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War Stories Newsletters

Center for the Study of War and Society

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Spring 2014

# War Stories Spring 2014

Center for the Study of War & Society

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Spring 2014  
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It has been another busy and productive school year here at the UT Center for the Study of War and Society, punctuated with more good news! Our graduate students continue a remarkable winning streak of major awards. Josh Sander, a doctoral student whose research focuses on the Second World War, just won a Norman Raab Foundation research fellowship for next year at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. He will be researching his dissertation on Nazi plans for the occupied Netherlands. Since 2008, graduate students active with the Center have won ten major fellowships. Another of our students, Brad Nichols, will also be at the Holocaust Memorial Museum at the same time, researching on a fellowship (his dissertation deals with plans for Germanization during World War II in Eastern Europe). In all, three of our students have held fellowships there. The Center's able graduate assistant, Jordan Kuck, completed his dissertation on the interwar dictatorship in Latvia. Our outreach efforts also saw significant successes: Center Fellows and staff have been featured or quoted in the Wall Street Journal, Investor's Business Daily, and podcasts about the current crisis in Ukraine. We are also proud of another venue to share our work: please check out our website (<http://csws.utk.edu>) to see videos of recent lectures, on topics ranging from the Seven Years' War to Churchill and the Islamic World!

—*Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, Director*

## CSWS STAFF

VEJAS G. LIULEVICIUS, director

CYNTHIA L. TINKER, program coordinator

ROSEMARY B. MARINER, scholar-in-residence

JORDAN KUCK, graduate assistant

WILL RALL, graduate assistant



ABOVE: COLONEL JOHN B. MCKINNEY

## Center Receives Estate Gift from Colonel and Mrs. John B. McKinney

CSWS was recently honored to receive \$169,000 from the estate of longtime supporter and dear friend Colonel John B. McKinney who passed away in October, 2013 at the age of 95. For 20 years he and his wife, Marsha, sponsored the Colonel John B. McKinney Lecture on War and Society, which featured distinguished speakers such as D. Clayton James, Thomas Childers, Edward M. Coffman, Jeremy Black, Carol Reardon, and Reina Pennington. McKinney was an alumnus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Memphis State University Law School. A veteran of three wars, he began his military service during World War II as an enlisted radio operator in the 82nd Airborne Division, was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in 1942, and served in the Southwest Pacific in various positions of communications operations. Promoted to major in July, 1945 he assumed command of the AFPAC Mobile Communications Battalion which established General MacArthur's communications facilities in Japan at the beginning of the occupation. He coordinated the communications from the USS Missouri on V-J Day, including General MacArthur's victory address. McKinney was recalled to active duty in 1951 and during the Korean War was in charge of the Army's communication centers at Fort Meade, Maryland and the Pentagon. In 1953, he became the operations officer of the 8th Army Signal Battalion in Korea, where he was in charge of communications during the Panmunjon truce negotiations.

## Estate Gift (continued)

In 1954, he was promoted to Lt. Colonel and reassigned as Division Signal Officer of the 3rd Infantry Division and held various other assignments until his selection to attend Harvard Business School, where he graduated in 1961 with a Master's in Business Administration. Following an overseas assignment and a promotion to colonel 1962, McKinney attended the U.S. Army War College and George Washington University (Master's in International Affairs). Assigned to Vietnam following a tour as a War College faculty member, he was deputy commander of the 1st Signal Brigade, the largest Signal Corps combat command in the history of the Army. In early 1968, he served as General Abrams' Signal Officer at MACV Forward during the battle of Hue. Upon his return, Colonel McKinney joined the Office of the Secretary of Defense and ended his career as Chief of Communications Electronics Department of the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, and retired December 1, 1969. He went on to join ITT World Communications, Inc., as Vice President and Director, Plant and Engineering and rose to become Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer before retiring in 1983. Colonel McKinney, was born in Jacksonville, Florida in 1918, and grew up in Memphis, Tennessee. CSWS is grateful for the marvelous generosity of the McKinneys. Their estate gift will help keep the center active in educating the public about war and society in American and world history.



ABOVE: COLONEL JOHN B. MCKINNEY IN UNIFORM.

### CSWS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CSWS Fellow, **John C. McManus** was featured in the May 9, 2014 Wall Street Journal column, "Five Best", which usually has a prominent historian or writer suggesting personal choices for the best reading on a particular subject. McManus, professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology, and noted author of 11 books of military history, was featured with his choices for best reads on D-Day. Professor McManus completed a doctoral degree in the UT Department of History under the direction of Charles Johnson, founder of the Center, and served as assistant director. The piece can be read here: <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303678404579535583600819294>

CSWS co-sponsored a very lively debate on the Ukrainian Crisis and Russian Expansionism, April 8, 2014, at Hodges Library Auditorium. Recent events in Ukraine and Russia stand to change the landscape of American international relations for years or decades to come. The event was an open forum that featured local and international experts: Internationally acclaimed journalist and filmmaker Alexandra Sviridova, who was born in Ukraine and worked professionally in Moscow for several years; several UT faculty members: **Vejas Liulevicius** (History, and Director of the Center for the Study of War and Society), Natalia Pervukhin (Russian), Brandon Prins (Political Science),

and Yuri Chumakov (Sociology); and Knoxville-based individuals from the affected regions. Other sponsors included the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Cinema Studies Program, the Judaic Studies Program, the Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy, and the Department of Political Science.

**Vejas G. Liulevicius**, Director of the Center, was recently interviewed for a podcast about the Crimea and Ukraine Crisis and its historical background by The Great Courses. Listen to the podcast here: <http://www.thegreatcourses.com/tgc/Courses/PodcastEpisode.aspx?eid=10&ICMP=98617>

The Center for the Study of War & Society's materials on Exercise Tiger, donated by World War II veteran **Eugene Eckstam**, were highlighted in the Winter, 2014 of Tennessee Alumnus. Eckstam, a survivor of Exercise Tiger, the ill-fated yet lesser-known rehearsal for the D-Day landings, spent much of his retirement researching the exercise and collecting everything he could find related to his experiences. To read the article in Tennessee Alumnus: <http://alumnus.tennessee.edu/2014/01/uncovering-secrets/>

**Captain Rosemary Mariner**, U.S. Navy, Retired, lecturer, and scholar-in-residence at CSWS, was a guest on NPR's "On Point," on Veterans Day, 2013. The experts, who also included NPR's Pentagon reporter Tom Bowman, and MIT researcher Cindy

Williams, explored the future of America's military as it faces big cuts and big changes. You can read more and listen to the discussion here: <http://onpoint.wbur.org/2013/11/11/veterans-day-military-hagel-budget-defense>

In November 2013, **Jordan Kuck**, one of the graduate assistants at the Center, was interviewed about his doctoral research on interwar Latvia on WUOT's "Changing Course" program. Kuck, who completed his PhD dissertation in spring 2014 under the mentorship of Vejas Liulevicius, won a prestigious Fulbright fellowship to Latvia, where he conducted archival research on the authoritarian regime of Kārlis Ulmanis, an American-educated agronomist who ruled as the dictator of Latvia from 1934-1940. You can download the podcast of Kuck's interview at: <http://wuot.org/programs/changing-course-wuot-2>.

In January, 2014 the German newspaper "Die Welt" (one of the major national newspapers) listed **Liulevicius's** first book (which appeared in German translation) as "obligatory reading" for the anniversary of the First World War, in an article entitled "These Are the Best Books About the First World War." The author of the list, Sven Kellerhoff, calls Dr. Liulevicius's study of the Eastern Front "without doubt the currently most important book about the war on the forgotten front." <http://www.welt.de/geschichte/article123412340/Das-sind-die-besten-Buecher-zum-Ersten-Weltkrieg.html>

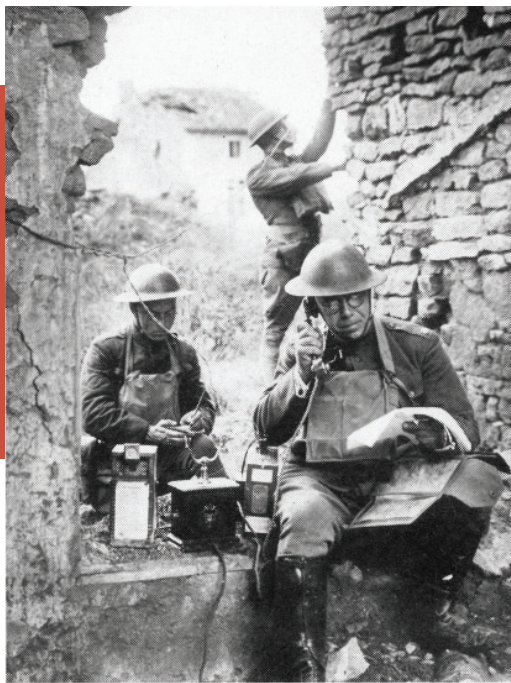


# Center Engaged in Planning World War I Centennial Commemorations

The Center for the Study of War and Society is taking an active role as planning gears up for commemorations marking the hundred year anniversary of the First World War this year. Vejas Liulevicius, Director of the Center, will represent the center on the State of Tennessee Great War Commission, convened from 2014-2018 to coordinate state efforts, and on the Academic Advisory Council of the

National World War I Memorial and Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. The center will host a lecture on the First World War during the upcoming academic year.

“Five Things You Need to Know about World War I,” authored by Vejas Liulevicius, was published in the March issue of *The New York Times Upfront*, a newsmagazine published by Scholastic Inc. for high school students.



RIGHT: LIEUT. COL. R.D. GARRET, CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, 42ND DIVISION, TESTING A TELEPHONE LEFT BEHIND BY THE GERMANS IN THE HASTY RETREAT FROM THE SALIENT OF ST. MIHIEL, ESSEY, FRANCE. SEPTEMBER 19, 1918. CPL. R.H. INGLESTON. (ARMY)



## IN MEMORIAM

**JOHN B. MCKINNEY, COLONEL, US. ARMY, RETIRED**, World War II, 82nd Airborne Division; Korean War, 8th Army Signal Battalion, then served as Signal Officer for the 3rd Infantry Division; U.S. Army War College; Vietnam, Deputy Commander of the 1st Signal Brigade

**JOHN W. TOWLE**, World War II, U. S. Army Air Corps, 447th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force; European Theater; B-17 Flight engineer, spent 6 months with the French Underground after being shot down



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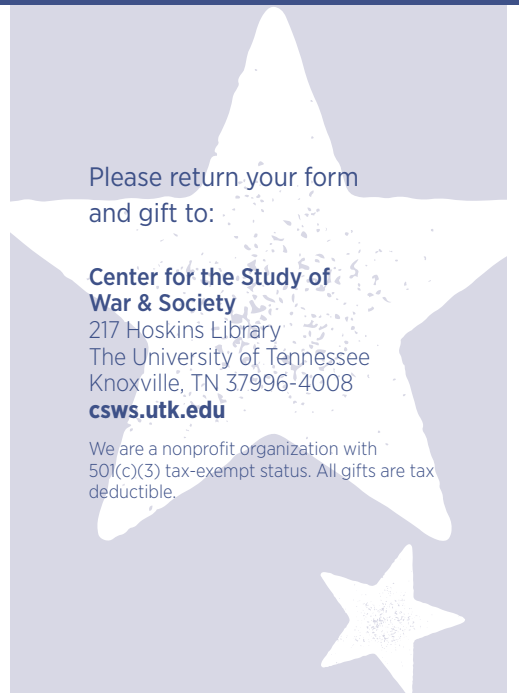
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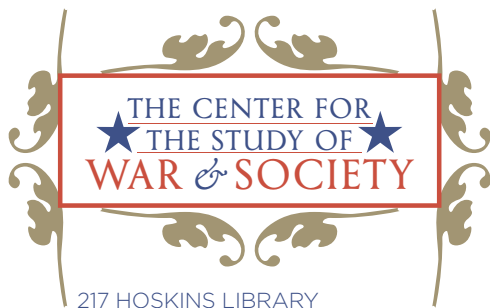
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