

WW1HA



From the President

Planning for our annual symposium is well under way. The WW1HA is working with the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission, the National WWI Museum at the Liberty Memorial, and the WFA East Coast Branch. The joint event will be held at the museum in Kansas City, Mo. The dates are Oct. 2-5 and the theme will be "War Breaks Out, 1914." We would welcome other groups as partners. More details will be available soon.

Randy Gaulke, John Snow, Dick VandenBrul and Lynda Payne have been elected to the board to serve three years. These four are elected to three-year terms (2014-2016). Sheila Swigert was elected to a one-year term of office (2014). Questions about membership may be directed to Craig Robertson, our new administrative assistant, at admin@ww1ha.org. Our website is being updated. Please give us a click at www.ww1ha.org.

The next issue of our members-only magazine, *World War One Illustrated*, will be published in April. Remember, membership is just \$50 per year, \$40 for electronic issues only. Three regional seminars, plus other events, are coming up. For details, see Page 2. You may also contact me for more information about events and membership at lshurtleff@aol.com.

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Our mission

The World War One Historical Association is a nonprofit committed to promoting interest in the period 1914-1918 and perpetuating the memory of all those who served their countries.

Who'll come a'waltzing, Matilda, with me?

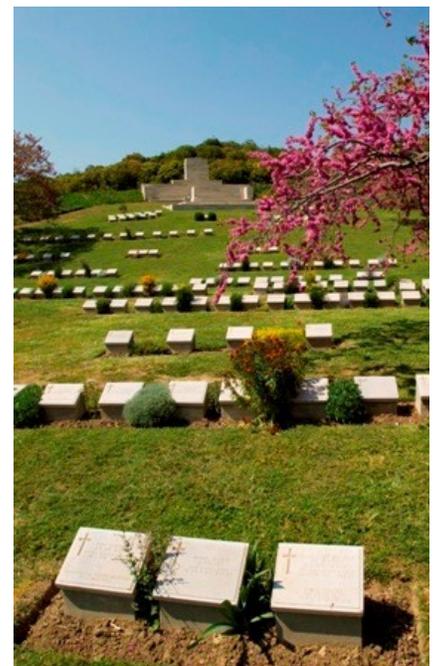
You still have time to join the National World War I Museum's tour of the Gallipoli battlefield, where the Anzacs — New Zealanders and Australians — and the Turks fought so fiercely in 1915. The day of the landing, April 25, is celebrated worldwide as Anzac Day.

Says the Museum: We believe this tour offers the most comprehensive tour available to the Peninsula, in an intimate group to reach seldom-visited spots via mule tracks, dried up gullies and quiet beaches.

The tour will begin and end in London. Price includes flights from London to Istanbul.

Remember, the Imperial War Museum in London will reopen its renovated and expanded WWI exhibit hall this summer, so a few days in London on the way there or back would be a great addition to your trip.

Here's the link: <http://theworldwar.org/learn/lectures-events/2014-battlefield-tour>



Coming Up

APRIL 19: SJSU History Department and Burdick Military History Project; San Jose State University

MAY 3: New England-NY Chapter; New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. http://ww1ha.org/Ch_NeNy.htm

JUNE 7: WFA East Coast Chapter; Maryland War Memorial Building, Baltimore, Md. www.wfa-eastcoast.org

SEPT. 20: Florida-Gulf Coast; Public Library in Foley, Ala. “1914: Europe Goes to War.” http://ww1ha.org/Ch_Flgulf.htm, <mailto:lshurtleff>

SEPT. 27-28: National Museum of the US Air Force; 1100 Spaatz St., Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. “World War I Dawn Patrol Rendezvous.” www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/wwi.asp

OCT. 2-5, 2014: Joint WWIHA National Symposium; Kansas City at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial. “War Breaks Out, 1914.” www.ww1ha.org, <mailto:lshurtleff>

OCT. 10-11: Southwest Chapter; Tarleton University, Stephenville, Texas. “American Participation in WW before April 1917.” http://ww1ha.org/Ch_Southwest.htm, kihnt@swbell.net

If you have news to share, please e-mail Susan Hall-Balduf at blog@ww1ha.org.

Questions about membership go to Craig Robertson at admin@ww1ha.org.

New at The National World War I Museum

A hungry teenage assassin and a wrong turn. The two bullets fired on June 28, 1914 outside of a delicatessen in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, placed the world on the brink and led to a sequence of events that changed the world forever.

Secret societies and nationalist organizations strove for an independent Slavic nation free from foreign domination, unknowingly represented on that fateful day by the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

The exhibition “On the Brink: A Month That Changed the World” examines the underground organizations, diplomatic communications and international newspaper reporting of the assassination and its political aftershock. The exhibition presents the assassination in a manner never seen before.

“On the Brink” incorporates a journalistic and documentary approach and portrays the story of the assassination and aftermath through a series of newspaper articles, photographs and quotes from diplomatic sources.

This special exhibition was created with support from the Austrian National Archives, Serbian National Archives, Library of Congress, Kansas City Public Library and The British Library.

It will be presented through Sept. 14th. Admission is included with the museum’s entrance fee.

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., inspires thought, dialogue, and learning to make the experiences of the World War I era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations.



Above: Dublin after the Easter Rising.

Right: The Irish Peace Tower in Messines (Mesen), Belgium. As part of the design, the inside of the tower is lit by the sun only on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Photo by Snapshooter46 at Flickr.com.



Remembering the Easter Rising

The Easter Rising was an armed insurrection in Ireland in 1916, from Easter Monday April 24 to Saturday April 29, with the aim of ending British rule in Ireland and establishing an Irish Republic.

After days of bloody fighting, the Rising was finally suppressed and the leaders surrendered. They were court-martialed and executed.

The Rising resulted in 450 people dead, 2,614 injured, and nine missing, nearly all of them in Dublin.

Irish Catholic and Protestant Divisions fought alongside each other, on the battlefields, and in 1998, a memorial was erected to remember their sacrifice.

The Island of Ireland Peace Park has this inscription:

“From the crest of this ridge, which was the scene of terrific carnage in the First World War on which we have built a peace park and Round Tower to commemorate the thousands of young men from all parts of Ireland who fought a common enemy, defended democracy and the rights of all nations, whose graves are in shockingly uncountable numbers and those who have no graves, we condemn war and the futility of war. We repudiate and denounce violence, aggression, intimidation, threats and unfriendly behaviour.

“As Protestants and Catholics, we apologise for the terrible deeds we have done to each other and ask forgiveness. From this sacred shrine of remembrance, where soldiers of

all nationalities, creeds and political allegiances were united in death, we appeal to all people in Ireland to help build a peaceful and tolerant society. Let us remember the solidarity and trust that developed between Protestant and Catholic Soldiers when they served together in these trenches.

“As we jointly thank the armistice of 11 November 1918 – when the guns fell silent along this western front – we affirm that a fitting tribute to the principles for which men and women from the Island of Ireland died in both World Wars would be permanent peace.”

More about the Easter Rising here: www.nli.ie/1916/1916_main.html

The March 100

The 120-mile fund-raiser to be held this summer was founded by Stephen Davis and Joseph Conlon of the UK. Stephen Davis writes:

On July 28, 2014, it will be 100 years since the beginning of the war known as The Great War.

On this day, a walk will commence from the town of Amiens, France, in the heart of the Somme. This memorable journey over the next six days will follow a route along the Western Front through town and country while passing by many places that lie peaceful now, but 100 years ago were the scene of bloodshed and misery.

The walk will continue into Belgium and will come to an end in the heart of Flanders Fields in the town of Ypres (editor's note: Wipers, as was, and now Ieper). After six days and more than 120 miles of walking, we will lay wreaths at the Menin Gate on Monday, August 4, 2014 – 100 years since Great Britain joined The Great War.

With a walk of remembrance in the footsteps of heroes of the past, we will be taking the opportunity to raise much-needed funds for the heroes of today.



MilitaryHealth photo



One of the charities that will receive contributions is BLESMA, a UK organization that helps servicemen and –women who have lost a limb. From the website, “Formerly known as The British Limbless Ex-Service Men’s Association, we have existed in one guise or another since the First World War and have continued to support veterans since then.”

Can you help?

If you’d like to join the walk, you’d better hit the dusty trail for some training or you’ll be among the stragglers left along the road before the first day’s lunch.

If you’d just as soon sit home and

make a donation, instead, click here. www.i-m.co/march100uk/March100uk/support-us.html

In the U.S., you can make donations to the Disabled American Veterans. Tell them your gift is in memory of the Doughboys.

www.dav.org

Here’s an interesting article about First World War amputees, from the Wellcome Trust, a nonprofit foundation based in London that funds biomedical research:

<http://blog.wellcomecollection.org/2011/12/16/object-of-the-month-first-world-war-amputees/>

Along the route

The March 100 will pass 120 cemeteries, burial places & monuments, from the Somme battlefield to the Menin Gate. All very peaceful now.

This is the Somme River in Amiens today.

Below right: Amiens in 1916.

Far right: St. Pierre Cemetery, outside Amiens, has 676 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.



ABMC photo

Len's Bookshelf

By Len Shurtleff
WWIHA President

With a veritable deluge of new and republished books on WWI appearing to take advantage of the Centennial, my Bookshelf column at our WWIHA website is busier than ever. Thanks to the assiduous efforts of Dana Lombardy, the Book-

shelf is now up-to-date. I am selectively adding some three or four pages of brief book descriptions each month as the flood of new works come on the market. Most of these are published in Great Britain, but US publishers are doing their share. I urge you to stay current and take a glance from time to time at Len's Bookshelf.

http://ww1ha.org/LB_new.htm

NEW TITLES:

“The First World War in 100 Objects” by Gary Sheffield.

“Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War: The Undaunted 369th Regiment and the African-American Quest for Equality,” Jeffrey T. Sammons & John H. Morrow, Jr.,



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From “Soliquy”

It is too late now to retrieve
a fallen dream, too late to grieve
a name unmade, but not too late
to thank the Gods for what is great.
A keen edged sword, a soldier’s heart
is greater than a poet’s art.
And greater than a poet’s fame
a little grave that has no name.

— Francis Ledwidge
5th Innskilling Fusilers
Killed July 31, 1917

The First World War Poetry Digital Archive,
University of Oxford (www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit); ©

Join today!

ww1ha.org/JoinRenew.htm

Membership is \$50 per year for hard copy of publications, \$40 e-pubs. Only members of the World War One Historical Association can receive the magazine World War One Illustrated, with photos, maps and graphics. “Amazing War Stories” and “Myths & Mysteries of the Air War” are just two of its continuing features.

Don’t miss Issue #2, Spring 2014!

THE "CAMEL," SO NICKNAMED BECAUSE OF THE HUMPED FAIRING COVERING ITS TWIN VICKERS MACHINE-GUNS, WAS GREATLY WELCOMED BY BRITISH FLIERS IN 1917.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY HAD A MATCH FOR THE FIREPOWER OF GERMAN FIGHTERS!

BUT IT WAS A FAR FROM IDEAL AEROPLANE...

PURPOSELY UNSTABLE CHARACTERISTICS, PLUS THE GYROSCOPIC EFFECT OF A ROTARY ENGINE, CAUSED IT TO FLIP INTO A SPIN EASILY AT LOW SPEEDS.

385 PILOTS DIED FROM NON-COMBAT RELATED CAUSES: FLYING CAMELS, COMPARED TO 419 IN COMBAT.

ITS ROTARY ENGINE, WHICH SPWENED OUT NAUSEATING CASTOR OIL FUMES, PRODUCED LIGHTNING QUICK RIGHT-HAND TURNS WHICH TERRIFIED NOVICE PILOTS.

SURPASSED IN PERFORMANCE, SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BY OTHER FIGHTERS BY MID-1918, THE CAMEL FLIES ON IN NOVELS, COMIC STRIPS, AND FILM.

PILOT AND FUEL TANKS WERE PACKED CLOSE TOGETHER, MAKING THE CAMEL EXTREMELY NIMBLE, BUT IT HAD A RELATIVELY LOW 121MPH TOP SPEED.

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SOURCE: O'Brien Browne, "Deadly Duo," Aviation History, September 2013.

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