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5 speakers (Theo Mayer, Mike Shuster, Joe Wishart, Sabin Howard, Bob Shay)

[0:00:07]

Theo Mayer: Welcome to the World War I Centennial News Podcast. It's about then. What was happening 100 years ago in the aftermath of World War I. And, it's about now, how a world transformed by World War I is very present in our lives today. But, perhaps equally important, the podcast is about why and how we will never let those events fall back into the mists of obscurity. So, welcome to World War I Centennial News, episode number 106. This week on the show, we're going to start off with a two week fast run through the headlines of the New York Times to see what was news in the first two weeks of 1919. Then, Dr. Edward Lengel joins us to talk about the 308th Regiment's journey home. Mike Shuster catches up on Wilson's exploits in Europe, specifically, his visit to Rome. We have part two of the story of Sergeant Roy Holtz, the American soldier caught on film riding through occupied Belgium on a Harley. We'll rejoin the conversation between Joe Wishart, lead designer and Sabin Howard, sculptor for the National World War I Memorial in Washington DC. Then, we're joined by Bob Shea, Navy veteran and memorial hunter. And, much more. All this week on World War I Centennial News, which 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. In a regular segment that we're going to call, In the News a Hundred Years Ago This Week, a take off from our headline reporting last year, we're going to explore the newspaper headlines from 100 years ago, providing us great insight into what was on everyone's mind. This week, we're going to span a little wider and start a bit more than a week ago with some history changing moments. We're going to follow five stories through the daily headlines of the New York Times over two weeks. The five stories are, The Death of Teddy Roosevelt, The Sparticide Revolt in Germany, The Strike in New York Harbor, The Versailles Peace Conference Starting Up, and America's Move to Prohibition. Let's jump into our centennial time machine and roll back 100 years ago to January 1919. Dateline, Tuesday, January 7, 1919. Across the top of the New York Times it reads, "Theodore Roosevelt Dies Suddenly at Oyster Bay Home. Nation Shocked. Pays Tribute to Former President. Our Flag On All Seas and In All Lands At Half Mast. Blood Clot, Physicians Announce Killed Colonel Roosevelt in His Sleep. He Worked Up To the Last. The next day, a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson." Dateline, Wednesday, January 8, 1919. By Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, a proclamation. "To the people of the United States, it becomes my sad duty to announce officially the death of Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States from September 14, 1901 to March 4, 1909, which occurred at his home at Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, New York at 4:15 o'clock in the morning of January 6, 1919. As President of the police board of his native city, as member of the legislature and governor of his state, as Civil Service Commissioner, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, as Vice President, and as President of the United States, he displayed administrative powers of signal order, and conducted the affairs of these various offices with a concentration of effort and a watchful care which permitted no divergence from the line of duty he had definitely set for himself. In testimony of the respect in which the memory is held by the government and the people of the United States, I do hereby direct that the flags of the United States House, and several departmental buildings be displayed at half staff for a period of 30 days, and that suitable military and Naval honors under the orders of the Secretary of War, and the Navy be rendered on the day of his funeral. President Woodrow Wilson." On the same day, Wednesday, also on the front page of the New York Times, "Headline, Hundreds Shot Dead in Berlin Streets. Big Guns Used to Check Revolutionists. Dead and Wounded Strewn in the Streets of Chancellery, Attack by Sparticides." The next day. Dateline Thursday, January 9, 1919. From the headline of the New York Times, "Berlin Revolt Held at Bay as Ebert Masses Troops. Flame Throwers Ready, Will be Used Against the Revolutionists if They Force Crisis at Palace. Allies May Allow Food Imports To End Red Peril." The next day. Dateline, Friday, January 10, 1919. The front page of the New York Times reads, "Berlin Government Reported to have Checked Revolt After Three Days of Savage Battling in the Streets, Heavy Battling in Berlin, Big Guns in Action as Conflict Takes Place in Center of City. Wild Disorder in the Streets. Sparticides Armed from Arsenals Resist Government Troop Bitterly." On the same day Friday, "New York City Headline, 160,000 Go on Strike and Tie UP Harbor. 1000 Craft Lie Idle at Piers Demoralizing Transportation Here. Jersey Badly Effected. Thousands of Commuters Discommoded, and Hudson Tubes are Overtaxed. Navy Boats Requisitioned." Saturday, January 11, 1919. "Federal Effort Fails to Stop Harbor Tie Up. Lack of Tug Boats Interferes with Shipment of Army Supplies. Call on Wilson to End Strike. Secretary of Labor Asks President to Intervene in Harbor Tie Up. Washington Ready to Act." Dateline Sunday, January 12, 1919. Headline, "Allied Chiefs Meet in Paris Today. Plan Full Conference on Monday. Rebels Beaten Back in Berlin Battles. Honors for Clemenceau. He Will be Presiding Officer for Peace Conference And End Harbor Strike on Wilson's Plea. Men Return Today. Unions Cheer President's Message and Vote Unanimously to Break the Tie Up." Dateline Monday, January 13, 1919. Headline, "Versailles, France Supreme Allied Council Meets. Crowd Greets Notables. Faust the First To Arrive Soon Followed by Wilson, and British Representatives." Dateline Tuesday January 14, 1919. "War Council Amends Armistice. Peace Talk Waits. Japan in the Conference. Her Representatives Sit for the First Time in Paris. Berlin Revolt Now Broken. 400 Revolutionists Captured in Failed Eichhorn Stronghold." And our new story begins today. Dateline Tuesday,

January 14, 1919. "California Joins in Vote to Ratify Dry Amendment. Legislature Records It's Assent Despite Adverse Popular Verdict. 24 States Have Now Acted Favorably Leaving Only 12 More Necessary." Dateline Wednesday, January 15, 1919. Headline, "Paris, France, Seek Haste in Peace Preliminaries. President and Lloyd George Confer. War Council Resumes Work Today. Maze of Peace Proposals. 40 League of Nation Plans to be Considered. No Danger to American Ideals Seen in Any." And on prohibition, "Six More States in Dry Column. Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas Among Those Ratifying Amendment. Only Six More are Needed, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri and Utah to Act Soon." And the next day, Dateline Thursday, January 16, 1919. Headline, "Paris, France Adopts Secrecy for Peace Conclave. Americans and British Opposing It. New Truth Terms Cause Uneasiness. Majority Imposes Secrecy. French, Italian, and Japanese Favor Closed Door at Conclave. British Writer Protest. Correspondents Appeal to Lloyd George While Americans Turn to Wilson. Recall Publicly Promised." And on prohibition, "Dry Amendment on Eve of Victory Needs One State. New Hampshire, Iowa, Colorado, Utah, and Oregon Make 35 for Ratification. Eventual Adoption by at Least 45 States Predicted by Prohibition Leaders. Takes Effect in a Year." And finally, Friday, January 17, 1919. Headline, "Paris, France Conference Heeds Press Protest. Will Reopen Public Case Today. League of Nation Plan Already Drafted as Covenant by Cecil, Lansing, and House." And on prohibition, "Nation Voted Dry. 38 States Adopt the Amendment. Nebraska Clenches Approval as the 36 State. Missouri and Wyoming Following. Proclamation Next Step. Amendment Construed as Effective One Year After Secretary of State so Acts. Dry Chiefs Going into Wider Fields. Seek to Drive Liquor from the World and Make Sure Americans Observe the Law." And that's the speed at which things moved 100 years ago in a world transformed by the war that changed the world. Historian and author Dr. Edward Lengel has been a regular contributor to the podcast, giving our listeners great perspective and first person insight into the experience of American soldiers as the US recruited, drafted, trained, organized, deployed, and blooded it's first large standing army. As we reached the centennial of the Armistice, I asked Ed if he'd be willing to continue to tell us the story of the soldiers as the US military transforms into a new post war army. And he said yes, hooray. Here's Ed's post this week, 'After the war, the 308 Regiment's Long Journey Home.' "American doughboys greeted the Armistice of November 11, 1918 with mixed emotions. Some celebrated wildly, others mourned slain friends, or their own lost innocence. Most went numb at first, and then spend days trying to sort out their feelings. Soon, though, the rumors began. Tales spread in many units that the war was going to start again. Or that the doughboys were being sent to Germany, or Russia. The cruelest rumor of all was also the commonest, that the boys would be home by Christmas. That was what the weary doughboys of the 77 Metropolitan Division's 308 Regiment, including the battle scarred veterans of the lost battalion began hearing, and were to keep hearing until Christmas Day came and went, and New York City remained far, far away. For a month after the Armistice, the weary men of the 308 Regiment were shuffled from one spot to another on the shell blasted Meuse-Argonne battlefield. On Thanksgiving, finally the troops were assembled for review by the Division Commander, General Robert Alexander. Standing in a field of mud under heavy rain, the men learned that they would leave the battlefield, but only for further training around Chaumont. General Alexander, who had driven his men mercilessly in the Argonne Forest, had no intention of stopping now. Filthy and exhausted, with many of the men suffering from fevers, dysentery, and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, the regiment was driven on a brutal ten-day march until it reached Chaumont. At last officers and men were given food, dry billets, and the opportunity to clean up. Any thoughts of rest, though, were soon discarded. General Alexander wanted his men shipshape. Intense drills and route marches began, while veteran field officers were ordered to read staff-produced booklets such as, "I Have Captured a Boche Machine Gun. What Shall I Do With It?" After weeks of thorough training, General Alexander ordered the 308th to perform field exercises to show what it had learned. "Machine gun after machine gun was captured with unflinching regularity," recorded the regimental historian. Battlefield communications were emphasized as the troops were taught how to use messenger pigeons (without pigeons); semaphore flags (which they had already returned to the depots); wireless equipment (which nobody had ever seen); and motorcycles (impersonated by "a few shell-shocked beasts from the Transport"). Headquarters expressed its satisfaction with the "remarkable interest displayed by all concerned." Fortunately General Alexander didn't read some of the wittier field orders issued by his officers during these exercises, such as "Hostile band of wild women sighted on horizon to the south. What to do?" To which came the immediate reply, "Capture and hold women. Battalion P.C. Will be located there!" The days came and went, and the rumors of getting home by Christmas faded. Instead, the officers of the 308th Regiment planned to show their appreciation for their men by staging the biggest holiday celebration in France. Funded by \$5,000 sent by the regimental association in New York City, and with personal help from the divisional mascot, former president Teddy Roosevelt, officers began formal planning. "Then began the plotting of dark schemes," wrote the regimental historian, with "secret missions to Paris and the raiding of numerous YMCA, Knights of Columbus, and Red Cross warehouses, as well as the scouring of the surrounding country." It was all worth it. Christmas Day began with religious celebrations followed by track and field matches, boxing, basketball, potato sack and three legged races, Charlie Chaplin movies, and dances in town halls. But of course it was all about the food. Appetizers of chocolates, cigars, cigarettes, cakes, fruit-drops, candies, jam, milk, ham, fruit, chewing gum, and milk chocolate were followed by a dinner resulting from all that "the limitless ingenuity of fifteen unscrupulous mess sergeants could devise." This included "Punch a la Wilson," followed by cream of celery soup, filet of beef with sauté potatoes, turkey with dressing and giblet gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, French endive salad and Rochefort dressing, "Allied Apple Cake" and "Rice Pudding a la Pershing" along with plentiful beer. For a day at least, the men felt a little more human. Memories of the Christmas feast sustained the doughboys through the long months that followed. Routine returned as 1918

turned to 1919, with more drill, hiking and maneuvers under the broad category of "training." In February the regiment was moved on foot and by train to another encampment in the Loire Valley. There followed weeks of more training and inspections—for "cooties," or lice, and to inspect equipment. Just as it had a year earlier at Camp Upton on Long Island, the show biz-oriented 308th Regiment put on elaborate stage shows, including musicals, comedies and dramas. By the beginning of April the men had about reached their limit. The most popular marching song now went: Sick of the smell of billets— Sick of the chow— Wanta leave France and put on long pants! Wanta go NOW! Finally, on April 15, the men were moved to the port of Brest and prepared for embarkation. But there was one more ceremony of deep personal importance to many doughboys. Originating as it did from greater New York City, the 77th Division was heavily Jewish—perhaps one in four doughboys. Just as these men had celebrated Hanukkah in 1918—but joyfully joined in the Christmas feast—the regiment's doughboys had Passover seders from April 14 to 16, thanks to general orders granting all Jewish soldiers furloughs during that period. The 77th Division received a special massive shipment of matzos for the occasion. On April 19 the 308th Regiment left for home. Appropriately, the liner S.S. America would be taking them back to New York City. Nine days later, the doughboys lined the rails for a sight that every man cherished: the Statue of Liberty." Dr. Edward Lengel is a noted historian, WWI expert, author, and regular contributor to the WWI Centennial News Podcast. We have links to Ed's posts and his author's website in the podcast notes. Now, we're joined by Mike Shuster, former NPR correspondent and curator for the Great War Project blog. Mike, your post this week continues to follow Wilson's tumultuous trip to Europe. This time, we follow his exploits to Italy, where his reception once again, runs hot and cold. It's to Wilson's great frustration, isn't it, Mike?

[0:19:27]

Mike Shuster: Yeah, it certainly seems that way, Theo. The headline reads, "Wilson and Rome, Italy in Turmoil, Golden Sand in the Streets of the Eternal City. Wilson in a Foul Mood." That's special to the Great War Project. On New Years Day a century ago, on a royal train provided by the Italian government, President Wilson and his wife headed for Rome, the fourth of the Allies that had fought the Germans to a standstill. So writes historian Thomas Fleming, "As the train wound through the snow covered Alps, the monks of St. Bernard's Abbey were forced to slaughter six of their famous rescue dogs because they had run out of food. Oblivious to such details, the President reveled in the adoration of the Italian people. His arrival in the Eternal City," Fleming reports, "was a replay of his reception in Paris. Masses of Romans chanted, 'Vive Wilson, God of peace.' Low flying planes dropped flowers on his triumphal procession. There were pictures of him in every shop window. The streets were sprinkled with golden sand, a tradition that went back to Ancient Rome's days of imperial glory. But as with Wilson's arrival in Paris and London, Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando and his fellow politicians already viewed Wilson with not a little anxiety. Wilson and the Roman leaders do not see eye to eye on the fate of territories taken by the Germans. In this case it was the Italian claim to the Dalmatian Coast, and other territories promised them in prior negotiations earlier in the war. Including portions of the Turkish empire in the Middle East." Reports historian Fleming, "One of the most outspoken proponents of this view was an editor named Benito Mussolini, whose midland newspaper proclaimed on January 1, 1919 that, 'Imperialism is the eternal, the immutable law of life.' In the midst of his Rome sojourn, the Italians surprised Wilson by telling him that famous visitors to Rome normally made a gift of \$10,000 to the poor. Wilson did not have the money to pay the gift," writes Fleming, "This bit of theatre was patently designed to make the President look bad." Wilson takes an unexpected jab at the conservative Italian leaders in an interview he creates a sensation when he declares that the Italian people are the most Wilsonian in Europe. Wilson remarks that, 'New York had become the biggest Italian city in the world thanks to recent immigration. Was the Italian going to claim New York as well?' On January 4, Wilson is preparing his departure from Rome, and he plans to give a speech to the Italian people from the balcony where he was staying in Rome. In the planned speech to the Romans, Wilson plans to urge them to abandon the policy of territorial acquisition supported by their conservative Prime Minister Orlando. "To Wilson's dismay," reports Fleming, "the plaza abutting his residence remained devoid of people. Troops had cordoned it off leaving Wilson without an audience." The President made some intemperate remarks to the press and left Rome at 9:00 o'clock that evening in an exceedingly foul mood. But outside of Rome and along the route back to Paris the adoration returned. Before a huge crowd in Milan, in a bluntly radical speech, he proclaimed the superiority of the working class, and appealed for the establishment of a League of Nations to solve the world's conflicts and reject the world's system of military alliances that led to such a devastating war. And that's the news at this time 100 years ago from the Great War Project.

[0:23:02]

Theo Mayer: Mike Shuster is the curator for the Great War Project blog. The link to his post is in the podcast notes. Next, we're going into part two of our multi part story about Sergeant Roy Holtz of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. First US soldier on German soil after the Armistice of World War I, and he's riding on a Harley Davidson. Our good friend, citizen historian and author Rob Laplander wrote a researched account of the story, what actually happened, intended for high school students. And Rob gave us permission to read the story in serial form. Here is the unabridged 'First into Germany: SGT Roy Holtz - And He Did it on a Harley' by author Robert Laplander. Part Two, It's Off to War. On February 1, 1919, Germany announced that she was reversing her decision not to attack ships flying the flags of neutral nations. She announced that she was resuming unrestricted submarine war fare and sinking whatever she felt like. The country grew concerned. America had carried on extensive amounts of trade with the

French and the British selling huge amounts of war materials and food. Now, with free trade threatened as the Germans attempt to starve the British out of the war by cutting off their supply lines, President Wilson decided to sever ties with the German government on February 3, after a German Uboat sank an American grain ship, the Housatonic while bringing its load to England. And throughout February and March seven more American ships were sunk. But the final straw came when a telegram was uncovered which had been sent by Alfred Zimmermann of the German Foreign Office in Berlin to the German Ambassador to Mexico, proposing an alliance between the Mexican and the German governments against the United States. In this alliance, Germany would provide military support to Mexico who stood a chance to gain back sections of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas which had once been a part of Mexico. When this Zimmermann telegram was published in the newspaper, the outcry was really strong. And the message to President Wilson was clear, America had had enough. War with Germany it would be. And quickly the nation decided that anything German was bad. Suddenly, some kids stopped playing with the other kids who had German names. And some families in a community were shunned if they spoke German in public. Sauerkraut became liberty cabbage, and street names and even town names that had been German were changed to more American sounding names. Now, one night the Holtz household was egged by some misguided individuals just because they were of German heritage. But they were mistaken for thinking that the Holtz boys were anything but All American boys no matter where their ancestors had come from, because all three boys signed up with the Army almost immediately after war was declared. All three boys would go to Texas for training. Roy and Ezra to the 32nd Division, which was made up of boys from the National Guard Regiments of Wisconsin and Michigan, as well as volunteers from those states. Ezra was assigned to infantry duty, and Roy was assigned to the 107th Field Signal Battalion as a Dispatch Rider. Now, this job involved carrying important messages and packages from unit to unit at speed across battlefields, and traditionally had been done on horseback. However, by 1917 the modern era had indeed arrived, and Roy found, much to his delight, that he would carry out his dispatch duties aboard a motorcycle. Motorcycle dispatch riders were something new to war. In August of 1914, the British Army had called for motorcyclists to join the army and bring their motorcycles with them for duty. And the response had been huge. The London recruiting office alone reported that they had 2000 more volunteers show up than they had spots open. And motorcycle dispatch riders showed up for service in the Belgian, French, German, and Russian armies with similar enthusiasm. Now, motorcycles for the US Army were nothing new. Really. In 1916, the US Army had been charged with a punitive pursuit of the Mexican Revolutionary General Pancho Villa across the US/Mexican border after he'd raided the town of Columbus, New Mexico. The general in charge of the expedition, General John 'Blackjack' Pershing, in fact, knew that the relatively new technology of motorcycles could do really well in the desert conditions that they were operating in. And so he placed an order for twelve machines for his expedition from a small, relatively obscure company that he favored based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. That company was called Harley Davidson. These twelve machines proved to be so dependable and tough during the punitive expeditions, that after the US entered the war in Europe in April of 1917, further orders were placed with Harley Davidson. And by the end of the war, there were 20,000 Harley's in the Army's inventory. Over there, the Harleys were used not only for dispatch riding, but also for the performance of reconnaissance patrols ahead of advancing troops. Many machines were fitted with sidecars and could carry passengers, supplies, or ammunition when needed. And just as they had with the Army in the deserts of Texas and New Mexico in 1916, the nimble motorcycles would again prove themselves to be hardy and reliable machines on the battlefields of France and Belgium in 1917 and 1918. And it was on a Harley Davidson that Corporal Roy C. Holtz would make history. And that was Part Two of First into Germany: SGT Roy Holtz - And He Did it on a Harley by author Robert Laplander. Rob Laplander is a citizen historian, author of the book 'Finding the Lost Battalion', and importantly the man behind 'Doughboy MIA'. We have links for you in the podcast notes to this story, Harley, and the Doughboy MIA site. Join us again next week for Part Three as Roy Holtz ships out with the Red Arrow Division to join the fight over there. Okay, let's fast forward into the present with WWI Centennial News Now. As our regular listeners know, this part of the podcast focuses on the present and explores WWI documentation, commemoration, education, and exploration. Here's where we try to show you how the echoes of the war that changed the world are very present in our every day lives. Let's start with our regular segment, A Century in the Making, An Insider's View Into the Creation of the National World War One Memorial in Washington, DC. Last week, you met the project's lead designer Joe Wishart, and sculptor Sabin Howard as they talked about the evolution of the project and how they got together. Here's part two with Joe and Sabin.

[0:31:06]

Joe Wishart: One of the things that I wanted to bring to the memorial, and for it convey, was all of these emotions and that the faces are real. And when you look at it, you will see somebody that you know in one of the faces. Be it a parent, a grandparent, somebody currently serving in the military, somebody who has in the past, because this isn't just a memorial for World War One, it is a story of all of us.

[0:31:35]

Sabin Howard: You know, I did these drawings, and the drawings were the final passing through Centennial Commission. That was our blueprint done over, yeah, 700 hours. And I used that drawing to go into the next phase, which was the creation of the maquette in New Zealand, and that squeezed into a six month period. This is the use of digital technology to create something with a specifics of the drawing without losing that spacing, that structure, that

emotional drama that we created. We did a bunch of tests. See on the bottom, on your left, there's a milling machine? And then if you look over to the bottom one with the gray in the photographs, that is styrofoam painted gray, and assembled. I did ... In one month we did five tests to figure out what the depth of the relief should be. I went over to New Zealand with the thought this was going to be a relatively flat relief. And I quickly realized that if you made the relief flat, you were not going to impart to the viewer the emotional quality that was necessary to give them a visceral reaction when they visited. And it was too classical. We moved the figures out more and more in our tests, and in doing that you got much more of an emotional resonance. The depth of the figures gives you more drama in the lights and the darks in the values, and more three dimensionality, and you're creating more space because now the figures are in a frame. As they move, the frame is a containing element and the figures are bursting out of that containing element kinetically. On top parts, this computer system that's called ZBrush, which is something that was very foreign to me. I'm very traditional in my methodology. I'd never done anything but used my hands and my mind, and very traditional elements like a pencil and paper, and clay, and clay tools. Now I'm moving into this modern age. It was an initiation into a new world for myself as well. Joe is just showing you our process. Once we had gotten the data correct and we'd passed the first styrofoam print out, we passed that data on to a company that printed it out in plastic, and then the plastic was put into a box mold, and silicone was poured on top of that. The mold was taken out, and then that mold was used to transfer that plastic into clay. The clay was poured in as a hot liquid, and then if you look at the very top figure with the battle scene, that's the digital image. That's what I started with. It doesn't have the human fingerprint that's necessary to make this relief look emotional and man made. You don't want something that's machine made to describe something that happened 100 years ago. And you can see the sculpting of it, that's actually my daughter holding the helmet. And then that's the assembly of the resin after the clay had passed through another molding process.

[0:34:50]

Joe Wishart: And if you haven't been up to the First Look Tent to check out the maquette, it's really, it's something to see. I think we'll be up there afterwards answering probably more questions for an hour or two. Stop by.

[0:35:05]

Sabin Howard: Yeah, again this is the drawing that led us to the maquette. Now we have to go to the next stage, and that's taking that 2 x 6 in scale. You're not only making it taller, wider, but think volumetrically to those figures, it's going to become six times it's scale than it is right now. It's not really times six, it's six cubed, which is 36 times. The emotional impact will be 36 times the emotional impact of the maquette.

[0:35:40]

Joe Wishart: Yeah.

[0:35:41]

Sabin Howard: You take this -

[0:35:42]

Joe Wishart: Yeah, I'll take this one. Just like Sabin went through all of his images and iterations of the sculpture, we've done the same thing with the design of the park. And every stage we are reevaluating all of the decisions that we've made in the design, trying to make it better, and better, and better. And the wonderful thing about sort of our collaboration is when we look at how will visitors approach the sculpture? What will they see? That sort of falls more into my territory of what will the experience as they walk towards the sculpture, and how do they get there? And what we've developed over all these iterations is a really wonderful connection through this park. As visitors come in we have to be able to capture their imaginations. And if you come in from the west side at all, you'll be greeted with a 56 foot long cascade of water that will have really a thunderous appearance ideologically in the park. And if you come in from either of the other two sides, the immediate connection that you make will hopefully be between the Pershing Memorial and this new sculpture that Sabin's created. And what we want to do there is really create a balance. We didn't want, really to just to leave the park as it was, a tribute to the great man, to the General, because without his troops more than half the story is missing. By placing Sabin's sculpture on this end of the park, we can sort of ... We can balance things out. And now the General, if you go out and look at the statue, he is facing this direction, and he's got his field glasses. And he will be looking at his troops, reunited with them at last. Then the way we've set up circulation throughout the park, you'll be able to walk from the Pershing Memorial directly down those steps and right out to the sculpture across the fountain.

[0:37:42]

Sabin Howard: Interesting is you can see how the flat ... You see how the flat quality's linear? And as you move the sculptures out, you get a lot more of a dark shadows, and the contrast of light to dark really increases. And it's ... The kinetic feel changes. You know, everything's moving at a different rate of speed towards the future, which is that last scene of the father handing the daughter, the next generation, the helmet.

[0:38:10]

Joe Wishart: Right, and yeah, this is really the image I've used time and time again as a litmus test of where we are in the process of testing Sabin's work against how it fits into the park just to make sure that it all ... It'll read with all the gravitas the things that he has imparted into this amazing sculpture. And this is an aerial view showing sort of what the visitor experience will be. Down in the bottom right you will see the Pershing Memorial, and then the upper left the new sculpture, the walkway connecting them.

[0:38:45]

Sabin Howard: Yeah, the sculpture will replace the zamboni shed and the fountain right behind us. Sorry.

[0:38:53]

Joe Wishart: And then in between there's an interpretive area right where the plastic kiosk is out there that we're calling the Overlook, or Belvedere. And that is really the heart and soul of the park. It has all of the interpretive information, and it allows you to stand in one spot and look at both the Pershing Memorial and at the new sculpture, and really see and understand more fully that connection. And then if you were to come in either of the west entrances, this is that large cascade wall. And that's the end.

[0:39:25]

Sabin Howard: And that's it, yeah.

[0:39:27]

Joe Wishart: Thank you.

[0:39:33]

Theo Mayer: Joe Wishart, the lead designer, and Sabin Howard the sculptor. The winners of the Commission's international design competition talking about the evolution of the National World War One Memorial in Washington, DC. Learn more about the project at ww1cc.org/memorial or by following the link in the podcast notes. In commission news, we're very excited to welcome our new Director of Development who just joined us in 2019. His name is Phil Mozara. Actually, Phil is an old friend of the Commission. Back in the Spring of 2014, he helped us as an advisor for our initial strategies for setting up the foundation, our advisory boards, and so forth. Phil spend four decades working on capital and fundraising campaigns for organizations like hospitals, medical centers, colleges, universities, and NGO's. One of these was the Carter Center in Atlanta, GA. As Phil noted in a recent discussion, "This gave me an opportunity to work with President and Mrs. Carter on planning and implementing 150 million dollar endowment campaign. Now, not many fundraising professionals get the opportunity to work with a living former President and First Lady. It was an amazing experience," Phil said. Phil's father served as a Navy officer in the Pacific during World War II. And his son also went Navy, graduating from the US Naval Academy in the class of 2000. His stepdaughter is a Colonel in the US Marine Corps, currently stationed in Okinawa. At the commission, Phil's duties will focus on ensuring that the funds necessary to build the memorial are in hand, or pledged in a timely manner, and developing new fundraising strategies to raise funds after the memorial's completed for ongoing upkeep and maintenance, and education. We'll have Phil on the show in the coming months, but in discussion with him he made an interesting observation, noting that normally college and hospital fundraising, there's a constituency, such as alumni or patients. But our fundraising campaign for the National World War One Memorial in Washington, DC has no natural constituency. We lost our last US World War One veteran, a guy named Frank Buckles in March of 2011. Phil notes, "Our biggest challenge is developing a cohort of donors who have some connection with or interest in The Great War." Which I reply, "Hey, they're listening to the podcast right now." Phil, welcome to the centennial of World War One. And thank you for all the work that you're putting in in helping America get the National World War One Memorial in Washington, DC built. For our Remembering Veterans segment, this week we're talking about memorial hunting. Nearly 100 years ago after World War One, thousands of memorials were erected to honor those who serve and those who gave their lives in this epic global struggle. Although we never built one in the nation's capitol, until now, local World War One memorials were put up by towns, cities, veterans, organizations, schools, churches, civic organizations, and clubs. One thing we discovered as we were setting up our 100 Cities, 100 Memorials matching grant challenge, was that today there is no national register of these important and many times forgotten American cultural and historical treasures. That's when we launched the Memorial Hunters Club. The idea is that we're asking the public to look for World War One memorials in their communities, and when they find one to look it up on our map and see if it's not there. And if it's not, register it. We even offered to let the intrepid memorial hunters include a selfie with the memorial that they bagged, which then goes into the permanent National Register record. One of our memorial hunters, [Lamar Veatch], former state librarian in Georgia, began to search his state riding his beloved motorcycle from county to county, and finding hundreds of them, all registered World War One memorials, taking pictures and getting them into the National Map. Another remarkable memorial hunter is our next guest, Robert 'Bob' Shay. A Navy veteran and commander of the Jewish War Veterans Pacific Northwest Post 686, Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Lake Washington Post 2995, and more. Bob, welcome to the podcast.

[0:44:02]

Bob Shay: Thank you, Theo.

[0:44:04]

Theo Mayer: Bob, let me start by simply saying thank you for having taken the time on this passion. Where did you first learn about the Memorial Hunters Initiative?

[0:44:12]

Bob Shay: I was already involved in restoring our World War One memorial here in Bellevue, Washington when I was directed to contact a professor at Eastern United States University who was involved in a project of cataloging these monuments. I contact him, and he told me, Let me know when you get it done and I'll put you on our site. And after a while, he contacted me and asked me to get in contact with you at the Centennial Commission.

[0:44:39]

Theo Mayer: Oh, I didn't know that story, okay. How many memorials have you registered?

[0:44:43]

Bob Shay: I have registered so far 177 memorials and monuments in 19 states and counting. I have 90 more of them on my computer yet to upload, plus I've got more trips planned before the Commission ends its mission.

[0:44:58]

Theo Mayer: Oh, that's wonderful. You've woven this activity into you and your family's love for traveling around the country, right? Could you tell us about how you go about finding the memorials?

[0:45:07]

Bob Shay: Yeah, let's start out with the places in the towns to look, which are city parks, old schools, churches, county courthouses, and the like. The other way is many of our trips coincide with a family or a Navy reunion event around the country. First, we have the event planned, then we decide a driving route and itinerary. After that, I look up each county, and county suite and small town that we'll pass through on the roads that we're on. And we drive on state highways for the most part, very few freeways. A computer search for veteran soldiers and war memorials or monuments is the next thing I do. And I write these all up in a spiral binder that my wife, who is navigator, she keeps that. Then I fly by my gut, my gut feeling. Once I reach at own, I try to look around and see if there's anything that would tell me there's a monument here. For instance, we were traveling from Zumbrota, Minnesota to St. Louis, Missouri, and we passed through the small town of Le Roy, Minnesota. And at 25 miles an hour, you can see a lot of the town. And I noticed a very well kept American Legion Post, so I thought there must be a memorial here. When I saw the city park directional sign, I made the turn and my wife's side had another memorial stop. And sure enough there was a memorial in the town park.

[0:46:32]

Theo Mayer: Okay, Bob. What's your wife's name?

[0:46:33]

Bob Shay: [Marilyn] .

[0:46:35]

Theo Mayer: Is Marilyn just really patient? Or also interested?

[0:46:39]

Bob Shay: In her words, a little of both.

[0:46:42]

Theo Mayer: When you arrive at these towns and you find one of these memorials, do people often know what it is? Or have they forgotten what that thing out there is supposed to be about?

[0:46:53]

Bob Shay: Oh my gosh, there are just hundreds of stories. In some cases I'll go into the town, and I'll stop and ask a police officer. And the police officer will say, "Well, I'm really not from this town so I don't know." And then there's the town I stop in and I stop a county Sheriff and and a local police officer, and both of them look and they point down the road and they say, "Two blocks down on the right." It just depends. And then there's a fantastic story of stopping in the local VFW. And the story of that VFW is a story in itself, but I went into the bar and asked the bartender. And she was very helpful and directed me to the local memorial. I went there and photographed it. And while I was standing in front of it photographing it taking notes, I turned around and I saw another one in front of the post office. And I went

over and photographed that. And I went back to the VFW and I thanked the bartender, and told her while I was there I turned around and saw the one at the post office and I did that one also. And she said, "I didn't know there was one at the post office." She said, "I go to the post office every day and I never noticed it."

[0:48:02]

Theo Mayer: You know, Bob, I hear that story all the time, that these are literally hiding in plain sight. And it really is the case. If somebody's interested in this kind of activity and wants to take it up, what are some of the things that you would recommend to them?

[0:48:16]

Bob Shay: Well, I could see this as a family event. Now, this basically started in 1996 as part of our family's Memorial Day celebration. We went out to a local cemetery and we placed 58 flags on the veterans graves. That's with my two daughters, and my son, and my wife. We had a picnic lunch in the little park that's at the cemetery, and the kids enjoyed putting out the flags. That 58 flags has now grown into a project of 950 flags in six cemeteries around the city of Seattle and Bellevue. And I have three school groups that help me. That's where I came into it. It was a family event. Now it's a family project with my wife and I traveling the country doing this. And it all grows out of what we as veterans service organizations, whether it's the Jewish War Veterans, the VFW, the American Legion, it's in our constitutions and in our directives and bylaws. And that is to remember all veterans who have gone before us. And as a World War Two veteran told me when I came back from overseas in 1968, it's the job of those of us who return to remember those who didn't. And that is why my wife understands why I do this.

[0:49:46]

Theo Mayer: Bob Shay, veteran, patriot, traveler, and intrepid memorial hunter. Learn more about the memorial hunters at ww1cc.org/hunter. And a great big thank you to Bob Shay and his patient wife, Marilyn for their great contribution in getting these cultural treasures registered. And that wraps up episode number 106 of the award winning World War One Centennial News podcast. Thank you for listening. We want to thank the following, Dr. Edward Lengel, military historian and author, Mike Shuster, Curator for the Great War Project blog, Rob Laplander for graciously allowing us to serialize his short story about Roy Holtz, Joe Wishart and Sabin Howard, the lead designer and sculptor for the new World War One Memorial in our nation's capitol, Bob Shay, Commander and Chaplain now acting as memorial hunter for the Commission. Special thanks to [Mac Nelson] and [Tim Crow], our interview editing team, [Cats Laslow] the line producer for the show, [JL Michaud] and [Dave Cramer] for research and writing, and I'm Theo Mayor, your producer and host. The US World War One Centennial Commission was created by Congress to honor, commemorate, and educate about World War One. Our programs are to inspire a national conversation and awareness about World War One, including this podcast. We're bringing the lessons of 100 years ago to today's educators, their classrooms, and the public. We're helping to restore World War One memorials in communities of all sizes across the country. And of course, we're building America's National World War One Memorial in Washington, DC. We want to thank the Commission's founding sponsor, The Pritzker Military Museum and Library, and also the Star Foundation for their 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 One Centennial News in all the places you get your podcasts, and even using your smart speaker by saying, "Play WW1 Centennial News podcast." The podcast Twitter handle is @TheWW1podcast, the Commission Twitter and Instagram handles are both @WW1CC, and we're on Facebook at WW1 Centennial. Thank you for joining us, and don't forget, keep the story alive for America by helping us build the memorial. Just text the letters W-W-1, or W-W-1 to the phone number 91999.

[0:52:29]