sunday afternoon at 4:21. The crew and lifeboats landed at a nearby lighthouse just before midnight. A cargo of 42,000 tons of sugar valued at \$20 a ton was lost. The total loss was more than \$2 million. The stories go on throughout the week and beyond with articles providing first-hand accounts of the attacks. Many times, in attacking the unarmed merchant ships, the U-boats would fire warning from guns, come aboard, examine papers, get the crew to abandon ship, and blow them up with bombs rather than wasting torpedoes. If the ships were armed to fight back, the submarines would stand off and torpedo them. The general loss of life was not large, but the disruption to shipping in our eastern seaboard was profound. We posted a lot of research links for you in the podcast notes. The most compelling are the first-person accounts of the attacks, as the Germans bring the war to our shore a hundred years ago this week in the war that changed the world. Now, this week for the war in the sky a hundred years ago, we can easily stay on the theme of the war on our shore with two stories, and then we head overseas to pick up the

action there. Dateline: June 5, 1918. Headline: City lights out in air raid test. Aviators make observations preliminary to possible darkening of the streets. Anti-aircraft guns ready. System of siren signals arranged to warn people of dangers from the skies. The story reads: Electric lines and all lights, except street lamps and lights in dwellings, were out in the city last night in compliance with orders issued by police commissioner and the suggestion of the War Department as a precaution against a possible attack by aircraft from a German submarine. While the probability of raids by aircraft from submarines is not considered to be great, officers of the army and navy urge that every precaution be taken in spite of the difficulties attending to such an operation to assemble an airplane on a submarine and launch it for a raid is held to be far from impossible. Another article. Dateline: June 3, 1918. Headline: Aero club wants more aviators to hunt U-boats here. The story reads: Extension of the airplane mail service is to give long-distance flight training to American aviators to fit them for seeking out submarines, which now have appeared off the coast. Meanwhile, from the war in the skies over Europe, a story in the New York Times reads: Dateline: June 2nd, 1918. Headline: Campbell, First Ace of America, California pilot honored as well as two others who flew with Lafayette Corps. Campbell downs fifth adversary. The story reads: The first American trained ace has arrived. This morning, Lieutenant Douglas Campbell of California brought down his fifth boche plane in a fight back of our lines. Besides Campbell, America has two other aces, a Major William Thaw and a Captain Peterson, but both Thaw and Peterson got their training in the Lafayette Escadrille. Campbell, on the other hand, never trained with any other outfit but the Americans and never did any air fighting before he arrived on the American front a few weeks ago. Campbell is the son of the chief astronomer of the Lick Observatory near Pasadena, California. He joined the American Air Force after the United States entered the war and came to France and began practice flying last fall. He is 22 years old, and he is the first to get the credit of being a Simon-pure American ace. In the final story from the New York Times, we have a frontline correspondence story about the growing allied air superiority in France. Dateline: June 7, 1918. Headline: Air superiority rewon, allied bombers operate with impunity on the French battlefield. The story reads: In the valley of the Saviere, our bombardment squadrons threw more than 17 tons of bombs on enemy troop concentrations says last night's communique. The New York Times correspondent today visited one of the finest aviation groups in the French army and learned a first-hand story of that exploit. In the early afternoon, the airmen were informed that a large number of Germans were assembling in the valley on the Saviere, a little river whose course almost parallel to the front. Owing to the configuration of the ground, they were sheltered from the fire of artillery, and it was evident that they intended to reinforce the German move westward into the Forest of Villers-Cotterets. A first squadron of bomb planes were sent out, then a second. At first, no Germans were visible. Then circling low, the airman discovered the enemy hiding in the horseshoe woods on the eastern side of the valley. Again, the German battalions were subjected to a terrible bombardment amidst the trees that gave no protection. Before the decimated units could reform, the first squadron had returned with a new load. Once more, the wood was filled with the roar of explosion. No human morale could stand such a triple strain. In vain, the German officers tried to reform their panic-stricken men. When the French infantry counterattacked, they had an easy victory over the weakened forces that had made the advance. Those are some of the stories a hundred years ago this week from the war in the sky. Let's move on to the Great War Project with Mike Shuster, former NPR correspondent and curator for the Great War Project blog. Mike, your post this week includes a really interesting and relatively unknown skirmish near the village of Montsec when the U.S. Forces get thrown off of a hill there for one night, and the Germans used that for propaganda that the Americans can't fight. Of course, that turns out to be quite incorrect, but things are far from rosy at this point, aren't they?

[0:13:00]

Mike Shuster: Far from rosy is exactly right, Theo. The headline reads: A million Americans now in France fighting again in Russia calls for statehood in Central Europe, new challenges in the Middle East. This is special to the Great War Project. The mutual discord between Allied leaders and the American commanding general, John J. Pershing, often reaches a level of frank dislike, but it is not confined to the American commander alone. So notes one British officer assigned as liaison for the Allied command, "While I was having tea with Lloyd George, the British prime minister, the PM astonished me by starting in to tell me what a foul commander they had in the field, Sir Douglas Haig. It is unbelievable," writes the liaison officer. "He lost 700,000 men last summer unnecessarily," Lloyd George complained. "I want to remove him, but I cannot find anybody to replace him." Then the PM started in on how badly General Pershing was behaving. This is a moment of terrible distrust and indecision for all the Allies, and it is a moment that needed anything but mistrust if France, Britain, and now the United States are going to win the war. Indeed, amidst all this fruitless squabbling, "the American Expeditionary Forces, or AEF, were now growing rapidly. Between April and July 1918," writes historian Gary Mead, "about one million American soldiers stepped off the boat in France. The German offensives were initially very successful that spring," writes Mead, "in quantity of munitions, tanks, aircraft, and artillery. The Americans are now making up much of that considerable superiority." One place in northern France that the Allies hold is the village of Montsec. It is thought to be the most impregnable position in all of France, and at this point, the Americans hold it. The two sides fight night after night there, but little changes. One night that spring a century ago, the Germans attack the Americans there. The fighting is savage. The Germans seize the heights that night but then withdraw the next morning. "The doughboys had the humiliating experience," writes historian Mead, "of being allowed to reoccupy what they were expected never to lose in the first place." Mead continues, "The Germans made the most of this early success against the Americans, going so far as to deliver

lengthy reports with pictures of the affair to neutral countries. Berlin radio even broadcast an account of how the Americans had been resoundingly thumped. Something would have to be done," writes Mead, "to recover what was for Pershing a dreadful loss of face." The mood in the Allied camp is terribly gloomy. "More than ever," writes historian Mead, "The Americans needed to prove themselves." Meanwhile, although most of the war news is dominated by France and the Western Front, there is still a war in the east. Fighting is spreading in Russia once again, reports historian Martin Gilbert, and Gilbert adds, "the political and military wars were marching side by side." Important developments occur in Eastern Europe and the Middle East as well. On June 3rd, the Allies announce their full support for Polish, Czech, and Yugoslav statehood. The next day, under pressure from Britain, and especially from T.E. Lawrence, the Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann meets with Emir Feisal, the leader of the Arab Revolt at Aqaba, and at that moment in towns all over Ukraine, "thousands of Jews are being murdered," Gilbert reports, "by anti-Bolshevik forces whose historic anti-Semitism combined with a new hatred of pro-Bolshevik Jews now in control of the Russian government." That's some of the news from the Great War Project this week a century ago.

[0:16:37]

Theo Mayer: Mike Shuster, curator of the Great War Project blog. The link to his post is in the podcast notes. That leads us to America Emerges: Military Stories from World War 1 with Dr. Edward Lengel. The Americans turned out to be fierce fighter despite all initial uncertainty coming from the French and the British allies, and of course, the German propaganda that these guys are no fighters. Ed is here to tell us about how one division, the Third, proved their worth in battle, Ed.

[0:17:10]

Ed Lengel: The U.S. 3rd Division proudly calls itself "Rock of the Marne." It earned that title in the spring and summer of 1918 when the division helps turn back major German attacks across the Marne River in France. The doughboys' work began on May 31, 1918, at a little village called Château-Thierry. American machine gunners were first to fight. French commanders did not trust the U.S. 3rd Division. It had been formed in November 1917 from Regular Army units scattered across North America, but it was never actually assembled in the United States. Instead, 3rd Division troops, including infusions of draftees, were shipped to Europe in separate parcels and brought together behind the lines. Division commander General Joseph T. Dickman was perhaps the most combat-experienced of all American generals. His men liked him, and he was a solid tactician, but he never forgave the French for underestimating his division. The German offensive of May 27th shattered French lines along the Chemin des Dames. Fears that the Germans would drive directly on Paris led to calls for the American 2nd and 3rd Divisions to rush to the front to stem the tide. Since American machine gun formations had their own motor transport, they got there first. On the afternoon of May 31, 1918, troops of the 3rd Division's 7th Machine Gun Battalion arrived at the front, badly battered. Their maniac drivers had driven them full speed along potholed and rutted roads in sturdy Model T Ford trucks. They arrived like the U.S. Cavalry in a gigantic cloud of dust at a bridge spanning the Marne River into Château-Thierry. French troops cheered wildly. The American machine gunners were assigned to the French 10th Colonial Division, defending the sector. As the Americans deployed, French Senegalese troops from Africa fought savagely to keep the Germans out of the town. French General Jean-Baptiste Marchand, an African explorer, directed the Americans to set up posts in houses and a sugar refinery overlooking the river. One section of Company A, with 12 men and two machine guns under Lieutenant John T. Bissell, was sent across the bridge into Château-Thierry to scout and fight alongside the Colonials. The Senegalese beat back the Germans on May 31st, but on June 1st the enemy attacked again in one of the war's more dramatic actions. German infantry broke into Château-Thierry at several points. The Senegalese fought house to house. Bissell's guns and other machine gunners south of the Marne opened fire, hitting the Germans hard, but there were not enough to stop them. Finally, a brave German captain charged across the bridge with a dozen men, hoping to capture it. American and French machine guns at a roadblock stopped him flat. To their horror, the Germans realized the bridge was about to blow and raced back for their lives. The captain and a few others made it. The rest were blown sky high. Lieutenant Bissell and his section barely made it out of Château-Thierry in time by using an old railroad bridge. The village was lost, but the German offensive stopped at the riverside. From here on, American forces would remain in combat non-stop until the war ended. The 3rd Division would battle a major German offensive along the Marne on July 15. First, though, the 2nd Division would enter combat at Belleau Wood.

[0:20:33]

Theo Mayer: Dr. Edward Lengel is an American military historian and author, and segment host for America Emerges: Military Stories from World War 1. There are links in the podcast notes to Ed's posts and his websites as an author. That's what was happening a hundred years ago this week. Now, it's time to fast-forward into the present with World War 1 Centennial News Now. This part of the podcast focuses on now and how we're commemorating the centennial of World War 1. In Commission news, with the centennial of the Armistice only six months away, the U.S. World War 1 Centennial Commission is preparing for a national commemoration of this very significant moment on November 11th, 2018. Of course, Armistice Day has evolved to Veterans Day, but this year, it's marked with very special significance as the centennial of the end of World War 1. Meredith Carr, the deputy director of the U.S. World War 1 Centennial Commission is heading up the initiative of what will happen on November 11th, and we thought it

would be great to have her come on the show and give us a heads-up on what we can expect both in Washington D.C. And around the nation. Meredith, welcome to the podcast.

[0:21:56]

Meredith Carr: Thanks so much, Theo. It's great to be here.

[0:21:59]

Theo Mayer: Meredith, I have to give everybody a little insider information. Way back in 2013, Meredith used to host a weekly conference call for all the organizations planning the World War 1 Centennial, and that very same conference call is what evolved into this podcast. Welcome home, Meredith.

[0:22:17]

Meredith Carr: Thank you very much. Yes, the early days of what we called the sync call. I'm sure some of your listeners were part of my early team that did that every Wednesday at noon. We've come a very long way, Theo, and the podcast is a wonderful transition of that sync call.

[0:22:32]

Theo Mayer: Let's talk about some of the events the Commission has got planned to commemorate the end of World War 1 on November 11th this year. Can you start by telling us about the event at the Washington National Cathedral?

[0:22:42]

Meredith Carr: Absolutely. We're really excited about our signature events this year to commemorate the centennial of the Armistice. This year, November 11th falls on a Sunday. We're so excited to partner with the Washington National Cathedral here in D.C. For a sacred interfaith worship service that Sunday morning beginning around 10:00 AM. The worship service will remember the sacrifices of the 4.7 million Americans who served in the great war. It will honor the role the U.S. Military has played in preserving peace and liberty around the world for the last 100 years. It will start with real commemoration and remembrance and switch to a message of peace.

[0:23:22]

Theo Mayer: If I'm not in Washington D.C., you've got some other programs that everyone around the country can participate in, a bell tolling in specific. Can you tell us about that?

[0:23:30]

Meredith Carr: As part of the sacred service, we're really excited to launch really grassroots program called Bells of Peace: a World War 1 Remembrance. This is a program where we encourage American Citizens and organizations across the whole country to toll bells in their communities 21 times at 11:00 AM. As you know, the Armistice took effect on the 11th day of the 11th hour of the 11th month. 11:00 AM, anyone's local time, so starting on the East Coast and rolling through the rest of the country, we will encourage everyone to take part in Bells of Peace. We are developing this program with our commemorative partners and our stakeholders to really honor the American men and women who served 100 years ago in World War 1.

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Theo Mayer: For all those people who may not have a bell, we're actually developing an app so that they can participate on their smartphones.

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Meredith Carr: That's right, Theo. We are in development of an app that will allow organizations and even individuals download the app on their phone and participate across the globe. You can upload photos of your bell tolling and use the recording of a bell for that 21-bell toll if you don't have a bell to ring. We really encourage this to be a national commemoration, like you said, not just in Washington D.C. We need your help. We need everyone's help to spread the word, our stakeholders, our partners, our communities. We will soon have a landing page on our website for frequently asked questions and how you can participate.

[0:25:00]

Theo Mayer: Now, I know it's a little early, but you also have plans coming together for what's going to be happening at Pershing Park in Washington D.C. Can you tell us what the park is and what the plans are?

[0:25:10]

Meredith Carr: Absolutely. For your listeners that do not know, Pershing Park is the site that has been designated by the U.S. Congress to be the National World War 1 Memorial. Since it will be the centennial of the Armistice, we wanted to do something in Pershing Park. We're planning a series of programs for the week of November 5 through 12. It will include events like film and documentary screenings, musical performances, potential exhibits, things for

school children. The capstone of that will be the unveiling screening of Soldier's Journey, a production we are doing that tells the story of the World War 1 sculpture that is being done by Sabin Howard that will be in the park. It'll about a 15-minute broadcast. I would also like to mention that shorter video vignettes will be available to all of our partners and stakeholders to use in their respective commemorative events across the country. It will be available this fall. Another resource that would be great for all of these events, we're calling them Armistice Centennial Event or ACE as it were. We'll have the sample liturgy that we're using at the cathedral for other churches across the country to use. We have collected beautiful content to include hymns and poems and readings that could be used in local commemorative events. We will make sure all of this is available to everyone across the country as we do their own things across the U.S. And the globe. I'll make sure all of our listeners have all that information as we get closer. We're still about six months out.

[0:26:43]

Theo Mayer: It sounds like there are some wonderful plans coming together. We're going to have you back on the show to keep us updated because I think the point is really to give everybody the tools and the ideas and the resources so that the Armistice of World War 1 can be commemorated all across the country. Thank you.

[0:27:01]

Meredith Carr: Thanks so much. It was great to be here.

[0:27:03]

Theo Mayer: Meredith Carr, deputy director of World War 1 Centennial Commission. Follow the links in the podcast notes to learn more about the upcoming World War 1 commemoration events across the country. A Century in the making is our ongoing narrative about the National World War 1 Memorial at Pershing Park in Washington D.C. This week, CBS News Radio is running a story where host Chas Henry, himself a retired U.S. Marine Corps captain did an extended interview for CBS Eye on Veterans with Commissioner Ed Fountain and Memorial Designer Joe Weishaar recorded at Pershing Park. The segment will air Saturday, June 9th between 6:00 and 8:00 PM Eastern, and then again on Sunday, June 10th between 2:00 and 4:00 PM Eastern. You'll find the interview at around 34 minutes into the show and it runs for nearly 25 minutes. An interesting perspective on the memorial not to be missed. Here is a brief introduction with host Chas Henry.

[0:28:02]

Chas Henry: CBS Eye on Veterans presented by Wells Fargo. Tucked away just off Washington D.C.'s National Mall is a block-long park featuring a statue of World War 1 General John Pershing.

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Speaker 6: The general is lifting a pair of binoculars to look out onto the battlefield. What he's really looking out onto though was a park that was built in the 1980s.

[0:28:21]

Chas Henry: Which has since become quite rundown. There are plans though to renovate this site as a memorial to those who served during the First World War. Edward Fountain of the World War 1 Centennial Commission says it's only fair given monuments on the Mall to the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

[0:28:36]

Edward Fountain: We lost more men in combat in World War 1 in about six months of serious fighting than we lost in 16 years in Vietnam.

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Chas Henry: Chas Henry, ConnectingVets.com for CBS News.

[0:28:51]

Theo Mayer: For this week's Commemoration Events section, we're very pleased to welcome Dr. Peter Jacob, chief curator at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. Welcome, Dr. Jacob.

[0:29:03]

Dr. Peter Jacob: Nice to talk to you.

[0:29:05]

Theo Mayer: Dr. Jacob, let me start by asking you about curation. Now, World War 1 is an incredibly important moment for flight technology, and a lot of the planes and materials from the era are lost to time. How do you approach this really complex period in aviation history?

[0:29:20]

Dr. Peter Jacob: Well, we're fortunate at the National Air and Space Museum to have one of the world's premier collections of World War 1 aircraft. We had nearly 20 original aircraft from that period. In fact, our most recent acquisition was just a few months ago, an original Sopwith Camel British World War 1 Fighter. We're really fortunate to have an amazing collection, although the Camel just came to us quite recently, a number of these aircraft actually were transferred to the Smithsonian just after the war from the War Department. We got them just after the war, and we preserved them for a century at the museum.

[0:29:54]

Theo Mayer: The National Air and Space Museum is hosting this wonderful exhibit called Artist Soldiers. It's a great exhibit and it's not particularly about flight. It's about all sorts of imagery. How did you wind up doing that at the Air and Space Museum?

[0:30:07]

Dr. Peter Jacob: Well, we have a dedicated art gallery at the National Air and Space Museum, so we rotate our exhibitions all the time. Artist Soldiers: Artistic Expression in the First World War 1 is a collaborative exhibition with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The collection that they have is AEF war art. These were eight professional illustrators who were commissioned in the American Army during World War 1, and their mission was to go over and capture the experience of the AEF soldiers in the moment in a very realistic way and to communicate that back to folks back home and to try to share what that experience was and of course, drum up support for the soldiers in France. About 700 works of art were created by the AEF artists. About 500 of those have been preserved in the collection at the American History Museum, and they've been shown only in an extensive way one time back in the 1920s. There was a large exhibition, The Great War at the Smithsonian. For the most part, these are unseen works of art that have not been seen in living history. The exhibition also features contemporary art photographs taken of some extraordinary spaces underground in France. These were shelters that soldiers on all sides used during the war. Everyone, of course, is very familiar with the trenches of World War 1, but adjacent to the trenches were abandoned stone quarries. These stone quarries have been used for centuries for castles, cathedral, that sort of thing, but during the war, they were used as refuge for the soldiers. There even some battles down in these spaces. What's really fascinating is you see stone carvings that the soldiers did on the walls. Again, these are abandoned stone quarries, so the wall, the floor, the ceiling were all stone, and they left these artworks for posterity, and a number of years ago, a photographer by the name of Jeff Gusky had gotten permission to go down into these spaces and has created these amazing art photographs of the stone carvings left by the soldiers. All great historical events are really made up of the experiences of individuals. That is really reflected in the artwork that we display in the museum.

[0:32:21]

Theo Mayer: It's really striking stuff. It's really beautiful. You have an upcoming musical event called The Yanks Are Coming: The Songs of World War 1. Could you tell us about that?

[0:32:30]

Dr. Peter Jacob: Yes. We have a four-year-long program here at the Air and Space Museum. We began in 2014, which includes, of course, the exhibition we just talked about, but also a wide variety of programming. Last year, we had a year-long Hollywood film series. We've done lectures, that sort of thing. In this concluding year in 2018, we have a couple of interesting music programs. Just upcoming on Saturday, June 9th, we have The Yanks Are Coming: The Songs of World War 1. This is really an interesting combination lecture concert about popular song in World War 1. A gentleman called Michael Lasser, who is a well-known author and lecturer will be coming to talk about how social change caused by World War 1, which reflected in the music of the time. It'll be a concert, but also one that really share some insight into what these songs really represented in terms of dramatic social changes that were caused by the First World War.

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Theo Mayer: The music really was a reflection at the time. Does the museum have any specific activities planned for the Armistice centennial?

[0:33:36]

Dr. Peter Jacob: Yes. We have, of course, the Artist Soldier exhibition continues and that will be the concluding weekend of the exhibition. It actually opened on April 6, 2017, and closes on November 11, 2018, so it mirrors the American period. We also, at our Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. We have our National Air and Space Museum building, and we have our second building out via Dulles International Airport, the Udvar-Hazy Center, where we're having a World War 1 focused family day. We'll have lots of educational events for families and young people that is on November 3rd, which is a little bit before the Armistice weekend. We also ... Another music program on November 10th over Armistice this weekend and this is a more of a classical music performance. It's called Silent Night, a World

War 1 memorial in song, and two classical performers, John Brancy and Peter Dugan, singer and pianist interpret a variety of songs that were all composed during the First World War. That will be an evening program on November the 10th, part of our concluding event through that weekend.

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Theo Mayer: The museum has, really, wonderful ways for people who aren't in Washington to enjoy your content as well. Could you tell our audience a bit about how they could enjoy the museum in other ways?

[0:34:51]

Dr. Peter Jacob: Of course, the National Air and Space Museum has a website. If you just simply go to air and space, put in those words into your search engine, you'll get the website of the National Air and Space Museum. One of the things that we have featured on the website is the online version of the Artist Soldiers exhibition. You can see all of the artworks and the other artifacts that are in the exhibition on the website. We will be live webcasting this Saturday's program, The Yanks Are Coming, our popular song presentation. That's at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 9, so you can catch that live on the webcast there as well as, of course, all of our World War 1 aircraft and other associated material can be accessed on the website as well. You can learn about all the wonderful original World War 1 aircraft that we have in the collection and on display by going to the website as well.

[0:35:45]

Theo Mayer: Well, Dr. Jacob, thank you so much for all the great focus that you're bringing to the centennial of World War 1 and for coming on the podcast and telling us about it.

[0:35:53]

Dr. Peter Jacob: My pleasure. Thank you for letting me share what we have going on at the National Air and Space Museum.

[0:35:57]

Theo Mayer: Dr. Peter Jacob is the chief curator at Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. Learn more about the museum and its World War 1 programs and exhibitions at the links in the podcast notes. This week in Updates from the States, we're headed to a state we don't automatically associate with World War 1, but the connections are deep. It's New Mexico, the land of enchantment. To tell us about New Mexico and World War 1 is Jeff Lowdermilk, deputy chairman of the New Mexico World War 1 Centennial Commission. Jeff, welcome to the podcast.

[0:36:33]

Jeff Lowdermilk: Thank you very much, Theo. I appreciate the opportunity.

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Theo Mayer: Jeff, let me start with your state in World War 1. Now, you were just two years old when World War 1 broke out, what was New Mexico like a hundred years ago, and how did you participate in the war effort?

[0:36:49]

Jeff Lowdermilk: Well, this is a great question with a great answer. New Mexico became a state in 1912, a good place to start is the Pancho Villa raid on the tiny border town of Columbus, New Mexico in March the 19th, 1916. This led to the punitive expedition with General Pershing, who was a brigadier general at the time. There's a lot going on with this raid, and almost state in the union sent National Guard. Of course, New Mexico was part of this story. We've just been a state for four years, but the National Guard was sent to secure the border. There is an interesting story here. After the war began, the New Mexico National Guard was split into the 40th Division and 41st Division. In particular, in the 41st Division, these fellows were from Roswell, New Mexico, and they had come from an artillery unit that was actually on the border with the Pancho Villa episode, and they stayed together within the 41st Division as the 146th Field Artillery Battery A. They fought as New Mexicans, so it's really unique to our state.

[0:38:09]

Theo Mayer: About how many people served from New Mexico during the war?

[0:38:13]

Jeff Lowdermilk: There were right around 17,000 New Mexicans that were in the war and went to France. At that time, there were around 380,000, that was the total population of the state, and so that comes out to about four and a half percent of the population went off to war.

[0:38:32]

Theo Mayer: Wow. Of course, that was the men of households. That was a really large, large number of people.

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Jeff Lowdermilk: Yes, indeed it was. Looking at the divisions and what I know about World War 1, there were New Mexicans in every battle the United States was in. At the war's end, there were 560 New Mexicans that lost their lives. 93 of those are buried in Europe in the American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries.

[0:39:00]

Theo Mayer: New Mexico's World War 1 Centennial Commission was only just recently established. Can you tell us about that?

[0:39:06]

Jeff Lowdermilk: We formed the commission about six months ago. I've been working on establishing the commission for some time. I've had a nice friendship with Chris Christopher with the National Commission. Through Chris, I knew about the Commission. I knew about the states and how it all came together. I have been talking with my good friends Retired Brigadier General Jack Fox and my friend Major General Ken Nava. We had a wonderful meeting with a group of us at the New Mexico History Museum. It's hosted by Andy Wulf, who is the director of the museum. Here, we have this room full of dynamic people all trying to get on the same page with what do we with World War 1. I remember. I said, "We have our commission." It came together right there. We had a lot of enthusiasm and we really have a dynamic terrific group. It's just a joy to work with all these folks.

[0:40:09]

Theo Mayer: What kind of programs are the Commission planning?

[0:40:12]

Jeff Lowdermilk: Our agenda is largely based on education and public awareness. Our programs are being developed this summer and getting ready to the fall school year. That'll be the link between the National Commission and our public school system. There's one more thing to highlight, what we'd like to do is over the next few years, we want to develop or sponsor a World War 1 memorial in New Mexico. We currently don't have a World War 1 monument or memorial. We want to have something that we could leave behind so when we close down the commission in a few years, we really have something that's going to be lasting.

[0:40:55]

Theo Mayer: Jeff, what other programs do you have?

[0:40:58]

Jeff Lowdermilk: On August the 25th, the Commission is sponsoring a day-long World War 1 symposium at our New Mexico History Museum. Really, a fun part of this, Dennis Reinhartz New Mexico Historical Society president, he's on our Commission, his great-uncle fought in the German army. He's going to put together a presentation, and then I also give a slideshow presentation based on my book, Honoring the Doughboys.

[0:41:29]

Theo Mayer: It's called Honoring the Doughboys: Following My Grandfather's World War 1 Diary, where you retraced your grandfather's journey through Europe. Can you give us a quick overview of that whole story?

[0:41:39]

Jeff Lowdermilk: When my grandfather passed away 1983 and my mother gave me his World War 1 diary and his division book, over the time, I got just absolutely fascinated with all this. In 2002, I thought, "I got to go over there." It became from a curiosity to a passion to a way of life. I've had just a marvelous time with this adventure. It's published in late 2013. It's currently for sale on the U.S. Commission's website. I receive a nice endorsement from the Commission as well, so I'm extremely proud of that.

[0:42:22]

Theo Mayer: New Mexico is really lucky to have a person with your passion and your focus on this to help bring everybody together. Congratulations on the Commission and the new website and you're doing great stuff.

[0:42:35]

Jeff Lowdermilk: Thank you, Theo. This has been a lot of fun. I appreciate that very much.

[0:42:39]

Theo Mayer: The New Mexico and World War 1 website can be found at ww1cc.org/newmexico, all one word, all lower case. Jeff Lowdermilk is an author and the deputy chairman of the New Mexico World War 1 Centennial Commission. Learn more about New Mexico and World War 1 by going to their website or by following the links in the

podcast notes. Moving to our 100 Cities/100 Memorial segment about the \$200,000 matching grant challenge to rescue and focus on local World War 1 memorials. This week, we're crossing the Pacific to Honolulu, Hawaii. Now, Hawaii has been in the news a lot for weeks with volcano eruptions on the big island, but Hawaii was also on the news a hundred years ago this week when on June 4th, 1918, the Secretary of War announced with a headline that read: Hawaiian National Guard adds 3,200 men to army. Now, Hawaii wasn't even a state yet, but a force of 3,200 men were to be added to the army from a proclamation by President Wilson, placing the Hawaiian National Guard in service. They weren't actually planning to send these forces to France, but rather to relieve the forces that the U.S. Army had stationed there, freeing them up for deployment. According to the article in the official bulletin, the Hawaiian forces were genuinely cosmopolitan with native Hawaiians, Americans, Filipinos, Chinese-Americans, Japanese-Americans and more. After the war, Hawaii dedicated a large swimming venue as a World War 1 memorial. It's called the Natatorium. Here to tell us about the venue, its restoration, and its designation as a World War 1 Centennial memorial is Donna Ching, vice chairman of Hawaii's World War 1 Centennial Task Force. She's also the vice president of the Friends of the Natatorium, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the ocean pool known as Hawaii's living war memorial. Donna, welcome to the podcast.

[0:44:41]

Donna Ching: Thanks, Theo. I'm so happy to be here.

[0:44:43]

Theo Mayer: Donna, what is the Natatorium?

[0:44:45]

Donna Ching: The War Memorial Natatorium is a 100-meter by 40-meter double Olympic size salt water pool sitting on the shoreline of Waikiki at the foot of Diamond Head. It's a Beaux-Art design construction. It's quite beautiful, and it has this lovely arched façade that people walk into and bleachers that I'm told will hold 1,500 people, but on opening night, there were 7,000 people packed in there, so you can imagine how crazy it was. It really became, in addition to a place for very serious international swimmers trained and competed, it became this gathering place for the community. Back in the 1920s and '30s, and even into the '40s, much of Waikiki shoreline did not look the way it did. There wasn't as much shoreline. What shoreline there was, it's privately owned. Now, of course, today, there are no privately-owned beaches in the entire State of Hawaii, but back then, the resorts owned the beaches. The regular people, local folks and kids, couldn't go to the beaches really that easily. The Natatorium was a place that welcomed people of all income, of all ethnicities. I think it so well-lived up the intention of the conceiving community as a living memorial that was a gathering place for people. It made history of its own as a competitive swimming venue, as a gathering place for the community. I mean, it's just a very important thing for us.

[0:46:15]

Theo Mayer: Well, it's referred to as a living memorial, why is that?

[0:46:19]

Donna Ching: There were a lot of other civilian contributions as well, and so the idea that we should have a living memorial that also honors the service and sacrifice of those who died as well as those who volunteered, and that people should be manifestly the enjoying the freedom won by the Great War in a , which is a sacred place, was the idea that the conceiving committee had. When the question was posed to this committee, what do we do to honor Hawaii's World War 1 effort? Hawaii was coming on to the international scene as an international powerhouse, and of course, we're an island state surrounded by water, and we have a storied swimming and surfing legacy, so the thought was why not have a memorial that people could actually go into and use and celebrate life in liberty. I think that that was the inspiration for why a living memorial with a swimming pool as opposed to statuary, as an example.

[0:47:21]

Theo Mayer: Donna, I think most people have never really thought about Hawaii in World War 1, but there really do seem to be a surprising number of connections.

[0:47:29]

Donna Ching: Well, it's really interesting, and thanks for that well-research lead in about Hawaii's role in the Great War, at least part of it. Actually, our connection to World War 1 goes back even further to the trigger for the U.S. Entry into the war, the SS Aztec, the U.S. Flag merchant mariner ship was sunk by a German U-boat on April 1st, 1917. On that merchant mariner ship, six of the 29 men who perished in that sinking were from Hawaii. The war was actually quite personal for us, and I think that that is part of why our patriotic response, even though we were not even a state, we were just barely even a territory. We still had a queen on the throne, and yet, our response to the World War 1 call for volunteers was enormous. More than 10,000 contributed to the war efforts, including, of course, the military combatant. There was so much outpouring of volunteerism towards the Great War by the territory of Hawaii. I would argue that it was one of the greatest in the country.

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Theo Mayer: Tell me a little bit about the effort to restore the memorial?

[0:48:42]

Donna Ching: Long and roller coaster-ish, but after the heyday, it fell into disrepair and was ultimately closed in 1979. Efforts to both restore and demolish the memorial started back then. For the last 40 years, we have had the pendulum swinging back and forth between demolition efforts and restoration efforts. I would say the highlights of those efforts included a Supreme Court ruling to block demolition. That helped us a lot. Fast-forward to today, we're at the World War 1 Centennial, and I can't tell you what a bright white-hot spotlight this shines on the issue of what are we doing with our war memorial. We're really grateful for the designation from the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program because it does help emphasize the relevance of our living memorial and the context of a global event.

[0:49:37]

Theo Mayer: Rumor has it that you have big plans for the Armistice centennial coming up on 11/11.

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Donna Ching: Our plan for our centennial in Hawaii is to reopen our War Memorial Natatorium to the public for the first time since 1979. Now, obviously, we can't fix a pool that nobody has been able to fix for 40 years, but what we are doing is making it safe for people to get up onto those bleachers. We're going to be putting a stage in the middle of that pool, and we're going to have our Veterans Day service on the 100th anniversary of Armistice in our living memorial that has been closed since 1979. Now, why this is important is that two generations have passed now in 40 years that have never seen the inside of that place. I believe that the mere allowing of people inside to see that place will inspire a new wave of interest in preservation. Exposing, I think, the War Memorial Natatorium, Hawaii's World War 1 history, and all of what the living memorial means or should mean to people to a couple of generations of people is going to be hugely important for the preservation of all of that history.

[0:50:55]

Theo Mayer: Donna, it's a great story. It's about Hawaii. It's about the centennial. It's about the Armistice. For me, maybe most important, it's about passion for local heritage driven by World War 1. Thank you for bringing it to us.

[0:51:07]

Donna Ching: Thanks, Theo. I think it's one of Hawaii's great treasures, and we want to share it with the world.

[0:51:15]

Theo Mayer: Donna Ching, vice chairman of Hawaii's World War 1 Centennial Taskforce. Learn more about 100 Cities/100 Memorials program by following the link in the podcast notes. That brings us to The Buzz, the centennial of World War 1 this week in social media with Katherine Akey. Katherine, what's are this week's picks?

[0:51:35]

Katherine Akey: I wanted to share a couple of great resources and exhibits this week. In the fall, we let you know about the Department of Homeland Security's World War 1 posters series, which highlights the historic roles of the DHS components, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Customs and Border Protection, Secret Service, Coast Guard, and other legacy agencies. Well, the folks of DHS have now published these coasters as files on their posters as files on their website that you can download so the public can easily access them. There are wonderful free education resource, and you can check them out at the link included on the podcast notes. Additionally, there's a new open at the Library of Virginia in the state's capital of Richmond. The exhibit is called True Sons of Freedom. It explores the stories of Virginia's African-American soldiers who served during World War 1, and it'll be on view to the public through November 9th, 2018. I've also included a link to the exhibit's website in the podcast notes. The exhibit's website is a great resource for anyone who can't quite make it to Richmond. It includes profiles and photographs of dozens of Virginian men who served in the conflict. Finally, this week included June 6, well known as the anniversary of the World War 2 landings at Normandy, D-Day, but June also marks the anniversary of some of the most bloody and intense fighting American soldiers have ever faced fighting at Belleau Wood. The battle forged the modern day Marine Corps. You can read an article recently put out by the Washington Post and included in the podcast notes. It highlights the fighting in Belleau Wood from a hundred years ago and contextualizes its importance to modern day. That's it this week for The Buzz.

[0:53:19]

Theo Mayer: That wraps up episode number 75 of World War 1 Centennial News. Thank you so much for joining us. We also want to thank our guests, Mike Shuster, curator for the Great War Project Blog, Dr. Edward Lengel, military historian and author, Meredith Carr, deputy director of the World War 1 Centennial Commission, Dr. Peter Jacob, chief curator at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C., Jeff Lowdermilk, deputy chairman of the

New Mexico World War 1 Centennial Commission, Donna Ching, vice president of the Friends of the Natatorium, Katherine Akey, World War 1 photography specialist and the line producer for our podcast. Many thanks to Mac Nelson, our hardworking sound editor, and I'm Theo Mayer, your host. The U.S. World War 1 Centennial Commission was created by Congress to honor, commemorate, and educate about World War 1. Our programs are to inspire a national conversation and awareness about World War 1, including this podcast. We're bringing the lessons of 100 years ago into today's classrooms. We're helping to restore World War 1 memorials in communities of all sizes around our country, and of course, we're building America's National World War 1 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, that's Charlie, Nancy, now, with our new interactive transcript feature. You can also access the World War 1 Centennial News podcast on iTunes, Google Play, TuneIn, Podbean, Stitcher Radio on Demand, Spotify, using your smart speaker by saying "Play WW1 Centennial News Podcast", and now also available on YouTube. Just search for our WW1 Centennial YouTube channel. Our Twitter and Instagram handles are both @ww1cc, and we're on Facebook at ww1centennial. 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. Hey, in closing, we just want to welcome all our new summer interns at the U.S. World War 1 Centennial Commission, and we have somebody here to welcome you. Hey, Gunny, we haven't heard from you in a long time.

[0:56:20]

Gunny: Shut up, you maggot. Okay, Intern's listen up. Welcome to World War 1 Centennial boot camp. I don't want to see any of you trying to spit polish your tennis shoes, you got it? Interns, dismissed.

[0:56:35]

Theo Mayer: Thanks, Gunny, so long.

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