By Paul A. Thomesen

The Civil War Centennial is remembered as a painful turning point in the North-South cultural divide and the quest for American civil rights. For most historians, this crucible is also generally recognized as giving birth to modern social, race, and women’s history. Although now almost forgotten, the Civil War Centennial also served as a milestone in the history of military history, providing a vehicle for the reemergence the Society for Military History’s predecessor, the American Military Institute (AMI), as a vibrant, versatile, and growing scholarly organization.

Since the end of the Second World War, AMI had suffered a steady decline in prowess and direction as a byproduct of both the postwar peace dividend and a series of seemingly-never-ending administrative problems. With the United States Army overseeing the occupation and rebuilding of Europe and Japan, the organization’s leading government boosters were hard-pressed to find time and opportunities for the organization, which had aided the war effort. At the same time, rapid changes afoot in the War Department heavily impacted the organization’s flagship military history journal and twice nearly resulted in the de facto elimination of Military Affairs (MA). Membership and funding were also fluctuated wildly between 1945 and 1960. In fact, the organization barely managed to survive these lean years through the combined efforts of dedicated members, a few surprise outside donations, dedicated officers, and a few instrumental mainstream politicians. Hence, by 1961, the AMI was in no condition to play a leading role in the national, state, or even private level event centennial plans.

While the SMH Records reveal the AMI officers’ initial frustrations with their period limita-
tions, this mixture of poor timing and an unsteady AMI actually worked to the long-term advantage of the organization. During the planning for the centennial “celebration,” the AMI’s members watched silently from the sidelines as northern and southern regionalism reshaped and distorted public discussions over event goals and the logistics of planning. Next, as the plans were moved to execution, they witnessed the emergence of segregationist agents and anti-segregation protests at hotels, at conference sites, and events across the country. Finally, they saw that the meetings of other academic organizations were, likewise, caught and pulled into the fray with academic dissenters criticizing the limited vision of sponsored forums discussing “the causes” or “the legacy” of the Civil War. As a result, by the spring of 1961, the officers were feeling rather lucky to have escaped this increasingly hostile environment.

Yet, the AMI officers also felt compelled to address the lack of a military history presence in the events already unfolding across the nation. Initially, they offered the AMI’s expert resources and several of MA’s relevant Civil War articles to friends and associates serving on event commissions, but, for the most part, the AMI remained a silent partner in these endeavors. One day, however, Karl Betts, the Executive Director of the Civil War Centennial Commission (CWCC), cornered Victor Gondos and wrung from him a promise to talk with the other AMI officers about making a larger military history contribution to the centennial. Over the next few weeks, the SMH Records reveal that Gondos talked extensively with President James D. Atkinson and Ken Munden about Betts plea and their own potential to create a positive and rewarding contribution for all concerned. After further consultation with other officers and members, Gondos informed Betts that the AMI would contribute a Civil War-oriented meeting on two conditions: (1) that the meeting take place at the end of the year and (2) that the American Military Institute retain complete control of every aspect of the event. Betts agreed.

On Friday, November 3, 1961, the AMI made good on Gondos’s word as institute members and the general
Call for Papers

The Society of Civil War Historians will host a conference from June 14 through 16, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington, Kentucky. The SCWH welcomes panel proposals or individual papers on the Civil War era, broadly defined. The goal of the conference is to promote the integration of social, military, political, and other forms of history on the Civil War era among historians, graduate students, and public historians.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is September 15, 2011. Proposals should include a title and abstract for the papers (approximately 250-300 words) and a short curriculum vitae of participants. Panel submissions should have an overall title and statement about the thrust of the session.

Proposals should be submitted as one PDF sent electronically to RichardsCenter@psu.edu. For information, see the Society’s website: http://scwh.la.psu.edu or contact the Richards Center at (814) 863-0151. Final decisions on panels will be made at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Baltimore.

The program committee consists of Co-Chairs Joseph T. Glatthaar, UNC-Chapel Hill and John David Smith, UNC-Charlotte; and committee members Richard J. M. Blackett, Vanderbilt University; John Coski, The Museum of the Confederacy; Caroline E. Janney, Purdue University; Jennifer L. Weber, The University of Kansas; and LeeAnn Whites, University of Missouri.

New Book Series Announced

The University of Missouri Press is pleased to announce The American Military Experience
Series, edited by John C. McManus. The books in this series portray and analyze the experience of Americans in military service during war and peacetime from the onset of the twentieth century to the present. The series emphasizes the profound impact wars have had on nearly every aspect of recent American history and considers the significant effects of modern conflict on combatants and noncombatants alike. Titles in the series may include accounts of battles, campaigns, and wars; unit histories; biographical and autobiographical narratives; investigations of technology and warfare; studies of the social and economic consequences of war; and in general, the best recent scholarship on Americans in the modern armed forces. The books in the series are written and designed for a diverse audience that encompasses nonspecialists as well as expert readers.


For more information, go to http://press.umsystem.edu/ame.htm or contact series editor John McManus at mcmanusj@mst.edu.

**Call for Contributors**

Contributors sought for *A Concise Companion to the Meuse-Argonne*, to be published by Wiley/Blackwell in 2013. The book will consist of 28 scholarly essays, each of about 7,000 words, covering various aspects of this important battle that lasted from 26 September to 11 November 1918. Like many World War I battles, the Meuse-Argonne has been largely neglected in scholarship, so this Companion will offer contributors opportunities to present original research in numerous fields of specialization.

Essay subjects include aspects of strategy and military planning; important military episodes in the battle; training; morale; armor; artillery; infantry tactics; communications; command and control; and memory. European or non-U.S. contributors are welcome, particularly for essays on German and French participation in the Meuse-Argonne, and comparative aspects of the battle. All contributions must be in English, and are due by June 1, 2012.

Project Editor is Dr. Edward G. Lengel, Professor at the University of Virginia and author of a book on the subject. Interested contributors can request information and a topic list at edlengel@yahoo.com.

**Upcoming Symposium**

The National Security Agency’s Center for Cryptologic History sponsors the Cryptologic History Symposium every two years. The next one will be held 6-7 October 2011. Historians from the Center, the Intelligence Community, the defense establishment, and the military services, as well as distinguished scholars from American and foreign academic institutions, veterans of the profession, and the interested public all will gather for two days of reflection and debate on topics from the cryptologic past.

The theme for the upcoming conference will be: “Cryptology in War and Peace: Crisis Points in History.” This topical approach is especially relevant as the year 2011 is an important anniversary marking the start of many seminal events in our nation’s military history. The events that can be commemorated are many.

Participants will delve into the roles of signals intelligence and information assurance, and not just as these capabilities supported military operations. More cogently, observers will examine how these factors affected and shaped military tactics, operations, strategy, planning, and command and control throughout history. The role of cryptology in preventing conflict and supporting peaceful pursuits will also be examined. The panels will include presentations in a range of technological, operational, organizational, counterintelligence, policy, and international themes.

Past symposia have featured scholarship that set out new ways to consider our cryptologic heritage, and this one will be no exception. The mix of practitioners, scholars, and the public precipitates a lively debate that promotes an enhanced appreciation for the context of past events.

The Symposium will be held at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory’s Kossiakoff Center, in Laurel, Maryland, a location central to the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., areas. As has been the case with previous symposia, the conference will provide unparalleled opportunities
for interaction with leading historians and distinguished experts. So please make plans to join us for either one or both days of this intellectually stimulating conference.

Dr. Kent Sieg, the Center’s Symposium Executive Director, can be reached at (301) 688-2336 or via email at kgsieg@nsa.gov.

Book News from Members

Edward Coss is pleased to report that his book, *All for the King’s Shilling: The British Soldier Under Wellington, 1808-1814* (Oklahoma University Press, 2010) was just named runner-up in the competition for this year’s Templer Medal by the Society for Army Historical Research. The Army also named him the Civilian Educator of the Year this past April.

Frank N. Schubert’s new book, *Hungarian Borderlands: from the Habsburg Empire to the Axis Alliance, the Warsaw Pact, and the European Union*, is being published by Continuum and is scheduled to appear in the UK in October and the US in December.

John Prados has just published *Normandy Crucible: The Decisive Battle that Shaped World War II in Europe*, which re-examines the impact of these battles on the remainder of the campaign for Northwest Europe in 1944-45.

Richard W. Leopold Prize Competition

The Richard W. Leopold Prize was designed to improve contacts and interrelationships within the historical profession where an increasing number of history-trained scholars hold distinguished positions in governmental agencies. This prize recognizes the significant historical work being done by historians outside academe. The Leopold Prize is given by the Organization of American Historians every two years for the best book on foreign policy, military affairs, the historical activities of the federal government or biography by a government historian. These subjects cover the concerns and the historical fields of activity of the late Professor Leopold, who was President of the Organization of American Historians 1976-1977.

The winner must have been employed in a government position for at least five years. If the author has accepted an academic position, the book must have been published within two years from the time of the change. Verification of current or past employment with the government must be included with each entry.

Each entry must be published during the two-year period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011. The award will be presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the OAH in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 19-22.

For submission details, please go to http://www.oah.org/awards/awards.leopold.index.html. Submission deadline is October 1, 2011.

The Sweeting Military Reference Library

The library of C. G. “Glen” Sweeting was assembled over the last 60 years and consists of approximately 5500 non-fiction military, aviation and naval books and manuals, primarily of United States, British and German origin. This marvelous library of rare material is now available for purchase at a modest price. Glen retired from the U.S. Air Force after a career which included assignments as curator of the Air Defense Command Museum in Colorado Springs and the Air Force Space Museum at Cape Canaveral. In 1978, The British Imperial War Museum acquired the Sweeting Militaria Collection which is housed in a dedicated museum gallery. Because of his experience in collection development and display, Glen was assigned to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum while still on active duty with the USAF. He transferred to civil service and spent 15 years as Curator of Flight Materiel at NASM, retiring in 1985.

During his NASM career, Glen authored five books: *Combat Flying Equipment; Combat Flying Clothing; Hitler’s Squadron; Hitler’s Personal Pilot; and Blood and Iron, The German Conquest of Sevastopol*. He continues to write scholarly articles for military history periodicals and his extensive reference collection is the basis for a long-standing consultancy in arms, armor and military history. However, Glen recognizes that it is time to find a permanent home for his life-long collection.

Many of the items in the collection are true rarities that seldom come up for sale or to auction. Unlike other military history libraries, this one has significant content in the “things” of war. General military history is well-represented, but this collection is remarkable in regulations, manu-
als and other material concerning uniforms, insignia, decorations, weapons, armament and other
equipment.

A long-time friend of Glen’s, Prof. Tom Kullgren, Saginaw Valley State University, is assist-
ing in the transfer of the library. He will provide more information and can be reached at kull-
gren@svsu.edu or (989) 835-3908.

2011 Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement Announced

Chicago, IL (June 21, 2011) – Carlo D’Este has been selected to receive the 2011 Pritzker
Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing. The $100,000
honorarium, citation and medallion, sponsored by the Chicago-based Tawani Foundation, will
be presented at the Library’s annual Liberty Gala on October 22, 2011. The announcement was
made today via live Internet webcast at pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

The Pritzker Military Library Literature Award recognizes a living author for a body of work
that has profoundly enriched the public understanding of American military history. A national
panel of writers and historians – including previous recipients James M. McPherson, Allan R.
Millett, Gerhard L. Weinberg, and Rick Atkinson – reviewed nominations and definitive works
submitted by publishers, agents, booksellers, and other professional literary organizations.

“Carlo D’Este has made a tremendous collective contribution to the literary community
at large,” said Colonel (IL) J.N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired), Founder of the Pritzker Military
Library and Tawani Foundation. “He has spent as much time in the field, with his boots on the
ground, as he has seeing to it that scholars of the next generation are carefully mentored while
progressing along their own paths. It’s clear that Carlo’s literary legacy is deeply rooted in all the
areas that embody the foundation of this esteemed award, most especially that of increasing the
understanding of military history and the role of the Citizen Soldier.”

“Carlo D’Este has published a series of major works on World War II. In each case, careful
research and balanced judgment led to a book of permanent value,” said Gerhard Weinberg and
Nathaniel Fick, members of the award committee. “His work is definitive in the field, rich, and
thorough.”

D’Este’s first book, Decision in Normandy (1983), offered a fresh perspective on the
leadership of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery and the Allied landings after D-Day. With
Bitter Victory (1988) and Fatal Decision (1991), covering the battles for Sicily and Rome respec-
tively, D’Este further established himself as an authoritative voice in the field of World War II
scholarship. More recently, D’Este has turned his attention to the lives of major World War II
leaders, delivering the acclaimed biographies Patton: A Genius for War (1995); Eisenhower: A
Soldier’s Life, 1890-1945 (2002); and Warlord: A Life of Winston Churchill at War, 1874-1945
(2008).

Since the publication of Warlord, D’Este has delivered a series of lectures on Winston
Churchill at the Pritzker Military Library, the Lemnitzer Lecture at the Association of the U.S.
Army, the General Raymond E. Mason, Jr. Distinguished Lecture Series on World War II at the
National World War II Museum, New Orleans, and the 2010 Crosby Kemper Lectureship at the
Winston Churchill Memorial and Library at Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri. He also
serves as Consulting Historian and Advisory Board Member for Armchair General magazine.

“This is a terrific honor and the highlight of my career,” said D’Este. “I am humbled to be
selected by the Pritzker Military Library and to be in the company of the great historians who
have previously won this prestigious award.”

A retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel with service in Vietnam, D’Este has received the
Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, and
Commendation Medal for his military service. He is a co-founder of the William E. Colby
Military Writers’ Symposium, based at Norwich University, and currently serves as its executive
director. D’Este is also a long-time elected trustee of the Mashpee, Massachusetts Public Library
and the former president of the Friends of the Kreitzberg Library at Norwich University. He lives
in Massachusetts with his wife, Shirley.

The Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing
was established in 2007. The recipient’s contributions may be academic, non-fiction, fiction, or
a combination of any of the three, and his or her work should embody the values of the Pritzker
Military Library.

The award will be presented on October 22, 2011 during the Library’s annual Liberty Gala
at Chicago’s historic Palmer House. The evening will also include presentation of the Colby Award
Tomlinson Book Prize Winner for 2010 Announced

The Western Front Association, United States Branch, annual Norman B. Tomlinson, Jr. prize for the best work of history in English on World War One (1914-1918) has been won by Dr. D. Scott Stephenson of the Army Command and General Staff College for his book *The Final Battle: Soldiers of the Western Front and the German Revolution of 1918* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

The prize consists of a check for $3,000 and a certificate. The award winner is chosen by a panel chaired by Professor Dennis Showalter of Colorado College, a past President of the Society for Military History. Other panel members are Dr. Michael Neiberg, Professor of History at Southern Mississippi University and visiting professor at the US Army War College, and Ambassador Leonard G. Shurtleff, past President of The Western Front Association.

The award panel also chose two books for Honorable Mention: Richard DiNardo’s *Breakthrough: The Gorlice-Tarnow Campaign of 1915* (ABC-Clio, 2010), and, Graydon Tunstall’s *Blood on the Snow: The Carpathian Winter War of 1915* (Kansas, 2010).

An Honorable Mention Award carries a cash prize of $500.

The newly formed World War One Historical Association, which combines the US Branch of The Western Front Association and The Great War Society, will continue to offer the Norman B. Tomlinson, Jr. Book Prize in future years. The prize is made possible through a grant from Norman B. Tomlinson, Jr., Director-emeritus of The Western Front Association – United States Branch.

Awards Announced for Excellence in U.S. Army History Writing

At its Fourteenth Annual Members’ Meeting, held 12 June 2011 at the Fort Belvoir Officer’s Club at Fort Belvoir, VA, the Army Historical Foundation recognized six books and three articles as outstanding achievements in writing on U.S. Army history. AHF President GEN William W. Hartzog, USA-Ret., announced the winners of the 2010 AHF Distinguished Writing Awards.

The winners:

**Book Awards**

**Biography**


**Operational/Battle History**


**Institutional/Functional History**

*America’s School for War: Fort Leavenworth, Officer Education, and Victory in World War II*, by Peter Schifferle. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas.

**Journals, Memoirs, and Letters**


**Reference**


**Reprint**

Article Awards

Army Professional Journals

Academic Journals

Journals and Magazines
“The Face of Battle,” by Bill Warnock (WWII History, October 2010).

The book award winners received a plaque honoring the book and a $1,000 cash award. The winner in the Reprint category received a plaque but no cash award. The article award winners also received a plaque and a $250 cash award.

The Army Historical Foundation, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the American soldier. Its goal is to promote greater public appreciation for the contributions that America’s Army – Active, Reserve, and National Guard – has made to the nation in 236 years of service. The Foundation is the principal fundraiser to build the National Museum of the United States Army, which will be located at Fort Belvoir, VA.

In addition to fundraising for the National Museum of the United States Army, the Foundation’s projects and activities include refurbishment of historical Army buildings; acquisition and conservation of historical art, artifacts, and documents; support of Army history education programs; historical research; publication of historical materials on the American soldier; and providing counsel and support to private and governmental organizations committed to the same goals as the Foundation.

The AHF Distinguished Writing Awards program was established in 1997 to recognize authors who make a significant contribution to the literature on U.S. Army history. Each year nominations are submitted to the Awards Committee by publishers and journal editors. A small group of finalists are selected and a final judging is made. The winners are announced at the annual AHF Members Meeting held in June.

For more information on the Foundation and its activities, please view the AHF website at www.armyhistory.org.

Information Request
In anticipation of the centennial of the Great War, the Belgian Museum of Radiology plans to publish a book in English about the contribution of Military Radiology on the battlefield (Western Front) during this first industrial war. A French and Dutch version of the book, describing the activity of Belgian Military Radiology, was already presented to the public on April 2, 2011 at the Brussels Army Museum. The author is Dr. René Van Tiggelen, curator of the Belgian Museum of Radiology. The English edition will add the contribution of the Allied Military Radiology to the war. For this project, the authors are looking for pictures, letters or some other photographic material and documents that can be used (especially American, Canadian, British). Any contributions will certainly be mentioned. If interested, please contact Dr. Van Tiggelen at info@radiology-museum.be.

Call for Papers
The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) is proud to announce the 8th Biennial Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Culture Research Symposium, to be held 6-8 December 2011 at Patrick Air Force Base/Melbourne, Florida. The theme is “Celebrating the History and Future of Diversity Research.” This symposium will be held in conjunction with the Department of Defense (DOD) Worldwide Diversity Conference and the observance of DEOMI’s 40th Anniversary. Topics for the research symposium include: equal opportunity, equal employment opportunity, diversity, disability, ageism, extremism, EEO in the war environment, diversity management and leadership, affirmative action, religious diversity, culture, culture competency, cultural training, teamwork in multicultural environments, cultural differences, etc. DEOMI welcomes submissions from a wide spectrum of disciplinary fields, to include history, I/O psychology, anthropology, sociology, clinical psychology, and political science.
Papers. Abstracts should be submitted no later than midnight, September 1, 2011. In general, we seek papers that contribute to both theory and practice within the various fields. Authors whose works are selected will be notified via email by September 15, 2011. Please limit abstract submissions to 500 words or less (double-spaced), using Times New Roman 12 font.

Posters. Proposals for the poster session should be submitted by October 1, 2011. Selectees will be notified by October 15, 2011.

Invited Panels. We also seek invited panels to discuss common issues. All panels must submit their proposals by September 15, 2011. Selected panels will be notified by September 30, 2011.

Point of contact. Those interested in submitting papers, posters, or panels should submit these to jay.steinke@patrick.af.mil or call (321) 494-1714 or (321) 494-2676.

Call for Papers

The institution of Monarchy was absolutely central to the political developments and events of the medieval and Early Modern world. This conference aims to celebrate monarchy in all of its various aspects, from examining the institution itself to assessing the impact of particular monarchs in their own realms and beyond. Historic Corsham Court, located just outside of Bath, is a beautiful and appropriate setting for this conference, with its origins as a summer palace for the Kings of Wessex. We welcome papers and/or panels on any theme which connects to monarchs or monarchy in any way including (but not limited to):

• Kingship/queenship/rulership
• The relationship between monarchs and consorts
• The relationship between monarchs and their subjects
• The involvement of monarchs in politics, religion and war
• The patronage and representation of monarchs
• The monarch and their court

We encourage a multi-disciplinary approach including papers which draw on gender studies, art, military, political and/or cultural history. Graduate students and early career researchers are particularly invited to submit a proposal. We hope to produce a published volume of the papers generated by the conference.

Please submit a proposal of approximately 250 words for a paper OR a panel of three papers to the organizers at monarchyconference@gmail.com by October 31, 2011.

Call for Papers

‘World War Two in the Baltics’

January 14-15, 2012 Tartu, Estonia

Deadline: Abstracts (500 words, in English) should be submitted along with an academic CV by September 15, 2011 to the organisers via email: Tartu2012@ksk.edu.ee

The Estonian National Defence College and the Baltic Defence College are happy to present the call for papers for an international conference ‘World War Two in the Baltics’. The organisers wish to bring together historians working on various aspects of the Baltic history in the late 1930s and the 1940s.

The organisers believe that the Baltics is still a ‘blank spot’ in most histories of the Second World War. It is seldom realised just how important the Baltics was in the outbreak and the spread of the war in Europe. During the ‘phony war’ in western Europe, the Baltics was a scene of a joint Nazi-Soviet attack on Poland, Soviet war on Finland and Soviet annexations of the Baltic states and parts of Romania. The impact of the war was profound. Finland fought its great-power neighbor twice and survived, but the costs were high. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania experienced not one but three successive occupations; their societies were subjected to genocidal policies and to social engineering on an unprecedented scale. As states they were wiped off the map at the end of the war.

The war in the Baltics was not only severe, it lasted longer than in most places. German forces in Courland fought on until the bitter end, but in the forests another war started, a bitter armed resistance against the Soviet regime. It was here that the Cold War began almost immediately, and it was really a hot war, at least in the beginning.
The organisers wish to re-examine the Second World War in the Baltics by covering the issues of grand strategy and diplomacy, politics and social issues, as well as military affairs. We invite papers on the following topics:

The Baltic Region in German strategy  The Baltic Region in Soviet strategy  The prewar armed forces and war plans in the region  The Baltic region in the strategy and diplomacy of the ‘Big Three’ Allies  Frictions of coalition warfare, both German and Soviet. Air operations  Ground operations  Naval operations  The Finno-Russian War  The German and Soviet occupations of the Baltics  The Holocaust in the Baltic States  The Postwar conflicts (resistance movements) in the 1940s.

The conference will be organised by scholars from the Estonian National Defence College and the Baltic Defence College. It will take place in Tartu in January 14-15, 2012.

How to Apply: We expect proposals from researchers as well as young academics from various academic backgrounds. Presentation should not exceed 30 minutes. The conference language is English, however, exceptions may be made for Russian-speakers.

Abstracts: (500 words, in English) should be submitted along with an academic CV by September 15, 2011 to the organisers via email: Tartu2012@ksk.edu.ee. Selected candidates will be contacted by the end of September, 2011. Participants are asked to hand in their paper’s final version to the organisers by December 15, 2011. A publication of the conference papers is planned.

There are no registration costs.
Organisers: Kaarel Piirimäe, James S. Corum
Updates will be posted at: www.ksk.edu.ee/en/Tartu2012

Taps

The Society regrets to announce the passing of Professor Richard Holmes, one of Britain’s most distinguished military historians, who died on April 30, 2011. A full obituary can be found at http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/culture-obituaries/tv-radio-obituaries/8486836/Professor-Richard-Holmes.html.
successful. My effort in planning annual meetings has been, and will continue to be, to combine quality social events with an intellectually stimulating, diverse program reflective of the state of military history; in these regards our Illinois meeting admirably succeeded.

Plan now to attend the 2012 meeting May 10-13 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia hosted by the Army Historical Foundation. Matt Seelinger the Foundation’s Chief Historian is the meeting coordinator. The Call For Papers is on the SMH website and proposals are due November 1, 2011. The meeting theme is “The Politics of War”. The Program Committee Chair is Wayne Lee at the University of North Carolina. I have contracted for 200 rooms at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at the rate of $139 per night plus tax and encourage members to reserve rooms now. The room reservation link is on the SMH website. The hotel offers free shuttle service from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and from the Metro, about a ten-minute walk from the hotel. The hotel has a spacious and striking new lobby-bar area and excellent facilities. Many restaurants are within easy walking distance.

On June 9 the SMH officers, trustees, committee chair and regional coordinators attended the annual Council meeting. I particularly want to thank those who struggled thru frustrating weather delays to attend! While the meeting lasted five hours much was accomplished. The Council approved a proposal from Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama with the Air University Foundation as co-sponsor to host the 2015 SMH annual meeting in Montgomery, Alabama Thursday, 9 April – Sunday, 12 April 2015. The proposal provides for a range of facilities and activities and showed the support for our meeting from both the Air University and the Montgomery community.

The Council received a letter of intent and was briefed on a proposal from the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, Canada to host the 2016 annual meeting. The new Canadian War Museum and associated venues and Ottawa offer an outstanding site for our 2016 meeting.

The Council made other decisions to improve SMH operations. To ease the demands on the Awards Committee and to provide more opportunities for members to serve the Society, a separate committee will be created of five members appointed by the President to determine the winners of the Moncado Prize, awarded annually to the authors of the four best articles published in The Journal of Military History during the previous calendar year. The Council approved a resolution that future student memberships be electronic for access to all Society publication. A committee appointed by the President will study obtaining suitable membership software for SMH. Additionally, the SMH long range planning committee has been activated to look at the future of SMH and a social media adhoc committee chaired by Vice President Greg Urwin is activated. Outgoing President Brian Linn’s excellent leadership has been passed into the capable hands of our newly elected President Joe Glatthaar.

On behalf of SMH in February I signed a new five-year Memorandum of Agreement between SMH, The Virginia Military Institute and The George C. Marshall Foundation for editing and publishing The Journal of Military History.

SMH will conduct future elections online. If The Journal of Military History office does not have your email address you will not receive a ballot so please send your email address to JMHSMH@vmi.edu.

SMH lapel pins sold-out at the annual meeting and I have ordered a new supply. You can order pins by sending $6.00 per pin, check made out to The Society for Military History, to the Journal office. Pins will be available after September 1.

NCH Washington Update

By Lee White of the National Coalition for History

This is a compendium of items which might be of interest to members of the Society from several recent NCH Washington Update newsletters.

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY RELEASES ADDITIONAL RECORDS- The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, operated by the National Archives, has opened to the
public over 500,000 pages of textual materials, one hour of dictabelt recordings, and an online exhibit focusing on the December 1972 bombing of North Vietnam.

Textual Materials:
The textual release includes more than 4,000 pages declassified, in whole or in part, as the result of mandatory review requests from individual researchers and as a consequence of the 25-year systemic review program. These documents focus primarily on national security matters, including: U.S. intelligence analysis of Vietnam Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker’s cables regarding negotiations with South Vietnam’s President Thieu in 1972; Henry Kissinger’s meetings with the Chinese leadership before President Nixon’s February 1972 trip; and U.S. policy toward Latin America. The bulk of this textual release comprises the 200,000-page David Gergen collection, which contains the White House speechwriting staff office files from 1973-1974 and the 300,000-page Congressional relations office collection (known as the William E. Timmons collection). Also included are small White House name files (Alpha files) on Shirley Temple Black, the Reverend Billy Graham and Charles “Bebe” Rebozo.

Audio-Visual Materials:
The release also includes an initial release of recordings made by the President and some members of his staff on dictabelt machines. The recordings include dictations and recorded telephone conversations. The recordings in this first installment are of less than an hour in duration.

Web Exhibit:
The Nixon Library is launching the first in its “Exploring Our Sources” web exhibits. This one, called “Memoirs v Tapes: President Nixon and the December Bombing” is a multimedia presentation of previously-released tapes, documents, photos, and videos relevant to understanding the decision-making surrounding the December 1972 bombing of North Vietnam and the successful conclusion of the Paris Peace negotiations.

REPORT SHOWS FEDERAL AGENCY FOIA BACKLOGS GROWING—Forty-five years after President Johnson signed the U.S. Freedom of Information Act into law in 1966, federal agency backlogs of FOIA requests are growing, with the oldest requests at eight agencies dating back over a decade and the single oldest request now 20 years old, according to the Knight Open Government Survey by the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

The Knight Survey of the oldest requests utilized the FOIA to examine the actual copies of the oldest requests from the 35 federal agencies and components that process more than 90 percent of all FOIAs. It shows that the oldest requests in the U.S. government were submitted before the fall of the Soviet Union. These unfulfilled requests — some are for documents that are themselves more than 50 years old — are victims of an endless referral process in which any agency that claims “equity” can censor their release.

The Freedom of Information Act requires agencies to process and respond to a request within 20 business days, with the possibility of a ten-day extension under “unusual circumstances.” In his March 19, 2009 government-wide memo on FOIA, Attorney General Eric Holder declared that “long delays should not be viewed as an inevitable and insurmountable consequence of high demand.” Despite this, the Knight Survey shows that some FOIAs remain marooned for decades.

The two previous Knight Open government surveys conducted during the Obama administration have also shown that, despite a clear message from the President, government agencies have been slow to improve their Freedom of Information processes.

The 2010 Knight Survey, “Sunshine and Shadows,” showed that only 13 of 90 agencies implemented concrete changes in response to President Obama and Attorney General Holder’s early memoranda calling for FOIA reforms.

The March 2011 Knight Survey, “Glass Half Full,” showed improvement but still revealed that just 49 of 90 agencies had followed specific tasks mandated by the White House to improve their FOIA performance. As Eric Newton, senior adviser to the president at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, put it, “At this rate, the president’s first term in office will be over by the time federal agencies do what he asked them to do on his first day in office.”

NATIONAL ARCHIVES RELEASES OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE “PENTAGON
On June 13, 2011, the National Archives and the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon Presidential Libraries released in its entirety the official Report of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Vietnam Task Force (commonly referred to as the Pentagon Papers). This marked the 40th anniversary of the leak of these Papers by the New York Times.

Approximately 2,384 pages or 34% of the Report were opened for the first time as compared to the Senator Gravel Edition of the Pentagon Papers, the most common benchmark used in Pentagon Papers discussions. The current release by the National Archives and the Presidential libraries presents the American public with the first definitive look at this historic document.

Each library and the Research Room at the National Archives facility in College Park, MD, have hard copies of the papers available for review. The materials are also available online at http://www.archives.gov/research/pentagon-papers/.

The 7,000 page report was commissioned by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara in 1967. He appointed Defense Department officials John McNaughton, Morton Halperin, and Leslie Gelb to lead the task force. Mr. Gelb’s organization published a 47 volume document known as the Report of the OSD (Office of Secretary of Defense) Vietnam Task Force and given the title United States-Vietnam Relations 1945-1967. The entire report was classified at the Top Secret level, although certain volumes of the report contained public statements that were considered unclassified. The Department of Justice and OSD investigations into the leak of the classified report determined that at least fifteen original copies were made (it’s not clear if more than fifteen were printed). The National Archives has one complete set and multiple copies of various volumes of the report located in two record series from Record Group 330, Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Record Group 60, Records of the Department of Justice. Complete original sets are also at the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon Libraries.

The New York Times published the first unauthorized release of what it termed the Vietnam Archive on June 13, 1971. The source document of that leak, along with the leaks to more than a dozen other media outlets, was a copy of the Report created by Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo. That copy of the Report which was well documented in Mr. Ellsberg’s 2002 work, Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers, was not the pristine document created by Leslie Gelb’s task force. The conditions under which the copies of the Report were made and distributed, coupled with the speed with which the copies were distributed and the urgency to publish the material, meant that the newspaper and magazine releases of the Papers covered only a very small portion of the 7,000 page Report.

The subsequent copies of the Report that were leaked to the U.S. Congress ultimately had more of the report published. Senator Mike Gravel (D, Alaska) made available his copy of the Report to the publishing house of Beacon Press, located in Boston. The Beacon Press edition was published in 1971. However, Beacon Press had its own reproduction problems that led to words, paragraphs, and even full pages of the Report being deleted, possibly due to the quality problems in the copy received from Senator Gravel. In addition, the Beacon Press editors completely rearranged the volumes of the original Report they received. The House Committee on Armed Services also published its version in 1971. This version follows the same arrangement as the original report, but had some text removed during declassification review.

Ellsberg and Russo did not leak Part VI of the Report, which describes various negotiating initiatives. The State Department declassified Part VI in 2002 at the Johnson Presidential Library.

On May 5, the National Archives and a consortium of international partners launched a Nazi-era assets-related records database – making millions of records related to Nazi-era cultural property available online for the first time at www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources.

A National Archives signing ceremony marked the opening of the International Research Portal for Records Related to Nazi-Era Cultural Property. The portal extends public access to the widely dispersed records that will enable families and institutions to research their losses, provenance researchers to locate important documentation, and historians to study newly accessible materials on the history of this period.

The International Research Portal is a collaboration of national and other archival institutions with records that pertain to Nazi-Era cultural property (to see a list of the participating institutions, click here). These archival institutions, along with expert national and international orga-
Museum Spotlight

At 69, S.S. John W. Brown Still Steams on the Chesapeake Bay and Beyond with some Crew Members Even Older

By Ernest Imhoff

Three decades ago, the rusty old Liberty ship, S.S. John W. Brown, which carried American troops and military cargo to Europe eight times in World War II, was still floating but faced the same ignominious end as almost 2,710 similar emergency wartime freighters. She was likely to be cut apart for scrap metal or sunk in the Atlantic to be a fishing reef.

The Brown was sitting forlorn in 1988 after five years in the National Defense Reserve Fleet in the James River, opposite Fort Eustis, VA. She was aside more than 100 other mostly doomed vessels arranged in somber rows of prisoners waiting to be executed. Some spirited New Yorkers had tried to save the Brown for New York City where for 36 postwar years she had been a stationary New York City high school in the East River and then the Hudson River. They failed and handed the job to another group of volunteers who quickly began planning the Brown’s restoration.

That did it. Suddenly came the biggest sea change since the Brown’s launching. Blame an eclectic bunch of Maryland mariners. They were strangers to each other but they loved Liberty ships and in 1988 vowed that this aging Liberty, built in Baltimore in 1942, belongs to that maritime city. Most importantly she must sail again. Not interested in a stationary museum, this bunch of activists included a marine architect, some Chesapeake Bay pilots, 70-year-old wartime Liberty sailors, round-the-world younger seamen, agreeable wives and landlubbers who had just dreamed of going to sea and now had their chance.

The portal links researchers to archival materials consisting of descriptions of records and, in many cases, digital images of the records that relate to cultural property that was stolen, looted, seized, forcibly sold, or otherwise lost during the Nazi-era. Cultural property documented in these records covers a broad range from artworks to books and libraries, religious objects, antiquities, archival documents, carvings, silver and more.

The records available through the Portal from the U.S. National Archives include over 2.3 million pages of documents created or received by the U.S. Government during and after World War II as part of its investigations into cultural assets that were looted or otherwise lost during the war. These records document the activities of several U.S. Government agencies involved in the identification and recovery of looted assets, including the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and U.S. occupation forces in Germany and Austria. The materials also contain captured German records regarding the seizure of cultural property, such as the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) card file and related photographs.

The records have been digitized and made available online by Footnote.com through a partnership agreement with the National Archives. The records are primarily in English, although some seized records are in German or other languages. There are no privacy or other access restrictions on the records.


The National Archives online Archival Research Catalog (ARC) provides a description of many of these records. See www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/holocaust/series.html. From the ARC description, click on the URL provided in the “online resource” section to be directed to the digitized records on Footnote.com. The digitized records on Footnote.com are available free in all National Archives research rooms and many large libraries, or for a fee by subscription.
The volunteers held meetings and secured a pier. In August 1988, they arranged a donated tow by a tugboat to pull the 441-foot Brown home to Baltimore and began a monumental three-year job whose mission was twofold: keep her 1940’s authentic and make her steam under her own power. As they rode the smelly, towed ghost ship up the Chesapeake Bay (pigeon you-know-what everywhere), one volunteer muttered, “What the heck have we gotten into here?” But they cleaned up the Brown, became pirates with permission and cannibalized other James River ship, got a rudder from another Liberty, rebuilt metal bulkheads and wooden furniture and – most impressively – got the original triple expansion engine working again. They wanted to see and hear her pistons pumping up and down, her shaft turning and her original propeller churning the waters—not just a cleaned-up ship sitting pretty at the pier.

In August 1991, the unpaid crew, a second generation of plank owners, fired up her vertical, three cylinder engine and steamed down the Chesapeake Bay for the first time since the war. It was a success. The next month, the anticipation was so great, they had to schedule two “matron voyages” to accommodate all paying passengers. The Brown, a remarkable 69 years old in 2011, has been an authentic operating Liberty ship for two decades ever since, reminding passengers of the sacrifices, the accomplishments and the role of duty in the war. The ship is named for a Canadian-born American citizen who became a tough labor organizer in the shipbuilding, mining and carpentry industries and died in 1941. Her more than 2000 members of Project Liberty Ship, Inc. own the ship.

In her revived second life, the S.S. John W. Brown sailed to the Great Lakes in 2000 via the St. Lawrence Seaway, plying the waters of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and hosting 35,000 visitors. She has taken up to 700 passengers on each voyage almost 90 times on six-hour Living History day trips in spring, summer and fall. Passengers do not sail between ports—only the crew does—but the Brown has educated and entertained passengers on day cruises from such ports as New London, CT; Providence; Portland, ME; Cleveland and Erie, PA; Toronto; Windsor, Ontario; Wilmington, NC; Charleston, SC; Brunswick, GA and Jacksonville, FL. Port visits have drawn fans by the thousands in Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. Three trips in 2011 are planned from Baltimore on the Chesapeake Bay and a short Veterans Day trip in November in Baltimore Harbor.

The 4,000 ton vessel’s normal voyage of nostalgia leaves Pier Four North Locust Point, Baltimore Harbor, near where she was built at Fairfield in 1942 and across Baltimore Harbor from her home base Pier One on South Clinton Street in Canton, East Baltimore. Her keel was laid July 29, 1942 and she was launched Sept. 7, 1942. She went to war on her maiden voyage to the Persian Gulf, loaded with almost 10,000 tons of tanks, Jeeps, trucks, ammunition and other gear for the Soviet Union on Sept. 29, 1942. She sailed commercially for a year after the war.

Minutes after the Brown parts her moorings, The Star Spangled Banner is played and hats are off when the ship passes Fort McHenry’s American flag. The chairman of Project Liberty Ship, Michael J. Schneider, who once commanded a U.S. Navy frigate and served as an officer on three submarines, provides historical narration through the day.
Passengers follow a blue-arrow self-guided tour down steep ladders to three museums in the ‘tween deck, below the main deck. The museums, arranged with authentic gear and documentation, are devoted to the merchant marine crews who operated the Liberty ships, the U.S. Navy Armed Guard gunners who protected them and the 18 shipyards, including Bethlehem Steel’s Fairfield Yard. That yard assembled the Brown and 383 other Liberty ships, more than any other yard’s output during the war.

The museums contain real pieces of history: For example, a piece of a kamikaze plane that attacked a member’s ship, the wooden wheel of the first Liberty built (S.S. Patrick Henry) and the uniforms and ammunition of the U.S. Navy Armed gunners. Up on the main deck, the ship has 12 guns. This number on the Brown is more than most Liberty ships carried because after the first trip the Brown also ferried up to 500 troops a trip to the war in Europe along with its wartime cargo.

The voyages of gentle movements at top speed of 11 knots dramatize the Brown’s wartime role with nuggets of Liberty ship history, flyovers by war planes (such as a B-25 and a Japanese Zero), the self-guided tours, close-up views by passengers of the original triple expansion steam engine in action and rubbing elbows with the all-volunteer crew, some of whom served in the war. Younger crew members have replaced dozens of the 1988 and other pioneers who have died. Breakfast, lunch and snacks keep passengers fortified as do the speeches of re-enactors playing President Roosevelt, General Patton or General MacArthur.

Strolling male and female quartets and a live band playing on a forward hatch fill the air with 1940’s tunes. Passengers might hear Glenn Miller’s “In the Mood”, Vera Lynn’s “We’ll Meet Again”, and of course the strains of the Navy’s “Anchors Aweigh”, the Merchant Marine’s “Heave Ho! My Lads! Heave Ho!” and the Army Air Corps song, “Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder”.

The Brown is one of only two workhorse Liberty ships still operating out of the 2,710 launched (the S.S. Jeremiah O’Brien in San Francisco is the other). During the war she sailed across the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean convoys frequently under attack by German U-boats; she emerged unscathed. Later, she taught hundreds in the unique role of maritime high school in New York Harbor; her current crew includes some alumni who learned their mathematics, English and sciences ashore and seamanship aboard the moored Brown.

Tickets are $140 to defray the costs of running a 501(C)3 non-profit ship that requires a barrel of oil to steam one mile, year-round upkeep by volunteers and periodic dry-docking. The ship depends on donations by generous PLS members and outsiders, $30 annual dues, funds raised in cruises and by other means. The ship plans to be in drydock again in Virginia in the fall of 2011. For tickets, call (410) 558-0164. For a more detailed picture, see Project Liberty Ship Inc. via its web site: www.liberty-ship.com. The site contains a precise virtual reality tour of the entire ship. For security reasons, tickets must be purchased two weeks before sailing dates. The mailing address is Project Liberty Ship, P.O. Box 25846, Highlandtown Station, Baltimore, MD 21224-0546.
Greetings graduate students! Thank you for coming to this year’s Society for Military History conference. The conference and the graduate student reception were a huge success. I hope everyone took advantage of SMH’s opportunities for professional growth and networking. Remember, whether you are at the PhD or MA level, the purpose of being a graduate student is the same: to work your way out of your position.

To that end, SMH has a new opportunity to assist graduate students. We will be building a list of graduate student bios and dissertations/theses for publication on SMH’s website. Interested graduate students should send me their full name, school affiliation, advisor, fields of study, thesis/dissertation title, a brief 250-word bio of either the student or the project, and an optional email. Participants must be members of the Society. For graduate students, this is a chance for greater exposure for yourself and your subject matter. It will enable you to network with other graduate students and scholars interested in your field while allowing the Society to view what the next crop of scholars is working on.

Beyond this new addition to the SMH website, please remember that we are still collecting archive guides written by graduate students for graduate students. Guides can be written by MA or PhD candidates. All that is required is familiarity with an archive. If you are interested in writing one, contact me at doidge.michael@gmail.com.

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Call for Papers

79th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History
Arlington, VA, 10-13 May 2012

The Society for Military History is pleased to announce its call for papers for the 79th Annual Meeting hosted by the Army Historical Foundation in Arlington, Virginia, 10-13 May 2012.

The conference theme is “The Politics of War,” highlighting the transition from war to peace, civil-military relations, the dynamics of coalition warfare and the problems of military government and occupation. We encourage a diverse group of participants, and especially encourage junior scholars to present their work and to serve on panels. As always, the program committee will consider all panel and paper proposals dealing with important questions of military history.

Panel proposals must include a panel title, contact information for all panelists, a brief description of the purpose and theme of the panel, a one-paragraph abstract of each of the papers, a one-page curriculum vita of each panelist, including commentator and chair, and contact information. All presenters, chairs, and commentators must be SMH members at the time of the 2012 meeting. Proposals for individual papers are welcome and should include a brief abstract, a one-page curriculum vita, and contact information. Proposals must be submitted electronically to the conference coordinator, Mr. Matt Seelinger (matt.seelinger@armyhistory.org). Deadline for proposals is 1 November 2011.

The meeting will be held in the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. It is easily accessible by Metro and from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. More information on registration and hotel reservations can be found at: www.armyhistory.org.
Save the Date

Society for Military History
2012 Annual Meeting

The Politics of War
May 10 - 13, 2012

For more information visit www.smh-hq.org

Hosted by The Army Historical Foundation
www.armyhistory.org

Hyatt Regency-Crystal City, Arlington, VA
MEETINGS CALENDAR 2011

September 9-10 - Ohio Goes to War: The Sectional Crisis and the Fight for Freedom, Cleveland. Sponsored by Kent State University Press and the history departments at the University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, and Youngstown State University. Contact: r.s.shelton@csuohio.edu.

September 9-10 - The Western Front Association Annual National Seminar in conjunction with the Great War Society, Citi-Garden Hotel, South San Francisco, California. Contact suddaby@cox.net for more information.


September 21-22 - Centennial of Naval Aviation Forum, Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, VA. Information: www.aiaa.org/events/Navy2011.

October 6-7 - Cryptologic History Symposium on “Cryptology in War and Peace: Crisis Points in History,” sponsored by the National Security Agency’s Center for Cryptologic History. Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory’s Kossiakoff Center, in Laurel, Maryland. Contact: kgsieg@nsa.gov.

October 13-15 - “War By Another Means: Perspectives on Insurgencies” at the South Carolina Archives. Contact: Brett Lea - ablea9@gmail.com.

October 29 - Western Front Association Fall WWI History Seminar at the Maryland War Memorial Building in Baltimore, MD. For information and registration, visit the WFA East Branch website at http://www.wfa-eastcoast.org, or contact Paul Cora at pbcora@earthlink.net.


MEETINGS CALENDAR 2012


March 16-17 – Western Front Association, Florida & Gulf Coast Chapter, Seminar on the Eastern Front, Tampa Hilton Garden Inn North, Temple Terrace, Florida. Contact Ishurtleff@aol.com for program details.

May 10-13 - The 2012 SMH Annual Meeting will be in Arlington, Virginia (Crystal City) at the Hyatt Regency Hotel May 10-13 hosted by the Army Historical Foundation.

May 12 - Western Front Association Spring WWI History Seminar in York, PA in conjunction with the York County Heritage Trust. For information and registration, visit the WFA East Branch website at http://www.wfa-eastcoast.org, or contact Paul Cora at pbcora@earthlink.net.

MEETINGS CALENDAR 2013

March 14-17 - The 2013 SMH Annual Meeting will be in New Orleans, LA at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi, the National World War II Museum and Southeastern Louisiana University.

MEETINGS CALENDAR 2014

April 3-7 - The 2014 SMH Annual Meeting will be in Kansas City, MO at the Westin Crown Center Hotel. Hosted by the Department of Military History, US Army Command & General Staff College; CGSC Foundation; Liberty Memorial - National World War I Museum; Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum & Library; and the Department of History, University of Kansas.

New members to the Society will be automatically entered into the online directory database. If this is not acceptable, please contact the business office.