



# ALLIES

Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota

ALLIES

SUMMER 2009

VOL XVII, No. 3

### Special Points of Interest:

- *Feature Article, "The Mexican War, Part Two" by Leland P. Smith*
- *Membership Open House*
- *Civil War Exhibit Sponsorship Program*

**Mexican War, Mexican Campaign, Mexican Border Campaign:**  
**How Do We Tell Them Apart?**  
 (Part Two)

By Leland P. Smith

The American Civil War had allowed European powers to take advantage of the perennial unrest in Mexico. The accumulating debts of the various factions gave England, Spain and France in particular an excuse to take over Mexican ports. The "Monroe Doctrine" was on hold while Americans fought among themselves.

When the Civil War ended there were thousands of battle hardened veterans available to put teeth in the declaration that Europe should stay out of the affairs of the Americas. England and Spain withdrew, but France had deeper commitments and held on. In spite of losing the battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862 (the event commemorated as Cinco de Mayo), the French continued their efforts of empire building and captured Mexico City. Napoleon III put his cousin, Maximilian, an out of work Austrian duke, on the throne of Mexico in 1864. His reign lasted three years.

Maximilian was replaced by an elected president, who remained in office for more than thirty years. He did not have the support of the various factions in Mexico, but he was Mexican. The United States recognized him, for a while. The old factionalism was alive and well. The games continued.

As relations between the U.S. and Mexico settled down, international affairs returned to the pre-war routine. The U.S. Army in the southwest chased the native population into Mexico, and the Mexican army chased them back. Outlaws on both sides used the border as a "get away line" and the wary truce continued.

The U.S. Army downsized to peacetime standards, making thousands of weapons and other war materials available for sale. Various interested



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## ALLIES

Mexican groups availed themselves of these bargains. Also made available were a considerable number of veterans, who had developed a taste for war, or were not interested in going back to hardscrabble farming after years of "adventure."

"Manifest Destiny" reappeared on land while the U.S. Navy went back to the old routine of patrolling the coasts and making courtesy visits to foreign ports. This was called "Showing the Flag." Diplomatic talks were more likely to go well if, from time to time, a major warship appeared off the entrance of a valuable port. This was traditional in all navies. In the era of coal fired ships, the need for fuel as well as provisions mandated keeping up friendly relations. In addition, the unspoken threat of a naval bombardment tended to keep important conversations from overheating.

The visit of a warship or squadron usually involved shore leave for a portion of the crew. When sailors go ashore in a foreign port they generally behave like sailors. This inevitably results in a number of arrests. When the ship or squadron is about to sail, the senior officer generally sends a representative to the Port Captain to retrieve any sailors being held. Fines are paid and deducted from the sailor's pay. This is a lucrative business for the Port Captain and has a long history and precedent.

This situation remained in place until 1910, when the Mexican revolution ushered in a decade of turbulent U.S./Mexican relations. Distrust, misunderstanding, and retribution blazed on both sides of the border, fueled by national pride and powerful economic interests.

At this point one of the vagaries of international law of the period should also be mentioned. *Landing naval forces on a foreign shore was not usually considered an act of war by itself. Marines are considered "Naval Forces."* The realities of ocean travel before the early twentieth century dictated that, from time to time, it might be necessary for a ship to put ashore a party to fill water kegs, or steal cattle to feed the passengers and crew. This was a diplomatic matter, not an act of war. Reparations were routinely paid and, hopefully, the person who lost the cows might even be compensated.

In 1914 the political temperature in Mexico rose quickly. On 6 April 1914, a working boat crew from the U.S.S. "Dolphin" was seized by the port authorities of Tampico, Mexico, who were supporters of President Victoriano Huerta. They were marched through the streets and jailed as a protest against the U.S. refusal to recognize Huerta. They were later released with an apology, but Rear Admiral Henry T. Mayo, the senior naval officer in the area, demanded that the Mexicans salute the American flag as a reparation. The Mexicans apologized but refused to salute the flag. They later agreed to salute the flag if the salute was returned. The Atlantic Fleet was ordered to Mexican waters on 14 April 1914.

On 15 April 1914, 24 officers and 810 enlisted Marines under the command of LtCol Charles G. Long, embarked on the U.S.S. "Hancock", destined for Tampico, Mexico. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, President Wilson demanded that Mexico salute the American flag. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Mexico rendered an apology for the Tampico affair and delivered a 21 gun salute. Admiral Mayo was still not pacified, however. He landed a force of sailors and marines at Vera Cruz between 21 and 23 April who, with naval gunfire cover, took over the cus-

toms house, power plant and a number of waterfront buildings. There were ten battleships and 22 other ships involved in the occupation of Vera Cruz. A blockading fleet remained off the coast of Mexico until 21 November 1914.

The naval forces ashore were soon replaced with Army troops and it began to look like there would

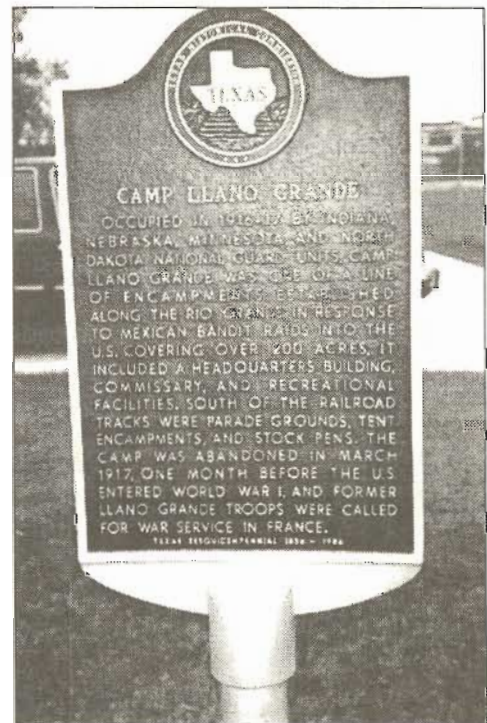
be full blown war. At that point Huerta resigned and Venustiano Caranza took over as President of Mexico. Woodrow Wilson approved of Caranza and immediately recognized him. The good diplomatic offices of Argentina, Brazil and Chile were required to defuse the Vera Cruz situation and avoid war. American forces were withdrawn.

That ended the Mexican Campaign, but it did not end the unrest in Mexico. Waiting in the wings were Emeliano Zapata and Francisco "Pancho" Villa. Zapata was not a threat to the U.S. but kept things stirred up in Mexico. Pancho Villa, who had supported Huerta, initiated the next act in this collection of tragedies. He and his followers raided Columbus, New Mexico, on 9 March 1916, killing 16 U.S. citizens and destroying property. President Wilson ordered BGen John J. Pershing into Mexico to assist the Mexican government in tracking down Villa. Although President Caranza was unable to round up Villa, he was not happy to have U.S. troops operating on Mexican soil. Pershing turned a deaf ear to Mexico's unhappiness and chased Villa all over the province of Chihuahua, northern Mexico. There were further raids into the U.S. at Glen Springs, Texas, 6 May 1916 and San Ygnacio, Texas, on 14 June 1916.

After the raid on San Ygnacio, President Wilson called up the National Guard from many states and had them stationed at various points along the border. Ultimately 158,664 National Guardsmen from all parts of the United States were called up and stationed in small garrisons along the border. Of those 158,000+ troops, 5,117 are known to have been from Minnesota. The three regiments of Infantry and one of Artillery were sent to Llano-Grande (yahnno graande) Texas. This site is just west of the city of Mercedes, northwest of Brownsville. Its most significant structure in 1916 was an open pavilion for railroad passengers to wait their trains.

Minnesota's troops were stationed with those of Nebraska and Indiana. Although there was no direct contact with raiders from Mexico, the experience of living and working in the field with large formations of troops was valuable experience. The opportunity to maneuver with other state's units and to work together for more than a few days was great preparation for the later call up for service in France in 1917. New types of equipment and new weapons were tried out. Aircraft and observation balloon were used. Trucks began to replace horse drawn wagons.

The National Guard troops were released from their assignments on 13 February 1917. They went home to the uncertainty of whether they could go back to their jobs. The war in Europe was going strong and the Germans had just sent the infamous "Zimmerman Telegram," inviting Mexico to invade the U.S. with the support of German finances and material. Germany promised the Mexican government that they would be able to recover the territories they had lost in 1848. All Germany wanted in return was for the Mexicans to keep the U.S. so occupied that they wouldn't be able to interfere with the war in Europe. The British intercepted the telegram, arranged for the U.S. to know about it, and Germany's plans were smoke. The United States declared war on Germany and her allies, and Mexico became only a footnote in the "Great War."



**ALLIES****Contributions Honor Roll (May 1, 2009-July 31, 2009)**

**Renewing Members:** David Adamson • Roger Avery • Robert S. Banks • Adrian Beltrand • Jay J. Benedict • Sandy Erickson • Harold Fiala • Marge Fletcher • Merl Fletcher • Lyle Fuller • Joe Forberg • Diane Grosso • Jon Grosso • Jack L. Heidman • Kurt Hoehne • James D. M. Holmes • Earl M. Jensen • Robert E. Keppel • Richard C. Kloss • Dale N. Mangskau • Kathy Marty • Larry Mongan • Ken Neihart • Harris W. Olson • Steve Osman • Donald Pettitt • Robert C. Purcell • Susan Rasmussen • Robert G. Rupp • John J. Salchert • George A. Sellner • Robert F. Strom • Kenneth R. Swanson • Robert G. Swetz, Sr. • Edward H. Weisman • David West

**New Members:** John A. Bathke • Merlyn W. Gritzmacher • Doug Johnson

**American Legion:** Post 14, Bemidji • Post 323, Clearwater • Post 381, Eden Valley • Post 381 Auxiliary, Eden Valley • Post 211, Holdingford • Post 161 Auxiliary, LeRoy • Post 146, Little Falls • Post 253, Lowry • Post 299, Mabel • Post 101, Melrose • Post 132, New Ulm • Post 627, Nisswa • Post 92, Rochester • Post 164, Stewartville • Post 33, St. James • Post 33 Auxiliary, St. James

**VFW:** Post 936, Alexandria • Post 1825 Auxiliary, Belgrade • Post 494, Crystal; Post 1210 Auxiliary, Hastings • Post 7266, New Auburn • Post 7902, Osakis • Post 5555, Richfield • Post 2793 Auxiliary, Thief River Falls; Post 5462, Waconia •

**Donations:** Donald N. Anderson • Judith Bajari • Robert Ballou • Robert Blevins • Virginia Elicerio • Dirk Gasterland • Julian Halvorson • Wayne Hassell • Audrey Hohncke • James A. Hovda • Robert G. Hystad • Jan Kiefer • David W. Larson • Jean Miller • David G. Newhall • John B. O'Leary • Donald Pettitt • LeRoy P. Poganski • Benita H. Quinlen Egan • Kenneth L. Schumann • William J. Senn • Larry Shellito • Kenneth J. Slipka • Kenneth J. Streiff • Jon L. Trost • John W. Vessey • N. R. Wisser

**Memorials****May- July, 2009****Given by:**

Lyle C. Doerr  
Jim Nygaard  
Robert Wienhold  
Paul V. Meyer  
Sidney K. Schmuckler

**In Memory of:**

Bob Thompson  
Randall G. Becker  
Orlin Stanchfield  
Richard Cook  
Florian F. Rosenthal

**In Memoriam**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate here name and address of  
member of family to whom we can send  
notice of your gift:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**  
Minnesota Military Museum  
1500 Hwy. 115, Camp Ripley  
Little Falls MN 56345

**Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes**

## Artifact Donation Honor Roll (May - July, 2009)

*The museum gratefully acknowledges donations of artifacts from the following:*

Michael Brick ▪ Cindy Busch ▪ Neill T. Carter ▪ COL L. E. Delgehausen ▪ Clifford B. Digre ▪ George Glotzbach ▪ Glenn Gregory ▪ Beverly Hall ▪ Iola Henke ▪ Don Hopke ▪ Paul R. Huisman ▪ ITOW Veterans Museum ▪ Zera J. Johnson ▪ Robert Jorissen ▪ Francis Krenik ▪ Dorman L. Lehman ▪ Laurie Mahling ▪ Mark Mahling ▪ Bev Messinger ▪ Todd McDunn ▪ James Nash ▪ Dennis Paulson ▪ Ken Schmitz ▪ Ken Streiff ▪ Mark Wheeler ▪ Dorothy Williams ▪ Ilene Yost

## Artifact Donations (May 1 – July 30, 2009)

**Uniforms:** Belt (2); Blouse, wool uniform (3); Blouse, US Army AG344; Blouse, U.S. Army tan; Boots, combat (4 pr); Boots, flight; Breeches, wool; Cap, overseas (4); Cap, visor; Hat, campaign; Hat, suntan service; Jacket, Eisenhower (2); Leggings, wool wrap (5); Overcoat, wool (3); Shirts, BDU; Shirt, U.S. Army green; Shirt, LS tan (2); Shorts, gray P.T.; T-shirt, gray P.T.; Shoes; Trousers, BDU (3); Tie; Trousers, riding; Trousers, U.S. Army AG344; Trousers, wool (3);

**Equipment:** Footlocker (2); Gas mask; Gloves, flight; Helmet; Helmet, flight; Suit, flight; Vest, survival;

**Miscellaneous:** Protestant chaplain's kit; Letters; Books; Medals; Insignia; Medical equipment and supplies; Framed newspaper story; Service records; veteran's service story; Photographs; Dog tags (2); Patches; Rings German patriotic (4); Buttons, German (10); Buttons, French (2); Pennant, souvenir; Booklets; Newspapers; Writing tablet, Camp Pike; Postcard album (3); Wallet (2); Ribbon bars; Case, German cigarette; Bag, coat, HBT; Hair brush; Kit, shaving; Pipe; Field ration, Norwegian; Shield, WWI German trench;

**Weapons and related items:** Bayonet, Japanese; Hand grenade; Nose Cone, Test, Nike Ajax missile; Rifle, Japanese (3); Rifle, Krag-Jorgensen; Shell, bazooka; Sword; Baseplate, Honest John missile;

### Membership Application for the Military Historical Society of Minnesota

*Yes, I want to preserve Minnesota's military history for future generations!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Active or Retired (circle one)  
 E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Categories:

##### Individual:

\_\_\_\_ Regular (\$25/yr.)  
 \_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$50/yr.)  
 \_\_\_\_ Life (\$350+) (or 4 X \$90)

##### Organization:

\_\_\_\_ Regular (\$500)  
 \_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$1,000)

##### Corporate:

\_\_\_\_ Regular (\$1,000)  
 \_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$3,000)

All memberships are annual except Life, Organization and Corporate Memberships. Contributors of \$350 or more will be recognized on a plaque in the museum lobby.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Minnesota Military Museum.

Please mail to: Military Historical Society of Minnesota, c/o Minnesota Military Museum,  
 Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy. 115, Little Falls MN 56345-4173.  
 Phone: 320-632-7374 E-mail: mnmuseum@brainerd.net



**ALLIES**

**Museum Membership Open House**  
**Camp Ripley Open House**  
**Sunday, September 20, 2009**

**To:** Current members & guests of Minnesota Military Museum

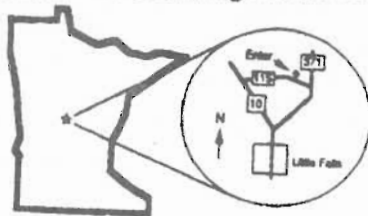
**Purpose:** Update current members & guests about museum, Camp Ripley and Minnesota military deployment activities. Enable attendees to tour aircraft, military equipment and observe flag line parade and other Ripley Open House events.

**Agenda:**

- 9:30 -10:00** Arrive at Camp Ripley (**Post Hq's/Training & Community Center, Theater**)
- 10:00 -10:10** Welcome & Introductions by Museum President Jack Johnson (**Theater**)
- 10:10 -10:20** Camp Ripley briefing by Post Cmdr, Colonel Richard Weaver (**Theater**)
- 10:20 -10:30** Museum briefing by Exec Dir, Dave Hanson & Curator Doug Bekke (**Theater**)
- 10:30 -10:45** Briefing by The Adjutant General, MG Larry Shellito (**Theater**)
- 10:45 -11:45** Tour Environmental Center by Marty Skoglund (**Environmental Room**)
- 11:45 - 1:00** Lunch (provided, \$8.00 per attendee) (**Snack Bar, transport by bus**)
- 1:00 - 3:00** Tour C-130 aircraft, Chinook & Black Hawk aircraft, Patriot Guard flag line parade, guest speakers, military equipment displays & Air Guard fly over (**Museum area, transport by bus**)
- 3:00 -4:00** Tour Museum (**Museum**)  
 (transport by bus back to car lot for departure)

memberopenhouse092009

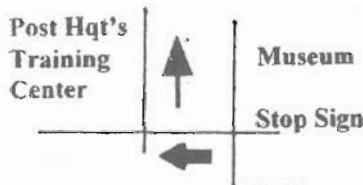
**RSVP** For planning purposes please register **no later than Sept. 16** if you plan to attend this event. We encourage members to invite friends and prospective members to also attend.



**Membership Open House**  
**Sunday, September 20, 2009**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$8.00 for meal enclosed  
 Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ \$8.00 for meal enclosed  
 Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ \$8.00 for meal enclosed

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ total for meals



Checks should be payable to MN Military Museum and mailed to:  
 MN Military Museum, 15000 Hwy. 115, Camp Ripley  
 Little Falls MN 56345

**Hwy 115**

**Main Gate** For additional information: [mnmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:mnmuseum@yahoo.com)

## Curator Notes

By Doug Bekke

Work has started on the museum's Civil War exhibit, which is planned to open in 2011, the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. Steve Osman, a museum board member, a retired MHS senior historian, and long time site director at Historic Ft. Snelling, has taken a leading role in this project. From an early age Steve has been deeply interested in the Civil War and he is known and respected locally and nationally for his extensive knowledge of all things related to the Civil War. He is well connected into many groups of Civil War history collectors, re-enactors and historians. The museum's Civil War Exhibit will be the largest and most complex exhibit in the museum's history. Having Steve's vast knowledge, his ability to muster resources, and his boundless energy are huge assets on this important project.

Almost all museum visitors are complimentary of the museum's exhibits. Museum volunteers have played a critical role in making the museum successful. The 2001 Pearl Harbor exhibit and the 2003 Airborne exhibits could not have been built without the great assistance of Ken Buettner from Avon, MN. Over the past several years Merl Fletcher has provided invaluable service in many areas. Many people have contributed their time, and very importantly their expertise, to various projects at the museum. Their service has been invaluable.

The museum is always in need of support in fundraising. This can mean supporting something specific like the Civil War exhibit, or supporting the museum's mission in general. Many people are reluctant to get involved in fundraising. It sometimes seems difficult or intrusive to ask people for help. I recently read an article that took a different approach by asking the question: how did you feel the last time you participated in helping with something you knew was important?

The mission of the Minnesota Military Museum is to honor all of Minnesota's veterans, from all eras, and from all branches of the service. There are other organizations or institutions in the state that may cover part of this mission by honoring a specific branch of the service, a specific unit, or a specific era, but there is no other institution in the state with the mission of covering all of Minnesota's military history the way the Minnesota Military Museum does. One of the most common comments from museum visitors is that the museum is one of the best military museums they have ever visited. If you agree this is a great museum, and if you feel that the museum's mission of honoring all of Minnesota's veterans is an important mission, please consider finding a way to support the museum and its mission.

The museum, and the way the museum is able to carry out its mission, will be as good as you help make it!

### Civil War Exhibit Sponsorship Program

Exhibit development requires funds to build artifact cabinets, purchase mannequins and uniforms, develop interactive educational software and produce graphics.

The Sponsorship Program allows even the smallest donation to assist in creation of this exhibit. Contributions from all sources—individuals, businesses, corporation, and organizations—are greatly appreciated. Donations will be acknowledged in the exhibit. **(Continued on Page 8)**

### Civil War Sponsorship Program (Continued)

The following are early sponsors of the Civil War Exhibit:

American Legion Post 323, Clearwater  
 American Legion Post 552, Freeborn  
 American Legion Post 161 Auxiliary, LeRoy  
 American Legion Post 46, Little Falls  
 American Legion Post 299, Mabel  
 American Legion Post 101, Melrose  
 American Legion Post 132, New Ulm  
 Crazy Jim's Army Surplus  
 Crow Wing Power  
 Sandy Erickson  
 Merl and Marge Fletcher  
 Dave and Pam Hanson  
 IBM  
 Mills Fleet Farm  
 Minnesota Power Foundation  
 Capt. Robert Orr Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution  
 Stearns Electric  
 VFW Post 936, Alexandria  
 VFW Post 494, Crystal  
 VFW Post 1140 Auxiliary, Long Prairie  
 VFW Post 5462, Waconia  
 WAC Veterans Association  
 Wal-Mart

#### Civil War Exhibit Sponsorship Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sponsorship Level (Please check):

Pioneer Guard(\$1,000 or more) : \_\_\_\_\_

Sharpshooter (\$250 to \$999) : \_\_\_\_\_

Cavalry Scout(\$100 to \$249) : \_\_\_\_\_

Drummer Boy (\$25 to \$99) : \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to:  
 MN Military Museum  
 15000 Hwy. 115, Camp Ripley  
 Little Falls MN 56345*

*Allies* is published for the members and friends of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota.

LTC (Bvt.) (Ret.) Jack Johnson, **President**  
 COL (Ret.) David L. Hanson, **Executive Director**  
 MAJ (Ret.) Doug Bekke, **Curator**  
 SSG (Ret.) Leland P. Smith, **Archivist**  
 Sandy Erickson, **Administrator**

The **Military Historical Society of Minnesota** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, registered with the Federal and State Governments. Donations are Tax Deductible.

#### **Museum Contact Information:**

**Fax:** 320-632-7779  
**E-mail:** mnmuseum@yahoo.com  
**Telephone:** 320-632-7374  
**DSN:** 871-7374

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TO: \_\_\_\_\_