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**9 speakers** (Theo Mayer, Gen. Fosh, Dr. Edward Leng, Mike Shuster, Deborah Dudek, Lisa Polet, Bill and Vince, Musical Chorus, Katherine Achey)

[0:00:09]

**Theo Mayer:** Welcome World War One Centennial News, episode number 80. Thank you so much for joining us. And I also want to let you know that you can now find us on twitter @theWW1podcast. That's how you can ask us questions, make comments, get links from the show that you might've missed, or have us drop a note to one of our guests on your behalf. That's @The T-H-E-W-the number one podcast. Because of course, it's more than just a show, it's a conversation about the events 100 years ago this week, and the World War One centennial commemoration happening now about the war that changed the world. This week we're going to explore the relationship we've had with France, really since the birth of our nation. The war in the sky is going to remind us of a great tragedy 100 years ago this week. Dr Edward Lengel tells us about some American soldiers now known, and with good reason, as the Rock of the Marne. Mike Shuster shares the stories of some familiar names now in harm's way. Deborah Dudek helps us get started with how to find our ancestors who served 100 years ago. Bill Payne, Vince Bono, and Lisa Polet present the 100 Cities, 100 Memorials project from Saugerties New York. And the Buzz, where Katherine Achey highlights the commemoration of World War One in social media. World War One Centennial news is brought to you by the US World War One 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. Now just a couple of weeks after the fourth of July, when America celebrates its declaration of independence from the British Empire, we're at July 14th, which is France's Independence Day. And a lot happened on both the fourth of July and on the 14th of July 100 years ago this month, as the two nations recognized and celebrated their relationship and their friendship. So Franco-American relationship is our theme for this week's history segment. We're going to take a look at how we've honored and frustrated each other. And we thought we might even set our centennial time machine to take a little deeper dive and touch on our relationship where it started at the very birth of our nation as we explore Franco-American relations 100 years ago this week and more. We've gone back in time just a little over 240 years. It's 1775, and a young upstart group of colonies in the new world are railing against their sovereign king. How they insist that they will not continue to pay financial tribute to a government if they do not have a voice in how they're being governed. It's, you know, the old no taxation without representation thing. Well, the crown takes great umbrage at these snout nosed little colonists who simply do not seem to get that they belong to the British empire and that the imperial crown is their sovereign ruler. What's wrong with these guys? They clearly need to be reminded of who's boss. Well, that doesn't work out so well, and you know what these crazy guys do? They fight back and even crazier. Within a year, they rationalize their whole position about the rights of regular people, like not nobility kind of people, and they declare themselves independent from the crown on July fourth, 1776. Unbelievable. Well, I mean that's nice, but no question, the crown is about to hand them their butts in a bag. Except that these American colonists have this big buddy with some clout and an army and a navy. A friend with some history and some current colonial issues with the British empire. This is France, and in 1778 they make a treaty of alliance with the Americans which essentially finances America's fight for its independence. And that's the birth of a long and mostly tight friendship. The real story's actually a lot more complicated and convoluted than that, but that's the gist of it. But it's only the beginning. Okay. Let's jump forward in time, about 10 years, to 1789. And it's now the French people who decide to declare their own independence from their crown in a pretty unambiguous indefinite way using something called a guillotine. I mean, this idea that people, not descended from royals, are the foundation of government for the governed is a bigger American export than blue jeans, jazz, or the iPhone. Well, maybe not the iPhone, but we can talk about that. But you know, if you think about it, isn't that just a huge part of what's happening in 100 years ago in the war that changed the world? It's the end of empires. So the US Declaration of Independence on July fourth, 1776 from the British, and the French storming over the Bastille 13 years later on July 14th, 1789 against their royals, and this life and death, world war struggle for freedom from the imperial Kaiser 129 years later in 1918. Well, they're all kind of woven together into a really important relationship with our French friends. Dateline, July 15, 1918. A headline in the New York Times reads All Hail France and Mighty Tribute on Bastille Day, Nations Homage Voiced at Meeting Which Packs Madison Square Garden. Wilson's sends greetings. And the story reads: America and all the myriad people's whose blood mingles to make the American nation last night voiced their homage to France at the great meeting at Madison Square Garden. This closed New York City celebration of Bastille Day. All day, the salutes of war ships in the harbor, the formal military and naval ceremonials at forts naval stations and training camps, special services and honor of France, and the French spirit of liberty in many churches. Open air meetings in the afternoon, feats of flying performed in the air over the city by French and American aviators. All these had gone into New York City's celebration of the national holiday of France, the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille, which marked the beginning of French liberty. But these were of minor importance compared to the meeting last night where the presence of 12,000 persons including distinguished speakers and the ambassadors of leading allies and the secretary of the Navy representing President Wilson all paid tribute to France. The American speakers talked of Lafayette, of Romashow, of

Degrass, of France, which had held out her hand to a young and struggling United States striving for liberty. In the article, France's Generalissimo Foch, the supreme commander of allied forces in Europe, and normally a pretty severe critic of General Pershing's sent this cablegram message:

**[0:08:27]**

**Gen. Fosh:** We are celebrating today the anniversary of our independence, and we are fighting today for the independence of the entire world. After four years of struggle, the plans of the enemy for domination are stopped. He sees the number of his adversaries increasing each day, and the young American army brings into the battle a valor and a faith without equal. Is this not a sure pledge of the definitive triumph of the just cause? 125 years ago today, the Bastille fell. The dust rose so high in the air that it could be seen from every capital in the world. Some despotic rulers understood the meaning. Some did not. Just a few of the latter sorts still remain. The day when they shall understand, and shall disappear themselves. A remnant of an abolished past is not far off. When the Bastille fell, after awhile the dust cleared away. Nothing was to be seen of the old fortress. And what struck the site was another emblematic monument representing the new ideal of a new age whose motto is Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. Oh, well said, General Foch, and that's the end of our story this week. So on behalf of my fellow Americans, please join us in wishing happy birthday to our French friends and may our bonds endure through the ages.

**[0:10:07]**

**Theo Mayer:** And that brings us to the war in the sky with one of the most dramatic moments of this time, making news everywhere, both at home and overseas. Dateline Paris, July 17, 1918. A headline in the New York Times reads: Lieutenant Roosevelt Falls in Air Fight, Believed Killed. Quentin's Plane Tumbles Down Inside the Enemy Lines in Marne Battle. Colonel Roosevelt and Wife Accept With Fortitude the Fate of Their Youngest Son. Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt, youngest son of the former president, has been killed in an air fight. It is stated that his machine fell into the enemy lines. Lieutenant Roosevelt was last seen in combat on Sunday morning with two enemy airplanes, about 10 miles inside the German lines in the Chateau Thierry sector. He started out with a patrol of 13 American machines. They encountered seven Germans and were chasing them back, when two of them turned on Lieutenant Roosevelt. Reports of the fight state that the Germans appeared to be shooting at the lieutenant from the rear, the three machines being close together. Then one of the machines was seen tumbling through the clouds and a patrol, which went in search of Lieutenant Roosevelt, returned without a trace of him. He appeared to be fighting up to the last moment. One account of the combat states that the machine caught fire before it began to fall. Another report says that Roosevelt's plane was not in flames when it went down. Phillip Roosevelt, Quentin's cousin, is said to have witnessed the air battle in the vicinity of Chateau Thierry, in which Quentin was engaged, and saw the machine fall. But did not know until later that the airplane was that of his cousin, the Journal said today. Sadly the story is true. Quentin Roosevelt, the beloved youngest son of the former president, is killed this week, a 100 years ago in the war in the sky. The fighting for Americans is in full gear. As you'll hear during our segment, America emerges. Military stories from World War One with Dr Edward Lengel. Ed's story this week tells of turning points, showdowns, attacks, abandonments, determination, heroism, and in contrast to the official goodwill between the French and the American allies, what might have been a friendly fire incident involving a poodle.

**[0:12:44]**

**Dr. Edward Leng:** The tide of World War One, change permanently, 100 years ago in July 1918 when, General Erich Ludendorff launched another German offensive along the Marne River. Facing him in the front lines east of Chateau Thierry were several tired French infantry divisions and elements of two American divisions. For the 28th division, Pennsylvania National Guard, it was to be a baptism of fire. For the third division, The Marne River defense would be a supreme trial of strength. Controversy over French conduct, though, would result in the accidental shooting of a French officer by an American bullet. Ludendorff's offensive was named operation Marne shoots Reims. Its objective was to shatter French defenses along the Marne river and force a diversion of reserves that would allow the Germans to launch a fresh offensive further north that might drive the British army to the sea. The French, however, knew that the Germans were coming thanks to intelligence revelations from multiple sources. French Generalissimo Ferdinand Foch planned to stop the Germans cold on July 15th, and then three days later launch a major offensive towards soisson, led by the American first and second divisions. First, though, the American 3rd and 28th divisions would need to work with French forces to beat back the Germans east of Chateau Thierry. The Americans were eager to fight, but not alongside the French. The men of the 3rd Division served under a French corps commander whom they despised, General Jean de Mon Desieur, who demanded that they crowd their forces along the front. And tactics of 3rd Division commander General Joseph T Dickman, regarded as "A violation of fundamental principles, and utterly erroneous." To the east, the 28th Division had it worse. Instead of fighting as a unit, the Pennsylvanians were broken up by companies, embedded in a French 125th Infantry Division. A shaky outfit, as events would prove. The German attack was planned for the early morning hours of July 15th. Forewarned, American and French artillery pounded the German infantry before they could even leave their trenches. German artillery responded effectively, however, smashing American 3rd Division outposts along the river bank. Just before zero hour, the Germans saturated the riverbank with sneezing gas, followed by poison gas. The idea being that the sneezing gas would make it impossible for the defenders to keep their masks on. But the Americans were well-drilled, and had prepared their masks well in

advance. When German infantry surged across the river on boats and pontoons, the Americans opened a withering fire. German infantry took several casualties, but stormed the riverbank. Americans of the 7th and 30th Regiments fought them hand to hand as they landed. And fighting surged across a railroad embankment, and along the heights overlooking the river. Lieutenant William Ryan of the 30th Regiment remembered, "Directly in front of us, and down by the railroad, I could see German infantrymen wearing overcoats, coming straight toward us in approach formation similar to that used by our army. As they approached up the hill, they dropped out of sight, until they drew close to us." The German infantry and machine-gunners came on at a slow walk, as steady as though on a drill ground. An officer at the head of them was swinging a walking stick. Some American platoons were cut off, and fought till the last man. Others had to pull back. An unlikely act of heroism at the village of Messi broke the back of the German assault. Captain Jesse Walton Woolridge, of the 3rd Division's 38th Regiment, now also drawn into the fighting, held onto the village with elements of two companies, and every other man he could get his hands on, including a trench mortar battery that had run out of ammunition. As well as cooks, clerks, and runners. German grenadiers attacked with heavy weapons, supported by machine guns and aircraft. Just as the enemy prepared their final assault on the village, however, Woolridge led his men in a surprise counter-attack that shocked and routed the Grenadiers. "It's God's truth." The Captain exalted, that one company of American soldiers beat and routed a full regiment of picked shock troops of the German army. Just to the east, four companies of the 28th Division's 109th and 110th Regiments, underwent an awful ordeal. As soon as the German attack began, the French 125th Division withdrew from its positions along the Bend. They might've had good reasons for doing so, however, they neglected to tell the Americans of their plans, and simply left them behind in isolated outposts. Green though they were, the dough boys stuck to their orders and held on. They were wiped out. The 3rd Division's brave defense of the Marne River was to earn it the well-deserved epithet Rock of the Marne. Although the Germans made some progress here, and to the east, against the 128th and 125th Divisions, by the time evening fell, Ludendorff knew that his attack was a failure. Unbeknownst to him, Foch was about to launch a counterstrike. But there was a legacy of bitterness. Furious at being forced to take unnecessary casualties by defending from the waterline, instead of employing a flexible defense, General Dickman and his staff denounced the French, and urged General Pershing to place them under American command. The 28th Division dough boys and officers were even more upset. At one point, a French officer, who appeared at the front, carrying a poodle during the fighting, was shot in the back by an unidentified dough boy. The dog survived. The American authorities immediately declared the incident an accident, and declined to investigate.

#### [0:18:28]

**Theo Mayer:** Dr. Edward Lengel is an American military historian, and our segment host for America Emerges: Military Stories from World War One. We put links in the podcast notes to Ed's post, and his author's website. And that brings us to Mike Shuster, former NPR correspondent, and the curator for the Great War Project blog. Mike, your post this week turns focus a bit, and considers how this devastating war in Europe influenced the experience and the world view of some names quite well known today. Figures who, in turn, influenced the thinking of generations since. Your post brings in names like Hemingway, Faulkner, Elliot, Cummings, Stein, and more.

#### [0:19:13]

**Mike Shuster:** That's right, Theo. So our headlines read: Hemingway in Italy, Dos Passos in France, Writers, Even Teenagers, Take to the War, a Farewell to Arms. And this is special to the Great War Project. The young Ernest Hemingway will experience the war firsthand. The 18 year old American takes a job as a Red Cross Ambulance driver on the Italian front, where, in the first days of July a century ago, the allies take 3,000 Austrian troops prisoner. According to historian Martin Gilbert, Hemingway is the second American to be hit on the Italian front, wounded by an Austrian mortar shell on the night of July 8th, while handing out chocolate to Italian soldiers in a dugout. He was awarded the Italian silver medal of military valor, and taken to a hospital in Milan. "This is a peach of a hospital," He reported, "There are about 18 nurses to take care of 4 patients. One of the best surgeons in Milan is looking after my wounds." Hemingway was hit several times by shell fragments in the back and leg. The Italian soldier who was standing next to him was killed. According to the American account of the incident, before taking care of himself, Hemingway rendered generous assistance to the Italian soldiers more seriously wounded by the same shell explosion. Years later, he will use these experiences in what became his classic novel of the war, *A Farewell to Arms*. Ernest Hemingway is not the only American literary figure to participate in the war. Novelist John Dos Passos also served as an ambulance driver in France, as did the poet EE Cummings. Novelist William Faulkner joined the Canadian Air Force. Poet TS Elliott tried to enlist, but was rejected. He was judged physically unfit. The novelist Edith Wharton, according to a story in , was in France when the war broke out. She established and funded the American Hostel for Refugees, and she set up the Children of Landers Refugee fund. The writer Gertrude Stein also wrote about her experiences as an ambulance driver for the American Fund for French Wounded in her book *The Autobiography of B Toklas*. These experiences on the part of young literary figures usually took place when there was little or no organized program to participate in the war. By the summer a century ago, the flood of soldiers has swept past the contribution of individual writers. By the beginning of July, 1918, writes the story of Martin Gilbert, a million American troops were in France. Their supplies were entering French ports at a rate of 20,000 tons a day. On July 1st, showing great bravery and tenacity, American troops attacked the village of Vo. Information provided by a local stonemason helped them take the village with a minimum of loss. On July 4th a century ago, American troops were in

action at the river Sommes once again, alongside the Australians. They seized more than a mile of French territory, lost to them at previous battles at the Sommes. Nearly 1,500 Germans were taken prisoner. Reports the story in Gilbert, "It was during this attack that the first airborne supply of troops in battle took place, when British aircraft dropped 100,000 rounds of ammunition to the Australian machine gunners below. The Allies are seizing the initiative." That's some of the news in the Great War Project, a century ago.

**[0:22:35]**

**Theo Mayer:** Mike Shuster is the curator for the Great War Project blog. The link to his post is in the podcast notes. And for those of you interested in how World War One influenced literature and scholarly writing in World War One, we have a blog site dedicated to that very subject, @WW1CC.org/write. That's W-W-R-I-T-E. You can also request the link via Twitter, @theWW1podcast. That's it for 100 years ago this week. It's time to fast forward into the present, with World War One Centennial News Now. This part of the podcast focuses on now, and how we're commemorating the centennial of World War One. In Commission news, this past Friday, July 13th, the US World War One Centennial Commission announced a new 1.8 million dollar World War One education program that brings together National History Day, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the National World War One museum and memorial. The exciting initiative is aimed at both teachers as well as students, through a series of over 100 planned educational events nationwide. Introducing the new partnership, US World War One Centennial Commissioner Dr. Libby O'Connell stated, "The Commission is committed to educating the public about World War One. And we're very excited that these incredible partners are joining with us to help educate Americans regarding the Great War." Dr. Tim Bailey, director of education for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History shares the enthusiasm, "As an organization dedicated to supporting American history education, we are honored to expand our relationship with the World War One Centennial Commission, and we're confident that this partnership will help advance the knowledge and understanding of the impact that World War One plays across our nation's history." Cathy Gorn, executive director of National History Day agreed, "It is a privilege to join the US World War One Centennial Commission education partnership, and to help educate 6th to 12th grade students from all over the country about a war that changed the world. We're excited to work with the commission, and the other partners, to create resources for students and teachers that delve into the history of World War One." This week, in our remembering veterans segment, so often at the Commission, we're contacted with questions about how to learn more about a family member who served in the war. Doing genealogical research has been made much easier since the advent of the internet, but major challenges still remain. Especially, when you're looking for information from a century ago. Today, we're joined by Deborah M Dudek. Deborah is with the Fountaindale Public Library in Bolingbrook, Illinois. Importantly, she's also the author of the World War One Genealogy Research Guide. Tracing American military and non-combatant ancestors. Her book is available as an ebook, and in paperback, both on Amazon.com. Deborah, thank you for joining us.

**[0:26:08]**

**Deborah Dudek:** Thanks for having me, Theo, I really appreciate it.

**[0:26:10]**

**Theo Mayer:** So, Deborah, at the Commission, we get information requests like literally every day, from people asking for help and looking into the wartime service of a family member. So we're really happy to be speaking with you. So let me do a couple of scenarios, and maybe that will lead you into explaining to people how this could work. In scenario one, my grandfather served in World War One, let's say, and I know he was in the marines and went to France. Where do I start?

**[0:26:38]**

**Deborah Dudek:** Well if you're super lucky to have an ancestor who served in the Navy or Marines during World War One, you have a really straightforward task to doing research. If your ancestor was in the army or the air service, that's a totally different story. There was a disastrous fire at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973, and we did lose about 18 million official Army and air service and Air Force military personnel files, from about 1912 to 1964. But there's a really great, fool-proof way that you can start your research, regardless of what branch of the military your ancestor may have served. Go through what you already have. It sounds very simple, it sounds very elementary, but go through those old trunks in the attic, or call the relatives who have the older photographs, the medals, the uniforms, the post cards. And go and examine everything. This is the time to bring them out. Get your smart phone out, download some of those apps that allow you to scan them effectively through your smart phone. So go through all of those photographs together, as a family, and start talking about what everybody remembers. If you don't have any of those family heirlooms, you're not alone. All you may have had is a story that's like, grandpa served in France. But even that's a great place to start. If you have that information, you can start going through things like ancestry, Fold3, and internet archives, or even the National World War One Museum and Memorial online. And you can start doing your research there.

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**Theo Mayer:** Okay so, in scenario number two, let's say my grandmother drove an ambulance in Italy. She wasn't a soldier, she was a volunteer in 1916. How do I start with her?

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**Deborah Dudek:** If they were starting off as a volunteer, I always tell people, again, go through what your family already has. And from there, branch of into things like newspaper articles. But also remember that women served in a lot of different capacities with a lot of different lineage and civic organizations. YWCA, the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, Colonial Dames, Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Federation of Women's Club, and also Women's Labor Union. All of those organizations kept archives, you just have to find it at that local chapter level. Women's efforts were also extensively documented in the World War county honor book, and the state history documenting the World War. And a lot of them are online, and they're free. They're online through Happy Trust, and they're online through internet archives. And sometimes, you can find them on Google books, as well. Remember, when you're searching for titles, you're not going to find County Honor Books World War One. It was just called the World War. So you don't want to necessarily add the one into the search. And if you really can't find anything, visit your local library, visit your local historical society, call the local county where your ancestor lived during the 1920s and see if they have a copy that hasn't been digitized yet.

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**Theo Mayer:** Now, one of the really cool things about your book is that you also address how to research World War One genealogy for Canadians. Who were, after all, in the war a lot longer than the Americans. And we have quite a few listeners in Canada. So for them, what's the biggest difference between doing genealogical research in America vs Canada?

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**Deborah Dudek:** For the Canadians, they have an ease of access that Americans can only dream about. The National Library and Archive in Canada did a stellar job before the World War One Centennial digitizing all of their World War One military service files, as well as their daily war diaries and petition papers, which is sort of like our enlistment papers. Really, really lovely, because it's free and it's searchable. That ease of access is a wonderful thing. But there's also really great connections at different archives that are around. Like, the Ontario archives have a wonderful selection of regimental photographs. So there's a lot of help, and a lot of support for people who are doing Great War research, and it's very straightforward.

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**Theo Mayer:** Okay. In your experience, where do people get stuck most often?

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**Deborah Dudek:** The question that I get from the people coming to the library are, did their ancestor even serve? We don't have uniforms, we don't have medals, we don't have photographs. So I always tell people, let's start at the very beginning. And the easiest thing that you can do, at least for a man, go to the 1930s census. In the 1930s census, there's a column, column number 30, which asks if the man from that census was a veteran. If they served, it'll say yes, and then in the next column it will ask what war did you serve? And there was an abbreviation. This is great, not just for World War One research, but all type of research. If you look through VFWW, then you're like, "Oh, well, there's a story here, I can move forward. So let's go see what we can find." When I started my research, I only had two lines. Grandpa Rhodes fought in World War One, he was an ambulance driver, and he never talked about it. The amount of people who say, he or she never talked about it is very common. People wanted to forget this really awful situation, and this really awful war experience that they had been through. If you don't belong to some of these online websites, like ancestry or Fold3, you can still get them for free from your local library, or your local family history center. There are people who will be so excited to see you, and will want to help you every step of the way in your research. There's a lot of options for people who maybe didn't necessarily get a lot of information, but it doesn't mean that just because it looks like it could be difficult that you should just give up. You just have to have a curiosity of going out there and uncovering new information that maybe you didn't know before. And helping document your ancestor's experience, and helping to put their information up, whether it's online through the World War One Centennial website, or documenting that for a local newspaper article. You don't have to be a genealogist to do that.

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**Theo Mayer:** Well that's really great advice. It sounds to me like I'm going to have to get your book. What made you decide to write it?

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**Deborah Dudek:** I was really, really excited when I thought about the Centennial, I thought back to what we had as a family. And as I was doing my own research, I was like, "I don't want people to start at the same place I'm at." It seemed super difficult at the time that I was starting. But once I kind of sat down, and organized my thoughts, I said,

"I'm going to write something that anybody can follow." I want to start them off at square one, and I want to give them a step by step guide to getting the best success and the best return on investment. You know, the more people are able to pass on accurate information about where people are, where they went, what they experienced, we don't fall into that pitfall of myths that kind of builds around wars that don't have really good documentation.

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**Theo Mayer:** Well Deborah, your guide's going to help a lot of our audience connect with their heritage, so thank you.

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**Deborah Dudek:** Thank you so much for having me.

[0:33:40]

**Theo Mayer:** Deborah Dudek is the author of the book World War One Genealogy Research Guide, tracing American military and non-combatant ancestors. Learn more about her book by reaching out to us on Twitter, @theWW1podcast. That's @ the W-W-the number one podcast. Or follow the links in the podcast notes. As a direct follow-up to our interview with Deborah, once you found out about your ancestor's service, we have a wonderful thing for you to do with the information. We can offer you the opportunity to post what you've found into a permanent national archive, to be preserved by the US government. Using the Stories of Service feature on our website. There are three parts to this. Part one, go to [ww1cc.org/stories](http://ww1cc.org/stories), where you can post your ancestor's story and picture for everyone to read and enjoy. It's easy to copy and paste your information into the form. Now, it may take a few days for your story to go live, especially as the volume of submissions rises. But it will get posted, and it will be archived. Part two, on that page on the left side, click on the link that reads Stories of Service, and explore some of the other great posts. At the top of that page, there's a search box just for Stories of Service. See what you can find. Try typing something like 42nd, and you'll see all the related stories posted about those who served with the Rainbow Division. Part three is to check out all the other good genealogy resources that you'll find here, including links to additional articles, a really great connection to Role of Honor, who's a partner, adding these Stories of Service to their veteran profile pages, and lots more. You know, the living history of Americans, who've heard these stories directly from a grandparent or a great grandparent is fading. But every day, people are finding diaries, letters, and other treasures that tell the stories of service for those who answered the call 100 years ago. We'd like to invite you to help preserve your family and our national heritage. Get your stories preserved, as a part of the American experience for future generations through our Stories of Service, at [ww1cc.org/stories](http://ww1cc.org/stories). You can always contact us via Twitter, @theww1podcast. And, of course, we also have links for you in the podcast notes. 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 One memorials. This week, we're headed to Saugerties, New York, where the Lamouree-Hackett American Legion post 72 has built a World War One Centennial room as a permanent exhibit to commemorate the town's World War One veterans. Here to tell us about the project are Bill Payne and Vince Bono, members of post 72. And Lisa Polet, a member of the community who's been helping with this project by doing the exhibition design and writing the grant application. Welcome to the podcast.

[0:37:02]

**Lisa Polet:** Hi Theo.

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**Bill and Vince:** Hello.

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**Theo Mayer:** Well, Saugerties, New York, that's sort of mid-state near Albany, isn't it?

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**Bill and Vince:** Saugerties, New York is located on the Hudson River, 50 miles south of Albany, about 100 miles north of Manhattan. Saugerties is a Dutch word that means , which means the little sawmill.

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**Theo Mayer:** About how big is it?

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**Bill and Vince:** Saugerties population, 25,000 people from the villages within the town.

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**Theo Mayer:** So how big was it around the turn of the century? Around the start of the war?

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**Bill and Vince:** It was a bigger population then, I would think. There were many factories.

**[0:37:34]**

**Lisa Polet:** I believe there was about 9,000 people.

**[0:37:36]**

**Theo Mayer:** Excellent. The town really does have a very rich history. Tell us a bit more about it.

**[0:37:41]**

**Bill and Vince:** From the point of view of the shared military history that this town has got, people from this town served in the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and in the Civil War. Service continued, of course, in the Spanish American War, and we had a large population of soldiers who served, and many fell, in World War One. The post is named after Adele Burt Lamouree and Patrick Hackett, that reflects the and most of the Irish backgrounds. They both died in the big offensive in October of 1918, against the Germans. They were in the 77th Regiment and the 27th, both National Guard units. So they were very close to the end of the war, when both of them fell.

**[0:38:19]**

**Theo Mayer:** And when you built this Centennial commemoration room, can you tell us a little bit about it? What is it, and what am I going to find there?

**[0:38:27]**

**Bill and Vince:** Our post home, which we acquired in 1951, it's an old building, little over a hundred years old, was a home. In about 1982, we decided we would put in a museum of military service. So the centennial room had actually not been developed as a part of the exhibit until now. We have artifact that were brought back by the World War One veterans from Saugerties. Some of them were captured items from the enemies. Many of them are personal items from these soldiers, themselves.

**[0:38:55]**

**Lisa Polet:** I was very impressed because they really have a lot of material that's intact, and in very good condition.

**[0:39:02]**

**Bill and Vince:** Aviator's uniforms.

**[0:39:03]**

**Lisa Polet:** Right.

**[0:39:03]**

**Bill and Vince:** A list of sailor's uniforms, combat uniforms with helmets, and gas masks.

**[0:39:08]**

**Lisa Polet:** And we've got the information about the gentlemen who wore it, their portraits hanging next to them.

**[0:39:13]**

**Theo Mayer:** So were all these artifacts something that you found locally in the town? Or how did you find them?

**[0:39:18]**

**Bill and Vince:** From about 1982 onwards, we had a lot of World War One veterans still living, and they brought them in. There are very few items that have not been donated by local people. Just about all of them really were. Certainly, everything, really, in the centennial room is local.

**[0:39:32]**

**Lisa Polet:** But I think what was most interesting were those letters, and that project that had been commissioned from the state archives. After the war, they had sent out surveys asking the veterans or their surviving family members to fill out what their experiences were in the war. And it just so happened that the pastor, who was the town historian at the time, was almost finished with the project. And he happened to have passed away, which meant that the material actually never made it to the state archives. And in the state archives, I believe, in 1962 or '63 they had a fire. And all of these projects were destroyed. So we, in fact, are the only ones, just by accident, that still have all of this original material that was collected.

**[0:40:21]**

**Theo Mayer:** We've heard about those forms that were sent out before, and the fact that most of them were destroyed. So it's really great that you guys have a trove of them. About how many are there?

[0:40:29]

**Lisa Polet:** Oh, there's got to be, what, 80 of them? If not more.

[0:40:33]

**Bill and Vince:** We have them in a binder that's probably about six or eight inches thick, page after page after page. Also, with some of the photographs of soldiers, as well. We had some very interesting responses. The one that always sticks in my mind is, well the man wrote, "Well I went to Hell and came back, that's all I have to say."

[0:40:49]

**Lisa Polet:** But we also found scrapbooks that people kept in town, of the soldiers. Townspeople were keeping records. But we also have their obituaries, newspaper articles, and such.

[0:41:01]

**Theo Mayer:** With these artifacts that you have, and the letters that you have, can you read us something from one of them? Just so we get a feeling for what they are?

[0:41:09]

**Lisa Polet:** So I just pulled out a letter from one of the soldiers, Percy Becker, he actually died not long after he wrote this letter. I'll read you towards the end, "We will all be home soon, and we can tell more about France, and what we've seen, as we do not dare to write and tell what place we're in, or what line we're at, as that's the order, and we have to obey them. Myrtle, you wrote and asked me if I wanted any cigarettes or anything. I thank you very much, but I would not send anything if I were you, because maybe I would get them, and maybe I wouldn't. Myrtle, tell your husband I send best regards to him, and also your post from the baby. And when you see my folks, you can tell them I wrote to you. From a little soldier boy in France, doing his best."

[0:41:54]

**Theo Mayer:** You know, the first person accounts, they're really good.

[0:41:57]

**Lisa Polet:** We've digitized, actually, all of that. And it's also available here to read them in their entirety.

[0:42:04]

**Theo Mayer:** Well, how did you get involved in the 100 Cities, 100 Memorials project?

[0:42:08]

**Lisa Polet:** Bob Chappel, who is the co-curator with Bill, had approached me and asked me if I would help. Then once we had that done in May, then we discovered all of these letters, it really seemed like a perfect fit. Especially since the town doesn't have a World War One memorial, and this was a perfect opportunity to create one.

[0:42:31]

**Theo Mayer:** And you also made a video, as part of your grant application, as I recall, it's actually quite nice.

[0:42:36]

**Lisa Polet:** Thank you. It felt like the soldiers' words spoke louder than anything that we could say or define about them. So it seemed fitting to just let them speak for themselves.

[0:42:48]

**Bill and Vince:** We sometimes thought the American Legion's like a closed, private club. We are very, very much out in the community. And this museum has become a vehicle, really for us to reach out to the community, especially young people who are learning about history, and bringing them in. We've acquired the library of congress veteran's history project. Unfortunately, we didn't get started in time to catch any of our World War One vets. We interviewed and recorded on video 60 veterans here, and we focused on our older World War Two vets to start with. From World War Two right now to the present, into the Smithsonian project.

[0:43:20]

**Theo Mayer:** Well thank you for all of the great work that you're doing, and for working with your community on this. It really sounds wonderful, and congratulations on being part of the 100 Cities, 100 Memorials grantees.

[0:43:31]

**Lisa Polet:** Thank you, it's been an honor.

**[0:43:32]**

**Bill and Vince:** Thank you very much, thank you.

**[0:43:33]**

**Theo Mayer:** Bill Payne, Vince Bono, and Lisa Polet are part of the team behind the Lamouree-Hackett American Legion post 72 World War One Centennial room project. Learn more about the 100 Cities, 100 Memorials program by following the link in the podcast notes. And that brings us to our weekly feature, speaking World War One. Where we explore the words and phrases that are rooted in the war. Now there's many nicknames for each of the combatant nations. The British were Tommies, the American Sammies or Doughboys. The Turks were Jacko. The Italians, Macaroni. And the Portuguese, Pork and Beans. And the Germans were Gerries, Fritz, or sometimes, this week's slightly obscure speaking World War One phrase, Alleyman. How does Alleyman connect to Germany, you might wonder? Well, it's from our friends in France. Derived from the French word for Germany, Allemande, the Doughboys picked it up and turned it into Alleyman, of course. It was never a popular term, but it does show up again in a song from the 1960s musical, Oh What a Lovely War, I Want to Go Home. Reportedly, based off of a French tune written during the war, it feature the use of the word Alleyman, and several other speaking World War One terms that we've had on the podcast. Here is a read of the lyrics: I want to go home, I want to go home. I don't want to go to the trenches no more. Where the wizzbangs and the shrapnel, they whistle and roar. Take me over the sea, where the Alleyman can't get at me. Oh my, I don't want to die, I want to go home. And here is the song.

**[0:45:19]**

**Musical Chorus:** I want to go home. Take me over the sea where the Alleyman can't get at me. Oh my, I don't want to die. I want to go home.

**[0:45:44]**

**Theo Mayer:** Alleyman, one of the many nicknames from the war, and our phrase this week for speaking World War One. We have links for you in the podcast notes. This week, in World War One War Tech, we're taking inspiration from a notice in the July 19 issue of the official bulletin, announcing that a trophy, captured by the US Marines during the furious battle of Belleau Wood, is on its way back to the United States. Two German mortars are being sent to West Point in Annapolis. The German , or mine throwers, represented the modern revival of an ancient siege weapon, the mortar. Think of the mortar as a portable, short-barrelled, muzzle-loading artillery weapon. The concept was around as long as gunpowder had been in the west. In 1914, only the German army used mortars. Their were essentially French howlitzers, fired at an upward angle, and were a lot like regular artillery, except they were smaller and could be hauled around by a group of men instead of horses. According to historian Bruce Canfield, a British engineer, Sir Wilfred Scott Stokes, took the next step. His design was simpler, lighter, and became the starting blueprint for mortar designs for decades to come. The innovation was that the stokes model could be handled by a two man crew, which blurred the lines between artillery and infantry. Once its effectiveness became apparent, the other allies adopted the stokes mortar for their infantry, including the United States. Each infantry division of the AEF carried 24 stokes mortars. Dispatches from American units on the ground, compiled by historian Canfield, contained references to the various ways that the stokes mortar could be disruptive to the Germans. A dispatch from the 89th Division reads, "One enemy cannon caliber 88, and its entire crew, was cut out of the action by a direct hit from a stokes mortar. The effective fire from the stokes mortars, and rifle grenades, on machine gun nests, was very great." The mortar, an ancient weapon re-thought and becoming an important part of the World War One arsenal. And this week's World War One War Tech. We have links for you in the podcast notes. This week, in Articles and Posts, where we highlight the stories you'll find in our weekly newsletter, the dispatch. Headline: How Doughboys in 1918 Celebrated Independence Day on July 4th in France. Commission interim Joseph Vesper takes a look back at how Doughboys all over France observed American independence day on July 4th, 1918. Headline: ABMC Releases New Video About Serene American Cemetery Near Paris. ABMC, the American Battle Monuments Commission, has released a new video presentation titled Serene American Cemetery, America's World War One Cemetery Near Paris. The video tells more about the cemetery and its history. Headline: Battle of Hamel Helped Kindle 100 Years of Mateship Between Australia and the US. 100 years ago, members of the Illinois National Guard's 33rd Division were fighting side by side with the Australian troops in the Battle of the Hamel. In June, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, an event celebrated that friendship. Headline: Immigrants Played Big World War One Role for America. Gordon C Morris, writing in the Virginia pilot newspaper, recently made the observation of World War One, "No sentient American should go about the day without understanding that World War One put in motion the present role of the federal government, the responsibility of global leadership, and the vast material cost of it all." Headline: This Week's Doughboy MIA, Private Lee G Winslow. Private Winslow was a farmer in Fairmount, Indiana, and went to France in May of 1918. Over there, he was transferred to Company E second engineers, and was killed in action by shellfire on October 3rd, 1918. His remains were never identified. Finally, our selection from our official centennial merchandise shop. Our featured item this week is a beautiful album of music, poetry, and emotions from the Great War. It's a silent night, a World War One memorial in song. And it's a stirring musical performance from the duo of

John Brancy and Peter Dougan. Links to our merchandise shop, and all of the articles that we've highlighted here are in the weekly dispatch newsletter. Subscribe at [ww1cc.org/subscribe](http://ww1cc.org/subscribe). You can also send us a Tweet @theww1podcast and ask us to send you the link. And that brings us to the Buzz. The Centennial of World War One this week in social media, with Katherine Achey. Katherine, what do you have for us this week?

**[0:51:16]**

**Katherine Achey:** Hey Theo, I wanted to point everyone to two really great videos shared on Facebook this week. The first comes from the 79th Memory Group, a re-enactment association based out of France that commemorates the history of the US and 79th infantry. They recently collaborated with another French living history group, Trains and Traction, riding the rails in France on restored World War One rail cars. You can watch the video of the 79th infantry riding through the French countryside on a period train car, and follow the links in the podcast notes to learn more about these two different French re-enactment groups. Secondly, and last for the week, as part of the World War One Centennial commemoration, the US Army Center of Military History is putting out seven informative video episodes about World War One. This series details America's involvement in the war, from the causes that led to the United States entering the war, through the final battles and aftermath of the peace treaty, and is a collaboration of the US Army Center of Military History and the Defense Media Activity. Watch the first episode at the link in the podcast notes. That's it this week for the Buzz.

**[0:52:33]**

**Theo Mayer:** And that also wraps up episode 80 of the World War One Centennial News podcast. Thank you so much for listening. We also want to thank our guests, Mike Shuster for the Great War Project blog, Dr. Edward Lengel, military historian and author, Deborah Dudek, author and guru for World War One genealogy, Bill Payne, Vince Bono, and Lisa Polet from the 100 Cities, 100 Memorials project in Saugerties, New York, Katherine Achey, World War One photography specialist and line producer for the podcast. Many thanks to Mac Nelson, our wonderful sound editor, and World War One Centennial Commission intern Jayelle Machoud. And I'm Theo Mayer, your host. The US World War One Centennial Commission was created by congress to honor, commemorate, and educate about World War One. Our programs are to inspire a national conversation and awareness about World War One, including this podcast. We're bringing the lessons of 100 years ago to today's educators and the classrooms. We're helping to restore World War One memorials in communities of all sizes across the country. And of course, we're building America's national World War One memorial in Washington, DC. We want to thank the commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, as well as the Star Foundation, for their wonderful support. The podcast, and a full transcript of the show, can be found on our website at [ww1cc.org/cn](http://ww1cc.org/cn). You'll find World War One Centennial news in all the places you get your podcasts, and even using your smart speaker, by saying, "Play ww1 Centennial News Podcast." The podcast Twitter handle is @theww1podcast. The Commission's main Twitter and Instagram handles are both @ww1cc. And we're on Facebook at [ww1centennial](https://www.facebook.com/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.

**[0:54:50]**

**Musical Chorus:** I want to go home, I want to go home. I don't want to go in the trenches no more, where wibzangs and shrapnel, they whip through and roar. Take me over the sea, where the Alleyman can't get at me. Oh my I don't want to die, I want to go home. Take me over the sea, where the Alleyman can't get at me. Oh my, I don't want to die, I want to go home.

**[0:55:50]**

**Theo Mayer:** So long.

**[0:55:51]**