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Fall 2010

## War Stories Fall 2010

the Center for the Study of War & Society

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Fall 2010

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Work in the center is always full of surprises: we make wonderful discoveries in our archives, in new research, and in new friends of the center. All of us were delightfully surprised by your overwhelmingly enthusiastic response to the launch of our newsletter last spring. Thanks to all our friends, supporters, and well-wishers! Our recent fundraising success further showed your commitment to the center. More good news included one of the doctoral students affiliated with our center, Jordan Kuck, winning a prestigious Fulbright fellowship for dissertation research. Now we begin this new school year with the next stage of work on our online digital archive, four new undergraduate interns who are eager to work with the oral histories of the center, a full roster of upcoming public lectures, and plans for much, much more. Thanks for your support for the center and our shared vision of its future.

—**Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, director**

## CSWS STAFF

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## Kyle Campbell Moore: Homegrown Hero



More than 65 years ago on July 30, 1945, the battle cruiser USS *Indianapolis* was torpedoed by Japanese submarine I-58. Many of you may know the story of the ship's secret mission that helped end the war, the sinking, the nightmarish 5-day ordeal of the survivors, and the court-martial of Capt. Charles B. McVay III. But you may not know there were five Knoxvilleians who made the ultimate sacrifice that night: Earl O. Henry, Stanley F. Jones, Glenn E. Miller, Carey L. Underwood, and the one memorialized in this issue, Kyle C. Moore.

Born December 9, 1908, Kyle Campbell Moore played football at Knoxville High School, where he was MVP for two years on the undefeated Trojan team, as well as city tennis champion for two years. He entered the University of Tennessee as a pre-med student; but when his plans fell victim to the Great Depression, he used the skills he developed as an editor of Knoxville High's school newspaper, the *Blue and White*, to go to work for *The Knoxville Journal* as a city reporter.

For the next 13 years he reported the city's news and developed into an outstanding photographer. Moore was the *Journal's* only photographer and was also the southeastern representative for *The New York Times* and Hearst's International News Service. He had one of the *Times'* portable telephoto machines that he could attach to a telephone for transmitting images to the home office. Among the big stories he covered were President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's trips to East Tennessee during the busy TVA dam-building years. He photographed all these visits, and in 1940, as an employee of TVA's information office, he also covered President Roosevelt's dedication of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Perhaps most important, during his years as a reporter, he met Katherine Davis, the UT journalism student who would become his wife.

Moore was commissioned lieutenant (jg) in the Navy Reserve the day after Pearl Harbor and was called immediately to active duty. He reported to the navy's public relations office for the 8th Naval District in New Orleans, where he pushed hard for sea duty. He graduated from Northwestern University Midshipmen's School in July 1942 and was ordered to report to the heavy cruiser USS *Indianapolis*. He and Katherine were married on July 23, only a week before he reported for duty aboard the cruiser in the Aleutians.

For the next 3 years Moore served aboard the *Indianapolis* throughout the Pacific. His father, John Moore, was a talented mechanical engineer, and Kyle Moore apparently inherited that talent, because in April 1943 he was promoted to lieutenant commander and named

*Continued on page 2*

## REARDON DELIVERS 2010 CSWS LECTURE



"I Was There and You Weren't!": Memory vs. History in the Story of a Naval Air Squadron in Vietnam" was the title of the lecture Prof. Carol Reardon presented last March 26 at the McClung Museum,

hosted by the Department of History, the Faculty Research Seminar on After Wars (funded by UT Humanities Initiative), and the Center for the Study of War and Society. Reardon, a noted authority on U.S. military history, is director of graduate studies in history and the George Winfree Professor of American History at Penn State and a returning visitor to UT. She delivered the 2002 Col. John B. McKinney Lecture, "Gettysburg in History and Memory."

In her popular, well-received presentation, based on her latest book, *Launch the Intruders: A Naval Attack Squadron in the Vietnam War, 1972*, Reardon advocated a broad view of military events, particularly postwar experiences. She emphasized distinguishing between history and memory, where they meet and where they diverge.

Focusing on the mission experiences of VA-75 (Medium Attack Squadron 75), the "Sunday Punchers," she described the challenges of collecting source material. After a futile search at the National Archives for the master logbook of VA-75, she was told to "talk to Ratman." The operations officer had required the squadron's pilots to keep a detailed log of activities and missions, which squadron member Ratman had saved in his basement. Reardon worked closely with other men of VA-75, collecting oral and photographic histories of their experiences, and even learned some technical aspects of being a navy pilot.

Reardon advocated using hidden histories not only to fuel conversation with primary sources but also to check credibility. She warned that history and memory often conflict over what people share and what they protect. She admitted the difficulty of resolving such conflicts and emphasized the importance of avoiding caricaturing sources by faithfully telling their stories.

## IN MEMORIAM

HARRY C. "HEINIE" ADERHOLT, B/Gen., U.S. Air Force (Ret.), WWII, Korea, and Vietnam

ARTHUR J. ARSENAULT JR., Lt. Cdr. U.S. Navy (Ret.), WWII, Korea, and Vietnam

ELVYN V. "DOC" DAVIDSON, U.S. Army, 92nd Infantry Division, WWII

BETTY DAVIS, sister-in-law of Lt. Cdr. Kyle C. Moore

T. GRADY GALLANT, U.S. Marine Corps, 1st Marine Division, WWII

JOHN P. GORMAN SR., U.S. Army, 63rd Infantry Division, WWII

EUGENE SWARTZ, U.S. Army, 35th Infantry Division, WWII



Kyle Moore, continued from page 1 ★



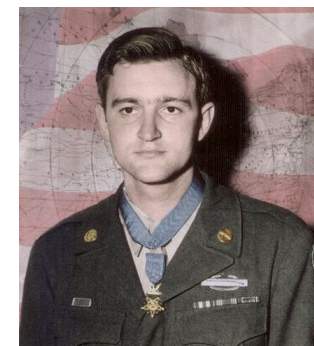
ON ORDERS FROM COMMANDER OF THE U.S. 5TH FLEET, ADM. RAYMOND SPRUANCE, MOORE SERVED TEMPORARILY AS A PHOTOGRAPHER WITH THE MARINE CORPS. FROM 1943 THROUGH 1945, THE USS INDIANAPOLIS WAS SPRUANCE'S USUAL FLAGSHIP.

officer-in-charge of the hull department (construction, repairs, and damage control). He was the first reserve officer to hold that post on a capital ship. After a kamikaze attack in March 1945, he was able to repair the ship in time to get it to San Francisco to take aboard the components and the uranium for the first atomic weapon, the bomb codenamed "Little Boy," which was delivered to Tinian Island on July 26, 1945.

Four days later, after a brief stop at Guam on the way to Leyte, the USS *Indianapolis* was torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-58* around midnight on July 30. Lt. Cdr. Moore was supervisor-of-the-watch on the bridge. He survived the first explosions and went below twice to survey the damage, which was so massive that the ship sank in just 12 minutes. Only 316 of the 1,197 men on board survived. For his efforts to save his ship, Lt. Cdr. Moore was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for "heroism beyond the call of duty." Katherine Moore says her husband—"Kasey" to his shipmates—"was the most interesting man I've ever known. He was smart, talented, skilled, creative, industrious, generous, sensitive, a true Scot in many ways, unafraid, sincere, funny, and loving. He never lost a friend or forgave an enemy. He was an athlete, an avid sportsman, a crack shot, and gentle with his hunting dogs. He was a good father, a compassionate son, a wonderful husband, and a splendid naval officer."

The Kyle Campbell Moore Endowment was established in 2000 at the Center for the Study of War and Society by Katherine Davis Moore (Knoxville '39) in memory of her husband. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Moore and her late sister, Betty Davis, for their generosity and are proud to play a part in preserving the memory of such brave souls as Lt. Cdr. Moore.

## Veterans Oral History Project



There are currently 87 living Medal of Honor recipients, and 18 of those are WWII veterans. In April we had the privilege of interviewing Tennessee's only living recipient, Charles H. Coolidge, of Signal Mountain and Chattanooga. Coolidge was a combat infantryman with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, during World War II. During the 4-hour interview, Coolidge generously shared his memories of childhood, military training, and 27 months overseas in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany.

It was at Hill 623, near Belmont-sur-Buttant in the Vosges Mountains, that he became "David" to a German "Goliath." As the unit closest to the right flank of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment—"the Lost Battalion"—Coolidge's 27-man platoon had to hold off superior German forces so reinforcements could reach the battalion. With no officers in the area, T/Sgt. Coolidge became the man in charge, and under his leadership, his unit—many of whom were replacements with no previous combat experience—was able to hold off seven German counterattacks over three days. On the fourth day, October 27, 1944, supported by tanks and heavy machine-gun fire, the Germans finally overran the position, and Coolidge, in the words of his Medal of Honor citation, "displaying great coolness and courage, directed and conducted an orderly withdrawal, being himself the last to leave the position."

Last June 13, CSWS presented a special recognition to Lt. Gen. Charles H. Coolidge Jr., U.S. Air Force (Ret.), on behalf of his father. A framed print of a map illustrating the 36th Division's trek through Europe and a photo of Charles Coolidge Sr. were presented to Gen. Coolidge at the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, in the presence of members of the CSWS staff and the College of Arts and Sciences development staff, as well as several UT alumni. The print is now prominently displayed in the CSWS offices to commemorate T/Sgt. Coolidge, his courageous service and spirit, and his participation in our Veterans Oral History Project, for which we are very grateful.

Read the inspirational citation that accompanied Charles Coolidge's Medal of Honor at [www.history.army.mil/html/moh/wwII-a-f.html](http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/wwII-a-f.html). To learn more about this American hero, download the transcript of his entire interview at [web.utk.edu/~csws/interview.html](http://web.utk.edu/~csws/interview.html). To request that a copy be mailed to you, please contact us at 865-974-0128 or [csws@utk.edu](mailto:csws@utk.edu).

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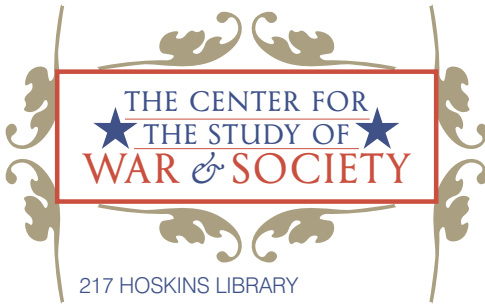
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## ★ KLEIN'S CORNER

★ "Klein's Corner" presents excerpts from the collection of Dr. Milton Klein, highlighting the university's 200-year military history and tradition. Klein served as Alumni Professor of History at UT from 1969 to 1984. From 1988 until 1997 he was UT's first university historian. He published *Volunteer Moments: Vignettes of the History of the University of Tennessee, 1794-1994*. Klein served with the Air Transport Command in the Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946.

"The alumni of the university played an important part in the Spanish-American War. Nine of its graduates were commissioned officers in the navy and six in the army. The commander of the 4th Regiment of Tennessee Voluntary Infantry was Col. George Le Roy Brown, a professor of military science and tactics, and commandant at the outbreak of the war. Harvey H. Hannah graduated in law in 1891, became lieutenant colonel of the 4th Infantry and was selected as military governor of a Cuban province. Cdr. Washburn Maynard, U.S. Navy gunboat *Nashville*, is credited with firing the first shot of the war. He was wounded during the raid on Cienfuegos, where the Americans successfully cut Spanish telegraph cables. Lt. Henry L. McCorkle was killed while serving with the 25th Infantry in the battle of El Caney near Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1897. McCorkle graduated with a B.S. degree in 1889. He never flinched from doing his duty as a cadet officer, student, and Christian gentleman, no matter how trying. Lt. John J. Bernard, 4th Infantry, was also killed in the battle of El Caney. He was the son of General Reuben Bernard and attended school in Jonesboro, Tennessee, and later graduated with a B.S. degree in 1893. Before the war, Lt. Bernard scouted Apache Indians at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. The loss of such men was indeed a great calamity to their family, friends, and alma mater. Such fidelity and devotion to duty teaches us a grand lesson. May their pure and faithful lives be an example and an inspiration to all the students who follow them at the University of Tennessee."

★ [Excerpted from "The University of Tennessee In The Spanish War," *University of Tennessee Record*, Vol. 1, No. 6, 1898; and *In Service To The State: A History of the University of Tennessee, 1794-1934* by James D. Hoskins and William E. Cole, 1941.]



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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*  
★ ————— ★

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