

18-08-17-assembly_mixdown-2.mp3 (54m 30s)

<https://jotengine.com/transcriptions/CJCvsdHIDC7nqeOxfy1eBA>

7 speakers (Theo Mayer, Mike Shuster, Dr. Edward L., Jim Theres, Oleda Joure, Douglas C., Katherine Akey)

[0:00:09]

Theo Mayer: Welcome to World War I Centennial News episode number 85. It's about World War I then, what was happening 100 years ago at this time and it's about World War I now. News and updates about the centennial and the commemoration. As many as you know, we've extended the podcast to include a Twitter handle, @TheWW1Podcast. That's @T-H-E-W-W, the number one, podcast. This lets us include images and details from the show and you can ask us questions, make comments, get a link you missed and even ask us to drop a note to one of our guests for you, because after all, it's more than just a podcast, it's a conversation about the war that changed the world. This week, as one and half million Americans have over there. In our history segment, we're going to focus on a hot home front discussion, the new draft goals and methods, what qualifies for exemptions and conscientious objectors. It's a great look at the mindset of America in August of 1918, then Mike Shuster reflects on the turnaround of the war and the German reactions. Dr. Edward Lengel brings us another story of the 28th division, the Pennsylvania National Guard Doughboys. Jim Theres joins us about his documentary film, The Hello Girls. Douglas Cubbison shares the stories of Wyoming Indian Doughboys and the BUZZ, where Katherine Akey highlights some of the World War I posts and stories from social media. World War I Centennial News is brought to you by the US World War I Centennial Commission, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library and the STAR Foundation. I'm Theo Mayer, the Chief Technologist for the Commission and your host. Welcome to the show. It's mid-August 1918 and 1.5 million American soldiers representing some 32 divisions are now in Europe and they're making their presence felt, but what's happening back home? Well back home, their absence is being felt and in mid-August, the press and media is filled with stories about how America must send over more than twice that many soldiers to help the allies and to do that, the selective service rules are being revised. We're going to explore the pages of the official bulletin, the government's War Gazette published by George Creel and the pages of the New York Times. In the headlines and the stories, we're gonna uncover the thinking and the sentiment of America in mid-August 1918. Date line August 22, 1918. A headline reads, debate on the Manpower Bill under which America's fighting forces in France will be raise to four million men opens today in both the house and the senate. Now this bill, whose details are gonna be hotly debated over the coming days, is premised on the widely held belief that America and Europe are going to continue to be embroiled in this conflict well into 1919. From the official bulletin. Date line August 24, 1918. The headline reads, more than 1.5 million men now in overseas forces. General March praises work of US troops in France. Now that force of 1.5 million is certainly having an impact on the battlefield, but equally at home. With one and half million Americans away and four million contemplated, let's put that into perspective of the country. Based on the census data, the population of America is just over 103 million people living in some 20 million households. So think about how this draft under discussion is affecting everybody. Assuming half the population is men, the new law will put 8% of all men in the country into uniform. That's a staggering amount. Of course, not all men is of draft age and that's also under discussion. The original Selective Service Act of 1917 stipulates, that all men between the ages of 21 and 30 need to register for the draft, but the new Manpower Bill expands that. From the New York Times. Date line eight, 22, 1918. The headline reads, 18 to 45 draft to be adopted by house. Who goes first? The issue. And the article reads, debate on the Manpower Bill under which American fighting forces in France will be raised to four million men open today in the senate and in the house. Rapid progress was made. A vote is practically assured in the house tomorrow, while the senate is expected to vote Saturday. The only opposition shown in either house is to provision to include men from 18 to 21 years old into the draft. A handful of senators led by Mr. Kirby, democrat of Arkansas, opposed calling men below 20. Mr. Kirby offered an amendment to that effect. In the house, several members advocated an amendment that would put 18 and 19 years old into classes to be called last. Now it's interesting to note that in 1918, there's so much concern over young men 18 to 20 being inducted. This leads to an interesting question of who else is exempt from the draft? Now there's a number of jobs and roles in American society that were considered essential, heres some examples from the news headlines. From the official bulletin about Spaniards because Spain was officially neutral in the war. Date line eight, 22, 1918. The headline reads, Spaniard subjects. Resident in this country exempted from US military service draft. Those who have applied for citizenship may withdraw their applications if desiring to remain her in civil occupations. The draft call on the entertainment industries is mixed. Again, from the official bulletin. Date line eight, 22, 1918. The headlines reads, motion picture industry recognized as essential by war industries board. Tentative agreement reached after hearing, gives preferment to filmmakers and exhibitors under certain state conditions and the story reads, the war industries board authorizes the following. After a hearing before the priorities, commissioner and the representatives of the war industries board given by a committee representing the entire motion picture industry and all its branches. From the manufacturer of the film to the projection of the pictures on the screen, the following conclusions are tentatively reached and announced. To the extent of the industry's activities and supplying an educational medium and in-furnishing to the great masses of the people, a wholesome and comparatively cheap means of recreation, it should be and is recognized as an essential industry, but contrasting in the New York Times about baseball. Headline Major Baseball

League players allowed until September one, to find essential jobs. Full season is denied. Secretary of war finds no reason why further time should be needed by men. Period. And the story reads, secretary of war Baker today, decided to allow organized baseball until September one, in which to adjust itself to the work or fight order as applicable to ball players of draft age. After that date, all ball players affected by the work or fight regulations must seek some other essential employment or enter the military service. Of course, some men objected to being drafted as a matter of conscious. This from the official bulletin. Date line August 19, 1918. The headline reads, conscientious objectors doing their bit in their war made useful on farms furnishing muscle making food for fighters and the story reads, the United States Department of Agriculture authorizes the following. After struggling for a long time with the naughty problem of conscientious objectors in Army cantonments, the war department now announces that the difficulty has to a large degree been resolved through the aid of the farm help specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture. In the various states where there are farming communities which include sects opposed to the war and where additional farm help is needed, these places are made known to the contentment commanders together with a record of their farm labor needs. The plan has worked out so well, that in three camps were definite lists of objectors were compiled. Practically all these men have been placed. Now some of our listeners may remember, Sergeant Alvin York struggled deeply with his conscious before reaching his decision that his faith would allow him to fight and that battle, which he received his honors, will happen in the coming weeks, but other exemptions are sought because some labor forces are considered critical and just cannot be filled by women, elders or boys in 1918. Again, from the New York Times. Date line August 21, 1918. The headline reads, ask for exemption of New York police. Merchants Association tells congress of danger of further depletion. Seize menitacion and the article reads, because the New York Police Department is in danger of being impaired by the draft, in spite of the fact that the New York Police Reserves have been built up into a strong and efficient organization, the Merchants Association sent an appeal yesterday to the military committee of the house and the senate and to General Crowder asking that the New York police be exempted in the new draft legislation. Quote, "We respectfully urge that you consider the inclusion in this law of a provision for the exemption of the police officers of the city. Our request is not based upon mere local selfish motives, but instead is found upon the urgent need of the whole country. Calamities a fearful consequences to the whole country might easily happen in this city if the highly trained and thoroughly efficient policemen are further depleted in this manner." So in summary, as you've heard, one and a half million Americans soldiers are in the ground in Europe. The senate and the house are working on legislation that will bring that total to four million. While everyone is trying to decide what that affects, what industries and individuals should be exempt and of course what we don't have time for in the segment today and what we'll leave for another episode is a deeper exploration of the many holes in the labor force left by the men now in uniform that are being apply filled by, who else? Rosie the Riveter's mother. A 100 years ago this week in the war that changed the world. From that deep dive into the moods and attitudes back home, now we go to Mike Shuster, former MPR correspondent and the curator for the Great War Project Blog. Mike, your post this week examines the German perspective of the war's turnaround in August of 1918. Germans up and down the command chain seem to be pretty certain of the outcome, don't they?

[0:12:50]

Mike Shuster: Yeah, it certainly seems that way, so our headline reads, Huge American Presence on Western Front. Germans Shocked at American Strength. The Kaiser Received in Silence; A Bitter Epitaph and this is special to the Great War Project. It's a decisive moment in the Great War. Pessimism among the German high command deepens a century ago on the Western Front. In early August, French, British and Dominion troops are preparing themselves for a renewed battle. "That battle will be a turning point," writes the historian in Martin Gilbert. Canadian troops advance six miles. Seize 12 villages, 5,000 German prisoners and 161 guns, then the Allied soldiers go over the top. I gave no mercy, remembers one Allied officer. When the Germans stopped resisting and they could clear they see they are defeated, the British commander orders a halt in the attack. "I did not have the heart to shoot him." He said. "Australian troops have the similar experience that same August day taking seven villages, nearly 8,000 German prisoners and 173 guns," said the German Kaiser that day, "We have reached the limits of our capacity. The war must be ended." But the Kaiser still does not face the full truth of the German collapse. In his view, reports historian Gilbert, the war had to be ended on a positive note for Germany, "when Germany was making progress on the battlefield so that it could obtain at least a minimum of it's war aims." August eighth a century ago is indeed "the black day of the German Army." The strength of the Allied forces on the Western Front is nearing six million, nearly 1/3 of them are American. "On the home front," reports historian Adam Hochschild, "the war of attrition was taking its toll and German morale was crumbling." "With nervous, sweat visible on his face the Kaiser speaks to sullen munitions workers at the giant Krupp factory, railing against rumormongers and anti-war agitators and urging a fight to the end." "To every single one of us," the Kaiser declares, "this task is given to you your hammer, to you at your lathe, to me upon my throne." Historian Hochschild reports, "embarrassingly, he was received with a scattered laughs and silence." "In a matter of days," reports Hochschild, "British and Belgium troops recaptured the ground that had previously taken months and hundreds of thousands of casualties to win in the Battle of Passchendaele." On August tenth a century ago, reports historian Gilbert, "seven fresh German divisions arrive to take their place in the line. A group of drunken German soldiers shouts at them, "What do you war prolongers want?" Senior military and political leaders in Germany and Austria recommend immediate peace negotiations. Writes one, "Our military situation has deteriorated so rapidly that I no longer believe we can hold out over the winter. It is even possible that catastrophe

will come earlier." He adds, "The Americans are multiplying in a way we never dreamed of. One of the casualties in this Allied offensive is the son of the well-known writer, Rudyard Kipling, whose son John was killed on the Western Front. Kipling writes his son's epitaph. If any question why we died, tell them, because our fathers lied and that some of the news of the Great War Project this day 100 years ago in the Great War.

[0:16:23]

Theo Mayer: Mike Shuster is the curator for the Great War Project Blog. The link to his post is in the podcast notes. On this week's segment of America Emerges, military storied from World War I, Dr. Edward Lengel gives us the second chapter of a power first person narrative experience. As the action of the 28th division, the Pennsylvania National Guard continues its fearsome fight. A warning to listeners, this segment contains graphic descriptions of violence that may be inappropriate for younger listeners.

[0:16:56]

Dr. Edward L.: 100 years ago on August 1918, US 28th Division Pennsylvania National Guard engaged German forces in a fight to the finish for the tiny French town of Fismette. It all began as the Division's 112th Regiment forded the Vesle River to establish a shaky foothold in the village. But the cost was high, and on the night of August ninth to 10th, the 111th regiment in relief. The American Doughboys never forgot what happened next. Private Duncan Kemerer of Company B vaulted desperately over wreckage cluttering the half-demolished bridge into Fismette, racing for his life against high explosive shellfire. Reaching the north bank, he ran down a street and dodged into an abandoned building with part of his platoon. As some Doughboys took up positions on the buildings first and second floors, Kemerer took shelter in the basement with a few other soldiers. Relaxing a little, his buddy found a French magazine and sat down to read it with his feet propped up on a stove, but Kemerer couldn't rest. Hearing dead nations outside, Kemerer climbed the basement stairs and watched with horror as a German barrage walked toward him. One spine-jarring explosion at a time. An enemy spotter had seen the Americans enter the building. Choking down his panic, Kemerer decided that the doorway was the safest place to shelter and as soon as the thought entered his head, two shells hit the building in succession, killing eight men including his buddy in the basement and hurling Kemerer 20 feet into the street. He climbed to his feet and his uniform hung on his body in shreds. Blood oozed from his head and down his back. Agonized and terror-stricken, Kemerer staggered towards the river, but a soldier pulled him into a dugout aid station. He waited there for treatment until one wounded Doughboy stood between him and the doctor. Suddenly another shell landed in the dugout entrance blowing the standing Doughboy to pieces before his eyes. Kemerer regains consciousness on the dugout's third floor and found himself lying in a pool of blood as shells pounded the ceiling overhead. His mind cracked. Screaming desperately, Kemerer scrambled to dig a hole in the floor for protection and mercifully lost consciousness again for the final time. Kemerer awoke hours later, as he was being evacuated through Fismes, just across the river to the south of Fismette. He became a shell shock patient at a hospital in Chaumont. In the ward, if someone as so much as dropped a spoon on the floor, Kemerer would shriek and dive under the covers, but only three weeks later the doctor deemed him fully recovered and sent him back to the front. Behind the lines, American General Robert Bullard and French General Jean-Marie Degoutte agreed that the Americans were not pushing hard enough in Fismette. The bridgehead there must be expanded. The Doughboys would attack. The 111th Regiment's First Battalion was ordered to advance up the open slopes overlooking Fismette from the north. Lieutenant Bob Hoffman was there and he remembered, "We were going over right into the reign of death, which was coming from in front and to the left of us. We couldn't see much, just the ruined house and outbuildings, the haystack and the wagons, but they were out there somewhere for from this apparent void was coming a veritable hail of death. We were so close to the guns that we no longer heard the (shh noises) of their searching fingers. Just the wicked crack they made as they went past our ears. There was must've been a battalion of machine gunners in front of us. The noise they made was not unlike hundreds of riveting machines, such as can be heard in building a skyscraper in New York or some other big city. We advanced 50 yards. There was absolutely no place to advance to. We had to fall back to our lines. There was nothing else we could do. We left some of our men dead and wounded in the orchards and fields." The Germans prepared to retaliate by attacking down a road leading into Fismette and its exhausted American defenders. Hoffman noticed the enemy preparations and deployed his men in a block of ruined houses linked with tunnels in strong points. The Doughboys had just finished pushing their rifles through holes in the battered stone walls, when the Germans charged down the street. The image stayed with Hoffman for years. Clumplety-clump they were going with their high boots and huge coal bucket helmets. I can see them coming yet, bent over rifle in one hand, potato-masher grenade in the other. Husky red-faced young fellows, their eyes almost popping out of their heads as they dashed down the street, their necks red and perspiring. As the Germans enter the village, they ventured into pre-sited kill zones in front of the Doughboy's barricade and toppled under a hail of bullets. As the fighting raged, a young German breathlessly dodged into the doorway of the house where Hoffman sheltered. Standing in the semi-darkness of the ruined house, the American Lieutenant hesitated. Should he shoot the German, yell at him to turn around and fight or just bayonet him in the back? The last seemed simplest and safest. Hoffman lunged and with a gasp of surprise, the German died spitted on his bayonet. The enemy raiders killed almost to a man, but the battle for Fismette had hardly begun.

[0:22:36]

Theo Mayer: Dr. Edward Lengel is an American military historian and our segment host America Emerges. Military stories from World War I. We put links in the podcast notes to Ed's post and his author's website. And those are the stories from 100 years ago. It's time to fast forward into the present with World War I Centennial News Now. This part of the podcast focuses on now and how the centennial of World War I is being commemorated. This week in commission news, we have an exciting advanced announcement for all of our listeners who are or who would like to be involved with honoring our veterans on Veteran's Day. Of course, this year is just no Veteran's Day. It's the centennial of the Armistice. That blessed and poignant moment in history when the World War I carnage and bloodbath on the Western Front finally ceased on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 and the road to peace was begun. For many years, the 11th of November was known for this moment and was called Armistice Day, but as the war to end all wars turned out not to be that, the name for the sacred day was changed to Veteran's Day. To become a day of remembrance for all who've sacrificed for you and for our country. This year, for the centennial for World War I, this is our arguably the most significant moment of the commemoration and with that, the commission is undertaking a number of Armistice Centennial Events throughout the Veteran's Day weekend in Washington, DC. It should surprise you that we're calling the Armistice Centennial Events by their acronym, ACE. But this certainly isn't a Washington moment. This is a national and a world moment, so we've been hard at work to find ways to bring ACE to you in large cities, in small communities across the nation. We want to support the remembrance of the Centennial of the Armistice everywhere and we're calling this initiative your ACE and here's what we put together for you. On November 11th at 11am local time, we're asking all communities and people across America, those who were gathering organizations that post, chapters, auditoriums, memorials, cemeteries, churches, or even individuals to join together for bells of peace. A national bell tolling to reflect on and remember those who served and those who fell 100 years ago and since. But what if you don't have bells or you're gathered in a place where there are no bells? Well, this is 2018, so for you, we've created the Bells of Peace Participation App. This free smartphone app is gonna hit the streets in about three weeks and you'll be able to download it for your Apple or your Android mobile device. So imagine that you're at your traditional Veteran's Day event at your local cemetery war memorial, this may be where you gather every year to remember and honor your community's fallen. This year you could commemorate the Armistice by everyone opening their Bells of Peace App. As the built-in countdown timer reaches 11am local, Bells of Peace will toll from every device. Together. 21 times. In a remembrance of this very special moment, when the dying stopped over there, but a commemoration of peace isn't only slumber. Yes, it's a deeply important time for reflection, but it's also a time for teaching, learning and sharing about what it means, what happens, why, who. So for that, we've created something very special that extends over the entire Veteran's Day weekend. Your ACE is offering you a world re-run Armistice Film Festival. Now this is pretty cool. Any organization or community that donates \$500 or more to the National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC will be able to hold your own community World War I Armistice Film Festival. The commission as the national organization charged with helping commemorate World War I has made the arrangements for you to be able to hold public showings of four incredible World War I films and documentaries in your community. They include Pershing Path to Glory, a new documentary film that traces the story of blackjack Pershing, the General who led American forces in World War I. The Hello Girls, a new documentary playing to standing room only audiences around the country. It's the inspiring story about the first women to serve in the US Army and their 60 year struggle to get their veteran's benefits and their 100 struggle for deserved recognition. Then there's Sergeant Stubby an American Hero, this is the fully animate featured film that you may have heard about. It tells the story about a dog and his Doughboy in World War I and it's a true story. This wonderfully made movie is an ideal draw that could bring entire families and their kids into the commemoration of the Armistice. Finally, you'll also be able to premiere the new US World War I Commission sponsored short film, A Soldier's Journey, which tells the story of World War I through the elements of the sculpture being created by sculptor Saben Howard for the National Memorial. All you need to do is to supply the location with video playback and invite your community come in and share and learn and even laugh out loud a little. Stubby has some very endearing, some very funny moments. All at your community's World War I Armistice Film Festival that you can run from Friday to Monday on Veteran's Day weekend. We have a lot more tools for you in the pipeline. Things that help you announce, promote and turn this Veteran's Day into your Armistice Centennial Commemoration. Together, we can honor the 4.7 million who served, the 375,000 who were wounded and the 116,516 who sacrificed all for us and for our country. Now personally, I think they're gonna be joining you at your Armistice Centennial Event and you heard about it first here on World War I Centennial News the Podcast. We won't be going public with this until the end of next week, that's when the website goes live when we're going out to the press, but you could already sign up today for Bells of Peace at www.1cc.org/bells. That will get you on the information list about all the your ACE resources or you could send us a note by Twitter @TheWW1Podcast. The centennial of the World War I Armistice is on November 11th, 2018. Moving on to our spotlight on the media. Back in March episode number 62, we spoke to author and historian Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs about the book she wrote called The Hello Girls. We followed that up with AT&T's historian, Dr. Sheldon Hockizer on episode 69 in late April. As we mentioned during those interviews, the story was being made into a documentary and as we just announced, the wonderful documentary The Hello Girls is now available for your Armistice World War I Centennial Film Festival. So for today, it's my great pleasure to welcome the film's executive producer and director to the podcast. His name is Jim Theres. Jim, welcome to the show.

[0:30:36]

Jim Theres: Hey, Theo. Great to be here, thank you.

[0:30:39]

Theo Mayer: So Jim, our audience is growing so fast, that many of listener may not have heard the previous episode where we laid out this incredible story, The Hello Girls. Could you give em' a brief overview?

[0:30:50]

Jim Theres: Sure, I'd like to read from the opening maybe 20 seconds of the film, it's a narrative that I have there. In 1918, the US Army signal core trained and sent 223 American women to France as telephone operators. They were intrepid, united in a common cause. They wanted to save France. I think that captures what they were sent over to do during the first World War and they were fearless. When you think of World War I, you often think of the millions of Doughboys that served overseas, but to put in perspective, these women by the end of the war, we're talking six months of the time that they were over there, they helped connect over 26 million calls and they were saving lives. So it was a very, very important role they played and General Pershing recognized that role.

[0:31:40]

Theo Mayer: And there were even translators because most of them were bilingual and translated between the French and the Americans, didn't they?

[0:31:47]

Jim Theres: Exactly, yes and General Pershing recognized how important communications were. The battlefields was changing, so he said, "Well I need the best. We're at war. I need the best," and the best at this job were women and so then went and got American women.

[0:32:01]

Theo Mayer: And they thought they were enlisted in the Army and then the war ended, what happened?

[0:32:06]

Jim Theres: They swore Army Oath, they wore uniforms, they held rank, they were subject to military justice, they received awards and commendations. For intents and purposes, they thought they were in the Army, as did their male counterparts overseas. Well when they returned home, they were told they were never soldiers and that was because the Army regulations that were written at the time, only recognized that men could serve. So they were told, "No, you weren't really soldiers. You were civilian contractors."

[0:32:35]

Theo Mayer: Well they didn't put up with that though, right?

[0:32:37]

Jim Theres: Can you believe they fought for 60 years led by Meryl Eagin in Montana and she just would not give it up and eventually they did succeed in 1977 legislation that was proposed by Senator Barry Goldwater, Senator Daniel Inouye, Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, signed by President Carter, but unfortunately only 33 of the women were still alive.

[0:33:01]

Theo Mayer: Now you and I had a conversation the other day about your showings and the audience. So whose showing up and how are they reacting?

[0:33:08]

Jim Theres: Most of the folks are women. I'd say the average age is probably 45 to 50 or older, but the reaction is I think very powerful. When people realize that they fought for so long and wouldn't give it up and that many didn't live to see it, people get a little bit angry. Those are some of the emotions. Anger, frustration, happiness, joy. We cover the .

[0:33:32]

Theo Mayer: Well the audience that you described seem to be boomer women who are the generation that have gone through insisting on recognition and respect and rights and a lot of stuff that hasn't been achieved yet. So this really would seem to resonate to an entire generation.

[0:33:48]

Jim Theres: It really does.

[0:33:49]

Theo Mayer: The other day, I received a link to a clip that you released where you have some actual audio from one of The Hello Girls, , that her daughter found on a cassette tape. Let's take a listen to that.

[0:34:03]

Oleda Joure: ...was finally recognition for women in the Army service. There shouldn't be discrimination like and I think now that it's gonna help a lot for all the women if they joined the Army, I would say we are pioneer people.

[0:34:22]

Theo Mayer: Well the book, the centennial, the AT&T involvement and your documentary is really shed a lot of light on these women's story and that's now generating interest and action in the halls of congress. Could you tell us about that?

[0:34:35]

Jim Theres: On June 26th of 2018, US Senators John Tester from Montana and Dean Heller from Nevada company-sponsored by Parterson Legislation peddled The Hello Girls congregational gold medal act of 2018. Once this gets passed, I'm not saying if, but I'm saying once this gets passed, the women postliminy will receive the highest civilian award which they deserve in Senate Bill 31 36.

[0:35:02]

Theo Mayer: Well your Hello Girls documentary's becoming a demand film a lot of festivals and showings. Can you tell us about some of the places where people are gonna be able to see it?

[0:35:12]

Jim Theres: Yes, well coming up on August 27th, we'll be at the in this appropriate place to be, the 100th Annual American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis. We're gonna screen it there. We'll see if W and American Legion have been very extremely supportive. We're showing it at AUSA, the Association of the United States Army, here in DC on October eighth and then heres a really neat place we're gonna be Theo in November 11th, 2018, myself, Elizabeth Cobbs, Carolyn Timbey and a few others, Hellen Rashart, some of the daughters and granddaughters. We will be in Chaumont, France at General Pershing's former headquarters and we're gonna stream the film there for the city of Chaumont.

[0:35:53]

Theo Mayer: Awesome.

[0:35:55]

Jim Theres: I know. 100 years later to the date. I mean I can't believe that I'm gonna be there. I pinch myself every day when I think about it.

[0:36:03]

Theo Mayer: You have a really busy schedule coming up.

[0:36:06]

Jim Theres: We do, yeah on the GI Film Festival in San Diego is in September and then some documentary film festivals are coming up in September, October. Doc Utah in Utah. Chagrin in Ohio. Long Beach in California. The Kansas International Film Festival and then the St. Louis International Film Festival and the Hartland Film Festival in Indiana are just a few of them that have picked up the film so far.

[0:36:30]

Theo Mayer: And of course, as we just announced, The Hello Girls is part of the World War I Armistice Film Festival that we expect to be going on in communities all over the country on November 11th. Jim, thank you for making your wonderful documentary available for this.

[0:36:43]

Jim Theres: Oh no man, that's an honor to be a part of that. Thanks for thinking of us and thinking of the film and we're looking forward to it anyway we can help, I agree. It's a great story.

[0:36:53]

Theo Mayer: Jim Theres is the executive producer and director of the documentary The Hello Girls. Learn more about the film by following the links in the podcast notes. This week in updates from the states, we're headed to the big west, the cowboy state, Wyoming. The Wyoming Veteran's Memorial Museum opened the Centennial Exhibit Wyoming in the Great War on April sixth, 2017 and it's still on view. Among the myriad topics studied in preparation for this exhibit was the service of Wyoming's Indians in the Great War. Particularly from the Arapaho and the

Shoshone Nations on the Wind River Reservation. Joining us today to tell us more about the exhibit and the service of Wyoming's Indian Doughboys is Douglas R. Cubbison curator of the National Museum of Military Vehicles in Dubois, Wyoming. Welcome to the podcast.

[0:37:47]

Douglas C.: Real pleasure to be here.

[0:37:48]

Theo Mayer: Douglas, Wyoming was made a state around 1890, just about 25 years before the outbreak of World War I. Can you give our listeners a picture of life in Wyoming in that era?

[0:38:00]

Douglas C.: Well Wyoming was an extremely rural state on the cusp of the Great War and really, we could still be considered the frontier. In fact, in the 1910 census, our state's population was a mere 145,000 people. Only seven towns could be considered to be urban and we only had one city with the population over 25,000. In 1915, Wyoming's predominant history was still agriculture, particularly cattle and sheep. Wyoming led the nation in wool production. We actually had six million sheep in Wyoming in 1908.

[0:38:33]

Theo Mayer: A wool was a really big deal at that point.

[0:38:36]

Douglas C.: Why absolutely and in fact, the war effort could not have been sustained without the wool being provided by the state of Wyoming. Wyoming was on the verge of becoming significant for petroleum production, the increased reliance and the increased use of automobiles, trucks, airplanes results in a huge demand for petroleum products and right at the end of the war, Wyoming benefits from a huge economic boom.

[0:39:01]

Theo Mayer: So how many people served from Wyoming? I mean you have such a small population.

[0:39:05]

Douglas C.: Mere 145,000 in the 1910 census, but significantly in World War I, Wyoming provided 11,393 soldiers. That is a staggering 7% of its population enlisted and more soldiers per capita served from Wyoming than any other state in the union.

[0:39:26]

Theo Mayer: Now Wyoming had and still has a large number of Indian Reservations and people. Could you tell us about that?

[0:39:33]

Douglas C.: Well the most significant Indian Reservation is called the Wind River Indian Reservation. It was established where the eastern Shoshone Nation in 1863. The Arapaho joined that reservation in 1878. It's still a very sizable reservation here in the center of Wyoming.

[0:39:51]

Theo Mayer: I know that at the time, Indians hadn't actually been citizens status, but they still volunteered and served in large numbers in World War I. How did that affect the Wyoming nations?

[0:40:02]

Douglas C.: What ended up happening was really the intervention of two extremely significant military leaders. The first man was a fella called General Hughs Scott and Scott had served and commanded Troop L of the 7th United States Cavalry, which was a Sioux Indian troop in the 1880s and 1890s and by the beginning of World War I, he happens to be the Chief of Staff in the United States Army. The other oh a fellow called John J. Pershing.

[0:40:32]

Theo Mayer: Oh him.

[0:40:34]

Douglas C.: He commanded a company of Sioux Indians scouts from the Pine Rich Indian Reservation in 1891. It was called Troop B of the Aguala Indian Scouts at Pine Rich Reservation. I'm gonna read you a direct quote of Pershing from his autobiography. "Field work was secondary nature to them. They would send out advanced carts and plankers and cover the main body perfectly. Cautiously approaching the crest of a ridge, as if actually in hostile

county." So arguably the two most significant men in the United States Army at the beginning of World War I used Scott and John J. Pershing, both had direct experience commanding Indians, believed that they could make a significant contribution to the United States Army and were very powerful components to include them in service and it did not always go smoothly, but in the end, about 12,500 Indians served in the United States services.

[0:41:28]

Theo Mayer: As you're doing the project and preparing your exhibit, is there a particular story that struck you that comes to mind?

[0:41:34]

Douglas C.: We have been working this for a couple of years now and it's been kind of a slow and difficult and painful process, but we have now documented six Indians from Wyoming and one of them is an extremely significant individual who actually in fact had vanished and been lost from history and that is a gentleman called Thomas Daniels Saunders. So we don't know what his Indian name was, but we do know that he was enlisted as Thomas Daniels Saunders. He was a Northern Cheyenne from the booming Metropolis of Medicine Bow. We believe he had some Arapaho relationships with some of the Indian families that went river. He enlisted in the summer of 1917, pretty much as soon as Indians were permitted to enlist in the United States Army. He became a combat engineer and was assigned the second engineering company, which was the combat engineers that supported the famous second division. Saunders would have a remarkable, an amazing career, he would be wounded at Chateau Thierry on July 1918. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in action at a place called Jaulny, France on September 12th, 1918 and then not much longer afterward, he received the Croix De Guerre with Gold Star awarded by the French for leading a patrol under heavy fire near Blanc Mont, France on October eight, 1918 and I'm gonna read you a quote from his commanding officer and this a remarkable quote. Quote "This soldier has shown himself under trying situation to be far above his comrades in all operations requiring alertness, coolness, independibility backed by fearlessness." But his real moment of glory came couple years later. November 11th, 1921 the unknown soldier is returned from France to be entered at the Arlington National Cemetery and John J. Pershing hand-picked the six men and they're called the body bearers and those are the 6 enlisted men who will personally carry the unknown soldier's coffin. By then, Staff Sergeant Thomas Daniels Saunders is one of those six men picked by Pershing to represent the United States Army core of engineers. Thomas Daniels Saunders was Wyoming's most decorated enlisted soldier of the Great War, a really remarkable man. The Indians service was extremely significant. The 1919 Citizenship Act gave all honorably discharged Indian Doughboys American citizenship. In 1924, the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 was passed and with that act, all American Indians are given both United States Citizenship without relinquishing their citizenship rights of their own Indian nations. So this is a huge event in American History and it's entirely due to the service of Indian Doughboys.

[0:44:24]

Theo Mayer: And one very special Indian Doughboy from Wyoming. Thank you Doug.

[0:44:29]

Douglas C.: Yes, it's a wonderful story and an honor and a privilege to be able to relate it.

[0:44:33]

Theo Mayer: Douglas R. Cubbison is the curator for the National Museum of Military Vehicles in Dubois, Wyoming. Learn more about this great exhibit by following the links in the podcast notes. This week's World War I WarTech focuses on one of the most iconic tech tools of the war, also known as Devil's Rope. It's barbed wire and even before it hit the battlefields of Europe, it profoundly changed the America. As America expanded West, the control of grazing and farmlands became an increasing issue. The land was unlike anything these settlers had encountered before. Vast tree-less expanses of open prairie and ocean of grass and wildflowers as far as the eye could see. With no trees for fences and no stones to build walls, many farmers found the free ranging herds of cattle would cut across their open land, damaging their farms and gardens. To compound the issue, cattle's are exactly bothered by regular fencing, so there was a huge need for something that'll keep the herds of cattle in check and keep the farmer's lands from their hooves and insatiable bellies. The idea of barbed wire has been around for a long time. In 1868, a man named Michael Kelly had invented the basic design for barbed wire when he twisted two plain wires together to create a cable of barbs. Then in 1874, a guy named Joesph Glidden, a farmer from Illinois made improvements to Kelly's invention. Locking a simple wire barb into a double strand of wire and he got a patent for it. Glidden's design was cheap, easy to mass manufacture and effective at confining livestock. Within two years, Glidden was producing three million pounds of wire a year. Now this caused some rouse between the open-ranged cattle men and the land managing farmers. More than a few shots were fired, until the government stepped in and help quell the situation in the late 1880s. So barbed wire's pretty darn good for controlling and containing and when it was used in World War I, it was used in combinations with trenches to make attacking across No Man's Land a literal and figurative pain. More than a million miles of barbed wire were laid down on the Western Front alone, often entangled masses. Barbed wire was typically laid out in long zig zag strips or in belts running along parallel to the trenches. The more heavy duty

could be six feet tall or more. Sometimes wire would be laid out over entire fields like those in Germany's densely fortified Hindenburg Line that could reach as far as 300 feet out into No Man's Land. Now one of the great breakthrough technologies of the war, tanks, were specifically designed to roll through this stuff. Barbed wire, a fearsome, brutal and effective deterrent. Both in the range lands in America and on the war fronts of Europe. We have links for you in podcast notes. This week in articles and posts where we highlight the stories that you'll find in our weekly newsletter, The Dispatch. Headline, Lost Purple Heart Returned to Family of World War I Veteran 100 Years Later. The US World War I Centennial Commission's Veteran Liaison, David Harmon was on hand last week as Purple Hearts reunited. Presented the Purple Heart medal earned by Private First Class Joseph Hish who was wounded by mustard gas during World War I. His son and grandson received the honor during a ceremony in Washington, DC. Headline, Massachusetts Mount Greylock Added To National World War I Memorial Registry. The Boston Globe Newspaper put the spotlight on one of the awardees in the 100 cities 100th Memorials Program. The Massachusetts Veteran's War Memorial Towers received one of the 100 grants to assist in refurbishing the memorial during the World War I Centennial Commemoration in the United States. Headline, Wwrite Blog The Debt of World War II French Resistance Writers to World War I Veterans. This week, Wwrite takes a look at World War II writer resisters like Victor Bacsh, Albert Camus, Jean Moulin, and Louis Aragon, and the ways their written work and their battle against the Nazis were inspired by the sacrifices of World War I soldiers. And finally our selection from our Official World War I Centennial Merchandise Shop. Our featured item this week is our US Army Doughboy window decal. A wonderful and inexpensive way to tell the world the Centennial is her. It features the iconic Doughboy silhouette flanked by barbed wire. 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 a link request with a tweet @TheWW1Podcast or follow the link in the podcast notes. And that brings us to the BUZZ. The Centennial of World War I this week in social media with Katherine Akey. Katherine, what are this week's posts?

[0:50:04]

Katherine Akey: Hey Theo, there were three particularly popular posts shared this week on our social media accounts. The first is a celebratory photo from the first Battalion 103rd D Field Artillery. They shared a photograph on their Facebook page of the current Battalion proudly displaying a Battalion flag as well as the commissions flag, commemorating 100 years of service. You can find their page in the podcast notes. They've shared many photos and articles about their 100 years of service, as well as their service in World War I. A second popular post this week comes from the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City where they've recently installed a large handcrafted Poppy artwork at the entrance of the museum. Each of the 117 Poppies in the reflection pool represents 1,000 service men and women who lost their lives in World War I. The installation will be up through Armistice Day, November 11th and afterwards, the Poppies will available for sale through the museum's gift shop. Finally for the week, there's an incredible production coming to Washington, DC's Kennedy Center this Autumn. Silent Night is an opera inspired by the true story of war time's seize fire the Christmas truce of 1914. The production features lyrics in multiple languages, prize winning music and a dynamic cast. The show will run from November 10th to November 25th this year and you can purchase tickets now at the link in the podcast notes. And that's it this week for the BUZZ.

[0:51:38]

Theo Mayer: And that wraps up episode number 85 of the World War I Centennial News Podcast. Thank you for listening. We also want to thank our guests. Mike Shuster, curator for the Great War Project Blog. Dr. Edward Lengel, military historian and an author. Jim Theres, executive producer and director of The Hello Girls. Douglas Cubbison, curator of the National Museum of Military Vehicles in Dubois, Wyoming. Katherine Akey, World War I photography specialist and line producer for the podcast. Many thanks to Mac Nelson our wonderful sound editor and I'm Theo Mayer, your host. The US World War I Centennial Commission was created by congress to honor, commemorate and educate about World War I. Our programs are to inspire a national conversation and awareness about World War I, including this podcast. We're bringing the lessons of 100 years ago to today's educators and their classrooms. We're helping to restore World War I memorials in communities of all sizes across the country and of course, we're building America's National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC. We want to thank the commission's founding sponsor the Pritzker Military Museum and Library as well as the STAR Foundation for their great support. The podcast and a full transcript of the show, can be found on our website at WW1CC.org/CN. You'll find World War I 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 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) So long.

[0:54:27]