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War Stories Fall 2011

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THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WAR & SOCIETY

WAR STORIES

DISPATCHES FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WAR AND SOCIETY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Fall 2011
web.utk.edu/~csws
865-974-0128

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Advancing on All Fronts!

In this edition of our newsletter, we want to share with you lots of good news from what we like to call our mission of public-service education, which is to say, engaging a broad public in our programs. Last spring, Dr. John McManus, a prolific historian at Missouri University of Science and Technology and former student of our founder, Dr. Chuck Johnson, spoke to a large local audience on the experience of American infantry in two epic battles—Aachen (Germany) and Fallujah (Iraq)—based on his book *Grunts: Inside the American Infantry Combat Experience, World War II through Iraq*.

Our center continued its fund-raising efforts and its work on our online digital archive, "Friends and Foes: Images of Allies and Enemies in World War II." Our competitive undergraduate internships at the center have been filled by a succession of talented students working on historical editing of oral history transcripts, and in many cases, interns have left us intent on studying public affairs or going to graduate school in history. Also notable is that for the first time, the center won an award in the university's Office of Research Organized Research Units funding competition. It was the first such award to a branch of the humanities, so we are doubly proud. This award provided funding for another graduate assistant position at the center, now filled by the very welcome Will Rall, who is charged with helping us identify and apply for funding opportunities.

CSWS is especially proud of its outsized contribution to graduate studies in history, demonstrated by our impressive streak of outside research awards won by students associated with the center and the Humanities Initiative–funded faculty research seminar "After Wars," hosted by the center. Since 2008, our research awards have included two Fulbright fellowships, two DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) awards, a Berlin Program fellowship, a US Holocaust Memorial Museum research fellowship, and an award from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. In addition, our graduate assistant, Michael McConnell, had an article on World War II accepted for publication by *Central European History* this year. All this is testimony to the quality of the students we work with, whose training as the next generation of historians we are enriching.

Our scholar in residence, Captain Rosemary Mariner—who was among the first female military aviators to fly tactical jet aircraft—was invited to give a lecture at the Smithsonian Institution on women in naval aviation. Her book, *The Atomic Bomb and American Society*, coedited with Dr. Kurt Piehler, was published by the University of Tennessee Press.

PHOTO FROM CSWS WORLD WAR II COLLECTION, UT LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Last July, Program Coordinator Cynthia Tinker attended the Special Forces Chapter 33 quarterly meeting in Knoxville to brief other attendees about the work of CSWS and to urge them to participate in our Veterans Oral History Project. Tinker also participated in Remote Area Medical's eighth annual "Salute to Service" on June 4, 2011, to commemorate the sixty-seventh anniversary of D-day. World War II–era planes and artifacts were on display, and the ceremony included a bagpipe band and the Air National Guard Band. This was our second year at the event, held each year at Island Home Airport, and we are already looking forward to next year.

After all this good news, let us leave you with an intriguing teaser: We will have even more great news to share in our next edition, especially on the fund-raising front! Thanks to all of you for your support.

CSWS STAFF

VEJAS G. LIULEVICIUS, director
CYNTHIA L. TINKER, program coordinator
ROSEMARY B. MARINER, scholar-in-residence
MICHAEL P. MCCONNELL, graduate assistant
JOHN W. "WILL" RALL, graduate assistant
FAYE MULY, volunteer

NOTES OF INTEREST

We continue to pray for our good friend **SUSAN M. BLAIR**, Lt. Colonel, USAF, Ret., as she undergoes treatment for acute myelogenous leukemia. She qualified for one of the last three spots in the nation to participate in a clinical trial for a new drug that has shown good results. Along with Bill Felton, Susan was part of our original committee that was so instrumental in kick-starting our fund-raising effort. Her encouragement and support have been invaluable.

CSWS graduate assistant **MIKE MCCONNELL**, a doctoral candidate in the history department, has been awarded a Cohen Fellowship from the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial. From January to June 2012, Mike will be doing research at the archives in Washington, DC, for his dissertation, which investigates crimes committed against German civilians by the Nazi regime at the end of World War II.

Noted author **BING WEST** has been confirmed as guest speaker at the 2012 Charles Johnson Lecture next March. West's latest book is *The Wrong War: Grit, Strategy, and the Way Out of Afghanistan*. To learn more about him, visit his website, *www.bingwest.com*.

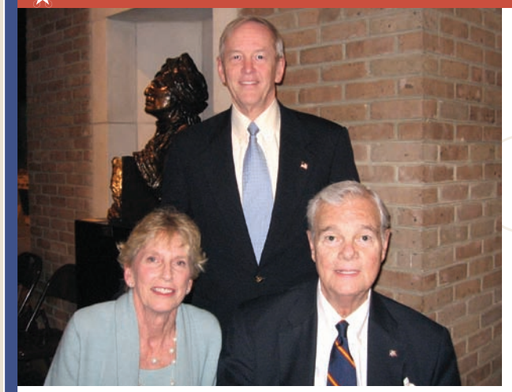
IN MEMORIAM

J. WILLIAM "BILL" FELTON III, Colonel, US Army Reserve and founder of East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association

ROBERT C. FRAIM, US Navy, Motor Torpedo Sqd. 25, PT Boat 349; USS *Roanoke*, WWII

PERRY E. GOAD, US Army, 13th Engineer Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, Korea

JAMES T. KNIGHT, US Army, Headquarters 3rd Camp Battalion, Western Pacific, WWII



BETTY AND BILL FELTON (SEATED) WITH GUEST SPEAKER LT. GENERAL CHARLES COOLIDGE, USAF RET., AT THE FRIENDS OF CSWS RECEPTION, NOVEMBER 4, 2010

Colonel John William "Bill" Felton III, 1932–2011

This past June, we lost a dear friend and advocate in Colonel Bill Felton. Bill Felton was a passionate supporter of America's veterans and was motivated by his deep appreciation for their sacrifices made for our freedom. As founder of the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association, Bill led the drive to build a permanent memorial to all war casualties from East Tennessee's thirty-five counties. (CSWS led the research effort for the project.) He later assumed a leading role in organizing support for CSWS in the form of our "Friends of the Center" group, which last November was renamed the "Bill and Betty Felton Friends of the Center" as an expression of our gratitude. Please join us in remembering our good friend Bill Felton.

Friends of the Center Membership Form

Please select a level of membership:

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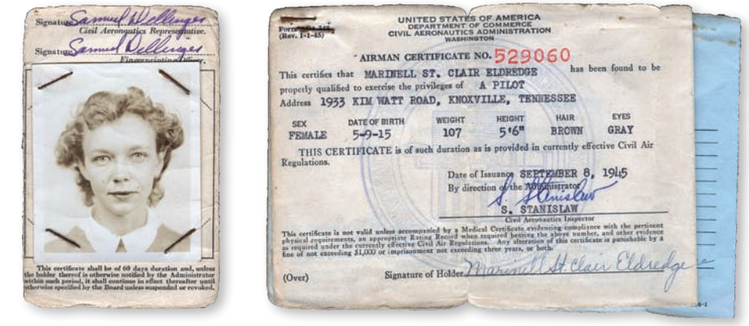
UT at War

"UT at War" will be a regular column in the newsletter that introduces one of the center's current research focuses and presents excerpts highlighting the university's 200-year military history and tradition. This entry is taken from Knoxville Journal *and* Knoxville News Sentinel *articles donated to the World War II archival collection by Laura Eldredge Hardwick, whose mother, Marinell St. Clair Eldredge, participated in the program described.*



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FEMALE	5-9-15	107	5'6"	BROWN	GRAY

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PILOT'S LICENSE AND PHOTO ID ISSUED TO MARINELL ST. CLAIR ELDREDGE WHEN SHE COMPLETED CIVIL AERONAUTICS ADMINISTRATION TRAINING IN SEPTEMBER 1945

Here's something about UT's wartime effort that not many people know about today. In 1945, newly declassified information revealed that the University of Tennessee had led a research project focused on the human factor in aviation training. In 1939, the Civil Aeronautics Authority was tasked with training thousands of civilian pilots and quickly saw the need for a set of scientifically established standards for selecting and training them. To support this effort, the National Research Council created the Committee on Selection and Training of Aircraft Pilots to carry out various psychological research projects at several American universities, including UT.

The Institute for Aviation Psychology, the first of its kind, was established by the National Research Council at UT in December 1943 to correlate all the experiments. The institute—a closely held national security secret—was to take the guesswork out of pilot training and attack "pilot error," which at that time was listed as the official cause of about 90 percent of all airplane accidents.

"Formerly, old pilots passed on facts and fallacies to new pilots," said scientist and aviator Dr. Robert Y. Walker, director of the institute. "Now these theories are in the test tube. What's good will be used; what's bad will be discarded. Efforts are also being made to devise brand-new procedures and devices to give the pilot unquestioned mastery of his plane."

The planes used in the training were equipped with a recording device that caught every word between instructor and student, instruments that indicated proficiency in maneuvers—takeoffs, landings, turns, and so on—and a camera that photographed every movement on the instrument panel. Over an eighteen-month period, more than a hundred volunteers were taught to fly. In exchange for their participation, men and women aged 15 to 60 were trained at no cost. Each student was given a series of tests and was rated according to aptitude, sex, age, and proficiency. Students with equal ratings were then paired, with one placed in an experimental group, the other in a control group. Comparing the results in enough cases could then support or discredit theories of the two main schools of thought on pilot training: the "intuitive" school, which emphasized the "feel" of the plane by those who flew by the seat of their pants, and the "didactic" school, which claimed any device that could facilitate acquiring skill and safe flying habits ought to be used. So the university can proudly claim service to the nation as a site for wartime psychological testing to help win the air war in World War II.

If you would like to support our ongoing research project on "UT at War," please contact us today.

MARINELL ST. CLAIR ELDREDGE (STANDING, THIRD FROM LEFT) IS PICTURED WITH THE UT AVIATION PSYCHOLOGY GROUP

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WAR & SOCIETY

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"Since war has played such an important part in American history, we need more rather than less study of it."

—***Charles W. Johnson,*** *CSWS founder*

BILL AND BETTY FELTON FRIENDS OF CSWS

Founders Circle

Betty Davis

J. William and Betty Felton

Joan Johnson (Mrs. Charles W. Johnson)

John B. and Marsha McKinney

John C. and Nancy J. McManus

Katherine D. Moore

Gordon and Virginia Knight Nelson, in loving memory of Mrs. Nelson's brother, James T. Knight, a veteran of WWII

Edgar C. Wilson

Friends of Charles W. Johnson

Martha E. Begalla, in honor of Bill and Betty Felton

30th "Old Hickory" Division

Richard T. Alexander, in honor of the 83rd Infantry Division

Susan M. Blair

Jerry and Jill Garrett, in honor of Bill and Betty Felton

USS *Tennessee*

Cynthea Amason

Cindi A. Blair, in honor of her father, Claude R. Blair, WWII

Memphis Belle

Norma Cox Cook, in honor of the Navy's WAVES of WWII

Joseph and Jayne DeFiore, in honor of Bill and Betty Felton

Joseph and Patricia Johnson, in honor of Bill and Betty Felton

R. Franklin and Jane Norton, in honor of Colonel Bill and Betty Felton

Edward and Corinne Patrick

John M. Burkhart and Laura B. Powers

Eugene S. "Bud" Stowers

James and Linda Yates, in honor of Bill and Betty Felton

Fort Sanders

C. Zach Farrar, in honor of Dr. Taylor Farrar

Stephen G. Fritz

John and Mary Rayson, in memory of Bill Felton

Samuel A. Shipman

Honor Guard

Gretchen F. Beal

Thomas W. Bond

Susanne E. Eddowes, in honor of William A. Malloy, WWII

Elinor "Lin" Folk, in honor of Dr. Charles Johnson

Fred and Glenda Hart, in honor of 93rd Eng-Bn; Bearcat, Vietnam, 1967–68

William J. Kelch

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