Fall 2010

War Stories Fall 2010

the Center for the Study of War & Society

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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

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 Knoxvillians 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...
HARRY C. “HEINIE” ADERHOLT, B/Gen., U.S. Air Force (Ret.), WWII, Korea, and Vietnam
ARTHUR J. ARSENEAULT JR., Lt. Cdr. U.S. Navy (Ret.), WWII, Korea, and Vietnam
ELVYN V. “DOO” DAVIDSON, U.S. Army, 92nd Infantry Division, WWII
BETTY DAVIS, sister-in-law of Lt. Cdr. Kyle C. Moore
T. GRACY 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

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 history, particularly how military narratives differ and diverge. She emphasized distinguishing between military events, particularly post-war experiences, and the oral histories of their experiences. She pointed to the need for a more comprehensive view of military history, particularly the role of oral histories in understanding the experiences of soldiers.

Focus on the mission experiences of VA-75 (Medium Attack Squadron 75), the “Sunday Punchers,” she described the challenges of working as an 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. A kamikaze attack in March 1945, after he was able to repair the ship to get it to San Francisco to take aboard the components and the uranium for the atomic weapons, 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 superintending 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 promoted to the rank of captain, being himself the last to leave the position. “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 (Knoville ’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.

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-gunn 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 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. To learn more about this American hero, download the transcript of his entire interview at 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.

The Center for the Study of War & Society (CSWS) invites you to join the University of Tennessee’s premier membership program, the Friends of the Center Membership Form. We are a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. All gifts are tax-deductible.

KLEIN’S CORNER

“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 Volunteer 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 1891, became lieutenant colonel of the 4th infantry and was selected as military governor of a Cuban province. Col. Washburn Maynard, U.S. Navy gunboat Nashville, is credited with firing the first shot of the war. He was wounded during the raid on Cerrogorgo, where the Americans successfully captured two telegraph cables. Lt. Henry L. McCorkle was killed while serving with the 29th Infantry in the battle of El Caney near Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1897. McCorkle graduated with a B.S. degree in 1888. He never finished 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 Johnsons, Tennessee, and later graduated with a B.S. degree in 1889. 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 mortal lives be an example and an inspiration to all those students who follow them through the University of Tennessee.”

Excerpts from “The University of Tennessee, In the Spanish-American War,” Milton E. Klein, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1942. Copyright 1942 by the University of Tennessee. Reprinted by permission of the University of Tennessee Press. Reprinted with the permission of the heirs and relatives of Milton Klein, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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**Veterans Oral History Project**

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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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