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DIRECTOR’S NOTE
This year has been tremendously busy at the CSWS and promises to get even busier. It also has been full of good news. First, we have submitted two major proposals for research funding for our project of an online digital archive of images of enemies and allies in World War II, and now we are waiting to hear the results of these competitions. Second, we are so proud that in the last year, four of the doctoral students associated with the center have won major competitive international or national fellowships for their research, including our center’s graduate assistant, Michael McConnell, who is researching the last stages of World War II! Our center makes a disproportionately large contribution to graduate education here at UT Knoxville. Finally, our three undergraduate interns have made wonderful progress in their research and historical editing. Thanks to all of you, our supporters, whose donations make these successes possible!

—Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, director

Tale of Two Heroes

While doing research on the names for the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial project in 2004, I discovered that local World War I hero James E. “Buck” Karnes was not alone during the action for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Researching MOH names to be inscribed on the memorial, which now stands complete at World’s Fair Park in downtown Knoxville, I became engrossed in reading the award citations that accompanied each name. To my surprise, I noticed that the citation for Buck Karnes matched word-for-word the citation of another hero—Calvin J. Ward. If you’re from Knoxville or have spent much time here, you probably know the Buck Karnes Bridge and may have driven across it hundreds of times. But Ward’s name is practically unknown to East Tennesseans, except perhaps for local history buffs in Greene or Hamblen County.

Karnes was born in Arlington, near Memphis; Ward was born in Hawkins County and apparently moved to the Greene–Hamblen County area. While serving with Company D, 117th Regiment, they earned two of twelve Medals of Honor awarded to the 30th “Old Hickory” Division. At the formidable Hindenburg Line, the 30th Division broke through at the St. Quentin Canal Tunnel complex to capture Bellicourt, winning fame as one of the war’s best

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In Memoriam

DELBERT L. MARKS
Korean War, US Marine Corps, 1st Marine Division, 7th Regiment
Captured and held as POW by North Korea and China,
September 3, 1951, released August 24, 1953

LAWRENCE S. BARKER JR.
World War II, US Marine Corps, 2nd Marine Division, Pacific

NOTES OF INTEREST
CAPT. ROSEMARY B. MARINER
World War II, US Marine Corps, 117th Regiment
Captured and held as POW by Germany, April 19, 1945

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After the war, Karnes served as a Knoxville police officer for a dozen years until physical disability forced his retirement and relocation to Sacramento, California. Ward re-enlisted in 1920 and served with the 6th Cavalry at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. No one knew of his military honors until his family found his medals in a shoe box. Ward eventually returned to the Morristown area and worked in a Bristol mill. An article in the Nashville Banner (January 25, 1933), “Medal of Honor Man Forgotten: No Bridge Named for Calvin John Ward, World War Hero,” detailed all the medals bestowed on him and a state official’s promise to name a Knoxville bridge after him. The piece went on to say that Ward was lying “virtually forgotten” in a dirt road and a “two-acre lot” had been purchased. The city, according to the article, was “determined to build a bridge across the Tennessee at Kingston, in Roane County, for Ward.” In 1962, Buck Karnes was honored at the White House, meeting President Kennedy during a ceremony to honor the medal of honor winners at the White House.

Buck Karnes passed away at age seventy-eight on July 8, 1966, in Sacramento and was brought home to Knoxville for a July 13 military funeral and burial with representatives of the city of Morristown. In 1965, the Karnes family had been unable to attend due to his poor health. When he found out on July 10 about the death of his friend, he was unable to attend. In 1962, Buck Karnes was honored at the White House, meeting President Kennedy during a ceremony to honor the medal of honor winners at the White House. After the war, Karnes served as a Knoxville police officer for a dozen years until physical disability forced his retirement and relocation to Sacramento, California. Ward re-enlisted in 1920 and served with the 6th Cavalry at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. No one knew of his military honors until his family found his medals in a shoe box. Ward eventually returned to the Morristown area and worked in a Bristol mill. An article in the Nashville Banner (January 25, 1933), “Medal of Honor Man Forgotten: No Bridge Named for Calvin John Ward, World War Hero,” detailed all the medals bestowed on him and a state official’s promise to name a Knoxville bridge after him. The piece went on to say that Ward was lying “virtually forgotten” in a dirt road and a “two-acre lot” had been purchased. The city, according to the article, was “determined to build a bridge across the Tennessee at Kingston, in Roane County, for Ward.” In 1962, Buck Karnes was honored at the White House, meeting President Kennedy during a ceremony to honor the medal of honor winners at the White House. After the war, Karnes served as a Knoxville police officer for a dozen years until physical disability forced his retirement and relocation to Sacramento, California. Ward re-enlisted in 1920 and served with the 6th Cavalry at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. No one knew of his military honors until his family found his medals in a shoe box. Ward eventually returned to the Morristown area and worked in a Bristol mill. An article in the Nashville Banner (January 25, 1933), “Medal of Honor Man Forgotten: No Bridge Named for Calvin John Ward, World War Hero,” detailed all the medals bestowed on him and a state official’s promise to name a Knoxville bridge after him. The piece went on to say that Ward was lying “virtually forgotten” in a dirt road and a “two-acre lot” had been purchased. The city, according to the article, was “determined to build a bridge across the Tennessee at Kingston, in Roane County, for Ward.” In 1962, Buck Karnes was honored at the White House, meeting President Kennedy during a ceremony to honor the medal of honor winners at the White House. After the war, Karnes served as a Knoxville police officer for a dozen years until physical disability forced his retirement and relocation to Sacramento, California. Ward re-enlisted in 1920 and served with the 6th Cavalry at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. No one knew of his military honors until his family found his medals in a shoe box. Ward eventually returned to the Morristown area and worked in a Bristol mill. An article in the Nashville Banner (January 25, 1933), “Medal of Honor Man Forgotten: No Bridge Named for Calvin John Ward, World War Hero,” detailed all the medals bestowed on him and a state official’s promise to name a Knoxville bridge after him. The piece went on to say that Ward was lying “virtually forgotten” in a dirt road and a “two-acre lot” had been purchased. The city, according to the article, was “determined to build a bridge across the Tennessee at Kingston, in Roane County, for Ward.” In 1962, Buck Karnes was honored at the White House, meeting President Kennedy during a ceremony to honor the medal of honor winners at the White House. After the war, Karnes served as a Knoxville police officer for a dozen years until physical disability forced his retirement and relocation to Sacramento, California. Ward re-enlisted in 1920 and served with the 6th Cavalry at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. No one knew of his military honors until his family found his medals in a shoe box. Ward eventually returned to the Morristown area and worked in a Bristol mill. An article in the Nashville Banner (January 25, 1933), “Medal of Honor Man Forgotten: No Bridge Named for Calvin John Ward, World War Hero,” detailed all the medals bestowed on him and a state official’s promise to name a Knoxville bridge after him. The piece went on to say that Ward was lying “virtually forgotten” in a dirt road and a “two-acre lot” had been purchased. The city, according to the article, was “determined to build a bridge across the Tennessee at Kingston, in Roane County, for Ward.” In 1962, Buck Karnes was honored at the White House, meeting President Kennedy during a ceremony to honor the medal of honor winners at the White House.
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