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7 speakers (Theo Mayer, Robert H. Reid, Speaker 3, Mike Shuster, Dr. E. Lengel, Colonel Eanes, Keith Colley)

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Theo Mayer: Welcome to World War I Centennial News, episode number 127. This podcast is about them, what was happening 100 years ago in the aftermath of World War I. It's also about now, how World War I is being remembered and commemorated, written about and discussed, learned and taught. But most important, it's about why and how we're never going to let those events fall back into the mists of obscurity. So join us as we explore the many facets of World War I, both then and now. The final World War I issue of the Stars and Stripes Newspaper publishes this week a hundred years ago, and we're dedicating this episode to this iconic journal. This includes a special overview report developed by Dave Kramer, insights from Robert H. Reid, the senior managing editor of the Stars and Stripes, and an introduction to the National Stars and Stripes Museum and Library by Laura Meyer and Sue Mayo. Mike Shuster digs into the shocked response of the Germans on receiving the peace treaty terms. Also this week, it's time for the top selection from Dr. Edward Lengel's 10-part countdown of his picks of the best World War I memoirs. Find out what it is on today's show. We're joined by author Colonel Greg Eanes, U.S. Air Force retired, who's written a book on U.S. World War I prisoners of war. Finally, Keith Colley, the man behind the Mobile World War I Museum joins us. And here's a kick, Keith joined us just over 100 episodes ago in episode number 26, around the 4th of July of 2017 at the start of his amazing journey moving this World War I Mobile Museum around the country. This week on World War I Centennial News, the Doughboy Podcast, brought to you by the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, the Star Foundation, and the Doughboy Foundation. I'm Theo Mayer, the chief technologist for the Commission and your host. Welcome to the show. World War I was the war that changed the world. In America, the transformations were profound and deep, economic, social, military, technological, political, and more. Over the past 127 weeks, we've journeyed the paths of those transformations. Some of them were dramatic and shocking, surprising, even draconian and scary as all get up in terms of how far this country bent personal freedoms. So a century ago this week, eight months after the armistice that ended the fighting on the Western Front, we're in the aftermath of the war that changed the world. Not only are nations meeting in Paris to try to hash out a new global order, and more on that later, but millions of soldiers are being demobilized. It's been shocking and amazing to learn how America very undemocratically nationalized most key industries, how we curtailed many freedoms and imposed many draconian controls on our country. Well thankfully, these controls are being lifted and were being reintegrated into a new commercial world. Personal rights and freedoms suppressed during the war are being returned. Issues like a woman's right to have an equal voice in the governance of our nation are being reconsidered. The ship of America's Constitutional democracy is trying to right itself, to wrench itself from one footing to another in large and small ways, in both profound and painful ways. So this week's theme is a part of that, and most interesting in that it's not earthshaking or huge, but very indicative of America's return to normalcy. On June 13th, 1919, exactly two years to the day after General Pershing arrived in France with the first units of the AEF, the last World War I era issue of the Stars and Stripes Newspaper is published. Dateline, June 13, 1919. The headline of the Stars and Stripes Newspaper reads, "Stars and Stripes is hauled down in this issue." Stars and Stripes is actually born more than a half century before World War I. It has its origins in the Civil War when, in 1861, some Union soldiers from Illinois take over Bloomfield, Missouri from the southern states militia. Well, it happens that they find an intact printing press in an empty newspaper office. While they were in town, they print six issues of a single-sheet news flyer for the Union soldiers in that area, for the soldiers by the soldiers. One can only guess that the chosen name, the Stars and Stripes, was in specific contrast to the southern Stars and Bars or the 1861 designated Confederate battle flag. So they called it the Stars and Stripes. Then, it went away for 57 years. In February of 1918 as the doughboys gather in larger and larger numbers in Europe, the Stars and Stripes Newspaper is resurrected and issues 71 weekly editions. Now, General John J. Pershing, who supported and green lights the project, assures the average soldier reading it that it is your paper. Pershing makes it clear in a communique to all officers from general headquarters, "The style and policy of the Stars and Stripes is not to be interfered with," as it was at its inception. The newspaper is by enlisted men for enlisted men with an independent, and often irreverent, rye and funny tone. With war news, home front news, comics, and with an attitude, the weekly Stars and Stripes provides something that the doughboys can truly call their own. In April of 2018, we interviewed Robert H. Reid, the senior managing editor of the paper, and I asked him about the paper's reemergence in 1918.

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Robert H. Reid: The idea for Stars and Stripes grew out of concerns by the AEF command about troop morale once American soldiers were actually sent to France in 1917. They went to a country that had already been at war for three years. There were no nice fresh barracks waiting for them, especially the closer you got to the front. And the winter of 1917 was particularly harsh, cold and rainy. Mail service was very erratic. Many, if not most, of the enlisted men particularly had never been away from home before. So their lives were a mixture of lonely and bone-crushing boredom or abject terror. So the command was desperately looking for ways to boost morale. Enter this one young

staff officer and former newspaperman named Guy Viskniskki. He had traveled around the AEF, talked to officers and enlisted men, and came up with an idea for a soldier's newspaper as a morale booster. He formally pitched the idea in November 1917. General Pershing signed off on the proposal, and the paper rolled out two months later.

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Theo Mayer: Now, back in 1918 when it launches, before the year is out, circulation reaches a half a million. All the more remarkable because it's not free. It's a paid subscription. Again, Robert H. Reid.

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Robert H. Reid: The people who founded the paper looked at the experience of the British and the French whose [inaudible] papers had fallen flat. They decided one of the things was, that these papers were given away free. So the soldiers assumed it was command propaganda, so they wouldn't even bother to read it. So they thought, "If we make them pay for it, they'll take it more seriously. They'll at least look at it." As an incentive, though, to get people to subscribe, it was proposed that the profits from subscriptions would go to subsidize tobacco rations. So the more people in a unit who bought the paper, the more tobacco was available. They also decided to accept paid ads, first from American companies, later from British and French. But they had sort of strict rules. No political advertisements. No advertisements from politicians back home saying, "We support the troops," the idea being if you support us, enlist and come over here. But they did have things like ads for Boston garters or Wrigley's chewing gum, Fatima cigarettes, and razor blades were a big one. One of my favorite stories from the old 1918 paper was about mobile dental clinics that the American command had put together and they were moving around the front getting dental care to soldiers. The first paragraph of the story began, "The latest American atrocity--a dentist office on wheels." It went on to describe the clinics as "movable torture chambers," and said that about the only good thing you could say about it was, "If you needed a laugh, there was plenty of laughing gas available."

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Theo Mayer: Because it had its origins in Bloomfield, Missouri, a group of people there gathered the resources to honor the history of the paper, and they created the National Stars and Stripes Museum and Library, a non-profit educational institution dedicated to collecting, documenting, and preserving materials related to the creation and continuing history of the Stars and Stripes. I recently spoke with Laura Meyer, the curator, and Sue Mayo, the museum librarian.

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Speaker 3: During the Civil War, soldiers from Illinois came into our town and printed the first paper known as the Stars and Stripes. There was a couple others during the Civil War, but the first one was printed here by 10 Union soldiers from Illinois. One of the men involved in the publication was from Carmi, Illinois. He had a young high school boy that worked for him, and his name was Guy Viskniskki. He became the first editor and the first officer in charge of the World War I issues. There was a definite connection between the Civil War paper and the one was printed in Paris, France. John J. Pershing was very instrumental in getting the World War I issues started. He's a native Missourian, and he indicated that the paper was written by and for servicemen and was created to improve the morale and provide unity within the Armed Forces. Some of the editors went on to do really interesting things, too. Like Harold Ross was one of the main editors of the Stars and Stripes World War I. Later, he became the editor of the New Yorker Magazine. Alexander Woollcott worked for the World War I Stars and Stripes, and he became a drama critic for the New York Times. Grantland Rice wrote for the paper. He's the one that said, "It doesn't matter if you win or lose, it's how you play the game."

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Theo Mayer: We also talked about how then it evolved into a museum.

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Speaker 3: In 1988, Colonel Jeff Baker was here to present the Memorial Day speech at our memorial at the courthouse. He was sitting on our patio after the event, and my husband, Jim Mayo, mentioned that there needed to be a museum for the newspaper, the Stars and Stripes. Jeff Baker immediately said, "Yes, and it needs to be right here in Bloomfield." The people who had worked for the newspaper, they got behind the idea and several of them donated money. So that was kind of the initial drive to get the museum completed.

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Theo Mayer: So this week 100 years ago, the Stars and Stripes publishes its last issue of this particular run, and they'll be back soon enough. Here are some quotes from the editors excerpted from that final edition. "Well to begin with, the Stars and Stripes is, as far as we know, the only subdivision of the AEF that does not claim to have won the war single-handed. We're content to rest on the appraisal of Major General [Harbour], who stated that the newspaper, 'played an important part in the highly organized business that we carried out to defeat Germany.' We think that with all the combat divisions, save the Third Army, well out of France, we are violating no confidence in proclaiming the

war is over. And so we feel that it's time for this weekly to cease fire. Goodbye." After its successful run in World War I, Stars and Stripes is revived for the American troops of World War II. In fact, Egbert White, a young private and reporter for the paper in World War I, would go on to a successful publishing career and then reenlist for World War II to become a senior advisor to the Mediterranean edition of the Stars and Stripes. Through Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf Wars, Stars and Stripes continues to provide information and entertainment to American servicemen and servicewomen to this very day. Ready for a little more from the Paris Peace Conference 100 years ago? This week, Mike Shuster, former NPR correspondent and curator for the Great War Project Blog, takes a closer look at the corner Germany and, indeed, everyone has been put into by the Paris Peace Treaty, and the reactions as the peace treaty demands are finally and officially delivered to the Germans. Mike, I was surprised that the dissent about the treaty comes not only from the Germans, but even from the rest of the U.S. Delegations and the British.

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Mike Shuster: It does, Theo. That's right. So the headlines read, "The Germans in shock. Stab in the back. There will be intense bitterness, hate, and desperation. Down to the last three days, are the Allies bluffing?" And this is special to the Great War Project. "The Germans get their version of the peace treaty in May a century ago, and they are shocked. Here are just a few of the terms. The borders of Germany are redrawn. It loses 13% of its territory, 10% of its population. Germany alone is made to disarm." "The reaction in Germany is shock. After all, historian Margaret MacMillan writes of the German response, 'Had Germany really lost the war?' Since the Armistice, the military and its sympathizers had been busy laying the foundations of the stab in the back theory, that Germany had been defeated not on the battlefield, but by treachery at home. Why should Germany alone be made to disarm? Why should Germany be the only country to take responsibility for the Great War? "Most Germans still view the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 as a necessary defense against the threat from the barbaric Slavs to the East. Said the German chancellor, 'The treaty is completely unacceptable.' The Germans lay responsibility for this terrible circumstance on Woodrow Wilson personally. 'What had happened to Wilson's promises?' they ask. "'Well, I'll give you some open diplomacy,' said the German defense minister to an American journalist. 'You Americans go back home and bury yourself with your Wilson.' Where Wilson had been seen as Germany's savior, he overnight becomes the wicked hypocrite. Writes one observer, 'When the Germans see the treaty's terms in cold print, there will be intense bitterness, hate, and desperation.' "Even Secretary of State Lansing levels sharp criticism of the treaty. 'The terms of the peace appear immeasurably harsh and humiliating, while many of them are incapable of performance. This isn't a treaty of peace.' "Some in the American delegation resign in protest. Their letters of resignation, writes historian MacMillan, spoke of disillusionment, of how Wilson's great principles and the idealism of the United States had been sacrificed to serve the interests of the greedy Europeans. "Similar views bubble up in the British delegation as well. The British pardoned themselves for having created an imperialistic peace. 'They blame the Italians and the French,' MacMillan reports. It turns out that the British PM Lloyd George is rethinking the whole treaty. 'He was well aware,' writes MacMillan that in the long run it was not in Britain's best interests to have a weak and possibly revolutionary Germany in the heart of Europe.' "The British delegation meets on June 1st a century ago. Many of the voices raised speak of the menace of the treaty in its present form. Many argue that the treaty must be rewritten. Lloyd George tells the delegation that he can't sign the treaty in its present form, nor can he agree to attack Germany once again if the current deadline expires without agreement. Wilson and the French PM, Clemenceau, were horrified at the prospect of redoing the work that had been so painfully accomplished. Nevertheless, Wilson is not prepared to budge. "On June 16th a century ago after two weeks of further acrimonious negotiation, the Germans are informed that now they face a deadline of three days. Are the Allies bluffing?" And that's the news from the Great War Project these days a century ago in the Great War.

[0:18:07]

Theo Mayer: Mike Shuster is the curator for the Great War Project Blog. The link to his post is in the podcast notes. As we promised at the top of the show, it's time for Dr. Edward Lengel's top pick from his 10-week countdown of the best memoirs of World War I, which he curated from the many, many hundreds of published personal accounts that he's read in his research. The top pick selection goes to Irishman John Lucy for A Devil in the Drum.

[0:18:38]

Dr. E. Lengel: I first became interested in World War I almost 30 years ago. My route of entry was through the war's great memoirs, many of which I have described in this series. This reflects my approach to military history, which has always been less about equipment and tactics than the human experience of warfare, inspired in part by the great British historian John Keegan's seminal work *The Face of Battle*. To me, one of the most fascinating aspects of World War I is how men and women with no frame of reference for understanding modern industrialized warfare faced and processed the intense experiences they underwent in 1914 to 1918. Since beginning my almost obsessive jaunt through World War I personal accounts, I've read many hundreds of published and unpublished volumes of memoirs, diaries, and collected letters written by individuals from all the world. Through all of them, I keep coming back to one deeply personal and generally introspective account by a poor Irish boy who served with his brother in the British Expeditionary Force of 1914. That book, *There's a Devil in the Drum* by John Lucy, published in 1938, stands number one on my list of the top ten personal accounts of World War I. In 1914, Ireland remained under British rule, but

trembled on the brink of civil war. It probably would have slid into internal chaos that year thanks to the Home Rule crisis had not the outbreak of World War I intervened. For a time, all Irishmen, on the surface anyway, stood side by side with the British in their determination to fight Imperial Germany. John Lucy didn't care about politics, and he certainly had little interest in what Germany was up to in Belgium. Two years earlier, he and his brother had joined the British Army simply as a way to escape poverty in Cork, Ireland. By 1914, they were both members of the Royal Irish Rifles and were among the first sent to France, and then Belgium, to resist the German invasion. John and Dennis Lucy fought at Mons, [Licetateau], and all of the BEF's other major battles in 1914. But only one of them made it out alive. John Lucy never forgot the last time he saw his brother, as he wrote, "My brother's platoon suddenly got the order, unheard by me, and up went the men onto the open grassland led by their officer. Dennis went ahead abreast with this officer. Too far in front of his section, I thought. He carried his rifle with the bayonet fixed threateningly at the high port and presented a good picture of the young leader going into battle. I wished he had not gone so far forward. Not quite necessary for a lance corporal. He was exposing himself unnecessarily and would be one of the first to be shot at. I raised myself high over the parapet of our cliff and shouted at him, 'Take care of yourself,' and I blushed at such a display anxiety in the presence of my comrades. My brother steadied a moment in a stride which was beginning to break into a steady run forward. And looking back over his shoulder, winked reassuringly at me. The beggar would wink. Forward he went and out of my sight forever." John Lucy never quite managed to leave the military life. After a long convalescence in 1916, he returned to the front in 1917, a commissioned officer participating in Passchendaele and other battles until he was severely wounded by a German grenade in December, 1917. He remained in the British Army for several years after the war ended. But after a stint in Ireland as a businessman and journalist, he rejoined the British Army in 1940 to see service in World War II. He attained the rank of lieutenant colonel before he passed away in 1962. There's a Devil in the Drum cannot claim to stand among the great works of world literature. In its authenticity and humanity, however, it ranks among the very best firsthand accounts written about any war.

[0:22:37]

Theo Mayer: This not only wraps up Ed's top 10 picks, but this is also where our good friend Dr. Edward Lengel moves on to focus on new historic subjects and begins to focus his work and his blog A Storyteller Hiking Through History on non-World War I subjects. So please join me, the entire podcast team, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, and all of our listeners in thanking Ed for his incredible insights and perspectives that he's so generously shared with us for all of these past 18 months. Ed, thank you. We have links to Ed's posts and his author's website in our podcast notes. With that, it's time to fast forward into the present with World War I Centennial News Mow. During this part of the podcast, we explore how World War I is being remembered and commemorated today. Here is where we spotlight the ongoing remembrances, commemorations, and activities surrounding World War I and World War I themes. In Commission news, we didn't know it would be this popular. But the first 5,000 digital copies of the World War I Genealogy Research Guide got snapped up much faster than we expected. The good news is that today we've made arrangements to be able to offer an additional 5,000 units for free. What are we talking about? Well, the World War I Genealogy Research Guide is this wonderful 100-page resource that helps you trace your ancestors who served in World War I. It includes American military and non-combatant ancestors. There's even a chapter on Canadians who served, because a lot of America served with Canada. We've made arrangements with author Debra Dudek to offer her wonderful guide in digital form as an updated edition with a forward by Colonel Gerald York, grandson of Medal of Honor recipient Alvin York. In its digital form, it also features over 250 live links to resources and tools to help you uncover your family's World War I heritage. It's available at ww1cc.org/guide, all lower case. The free copies are courtesy of the Doughboy Foundation, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. Now, after the free download limit has been reached, this very fine resource can still be purchased on Amazon in print form. Well, bottom line is, get your copy free while it's still available at ww1cc.org/guide, or follow the link in the podcast notes. For our Remembering Veterans section this week, we have a subject that we've not really delved into much in the past, the experience of doughboys as POWs, prisoners of war, during World War I. With us is author Colonel Greg Eanes, U.S. Air Force retired, who's published a book called Captured not Conquered: The American POW Experience in World War I. Colonel Eanes, welcome to the podcast.

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Colonel Eanes: Well, thank you, Theo. Happy to be here.

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Theo Mayer: Colonel, what was your own military experience, and how did that lead to a career as an author? I think you've written somewhere around 15 books on military history, right?

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Colonel Eanes: I enlisted at the age of 17 into the United States Navy as an intelligence specialist. That led to a job at Special Operations Command in the early '80s. I served as an evasion and escape intelligence non-commissioned officer. That led to a job as a Navy SERE instructor, which is survival, evasion and resistance and escape, where

we've taught high-risk personnel, aviators, SEALs, and so forth, how to escape and evade and how to survive POW captivity. I got a commission in the Air Force in '86, ended up as an intelligence officer serving as the evasion and escape officer for Special Operations Command Central during operations Desert Shield and Storm. Then I was recalled after 911 to serve as deputy chief of the intelligence community, POW/MIA Analytic Cell in Washington D.C. That led to my assignment as a chief of the Scott Speicher investigation in 2003 to 2004.

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Theo Mayer: Moving on to the POWs of World War I, when most people think about the treatment of prisoners of war, they think of the Geneva convention. That was in time for World War II, but what were the standards for treatment for prisoners in World War I?

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Colonel Eanes: Let's talk about Geneva real quick. That actually came into being in 1864, but not relative to POWs. The main effort was the Hague Conventions of 1899, which were updated in 1907. There was one other document that was important from a U.S perspective, and that was the 1785 Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and the Kingdom of Prussia. It was signed by Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Article 24 required humane treatment for POWs. Believe it or not, this treaty was actually cited in some of the official paperwork at the time as we entered the war and started discussing the treatment of POWs. Now, German doctrine was based on the Hague Convention, and their military doctrine actually talked about the proper treatment of POWs and called for it consistent with treaty obligations. That is what officially got it, their treatment of POWs.

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Theo Mayer: How did doughboys typically find themselves becoming POWs? Captured during maneuvers or how?

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Colonel Eanes: You kind of fall into three categories. You've got your nautical personnel, which include merchant seamen. There were over 200 American merchant seamen that were prisoners of war. Some of their ships were sunk by submarine. Some of them were captured by merchant raiders, such as the [Volga]. They would actually live on these German ships, on the merchant raiders, until they finally pulled into port. Airmen were shot down, and oftentimes their planes broke down. They had engine trouble and were forced to land in enemy territory. On a couple of occasions, they landed in the wrong location. Most of your combat infantrymen, though, your doughboys, as you say, were captured in trench raids or during the major German offenses.

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Theo Mayer: We weren't engaged for that long of a period of time. So about how many American prisoners of war were there during the war?

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Colonel Eanes: Well, the official U.S. Figure as of 2005, is 4,120 Americans were prisoners of war. That number, though, can be bumped up quite a bit. There were about 70 American doughboys that were captured on the battlefield, yet managed to escape while they were in no man's land or in the German trenches and before they actually entered the POW system. So they weren't ever recorded anywhere. They actually count as POWs, though, if you look at today's guidelines.

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Theo Mayer: Was the prisoner of war treatment generally humane, or was it tough?

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Colonel Eanes: Any time you're a POW, it's tough, I don't care how good the conditions are. But generally speaking, the Americans were well-treated. The first guys had a tough time, because the Germans didn't quite know how to treat them. They didn't treat them any different than they did the Russians, for example. The first two batches actually ended up at a place called [Tukal] in the middle of winter up in Northern Germany under the most horrendous conditions. But once an investigation was conducted by the International Red Cross with the Ministry of War personnel, there was an effort by both the YMCA and the Red Cross to get the Americans concentrated at American-only camps. So that also helped their treatment, if you will.

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Theo Mayer: Were there differences in how the two sides dealt with their POWs? The German POWs versus the Allies?

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Colonel Eanes: As a matter of policy, they observed the rules of war. Now that's a policy statement. There were cases of individual abuse, however, particularly with the early American captors. There was one gentleman by the name of [Hoyt Decker] in the 16th infantry. Hoyt Decker was among the first group of POWs taken on November 4 of 1917. During the battle, he suffered a grenade concussion, and it knocked out part of his eye. It actually knocked it out of the socket, so that the socket was hanging on his cheek. As the prisoners got pushed into a German bunker, a German officer came in, saw this cake of mud on the guy's cheek and he pulled up and ripped it off. And ripped his eye out, basically. Of course, Decker, the shock of it, he just dropped to the ground. His sergeant, Edgar [Halliburton], who wrote a memoir actually, a very good memoir I think, he cited it as an atrocity. Decker finally spoke out about it. The way he talked, it was that it was more of an accident than an intentional action. And that as a result of that, what he ended up doing was saying that he got good medical care when they got him to the rear. He actually was complimentary of the medical care he got.

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Theo Mayer: So Colonel, in closing, how would you summarize the key ideas that our listeners should remember as a takeaway about American doughboy POW's experiences in World War I?

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Colonel Eanes: Once you get into their stories and start putting it all together, these young men were just as heroic as their counterparts in other conflicts. Over 70 doughboys made battlefield escapes, and another 45 or so made successful escapes from POW camps, including a great escape from [Dillington] in which about 13 men tried to get out, even though it was supported by about 50 others. They demonstrated POW leadership and resistance techniques before these things were even taught in the military schoolhouses. These POWs literally wrote the book or the military doctrine that was institutionalized after World War II, and they're many of the same lessons that we teach today at our SERE schools.

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Theo Mayer: Well Colonel, thank you very much.

[0:32:04]

Colonel Eanes: Yes, sir. Thank you.

[0:32:06]

Theo Mayer: Colonel Greg Eanes, U.S. Air Force retired, is the author of *Captured Not Conquered: The American POW Experience in World War I*. The book is available on Amazon, and we have links for you in the podcast notes. For commemorating World War I, Keith Colley has a passion for World War I veterans and its history. I first met Keith when I was the program manager for 100 Cities/100 Memorials, a matching grant challenge where the Pritzker Military Museum and Library and the Commission put together a matching grant program to promote the rediscovery and restoration of World War I memorials around the country. At the time, Keith had produced a simple, but really poignant smartphone video about going to a local cemetery and discovering the neglected graves. So I reached out to Keith about this really remarkable, simple but poignant video. That's when I learned that Keith had also created a Mobile World War I Museum. Now, he joined us on the podcast in June of 2017, over a 100 episodes ago when he was getting ready to take his museum around the country for the centennial period. It's a really interesting story, and Keith joins us again for an epilogue of that journey of over two years. Keith, welcome. It's great to speak with you again.

[0:33:30]

Keith Colley: Thank you, it's great to be here.

[0:33:31]

Theo Mayer: Keith, before we explore the journey over the past 100 weeks about a war that happened 100 years ago, can you describe the traveling museum for our listeners? What is it? How did it get started? What's the experience when I go to it?

[0:33:44]

Keith Colley: I work with patients in hospice that have Alzheimer's and dementia, and one of my patients was a World War II vet. Couldn't unfortunately remember yesterday, but he could take me back to conversations with his father who was in World War I. So with that information, I thought maybe I could delve in deeper with him if I went home and did some research on World War I. I did. It stuck. And before you knew it, we were going back and forth in amazing conversations about World War I. Then with Alzheimer's patients, the more of the senses that you can engage at one time, the better reaction you're going to get. So I went online and I ordered a shovel from Bulgaria out of World War I. When I placed it into his hands, he actually began crying. Just following that, the stories just flowed and flowed. So I thought to myself, working with this generation, I thought maybe we can make this bigger. Maybe we

can reach out and delve into the war at a greater level. So I decided to go to Kansas City and, of course, go to the most amazing World War I museum in the world. When I left there, I thought, "We've got to somehow get this to where our seniors can see it." That's when the traveling museum began.

[0:35:05]

Theo Mayer: That's a great story. I actually hadn't heard that. Keith, about your journey over the past years. I saw your tour schedule online. It's really impressive. Where all did you take the museum, and about how many people did you reach?

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Keith Colley: We've been underground in a World War II bunker in Delaware. We've been to air shows. We've been to state fairs. We've been to memory care units. We've been to independent living units. We've been to schools. Basically it was designed, of course, to reach out and set up where people live, especially where our seniors and veterans live. So we actually take it, we set it up where they live. Gives them the opportunity to come and go, ask questions, tell stories of their own. The biggest challenge for this is having enough time. Everybody wants to tell their story, and it creates the most amazing atmosphere you can imagine.

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Theo Mayer: How many stops do you think you've made in the last few years?

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Keith Colley: Wow. Stops, I'm not really sure, but I can tell you that we are about to break 200,000 visitors over the last two years. We're really proud that this has been able to do that, and we just hope that it just continues to grow.

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Theo Mayer: You should be proud. That's pretty awesome. That really is. You just said what the biggest challenge is, is the time. But what was your biggest challenge in doing this, in pulling this off?

[0:36:29]

Keith Colley: In the middle of it all, I had an accident, and I was unable to walk, and I was in a wheelchair for a year. I think that right there, while being a great challenge and, yeah, it was a bump in the road, it gave me the opportunity to create and build the museum. Every single piece that I've put into the museum comes with a story. So you're not just looking at an artifact when you get there or reading a placard. You're going to get the story behind it. We've got a gentleman, Mr. Pappy Stevens. You've got to come and meet Pappy, a hero from World War I that was a runner. If you know much about the runners in World War I, most of them didn't survive. This gentleman did. He was just a little bitty guy, a 24" waist, 5'1", which he liked to joke about the extra inch. But when you come to the museum, you're going to see his uniform, his belongings, all of his things, but you're going to get his story, too. That's the way it is through the entire museum.

[0:37:27]

Theo Mayer: Well, you almost just answered my second question, which was what was the biggest reward?

[0:37:32]

Keith Colley: We did a show down in Texas, and we had veterans, seniors, but we were also busing in school students. We had a class from the high school. They were seniors, and I looked over during the tour, and I saw one of the gentlemen with tears in his eyes. I just said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask what's bringing the tears?" He said, "Well, that razor right there on that table," he said that the only time his dad talked about World War I is when he was teaching him to shave with that razor. By the time he got done telling that story, there wasn't a dry eye. Then in the back, a hand went up. It was one of the seniors from the high school that said, "Sir, may I ask you a question about World War II?" He had answered the question, and before you knew it, the seniors, the veterans, and the high school seniors, they were all interacting. When that session was over, that gentleman came over to me, and he put his arm around me and said, "I never thought I'd get to tell my story ever again." That's why we're doing the museum.

[0:38:39]

Theo Mayer: Well, Keith, I've always appreciated your passion. You're a great guy. What happens next? Do you find a permanent home? Do you keep doing it? What do you think?

[0:38:47]

Keith Colley: We're booked into 2020. We even got a request yesterday for 2021, and we're taking it the National Social Studies Conference this November in Austin, Texas. There's supposed to be 10,000 high school teachers from all over the country, and we're going to set the museum up there hoping to introduce it and get it into our school

system to give our students the opportunity to thank our veterans at a different level while paying respect to a forgotten war.

[0:39:16]

Theo Mayer: That's great. From my first exposure to you to today, you've always been so passionate about bringing the story to America. The only thing I can say is thank you from everybody.

[0:39:26]

Keith Colley: Well, I'd like to say thank you to all of the people that have volunteered. Oh my gosh, we couldn't do this without the volunteers to set up and tear down, the sponsors that step up to the game, the facilities that go the extra mile. Then I just got a picture yesterday mailed to me. One of the facilities actually made monster postcards and sent them out to thousands of people. So this is truly a community event, and we want everybody in America to see it. We're not going to stop traveling until nobody else wants it.

[0:39:58]

Theo Mayer: Keith, thank you so much. Keith Colley and his Mobile World War I Museum can be found at ww1mobilemuseum.com, all one word. We have links for you in the podcast notes. That brings us to articles and posts, where we select stories you'll find in our weekly newsletter The Dispatch. The Dispatch points to online articles with summary paragraphs and links, providing a rich resource for World War I news and activities. Here are some of the selections from our current issue. Our first story, National History Day World War I webinar series scholarships available. The submission deadline is July 30th. Free tuition and credit is available for two teachers from every National History Day affiliate. Through this program, teachers can earn a Certificate of Professional Development hours for three graduate extension credit units from the University of San Diego. Applications for the scholarships for this will be accepted through July 30th, 2019. As one of the Commission's education partners, National History Day has created resources to offer different perspectives on the war, engage students with unique primary sources, and remember those who served and sacrificed as part of the World War I effort. Park University to host Valor Medal Review program at National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City. On Wednesday, June 19, Park University will host a program from Kansas City to Washington D.C., World War I Valor Medal Review. The program will be presented at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City. It starts at 6:30 pm. Admission to the event is open to the public and free, but attendees have to RSVP. In mid-April, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission and Park University announced that they were spearheading the effort of a Congress-led systematic review of minority veterans who served in World War I, who may have been overlooked or denied the Medal of Honor due to race. Teaching the Great War 100 years later. When Chris Davis was asked by the History Department at University of North Carolina at Greensboro, "What course would you like to teach for the fall of 2018?" there was no hesitation in his response. He wanted to teach a course that gave World War I its due. Chris got his wish, not only would he be teaching a course on his favorite topic, World War I, but this course would coincide with the centennial of the war's end. A new online exhibition, The Volunteers, America Joins World War I. This exhibition examines the stories of the young American men and women who transformed the meaning of volunteerism in World War I. Prompted by altruism, personal ambition, a search for adventure, or the hope for an allied-led redemption of a devastated Europe, these American volunteers engaged in the war before the United States entered the conflict. World War I memorial in Covington, Ohio honors over 250 local men who served. The 2019 Memorial Day festivities were like no others, as the village of Covington in Ohio honored those residents who fought in World War I with a monument. Nearly 300 Covington servicemen fought in World War I with the United States Army's 148th Infantry regiment in battles to liberate Belgium in 1918. Another new World War I monument. World War I veterans will not be forgotten as new monument is revealed in Jefferson County, Georgia. The names of 26 Jefferson County, Georgia men who gave their lives in service to their country during World War I were revealed etched in granite in a newly-redesigned veteran's plaza on the county courthouse lawn on June 6th of this year. The World War I monument is part of a veteran's plaza originally started last year by Dr. Lamar Veatch, a Jefferson County native and a member of the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission who brought the idea of a World War I memorial to the Board of Commissioners and Historical Society. How vaccines and vigilance could have stopped the World War I pandemic. Just one century ago, the world was in the grips of one of the deadliest pandemics in history. Tens of millions of people, an estimated 3% of the world's population was killed by the Spanish flu pandemic that swept across the planet, costing considerably more lives than World War I itself. Now, while much has changed since this chapter of the 20th century ended, the story of the Spanish flu still holds a valuable lesson, not to underestimate the danger of the pathogens that we share the Earth with. Access the full-length version of all these amazing stories and more through the summary paragraphs and links that you'll find in our weekly Dispatch Newsletter. It's our short and easy guide with lots of World War I news and information. Subscribe to this wonderful, free weekly guide at ww1cc.org/subscribe, or follow the link in the podcast notes. That wraps up episode number 127 of the award-winning World War I Centennial News, the Doughboy Podcast. Thank you for listening. We want to thank our great guests, talented crew, and our supporters, including Mike Shuster, curator for The Great War Project Blog. A special thanks to Dr. Edward Lengel, author and speaker, Robert H. Reid, the senior managing editor of the Stars and Stripes, Laura Meyers and Sue Mayo from the National Stars and Stripes Museum and Library, author Colonel Greg

Eanes, U.S. Air Force retired, Keith Colley of the Mobile World War I Museum. Thanks to Mack Nelson and Tim Crow, our interview editing team, Katz Laslow, the line producer for the show, Dave Kramer for his special report on the Stars and Stripes, J.L. Michaud for research and web support. I'm Theo Mayer, your producer and host. The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission was created by Congress to honor, commemorate and educate about World War I. Our programs have been to inspire a national conversation and awareness about World War I, including this podcast. We have brought the lessons of 100 years ago to today's educators, their classrooms, and the public. We have helped to restore World War I memorials in communities of all sizes across the country. And yet to be completed, we're building America's National World War I Memorial in Washington D.C. We want to thank the Commission's founding sponsor, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, as well as our other sponsors, the Star Foundation and the Doughboy Foundation. The podcast and a full transcript of the show can be found on our website at ww1cc.org/cn as in Charlie, Nancy. You'll find World War I Centennial News at all the places you get your podcasts, even YouTube, asking Siri, or using your smart speaker by saying, "Play W-W-1 Centennial News Podcast. The Commission's Twitter and Instagram handles are both @ww1cc, and we're on Facebook at ww1centennial. Thank you for joining us, and don't forget to keep the story alive for America by helping us build the National World War I Memorial in Washington. Just text the letters W-W-I or W-W-1 to the phone number 91999 to make a contribution. We need your help. Thank you for listening. So long.

[0:48:44]