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8 speakers (Theo Mayer, Edward Lengel, Katherine Akey, Mike Schuster, Tracy Robinson, Bill Jackson, Jim Davenport, Louise M.)

[0:00:09]

Theo Mayer: Welcome to World War One Centennial News, episode number 83. Over the past weeks, we've extended the podcast to include a Twitter handle, @theWW1podcast. That's @theWW, the number one, podcast. This lets us include images and details from the show over the week. You can ask us questions, make comments, get a link that you might have missed or even ask us to drop a note to one of our guest for you. A big shout-out to all of you who are now following us on Twitter. Together we're creating a conversation about the events a hundred years ago this week and the World War One Centennial Commemoration Happening Now about the war that changed the world. On the show this week, you'll join us for our August 1918 Preview Roundtable where Dr. Edward Lengel, Katherine Akey, look ahead at the big events and themes coming up for this August. Mike Schuster echoes and details several subjects that come up in the preview. Tracy Robinson tells us about the Daughters of the American Revolution and their role in World War One. Joining us from Harley-Davidson is company archivist, Bill Jackson. Jim Davenport and Louise McLafferty share the 100 Cities/100 Memorials Project from Lackawanna County in Pennsylvania. And of course, The Buzz where Katherine Akey highlights some of the World War One commemorative stories from 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 Starr Foundation. I'm Theo Mayer, the Chief Technologist for the Commission and your host. Welcome to the show. It's August 1918. The Germans spring offensive is over. In fact, the direction of the war is changing in fundamental ways. As we like to do it at the start of each month, Dr. Edward Lengel, Katherine Akey and I got together to discuss an overview of what happened a hundred years ago this month. What are the overarching themes, events, and happenings regarding World War One in August of 1918? What follows is our discussion. Here we are in August of 1918. Ed, what do you think the major theme is for this month?

[0:02:49]

Edward Lengel: The theme for this month is defeat for the Central Powers. They have entered the end game of the First World War. They are aware by this point thanks to a number of events that they cannot win and in fact that they're going to lose. This is a result of, first of all, defeat on the ground in particular the British and Allied offensive at Amiens on August 8th that continues through the month. This is an offensive of British-Australian Canadian and some American troops with some French involvement. It really breaks the German Army. General Ludendorff calls the black day of the German Army for the first time you see mass surrenders of German troops. American forces continue to be involved in offensive actions on the western front during August and their goal during this time is to push the Germans out of some of their remaining territory that they had captured in the spring. For the most part, they're continuing to fight under French command that there are some high points and low points but the primary issue here in August is the realization of Pershing's vision for the creation of American army under American command specifically under his command with the American First Army being created in August. This is the army that Pershing will command that will take over an American sector of the front and continue in a number of offensive spurts at the end of the war.

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Theo Mayer: Katherine, you had mentioned in previous meeting the Hundred Days Offensive. What's that all about?

[0:04:37]

Katherine Akey: The Hundred Days Offensive is the overarching umbrella name for a Russian stacking dolls worth of battles over the course of August and September. That starts on August 8th with the Battle of Amiens. At the very front of the month is the very last couple days of the second Battle of the Marne which, if you'll remember, it was a counterattack so that was the Allies countering against the last German offensive of the Kaiser Schlacht. That Hundred Days Offensive is an Allied offensive just the Kaiser Schlacht was a German offensive over the spring. This is the Allies clenching back.

[0:05:18]

Theo Mayer: Ed, do you think that part of what's happening to the Germans now is just running out of steam, running out of morale, running out of resources? What's causing the turn?

[0:05:28]

Edward Lengel: It's a collapse in morale of the German Armed Forces as they recognized that their hopes of defeating the French and defeating the British before the Americans can arrive and strengthen the western front have

failed. The Americans are playing an increasingly visible role on the western front. More and more American divisions are entering into the lines. For example, the first all-draftee American division to enter the lines on the western front, the 77th enters the line toward the end of August and they're pushing the Germans out of the Marne salient and back toward the Belleau River. The Germans are aware of that. They're aware that their U-boat offensive has failed that there's an increasing tightening of the British blockade against the German home front and they're also aware they can read the newspapers even despite the propaganda and see that things in the east and the south are not going well. Germany, the Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria, the Austria-Hungary are nearing collapse. There's just very little hope anymore but what hope they have will increasingly begin to center simply on protecting the homeland, not on trying to win the war.

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Theo Mayer: For the two of you, if you were to summarize this month in a simple statement, what would it be?

[0:06:55]

Edward Lengel: This is the beginning of the end for the central powers and clearly the war is approaching its final stages. That's how I see it and that's how they saw it as well. Many of the Allied commanders still presume that we were going to carry on into 1919 but they also assume that we were going to have to drive into Germany and carry the fight to the German people directly.

[0:07:20]

Theo Mayer: Katherine, how about yourself?

[0:07:22]

Edward Lengel: I would say preparing for the worst. The German, see, they're losing their negotiating power a little bit by losing this territory that they gained since the spring and losing some older salience like they've had for a few years. There's an English war correspondent Phillip Gibbs that has a really good quote about this period, the war on the western front where he says, "The change has been greater in the minds of men than in the taking of territory. On our side, the army seems to be buoyed up with the enormous hope of getting on with this business quickly. There's change also in the enemy's mind. They no longer have even a dim hope of victory on this western front. All they hope for now is to defend themselves long enough to gain peace by negotiation."

[0:08:06]

Theo Mayer: Katherine, there's a lot of action on the eastern front as well as Russia goes into some new interesting places. How's that go?

[0:08:14]

Katherine Akey: Unfortunately Russia is not really going into new places but they are getting deeper and deeper entrenched in civil war and so now the summer, the Allies are actually sending the commonwealth troops so the British, Canadian troops as well as some French, and some 8,000 American soldiers are landing in Archangel which is a very, very, very northern port city on the Arctic Ocean basically to the north, northeast of Moscow. We're landing Allied troops there to support the White Army which is a conglomerate of different political different parties and supporters who are all friends because they're fighting against the Red Army which is the Bolsheviks. We're there and trying to have some say in what's going on in Russia as their civil war rages on.

[0:09:09]

Edward Lengel: The great saga of the Czechoslovak legion is reaching a crescendo right now. This is one of the many consequences of the release of millions of Austro-Hungarian prisoners when Russia collapsed many of them, try to make their way back to Austria-Hungary. Many of them have been affected by Bolshevik ideas and they're now spreading those Eastern Europe but the Czechoslovaks are hoping to establish their own country. They can't go right back into Austria-Hungary because it's still an actively hostile government so they go east along the Trans-Siberian Railway and by now in August, they're engaged in fighting Red Russian forces along Lake Baikal as they make their way to Vladivostok in what will eventually be circumnavigating the globe to get back to Czechoslovakia by the long way around.

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Katherine Akey: Czechoslovakia does declare independence at the end of the month but it'll take the legion a little longer to get there.

[0:10:09]

Theo Mayer: A lot of the things that are going on with the Red Army and the White Army, there's a lot of fear in our own home country. A fear of socialism, fear of Marxism, does that have an effect on how we act over there?

[0:10:26]

Katherine Akey: Yes. I think it absolutely does. It's interesting. I feel like my impression growing up was that this dichotomy between America and Russia or America and communism really got start after World War Two but this is where this begins. This is the Americans and the Allies coming in and saying, "We're on the side of the White Army for a number of different reasons," and pitting themselves against the Bolsheviks. The socialism in western countries and even in the eastern countries as well ... At the turn of the century, it's a lot to do with industrialization and unionization and worker's rights There's a lot of different flavors of it. A lot of different philosophies. It does take a while for all of those different kinds of thoughts about politics and personhood to get shoved under this big umbrella of communism. I don't think that's quite happened yet but they are starting to be associated with one another and there's definitely the anti-socialist sentiment in America, I think a lot to do with the socialist being vocal pacifist and Pacifism being seen as very anti-American. Themes of the 20th century are starting to settle including what's going on in the caucuses as the Ottoman Empire falls apart and what's going on in the Middle East. There's a lot of British Troops and French presence in the Middle East and the caucus not necessarily trying to take control of land but trying to have some sort of say and who ends up in power as empires fall apart.

[0:12:01]

Theo Mayer: Ed, you had mentioned earlier that this is the time of Lawrence of Arabia.

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Edward Lengel: Yes. Lawrence is accompanying and helping to inspire the Arab revolt which is increasingly in the late summer and into the autumn resting away control of the Middle East from the remnants of the Ottoman Empire. They're going to capture Damascus in October but they're already tearing away Ottoman rule from much of what is now Syria and Lebanon and Jordan, and the rest of those countries. The global implications of this are going to be huge. Clearly we'll go down for many generations to come as well as Katherine said in the caucuses which have descended in to state of near anarchy. The Ottoman Empire launches its last offensive of the war into the caucuses in August which quickly bogs down as the whole region begins to descend into chaos. The caucuses are just northeast of Turkey on the Eastern shore of the Black Sea. The very southern edge of Russia what is now Armenia and Azerbaijan.

[0:13:17]

Katherine Akey: And Georgia.

[0:13:18]

Edward Lengel: Exactly. Of course Chechnya which has been on the news for the last couple of decades is finding it's own national voice in this period.

[0:13:29]

Theo Mayer: What about the war in the sky? What's going on with that?

[0:13:33]

Katherine Akey: There's the very last airship raid of the war. Five imperial German Navy zeppelins attempt to bomb England. Most of the bombs fall into the North Sea because apparently this month a hundred years ago it's very cloudy and so they miss England almost entirely. Then the mission proves even more disastrous because a Royal Air Force pilot shoots down one of the zeppelins, Airship L70 killing its entire crew including the imperial German navy airship division commander, Peter Strasser. His death ends any further airship raids on Great Britain. Over the course of the war, the German airships conducted about 210 raids. They dropped some 6,000 bombs, killed 520 people and injured 1100 more. More importantly their goal of aerifying the home front was pretty successful.

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Theo Mayer: Also, a good point to remember by the way for those who didn't, that the entire zeppelin force was actually under the German Navy not some kind of an air force. What about on the US side? We actually launched our air services month didn't we?

[0:14:43]

Edward Lengel: We did with the end of the month on the 26th. The AF establishes the first Army Air Service to support American ground troops on the western front and this is just a matter of having enough bodies to actually establish an entire air service. Additionally, an American pilot Field Eugene Kindley shoots down a Fokker plane that happens to be piloted by Lothar von Richthofen, the brother of the Red Baron, Manfred von Richthofen who has been killed earlier in the war. Lothar was an ace himself but he survived the encounter and suffers such serious wounds but he doesn't fly in combat ever again, so that's the end of the Richthofens for World War One.

[0:15:25]

Theo Mayer: Katherine, you always find some little oddities for us. What's your oddity this time?

[0:15:31]

Katherine Akey: Okay, so I have two kind of interesting battles. One debatably a part of World War One. That would be the Battle of Ambos Nogales. At the end of August, on the 27th, US troops with the 35th Infantry Regiment and some buffalo soldiers from the 10th Cavalry engaged in a skirmish against Mexican forces in the border town of Nogales, Arizona. 28 American soldiers are wounded, four are killed. 30 Mexican soldiers are killed as well as a hundred Mexican civilians including the mayor of this border town who tried to quell the fighting. The fighting seems to have started when someone tried to cross the border without having a bag inspected by US Customs and then shots were fired. Tensions were very, very high between the US and Mexico at the time because the Germans advised Mexico and in fact there are multiple German military advisers on the ground during the skirmish and two of them actually got killed. That would be why this is maybe considered the only valid World War One fought on American soil.

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Theo Mayer: The first time, I've heard the story this great.

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Katherine Akey: Yes. An interesting one.

[0:16:45]

Edward Lengel: It's a great story.

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Katherine Akey: The other one would be on August 13th back over in the alps where Italy and Austria-Hungary are still fighting. There's the Battle of San Mateo. Italian alpine troops launched a surprise attack on the peak of Ortler Mountain in the alps which was being held by Austria-Hungarian troops. About half of the Austrian-Hungarians are captured, the others retreat off the summit. The most interesting thing about this particular battle is that it was the highest battle ever fought for about a hundred years at an altitude of 2,800 meters which is almost 10,000 feet. The highest battle ever fought now was part of the Karbala war fought in Kashmir in 1999 and that was fought at almost double that height at 5,600 meters.

[0:17:38]

Theo Mayer: It's time for Mike Schuster, former NPR correspondent and curator for the Great War Project blog. A warning to our listeners with children present. The following contains graphic descriptions of violence. Mike, your post this week pretty much echoes the theme from the August Preview Roundtable. It seems like the tide has turned.

[0:17:59]

Mike Schuster: It certainly seems so. The headline reads, The Allied Offensive Gains Strength. Germans Falling Back; Americans Pressing Forward. The Germans Know All Was Lost and MacArthur Confronts the Dead which is special to the Great War Project. In these days on the Western Front, the Americans have become increasingly active, especially in the Allied effort to protect Paris from German occupation. By late July a century ago, according to historian Martin Gilbert, "The American soldiers leave their trenches and advance through the pulverized German lines. The Germans fought with every resource of personal bravery and technical skill to halt the onward march of their new-found enemy." But, according to historian Gilbert, "By nightfall on July 18th, the German threat to Paris was over. By the end of the fourth day of the French offensive, an estimated 30,000 German soldiers had been killed." This quickly becomes a key battleground for the Allies, with the Americans playing an essential role. "On July 22nd the Germans fell back more than five miles and were being driven back even further" on the next day, the day on which British tanks and infantry advancing two miles on the Somme front captured nearly 2,000 German prisoners. "The Germans," reports Gilbert, "had not been pushed back like this before." The tide turns quickly against the Germans. Later the German Chancellor writes: "On July 18th even the most optimistic among us knew that all was lost. The history of the world was played out in three days." It was a textbook series of moves: the failure of the German offensive and a dramatically successful Allied counter-attack. Among the American officers leading the American sector of the successful Allied offensive was Colonel Douglas MacArthur. Crossing No-Man's-Land in one French sector to be confronted, he writes, "Only by what he recalled as the moans and cries of wounded men apparently left behind when their comrades-in-arms had withdrawn." Writes historian Gilbert, "MacArthur estimated that he passed at least 2,000 German corpses. Stopping from time to time to examine the dead and wounded, he identified the insignias of six different German divisions. During his reconnaissance he suddenly saw in the light of a flare a German machine gun pointed directly at him. When the crew did not fire," he writes, "he crawled up to the gun." He writes, "They were all dead, all dead. The lieutenant with shrapnel through his heart, the sergeant with his belly blown into his back, the corporal with his spine where his head should have been." "For his exploit," Gilbert reports, "MacArthur was awarded his fourth Silver Star. Later that day, he led his men in a successful attack on the

new German line” Fighting continues in many sectors of the front line, among them at the French town of Soissons. In early August, after a fierce struggle, the French drive the Germans out of Soissons. Reports Gilbert: “Among the German soldiers who had fought throughout the retreat was Corporal Adolph Hitler. “For his personal bravery he was awarded the Iron Cross, which he wore for the rest of his life.” Hitler is recommended for the medal by a Jew. And that’s news from the Great War Project this week a century ago.

[0:21:21]

Theo Mayer: Mike Schuster is the curator for the Great War Project blog. The link to his post is in the podcast notes. And that’s how it was a hundred years ago in August of 1918. Now, 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 the centennial of World War One is being commemorated. This week in commission news, we’re highlighting the commemorations taking place in Europe this summer. Already started and continuing in France are a series of commemorative events that follow the centennial of major military actions that happened a hundred years ago during the summer and the fall of 1918. This includes the Battle at Croix Rouge Farm, the Battle of Amiens, commemorations in Flanders and a whole lot more. You can follow and even participate remotely in these events by posting to social media, by using the #Amiens100. That’s A-M-I-E-N-S 100. This will bring your social media post into a special dashboard we built here at the commission where we can curate the posts and select the best ones to include on the national website. Check it out at ww1cc.org/international. All lower case. If you’re at the event or you have something to contribute, just tag your social media post with #Amiens100. Now, I wanna close this section with a great story about something that happened in the commemoration at the Croix Rouge Farm last week. There are these two really interesting young American Doughboy reenactors, the twin brothers named Seth and Garrett Moore. Now, we met them a while ago and they’ve participated in several commission events. They’re such wonderful and poignant ambassadors for the Doughboys because Seth and Garrett are very young men. Late teens, early 20s and when you look at them in their World War One uniforms you can’t help but think about the thousands of young men, young boys really who went over there at such a tender age. Anyway the whole families and friends to observe the commemoration of the Croix Rouge Farm when it suddenly comes up that the event organizers have a problem. Their Doughboy, a key participant in the program is suddenly unable to attend. Well, it comes up the Seth Moore steps up and ends up filling the missing role in the ceremony. I have this unconfirmed vision in my own mind of the twins standing toe to toe tossing a coin, two out of three to see who gets to step up. Now, one of the ceremony organizers, said that Seth represented the Doughboy with all the proper soldierly virtues. He executed the manual of arms by the numbers including fix bayonet and see rendered honors to the dead whose names were being called during the role of honor. Mr. Calu said that he was center stage in front of hundreds of people, hundreds of soldiers and veterans with a critical eye for accuracy and he didn’t miss a count. Monsieur Calu concluded with, “We salute him,” and so do we. A big shout-out to the entire Moore family for their great dedication and support of the centennial over the past and the coming months. We’ve got links for you to our international page and various European commemorative events in the podcast notes. Now for our section, Remembering Veterans. In a recent editorial planning session this subject came up and although it’s only part of our theme for this section, I’m really excited that we’re about to tackle the intriguing subject of the reickenization of France. Interesting, huh? It’s part of what the DAR, the national society of the Daughters of the American Revolution took on for post-war Europe. Joining us today is Tracy Robinson, director of archives and history for the national society, Daughters of the American Revolution. Tracy, welcome to the podcast.

[0:25:37]

Tracy Robinson: Thank you, Theo. It’s a pleasure to be with all of you today.

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Theo Mayer: Tracy, could you start off by telling us a little bit about the Daughters of the American Revolution when and how the group started and how its mission has evolved over the years?

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Tracy Robinson: DAR was founded in Washington DC during the fall of 1890 by four women along with the two of their colleagues in response to the Sons of the American Revolution having just been founded earlier that year in the spring of 1890 and very quickly after their founding they voted to exclude women from membership which didn’t go over very well with women who didn’t think their patriotism should be discarded on account of their sex. DAR is a volunteer service organization. All of the service projects undertaken by chapters and state societies seek to honor in one way or another one or more of the society’s three objectives which are patriotism, education and historic preservation. All of these efforts include both fording active duty military personnel and assisting veterans program. To join DAR, you must be a woman at least 18 years of age and be able to prove your direct descent from a revolutionary war patriot. When you consider as we will the enormous volume of work DAR members did to support the Allied effort during World War One, it becomes even more remarkable when you remember that DAR was relatively young. They hadn’t celebrated their 27th birthday yet when United States entered the war in 1917 but they got themselves organized very quickly.

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Theo Mayer: Well, they did a lot of wonderful things during the war and one of the programs just happens to fascinate me mostly because I love the term. The DAR took on the challenge to rechickenize France. Now, what does that mean and it begs the question, how did France get dechickenized?

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Tracy Robinson: Well, France got defooded pretty much during the war. In June 1918, the DAR learned of a plan. The American Committee for Devastated France had devised to do what they called Rechickenize France. The DAR responded with a bulletin proposing that Daughters organize local campaign to involve their community's children in this project to sort of funny words that all they thought would appeal to children. The goal of the fundraising campaign was to supply the French people with much needed poultry farm to fill a gap in their food supply. A donation of only 10 cents placed a chick on a farm. A donation of 25 cents placed an egg in an incubator. \$400 established a poultry farm with two incubators, a thousand eggs and one wounded soldier to work as the poultry man for one year. To encourage donations, the DAR created a button pin with a drawing of a chicken and the phrase, "I have a chicken in France," which was given for those 10 and 25 cents donation.

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Theo Mayer: Post-war, you played a huge role in establishing thousands of memorials in the US honoring those who served in World War One. Can you tell us more about that?

[0:28:51]

Tracy Robinson: The DAR has and has always had a very large historical marker program, generally speaking. There are not only thousands of markers in the US but in many other countries of the world as well especially in Belgium and France where World War One is concerned and our leadership has encouraged our membership to identify and report World War One memorial to the commission and also to apply to the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program as appropriate. However, I think that the most important post-war memorial was a living memorial of sorts and involves an effort by DAR to rebuild the village of Tiloloy, France which is located in the central northern part of the country. The entire village had been destroyed in the war and subsequently the wife of the French ambassador contacted DAR leadership to ask for help. After much discussion and planning and a visit to Tiloloy by DAR leadership, the society decided to fund the complete water systems of the village and, this is the touching part, as repayment to France for its aid during the American Revolution, and it was finally finished and dedicated during the summer of 1921 with both DAR members and French leaders in attendance. Everything DAR members do is in honor of the sacrifices their ancestors made while fighting the American Revolution and it must have been a proud moment and probably a very healing experience after witnessing so much devastation to have this opportunity to rebuild part of that village at least as partial payment to our greatest ally during the American Revolution.

[0:30:33]

Theo Mayer: I know we've had a number of DAR chapters sign up for our Bells of Peace. It's a national bell toll, the Centennial Armistice on November 11th at 11:00 am local. How do we invite all the chapters to join?

[0:30:46]

Tracy Robinson: One of DARs permanent committees, it's called the Commemorative Committee and they encourage DAR chapter members to join in local commemoration. Our plans on the national level aren't firm yet. We're still tossing some ideas around about November.

[0:31:00]

Theo Mayer: Tracy, it's been great speaking with you. Thank you for joining us today.

[0:31:04]

Tracy Robinson: Thanks, Theo.

[0:31:06]

Theo Mayer: Tracy Robinson is the director of archives and history for the national society, Daughters of the American Revolution. Learn more about the DAR, their archives and the role in World War One by following the links in the podcast notes. This week in our Historian's Corner, the subject is hogs. No, not hogs like chickens, we're talking motorcycles, and specifically we're talking Harley-Davidson with our two friends France, Christophe and Pierre rolling across the country on their restored World War One era Harley for Operation Twin Links. We thought it would be a perfect time to reach out to Harley-Davidson to talk about their motorcycles in World War One. Their archives lead, Bill Jackson, took some time from his busy schedule to join us today and tell us more about the company and their iconic machines during World War One. Bill, it's great to have you on the podcast.

[0:32:02]

Bill Jackson: Thank you very much for having me.

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Theo Mayer: Bill, how and when did Harley-Davidson itself get its start?

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Bill Jackson: William Harley and Arthur Davidson met as teenagers and there's some mystery about that early period for Harley but we know that they sold their first motorcycle to a friend of Arthur Davidson's we believe in 1903. It could have been in '04 but we believe it's '03 in the back out of the Davidson home here in Milwaukee.

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Theo Mayer: Cars and motorized vehicles were brand new ideas at the turn of the century. How common or popular were motorcycles around 1914?

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Bill Jackson: By 1914, they're getting more popular and there's a few major players including Harley-Davidson. By then one of their emerging big competitors in the US was Indian Motorcycles out of Massachusetts but it's taking off. There was even robust motorcycle magazines in the period and motorcycle shows just like you can go to now. Just like there were car shows in those days. As you aptly put it, it was an exploding market.

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Theo Mayer: I spoke to a Harley history buff a few years ago and as I recall from the conversation, it was Indian as a brand that probably shipped more units into Europe than Harley did in World War One. He also said that this was what gave Harley a break locally because it opened up the business in America because Indian was busy building stuff for the military.

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Bill Jackson: There's a lot of truth to that. For the first year of military production for the war efforts specifically was 1917 and about half of Harley's production went to the military but by then at 1918, the vast majority of Harley's production was going to the military so both Harley and Indian were suppliers. Harley, by that point had a very robust dealer network and they had already been growing in dealer network outside the US borders.

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Theo Mayer: A couple of questions. What was the role of motorcycles in World War One and how do this affect the industry and the product in Harley in particular?

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Bill Jackson: One of the biggest uses was Motor Dispatch Service, MDS. People sometimes misunderstand the motorcycle as a combat vehicle which is of course it wasn't.

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Theo Mayer: I think what people are probably thinking about is that a pretty well-known picture of the Harley with that installed machine gun.

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Bill Jackson: Right. That specific vehicle was developmental. As far as we know that was actually never used in the field but for things like dispatch use, carrier use, sometimes escort service and it actually stemmed from Harley with then providing motorcycles to the US military prior to World War One as part of the US Mexican border conflict. You would commonly these motorcycles that were really not much different than what the civilians could buy.

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Theo Mayer: Do you have a particular story or incident about World War One and about Harley that you can share?

[0:34:41]

Bill Jackson: Absolutely because the very first American who set foot on German soil in November 12 of 1918, the day after the Armistice was a corporal named Roy Holtz of the US Army and he actually entered Germany riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and sidecar when he did it. I guess a curious part of the story is that photo showed in Harley-Davidson's which is the Enthusiast Magazine and lo and behold a few years later, Roy Holtz showed up for a factory tour in Milwaukee. He said, "By the way, I'm the guy in that photo," and they really had this amazing like, "Oh my gosh, it's you." They got some good play out of that, that Roy Holtz, the first American actually showed up here in a factory tour.

[0:35:19]

Theo Mayer: That's a great story. Now, it's interesting that a lot of veterans wind up really interested in riding motorcycles.

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Edward Lengel: Veterans as riders including before, during, and after war time as they come. Then you'll even find Harley-Davidson dealerships deliberately set up near military bases because there's such a huge crossover of passion for motorcycle and motorcycling enthusiasm in the part of service people.

[0:35:43]

Theo Mayer: Well, so relative to this, let's talk about our friends from France and Operation Twin Link. That's the expedition where the boys are crossing the country on a reconstructive role in Harley. Do you know Christophe and Pierre? Have you met?

[0:35:55]

Bill Jackson: I actually did not get the chance to meet them when they were here. I was actually looking out our office window when I saw them coming up on the intersection closest to the museum. It's not every day you see a 1918 Harley-Davidson with a sidecar in the streets of Milwaukee. They had a very busy schedule but I got a good look at the bike. It's clear to me, it's one of these works of passion of getting this old machine running and capable. I think their goal when that's all set and done is to cover 5,000 miles in the US. Very impressive.

[0:36:22]

Theo Mayer: Well, they're an interesting couple of guys. They're not really sponsored. They're taking a nice ride. I mean, that's really what they're doing and it's out of your Harley so it's great. Of course, it's a great Harley testament of a century old machine can still cross the country.

[0:36:35]

Bill Jackson: Absolutely. We are the oldest manufacturer. Not many out there can say that they're hundred years old. It happens to be, I'm sure as you know, that we're also celebrating 115th anniversary of the company.

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Theo Mayer: Congratulations on that. Well, thank you so much for joining us. Our listeners love motorcycles and they love Harley so thank you for going by.

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Bill Jackson: Very welcome. Thank you.

[0:36:57]

Theo Mayer: Bill Jackson is the archive lead for Harley-Davidson. Learn more about Harley-Davidson and the history of motorcycles in war time by following the links in the podcast notes. Moving on to our 100 Cities/100 Memorial segment about the \$200,000 matching grant challenge to rescue and focus on local World War One memorials. This week, we're heading to Lackawanna County in Northeast Pennsylvania where a brand new World War One memorial was built and dedicated for the centennial of the war that changed the world. Here to tell us about the project are Jim Davenport, past president of the Rotary Club of Dunmore and owner of Dunmore Properties, Ann Louise McLafferty, retired director of the YMCA. Welcome to both of you.

[0:37:44]

Jim Davenport: Thank you.

[0:37:45]

Theo Mayer: Let me start by congratulating you on being one of the select few in the country. I think there's less than a dozen of you who took on the challenge of correcting a wrong and building a World War One memorial because your community didn't have one. Can you tell us the story of the county in World War One and your decision to build the memorial?

[0:38:04]

Jim Davenport: Sure. We recognized that many soldiers, many boys as we would call them because they were boys when they died, were buried in France and there was no monument with their names on it, on their home soil and we felt that was an injustice and that should be done. Also, we did it for the living and we researched this project and with that, we met a lot of families who lost a great uncle or another person. We recognized their sacrifice. We're a patriotic club, the Dunmore Rotary Club and this sacrifice is what made our nation great and we've been truly inspired by the outpouring and support I received from the community, not just the Lackawanna County various foundations and lot

of private donors. I know Louise would agree that we were overwhelmed by the amount of support, I think even more than we had hoped for. Now, it sits in a very prominent high traffic location of Dunmore Pennsylvania where families can just park and take a minute, and just acknowledge sacrifice and count our blessings.

[0:39:02]

Theo Mayer: One of the things that I find that's really fascinating is we have the same issue in the nation's capital. No national memorial to World War One in Washington DC. You at Lackawanna County and Washington DC in those terms were really brethren in arms. I understand that when you did the project you paid a lot of attention to make sure that you got all of the names.

[0:39:23]

Louise M.: I have to credit Jim for his integrity with his project of including everyone. We put numerous articles in the newspaper. We really worked hard to get an accurate number and not to omit anyone's name.

[0:39:38]

Theo Mayer: Jim, part of the issue that you run into was that a lot of the records at a service burned up. How did you go about finding all the names?

[0:39:46]

Jim Davenport: We used a book, Soldiers of the Great War which we believe was prepared by the US Army which looked at all the one dead. Not just killed in action but died of disease or died of accidents. We decided to that book and cross referenced all the men in Pennsylvania but knowing mistakes can be made, we built a big four by eight almost a billboard, a plywood and we listed the names and we put a big coming soon sign for the monument hoping that passersby would see that and be able to say, "Hey, that ain't missing." Also, we advertise that's very generous and we had one person, Sgt. Morgan who was not on the list and originally wasn't was that there's a typographical error in the book. The family at the time of this advertising didn't know she had an uncle who passed. We just did a week ago a meaning unveiling. We added one name and his descendants were kind enough to attend the ceremony and I personally found it very moving. One of the many rewards I received from the hard work we put in this project.

[0:40:44]

Theo Mayer: Well, Louise were you involved in the fundraising?

[0:40:47]

Louise M.: I certainly was. In my career was the YMCA director, I certainly had to do a lot of fundraising for my job so we went out on a campaign asking area of businesses and private individuals to subscribe to our project by making donations for a paver. We went out to Lackawanna County, the commissioner. We received a community block grant after an extensive grant application and interview from them. We also did a lot of PR. There was a lot of good publicity from this grant in time and people seem to get on board but I do wanna mention first off, we had to approach the borough on Dunmore, Pennsylvania because where the monument is located is their property and we had to ask them permission to install it there and they were most generous and happy to have it there.

[0:41:41]

Theo Mayer: When you guys hear about 100 Cities/100 Memorials program? Did it influence the project?

[0:41:46]

Jim Davenport: I received an email. Your people might have read a newspaper article.

[0:41:50]

Theo Mayer: Well, actually, that email was from me.

[0:41:53]

Jim Davenport: Oh.

[0:41:54]

Theo Mayer: So nice to meet you.

[0:41:56]

Edward Lengel: I should have said very articulate, well-written then. The most for the project which was critical in making it happen, so we thank you for your most generous support. Louise is very modest but she put in a lot of hours and a grant including the Lackawanna County grant and a lot of time and effort.

[0:42:14]

Louise M.: Thank you.

[0:42:15]

Theo Mayer: Louise, what was the most challenging part of the project for you?

[0:42:19]

Edward Lengel: Well, the most challenging ones that I really wanted to be accepted by Lackawanna County and to get the amount that we asked for. I've been retired for about five years now and had to go back and do some grant work. I just wanted to get it so badly. It was challenging but we all worked together as a club.

[0:42:43]

Theo Mayer: Well, congratulations to your whole community. The memorial is quite beautiful.

[0:42:47]

Louise M.: Thank you.

[0:42:48]

Jim Davenport: Thank you so much.

[0:42:49]

Theo Mayer: Jim Davenport, Dunmore Rotary past president and Louise McLafferty retired YMCA director. Learn more about 100 Cities/100 Memorials program by following the link of the podcast notes. All right. Now, for our weekly feature, Speaking World War One where we explore the words and phrases that are rooted in the war and here's the set up. In early World War One, tactics were simple. Very old school. Everybody moves forward in a big organized way like a big frontal attack. A couple of things evolved to make that a worse and worse idea. First of all, the opposite side started getting dug into trenches and that's a pretty defensible position. Well, of course then there's the machine gun. One tactic developed by the German officers was the infiltration tactic. A tactic the Persian experimented with in earlier wars. With this, small groups, sneak over no man's land in key points really fast rather than a massive frontal attack. Now, these men would then spread through the trenches and attack soldiers from the sides and the insides rather than the outsides. Speed was the key in keeping the enemy off guard. Independent thinking and resourcefulness was also really important without a large central command structure calling the shots. The German's first division scale unit of these new tactic trained soldiers was formed in March of 1915 and it was called Sturmabteilung which translates as storm division, and it worked. A new storm division was added to each army command the next year. By 1917, the German Army was recruiting and training Stosstrupps or shock troops for every German company. These storm division shock troops leads directly to our Speaking World War One word for this week. In English the terms got combined to one word, stormtroopers. Though Germany and their elite fighters, the stormtroopers lost in World War One. The stormtroopers' reputation remains so high that when Hitler named the Nazi parties paramilitary wing years later, he decided on Sturmabteilung or storm division. The concept and the reputation of this power troops is still with us. When George Lucas began looking for a good name for the military forces for the empire in Star Wars, the name was obvious. They're imperial stormtroopers. Stormtroopers, an attack tactic, a term for fierce elite attack groups in World War One and in a galaxy far, far away, and also this week's word for Speaking World War One. Learn more by the links in the podcast notes. For this weeks, World War One War Tech, a special metallic material that's everywhere around us today. A material that really got its start a hundred years ago. Okay. Here's the story. In 1913, the company of Thomas Firth and Sons based in Chatfield England was challenged by a small arms manufacture to develop a metal alloy for bullets that would prove resistant to all forms of corrosion inside the gun barrel. Firth's R&D chief, a guy named Harry Brearley immediately went to work on the problem and soon he discovered an alloy that will largely define the look of the early 21st century. He ran loads of experiments, testing his idea for a new alloy by adding differing amounts of a mineral called chromium to steel. Then in August of 1913, he combo about 13% chromium, added a dash of carbon and viola, he invented a stainless steel. His bosses saw issues and problems for the uses of rustless steel as munitions. Brearley had an idea. He suggested collaborating with Chatfield's cutlery industry to produce a silverware that resisted rusting because his new material showed a great resilience against things like lemon juice and other strong acidics but his bosses at Firth didn't see a big application for that either so Brearley partnered with a local cutlery manufacturer RF Mosley & Company to produce several sets of silverware and then he distributed them to his friends with the caveat that they have to return the sets if they became stained or rusty. Not of them were returned, but then came World War One. Brearley left the company in 1915. A kind of a messy affair that included a rights dispute over his invention. Brearley joined Brown Bayley Steelworks, a competitor on the basis that he'd be allowed to continue his research into stainless steel. Now, stainless steel never did find its way into British bullets but it became an important part of aircraft engines during the war. Since the alloy could perform really well under high stress temperatures produced by these machines. That being said the war itself probably did more to hurt the development of stainless steel than facilitate it. Similar developments were being made in Germany by a company called Krupp Steel, but of course as enemies, Brearley and Krupps were prevented from contacting one another while the war raged on for years. Early collaboration

between the two could have done much to impact the rapid evolution of this magnificent metal. Of course eventually it became very popular. Stainless steel, who knew that it came from this era? I didn't. We do know it's this week's focus for World War One War Tech and we have links for you in the podcast notes. This week in Articles and Posts where we highlight stories that you'll find in our weekly newsletter, The Dispatch. Headline: World War One Memorial Charts Path Forward. The American society of landscape architects website last week published an in depth article regarding the approval by the commission of fine arts of the updated design for the national World War One Memorial in Washington DC. It's a good read for anyone who wants to hear the many sides of the story. Headline: National Women's History Museum Suffragette Walking Tour and DC Highlights World War One Connections. There's a new hidden treasure for those who live bear Washington DC or those making a visit. It's a walking tour presented by the National Women's History Museum. That's now occurring every other week on Friday and one a month on Saturday. World War One Centennial Commission intern Miranda Halpin took the tour and provides a list of the top stops that help explain how the suffragettes supported both their nation at war and the cause of votes for women. Headline: The Story of a Successful Troublemaker. Read about Humphrey Bogart in the third of our series on Hollywood in World War One. Born to a wealthy family, and only ever attending private schools for America's most elite, this young man was a terrible student uninterested in applying himself in school at all. Even so, he was bound for Yale University until misbehavior at the end of his school career removed college as an opportunity. We no other good option, young Humphrey Bogart joined the US Navy in 1918 and it turned his life around while serving in World War One as an exemplary sailor. Headline: 23 Oklahoma Bridges Being Renamed to Honor Choctaw World War One and World War Two Heroes. The Choctaw nation made history earlier this year with the dedication of the Joseph Oklahombi World War One code talker bridge in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. The dedication attended by the Choctaw tribal council, tribal members local city and county and state officials is the first of 23 bridges being named after the 19 Choctaw code talkers from World War One and four from World War Two. The project is being done by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. The biggest bridge undertaking in the history of the department. Headline: This week's featured Doughboy MIA is Corporal Clarence Hawkins. Read the story of Corporal Hawkins, a miner from Indiana who served with the first division going to France with the first American combat contingent to go over in June of 1917. He was killed in action by shell fire on May 30th, 1918 during the Battle of Cantigny. His remains were buried there on the battlefield where he fell but later they were never relocated. Finally, our selection from the official World War One Centennial merchandise shop. Our featured item this week is the US Victory lapel pin. This always popular pin is hand cast in jeweler's alloy and finished in a satin bronze patina. The design features the star symbolizing victory honor and glory. A wreath of evergreen laurel leaves symbolizing the triumph over death and the US insignia clearly identifying the country served. Links to our merchandise shop and all the articles we've highlighted here are in our weekly dispatch newsletter. Subscribe at ww1cc.org/subscribe. You can also send us a tweet @theww1podcast and ask us to send you the link. That brings us to The Buzz. The centennial of World War One this week in social media with Katherine Akey. Katherine, what are this week's highlights?

[0:53:05]

Katherine Akey: Hey, there, Theo. We shared a couple of great photos and articles this week about local dedications and rededications of World War One memorials across the US. In Belmar, New Jersey the towns spirit of the Doughboy statue is back atop his pedestal. The statue is reinstated on July 27th with some 50 people in attendance in this small park under the route 35 bridge. The statue has been undergoing a major restoration project over the last three months after identified vandals broke off the left hand and rifle of the monument nearly two years ago. The statue was originally erected in 1930 to honor the 102 men and women from Belmar who served during World War One. You can read more about the statue and see a video of the rededication at the link in the notes. We also shared a photograph on Facebook of a new World War One memorial unveiled on June 2nd, in Solomon City Park in Dickenson County, Kansas. During the ceremony a time capsule was buried to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of World War One. A capsule contained a medallion from the city of Selena that was given to a World War One veteran coins from 1917 and 1918, a list of Dickenson County veterans who died in World War One and copies of letters written by a local man, Ralph Viola who died in battle during the World War. The capsule will be opened in three more years. We also have links in the notes for you to learn more about that ceremony and this new World War One memorial. Last for the week, the US Army Center of military history put their Trivia Tuesday video and this week it has a World War One theme. You can watch it and learn some interesting facts about the Roosevelt's and their service during World War One by following the links in the podcast notes. That's it this week for The Buzz.

[0:54:55]

Theo Mayer: That wraps up episode number 83 of World War One Centennial News. Thank you for listening. We want to thank our guests, Dr. Edward Lengel, military historian and author. Mike Schuster, curator for the Great War Project blog. Tracy Robinson, director of archives and history for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Bill Jackson, archive lead for Harley Davidson. Jim Davenport, and Louise McLafferty from the 100 Cities/100 Memorials Project in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Katherine Akey, World War One photography specialists and line producer for the podcast. Many thanks to Matt nelson, our wonderful sound editor. Our summer intern has been JL Michaud, 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 are bringing the lessons of 100 years ago into today's educators and their 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 wanna thank the commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, as well as the Starr Foundation for their support. The podcast and the full transcript of the show can be found on our website at ww1cc.org/cn. You'll find World War One Centennial News in all the places you get your podcast and even using your smart speaker by saying play WW1 Centennial News Podcast. The podcast Twitter handle is @theww1podcast. The commission's Twitter and Instagram handles are both @ww1cc and we're on Facebook @ww1centennial. Thank you for joining us, and don't forget to share the stories that you're hearing here today about the war that changed the world. (singing) When we were rechickenizing France, we built literally thousands of chicken coops. Each of them with two doors, so why you may ask, didn't we build the chicken coops with four doors instead? Because of course that would have made the chicken coops, chicken sedans. I'm sorry. So long.

[0:58:07]