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Spring 2011

War Stories Spring 2011

Center for the Study of War & Society

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Spring 2011
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THE UNIVERSITY of
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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 III! 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*

CSWS STAFF

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WARD PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVINJWARDPROJECT.ORG; KARNES PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

Tale of Two Heroes



CALVIN J. WARD



JAMES E. "BUCK" KARNES

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

Continued on page 2



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 5, 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, US Navy, Ret., and CSWS scholar-in-residence, has been invited to give a lecture at the Smithsonian this fall. The presentation, "The Fight to Fly at Sea: A Historical Perspective on Women in Naval Aviation," is part of the GE Aviation Lecture Series. For more information, visit www.nasm.si.edu/events/lectures/ge/ge.cfm.

Two Heros, continued from page 1

divisions. Afterward, the 117th Regiment, as part of the 59th Brigade commanded by Gen. Lawrence Tyson of Knoxville, launched an attack October 7 to realign the front. The next day, October 8, 1918, approximately two miles north of Montbrehai, Karnes and Ward showed the bravery recognized by America's highest military decoration.

Their citations read as follows:

KARNES: During an advance, his company was held up by a machinegun, which was enfilading the line. Accompanied by another soldier, he advanced against this position and succeeded in reducing the nest by killing three and capturing seven of the enemy and their guns.

WARD: During an advance, Pvt. Ward's company was held up by a machinegun, which was enfilading the line. Accompanied by a noncommissioned officer, he advanced against this post and succeeded in reducing the nest by killing three and capturing seven of the enemy and their guns.

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 captain 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, 1931), "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, on a cot in the government hospital at Point Perry, Maryland." The promised naming of a bridge seemingly was forgotten until late 1933, when Tennessee corrected the mistake and named the Alcoa Highway bridge across the Tennessee River for Karnes and the Highway 58 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 nation's Medal of Honor recipients.

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 present from the White House, the state of Tennessee, and the military. But that funeral precipitated a further sad event: According to a small article in the July 11, 1966, edition of the *Knoxville Journal*, Ward was to be a pallbearer at the funeral of his comrade, but he was unable to attend due to his poor health. When he found out on July 10 about the death of Karnes, he became extremely upset, and the next morning he suffered a seizure and was taken from Morristown to the Veterans Hospital in Johnson City.

It is unclear if Ward ever made it to the gravesite of Karnes, and sadly, even as a friend tried to dissuade him, 69-year-old Calvin J. Ward took his own life on December 15, 1967, in a hotel room in Morristown. The two heroes proved to be linked in death as in life.

—Vejas G. Liulevicius



KNOXVILLE WORLD WAR I HERO JAMES E. "BUCK" KARNES SHAKES HANDS WITH PRESIDENT KENNEDY AT A RECEPTION FOR MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, 1962.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIGITALCOLLECTIONS@KNOXLIB.ORG

Veterans Oral History Project

CSWS staff members and interns continue to process our backlog of interviews. This is a highly time-intensive task, which means hours and hours of transcribing and editing before the text is sent to the veteran and/or the family for final approval. Once the interview is finalized, it is made available to the public. A copy of the transcript is placed in the Special Collections archives of the UT Libraries, and an electronic version is placed on the CSWS webpage. Among our most recent additions:



- CHARLES J. BRAY, WWII, Washington, DC, US Naval Dept.; Pacific, USS *Shannon*; CIA
- WILLIAM I. BUTLER, WWII, Pacific, US Army Air Corps, 27th Bomb Group, Bataan Death March
- DAVID D. DICKEY, WWII, Army Forces Western Pacific, Philippines Occupation
- ALBERT L. GILL, WWII, Pacific, Army Air Corps, 307th Bomb Group
- GEORGE MASSEY, Vietnam, US Army, 5th and 10th Special Forces Groups
- EUGENE SWARTZ, WWII, Europe, 35th Infantry Division, CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency
- HOWARD WILLIAMS, WWII, Pacific, US Navy, USS *LaGrange*

To see these and other interviews, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~csws>.

Friends of the Center Membership Form

The first 15 memberships of \$100 or more will receive a signed copy of *Grunts: Inside the Infantry Combat Experience, World War II Through Iraq*, by Dr. John C. Manus, former assistant director of the Center for the Study of War and Society.

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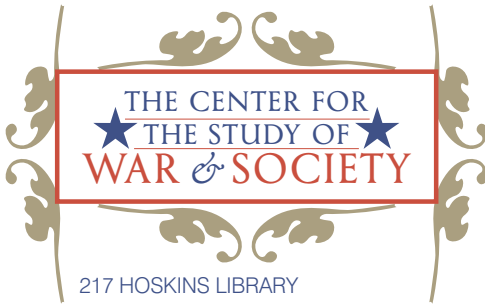
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UT AT WAR

"UT at War" presents excerpts highlighting the university's 200-year military history and tradition from the collection of **DR. MILTON KLEIN**, who served as Alumni Professor of History at UT Knoxville from 1969 to 1984 and as UT's first university historian from 1988 until 1997.

- About 2,500 students and alumni served during World War I; 215 decorations were conferred on them; at least thirty-four died.
- BRIG. GEN. LAWRENCE D. TYSON (a veteran of the Spanish-American War) commanded the 59th Brigade of the 30th Division, the first Allied force to pierce the German Hindenburg Line; winner of the Distinguished Service Medal.
- CDR. GEORGE NEAL, Class of 1904, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order by the British government for sinking a German submarine.
- LT. WILLIAM ECKEL, Class of 1918, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for action in France on October 7, 1918.
- LT. CLIFTON B. CATES, law school graduate of 1916, US Marine Corps, won the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in action at Chateau Thierry, France. He was also awarded the French Legion of Honor.
- CAPT. WILLIAM LOWE, a Marine Corps aircraft observer, won the Distinguished Service Cross for bringing down a number of German aircraft.





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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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30th “Old Hickory” Division

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- Samuel A. Shipman

Honor Guard

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

