

Summer 2017

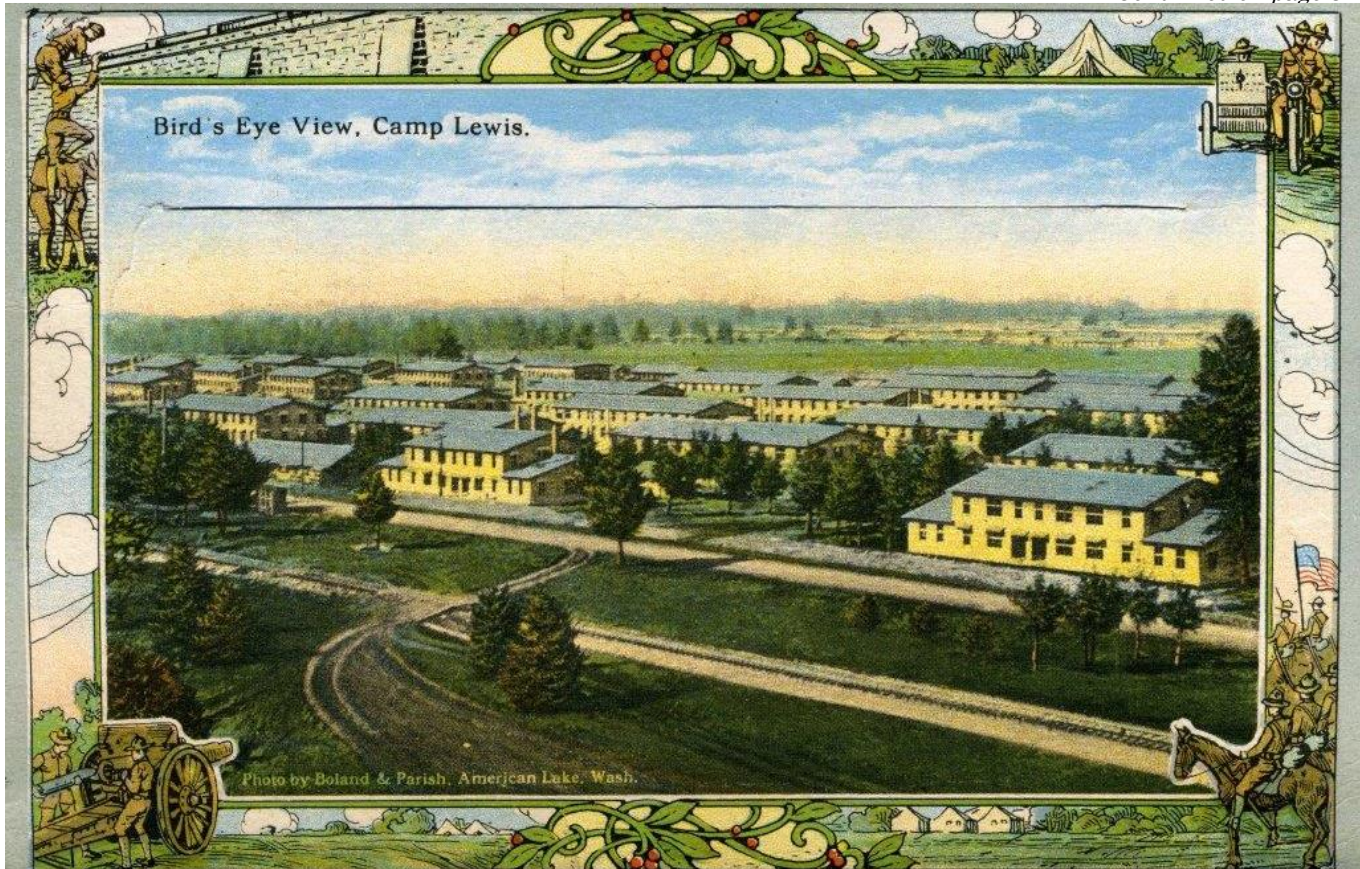
Vol. 30, No. 3

## Camp Lewis and the Summer of 1917

The Summer of 1917 was the defining season for the new Army camp at American Lake, Washington. As chronicled in previous issues of the Banner, the voters of Pierce County had voted to donate 70,000 acres of land even before the United States entered the First World War, in April 1917. Therefore, Camp Lewis was one of the first two National Army Camps approved by the Secretary of War on 31 May 1917. The other site was Camp Devens in Ayer, Massachusetts.

On 14 June 1917, a contract to build the camp was signed with the Hurley Mason Company of Tacoma. Actual construction began on 5 July 1917. The first building was completed within three days and within 90 days 1,757 buildings and 422 other structures were erected. Ten thousand workers were employed in this massive project. In addition to the buildings, roads, water and electric lines, and railroad spurs were installed.

*Continued on page 3*



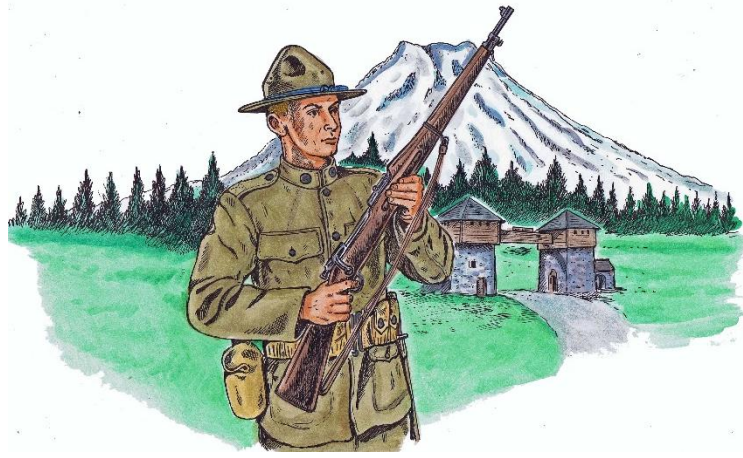
## President's Report

As of 31 August 2017, the Museum is once again open for the public to visit and enjoy. I have always said that the Museum is a very special asset of the installation, and it is good to have it back in operation. Work continues on the Mezzanine area, which is expected to be completed by December. The Cannon Shop likewise is not yet ready to open, as the cabinets provided for displaying and storing the items for sale are not the type needed. Once this issue is resolved, we will move the inventory from storage into the new location and reopen.

At our upcoming brunch meeting at Patriots Landing on 1 October, elections will be held for officers and Board members of the Friends. The elected individuals will serve for a period of three years, although they may be elected to serve more than one term. A Nominating Committee headed by Tom Morgan and Joe Koczur Jr. has recommended the members below for nomination and election at our brunch meeting. Nominations, if any, will be accepted from the floor: Friends Board Membership: Paul Knoop, Joseph Koczur Jr., Ian Larson, Thomas Morgan, Marisa Peloquin, Harry Schreiber, Donald Simpson, Edward Wood. Officers: Marisa Peloquin, President; Thomas Morgan, Vice President; Joseph Koczur Jr., Secretary; Donald Simpson, Treasurer.

With the election of a new President, this will be my final column in *The Banner*. I am grateful at having had to work with a fantastic group of officers, and with Board members whose example of dedication and service has been an inspiration. I am particularly indebted to the late BG (Ret) "Flip" Finelli, whom I replaced as President, to the late COL (Ret) Jo Swartz, and to Marion Ball for their help and support. I also appreciate working with Directors Alan Archambault, Miles Grant, and Erik Flint – all professionals dedicated to making the Museum the best. Finally, I know the Friends will be in good hands under the leadership of Marisa Peloquin as President.

Ian Larson



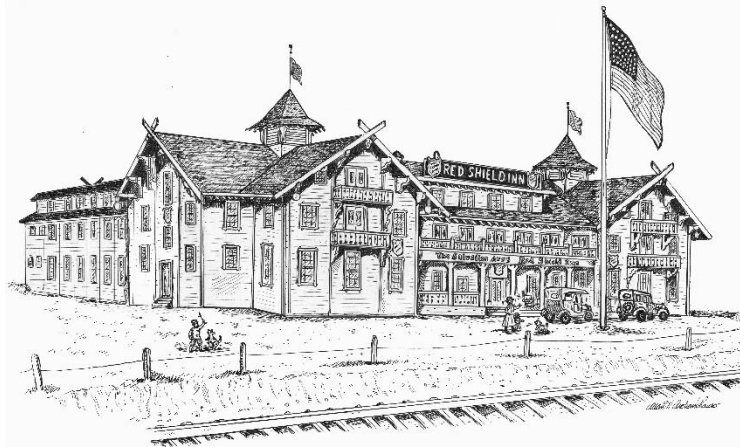
## A Camp Lewis Sketchbook

The Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum have published a new sketchbook to commemorate the Centennial of the establishment of Camp Lewis in 1917.

The sketchbook features twenty-seven original black and white illustrations. Printed on one side of 60 pound paper. The illustrations are perfect for coloring, and are also suitable for framing.

Former museum director, Alan Archambault, wrote and illustrated the sketchbook. He was ably assisted by museum volunteers, Emily Fuller, Catherine Bander, Karolyn Bredberg Diana Archambault and curator Heidi Pierson, who proof read the text for accuracy and made excellent suggestions on the content.

The sketchbook is priced at a modest five dollars a copy and will be available through the Cannon Shop and the Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum. It would make an excellent gift for the upcoming holidays.



*Sketch of the Red Shield Inn, circa 1919. The Inn became the home of the Fort Lewis Military Museum in 1973.*



*Construction Progress: August 10, 1917*



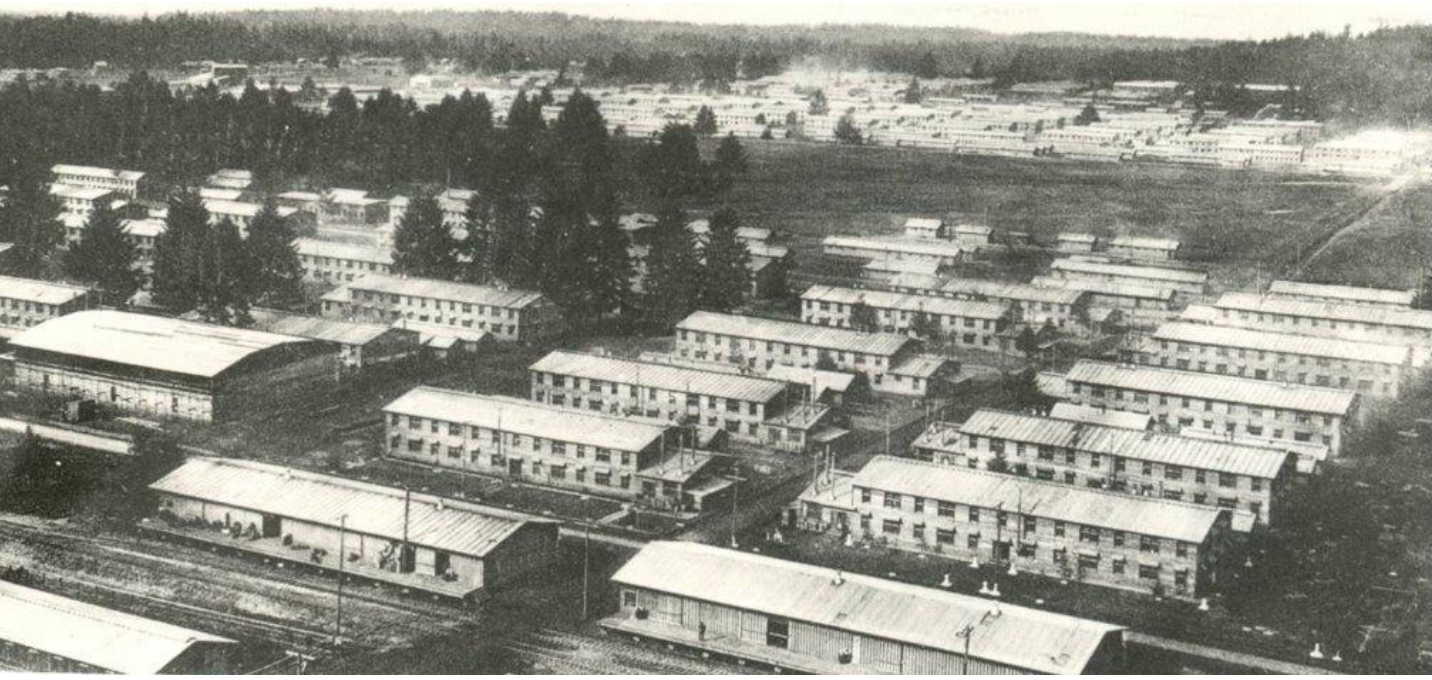
On 18 July 1917, General Orders Number 95, officially named the National Army Camp, Camp Lewis, in honor of Captain Meriwether Lewis, who commanded the Army's Corps of Discovery in 1804-1806.

By 5 September 1917, Camp Lewis was ready to receive the first of the 50,000 troops which it was designed to train. It was the first of the National Training Camps to open for training and the largest cantonment in the United States. The original construction cost was \$7,000,723.51, the lowest cost of any of the new Army camps.

A Congressional subcommittee charged with oversight of war expenditures concluded that Camp Lewis "was the cheapest, best and most rapidly constructed of any of the cantonments and was the only construction carried on during the war that came through with a clean record, according to evidence submitted."

The successful completion of Camp Lewis was due in great measure to the efforts of Captain David L. Stone of the Quartermaster Corps. Arriving in May, Stone was tireless in his work to ensure the timely completion of the camp. When strikes were threatened by the carpenters and plumbers, working for the contractor, Stone used immense tact and resolve to avoid a strike.

On 5 September 1917, the first draftees arrived at Camp Lewis for in-processing and training. Most were young men drafted from the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and Montana. Many of the trainees came from homes without electricity or indoor plumbing, so living in the "modern" barracks at Camp Lewis was a novel experience. However, the demand to train soldiers as efficiently and quickly as possible, meant they had little free time. The war on the "Western Front" was awaiting them.



# *The Old Army- Reflections on World War I*

*By Thomas Morgan*

Twenty-eight May 1918 at Cantigny, France was the American Expeditionary Forces' (AEF) first major offensive action in World War I. Men of the fabled 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division left their jump-off trenches and moved forward into battle behind a rolling barrage of 75mm howitzer shells. The soldiers of "The Big Red One" were "over there" to kick the German Kaiser out of France and then come home to a hero's welcome. It was the war of the "doughboys" and "the war to end all wars."

The military policy of the United States changed dramatically in 1916 and 1917 when legislative action by Congress made possible large manpower forces controlled by the Government to be made available for large scale wars. World War I (WW I) was just such a war. It followed on the heels of the Mexican "Poncho Villa" Expedition of 1916 when the American Southwest was threatened by an invasion from Mexico for the first time since the Mexican War of the 1840s. Such events as the sinking of the Lusitania, the infamous Zimmerman Telegram that the Germans sent to encourage Mexican support for the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and initially Italy\*), and the need to help traditional allies such as Great Britain and France already at war brought America into the Great War in Europe. For America, that war culminated in the successful Allied Meuse-Argonne Campaign of 1918 that led the Germans to sue for an Armistice that ended the fighting on 11 November 1918.

Training American units for WW I was a new experience for a large army that had not been raised and organized (with the possible exception of the limited Spanish-American War of 1898) since the Civil War of the 1860s. Military training following the Civil War really did not exist. Recruits for the post-Civil War Army were enlisted for specific units at recruiting stations in the larger cities and sent in most cases directly to their units stationed mostly in the West to fight the Indians. There was little need for much centralized training then as small units were scattered throughout the West and new recruits learned to soldier from the "school of hard knocks", a euphemism for "on the job training" consisting of trying to control a restless Indian population. What was required of soldiers was a neat, soldierly appearance and a cheerful, prompt obedience of orders coupled with an uncomplaining performance of hard work with all the hardships that entailed.



ONE OF THE ARTS OF WAR—TRENCH DIGGING IN CAMP LEWIS

US units therefore, had little formal military training before they shipped out for France in 1917 and it was then very basic consisting of marching with a full field pack, military courtesy and discipline, and basic small arms marksmanship. The new commander of the AEF, General John J. Pershing, believed soldiers should learn how to "shoot and salute!" Training directives from higher headquarters also stressed that a high state of efficiency in close order drill and ceremonies was required.

In France, the modern implements of war were issued to the US troops for the first time. Exploding grenades, automatic rifles, trench mortars, new and different machine guns, airplanes, tanks, motor vehicles, and field telephones were now all part of modern warfare. But, above all, marching at about two-and-a-half miles per hour was emphasized. Trench warfare had become an art for British and French units fighting in France. General Pershing was enjoined to follow their lead in that. That really upset "John J." He was adamantly opposed to anything that resembled trench warfare. He believed that victory could only be won by the conduct of open warfare. He wanted offensive actions and believed that all men should fire at least once a day. Trenches were not to live in, but only used as a line-of-departure for an attack.

# Key Dates for the United States in World War I

Compiled by Donald A. Simpson

Prior to WW II, the Meuse-Argonne Campaign was the largest ever fought by American units. Pershing's First Army led that battle lasting for 47-days, and then the war ended with the Armistice. Pershing's Service of Supply (SOS) was not fully organized at the start of that campaign so most of the airplanes, tanks, motor transport, and heavy artillery was supplied by the Allies. The First Army had to learn how to use combined arms effectively in combat on the battlefields, and protection/neutralization from gas attacks had to be learned and practiced the hard way. Many of the things learned quickly in the 47-day Meuse-Argonne Offensive were forgotten after the war ended. They had to be re-learned years later in WW II.

Only the US Navy was anywhere well-prepared for WW I. The Navy demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and had many well-trained officers and men. For the Army, the result was that the rates of Army casualties were very high compared to the French and British. US soldiers had to adjust quickly to the realities of modern war on the Western Front. The poor physical condition of the troops due to respiratory ailments related to the great Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 caused problems as well as food malnutrition and the general harsh battlefield environment that all had a negative effect on combat performance.

There was a certain lack of interest in WW I after that war. After all, it had not taken place on our soil. Who or what had won the war was not well known. However, when asked who had won the war, the old Field Marshal von Hindenburg declared that the American Army had won it. For without the American First Army victory in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign, WW I would have probably ended in a stalemate with both France and Great Britain worn out from fighting an equally exhausted Germany. The stage was set for renewed combat in World War II.

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\* Italy changed sides and joined the Triple Entente (Great Britain, France, and Russia) in 1915.

- 28 Jun 1914 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austro-Hungary assassinated in Sarejevo, Bosnia.
- 28 Jul 1914 - Austro-Hungary declares war on Russia.
- 1 Aug 1914 - Germany declares war on Russia.
- 4 Aug 1914 - Germany attacks on Western Front through Belgium; Britain declares war on Germany.
- 31 Oct 1914 - Stalemate along the Western Front.
- 7 May 1915 - RMS Lusitania sunk by German U-Boat, 1198 lost, including 114 Americans.
- 6 April 1917 - US declares war on Germany.
- 18 May 1917 - Congress approves the draft (Selective Service).
- 13 Jun 1917 - General Pershing arrives in France with 20,000 men; forms the American Expeditionary Force (AEF).
- 15 Jun 1917 - Construction of 32 installations begins.
- 2 Jul 1917 - First draft calls goes out.
- 1 Sep 1917 - Draftees report to training sites.
- 31 Dec 1917 - Five Divisions, 183,000 men, are in France
- 21 Mar 1918 - Germans initiate the first of five offensives.
- 1 Apr - 31 Oct 1918 - 1.6 million men arrive in France, average 230,000 per month.
- 28 May 1918 - 1<sup>st</sup> Division conducts first AEF attack at Cantigny.
- 6 Jun 1918 - Marines attack Belleau Woods.
- 15 Jul 1918 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Division stops German attack along the Marne River.
- 18 Jul 1918 - Aisne-Marne offensive begins.
- 12 Sep 1918 - Reduction of St. Mihiel Salient by First American Army.
- 26 Sep 1918 - Meuse-Argonne Offensive begins.
- 11 Nov 1918 - Armistice is signed ending the fighting.

Sources: Coffman, Edward M. The War to End All Wars: The American Experience in World War I. Lexington, KY: University of Kenturck Press, 1986. Eisenhower, John S.D. Yanks: the Epic Story of ther American Army in World War I. New York: The Free press, 2001.

# Museum Update

## Camp Lewis Centennial / Museum Reopening

It has been an extremely busy summer here at the Lewis Army Museum. Prior to our reopening, we kept up our public outreach mission by attending several public summer festivals including JBLM's "Freedom Fest" and the City of Lakewood's "Summer Fest." The events were a great success and allowed us to educate thousands of local community members about our museum.

On August 18<sup>th</sup> JBLM officially celebrated the Centennial of Camp Lewis with a massing of colors and retreat ceremony on Watkins Field. The museum had an outreach tent (courtesy of JBLM Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) at the event with Cannon Shop items for sale. Following the ceremony we were proud to host a VIP reception at the museum with the I Corps and JBLM senior staffs and local dignitaries including Representative Denny Heck attending.

With barely a week to recover, we officially reopened our doors to the public on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Joint Base Garrison Commander, Colonel Nicole Lucas, and Command Sergeant Major, Richard Mulryan were there to help us cut the ribbon along with Ms. Ginger King Shaw, the US Army Center of Military History's senior strategic planner, and Tom Morgan, vice president of the Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum.

Erik W. Flint  
Director



Fabulous volunteers Danielle Hitsman and Diane Laslie at the museum opening



Laurel Taft (Protocol) and JBLM Garrison commander COL Lucas



JBLM Garrison commander COL Nicole Lucas speaks before the ribbon-cutting



Museum Director Erik Flint speaking at the Centennial reception



Heidi Pierson (Museum Curator), Ginger King Shaw (CMH Strategic Planner), Erik Flint (Museum Director)



Assistant to Rep. Denny Heck presents State of Washington Centennial declaration to Heidi Pierson and Cadet Marlene Yi, ROTC Museum Internship Program summer intern

**FRIENDS OF THE FORT LEWIS MILITARY MUSEUM**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**1 OCTOBER 2017**

Place: **Patriots Landing, Olympic Dining Room**

Time: 1130-1215 Social Hour

1215-1330 Brunch

1330-1415 Program



The guest speaker for our next General Membership Meeting will be Colonel Nicole M. Lucas, Joint Base Garrison Commander, Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Colonel Lucas is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps. Her overseas assignments include service in Korea, Kosovo, Germany, Kuwait, and Iraq. Prior to her current assignment as Joint Base Garrison Commander, Colonel Lucas graduated from the Eisenhower School, National Defense University and was assigned to the Joint Staff J4 to serve as Strategy and Readiness Division Chief.

Please join us and welcome Colonel Lucas to our historic organization.

Please note that we have had to increase the cost of the Brunch one dollar to cover an increase in cost from Patriot's Landing.

Please return your reservation form and check by Thursday, 28 September 2017.

Last minute reservations may be made by calling Paul Knoop at (253) 279-2598.

Return this form to LTC (Ret) Donald A Simpson, 827 Aloha Street, Edmunds, WA 98020

Make checks payable to "The Friends."

**Cost of Brunch for members and guests: \$17.00 each.**

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Residents of Patriot's Landing do not need to make payment for the meeting,  
but are requested to make reservations for seating.

**The Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum  
Board of Directors**

COL (Ret) Ian Larson.....President  
 LTC (Ret) Thomas Morgan.....Vice President  
 Joseph Koczur, Jr.....Secretary  
 LTC (Ret) Donald Simpson.....Treasurer  
 COL (Ret) Patrick Powers.....Member  
 SGM (Ret) Harry Schreiber.....Member  
 COL (Ret) Paul Knoop.....Member  
 COL Marisa Peloquin, USAR.....Member  
 Bryant Ouch.....Member

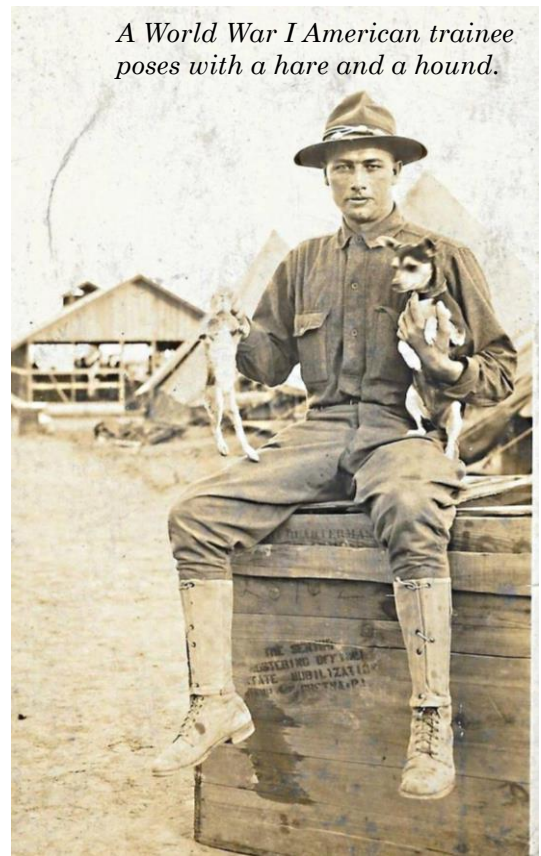
The *Banner* is printed four times a year and is mailed to all members of The Friends of Fort Lewis Museum. Articles may be submitted to the Editor or left with the Director of the Lewis Army Museum. The Friends assume no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or other materials submitted for publication. Contents copyrighted by The Friends; contact the Editor for permission to reproduce any portion.

Editor.....Alan Archambault  
 Assistant Editors.....LTC (Ret) Donald A. Simpson  
 COL (Ret) Paul Knoop  
 Heidi Pierson

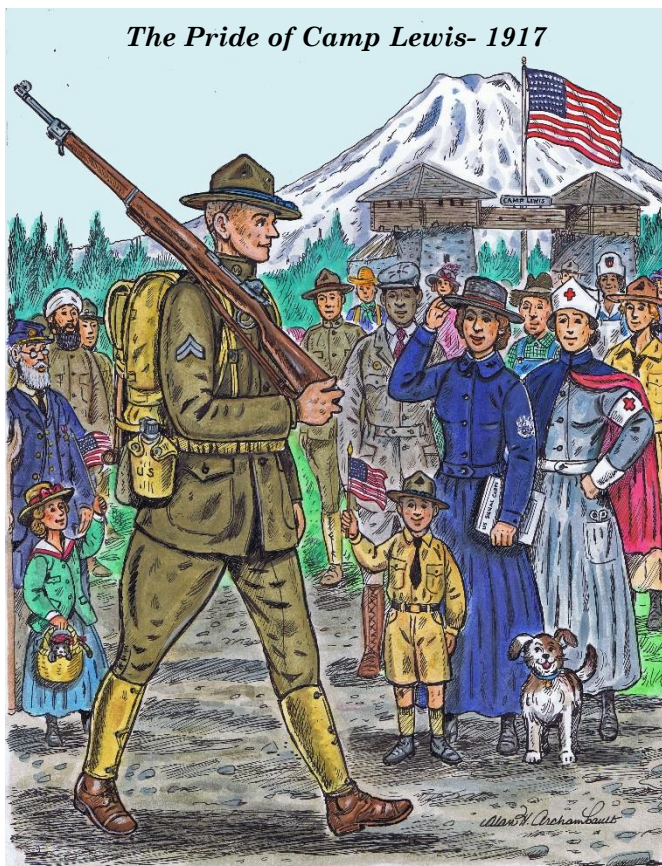
Visit the Friends web site for more information and purchases from the Cannon Shop.

<http://www.fortlewismuseum.com>

*A World War I American trainee poses with a hare and a hound.*



*The Pride of Camp Lewis- 1917*



**Friends of the Fort Lewis  
 Military Museum  
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