

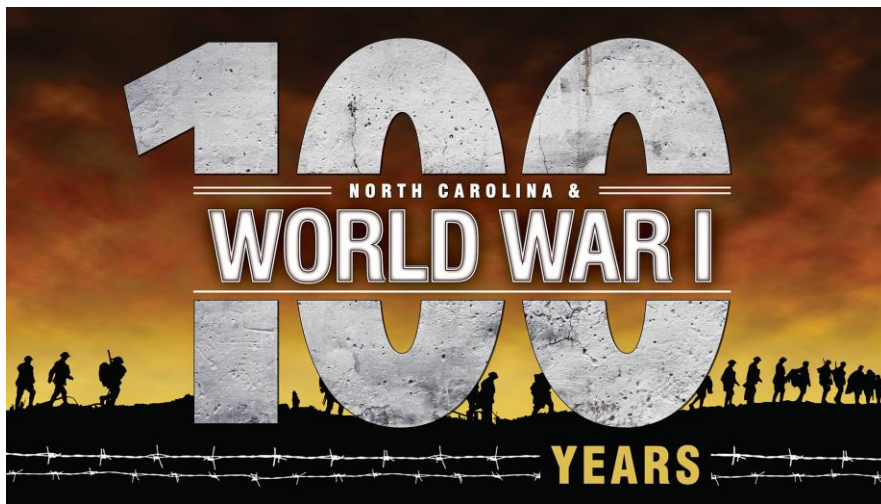
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***North Carolina and World War I Exhibit Makes History***



**RALEIGH, N.C.** – The groundbreaking exhibit *North Carolina and World War I* has surpassed 203,000 visitors since opening in April 2017, making it the most-visited exhibit of record at the North Carolina Museum of History.

Planned, produced and built entirely in-house, the 6,500-square-foot exhibition is believed to be the largest of its kind among state history museums.

Scores of people of all ages have delighted in the immersive, sensory experience presented by this exhibit. From interactive videos to mural-sized photographs, battlefield sounds and special lighting effects, there is a surprise at every turn. The re-created battlefield environment – complete with seven-foot-high trench walls and cavelike “funk holes” – puts guests in the boots of Tar Heel soldiers on the Western Front.

“What makes the exhibit so fun is that you can go through the trenches without reading any of the text labels and still get a lot out of it: there are videos and interactives, sound effects and surprises — like an exploding shell, or a periscope you can look through,” says Curator Jeanne Marie Warzeski.

Artifacts with ties to North Carolina include the Purple Heart medal of Congressman Walter Jones’ grandfather, Sergeant Walter G. Jones, of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Company, received on generous loan from the Jones family. Additionally, a uniform worn by aviator Kiffin Rockwell is on

loan from the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum for the duration of the exhibit. Rockwell grew up in Asheville, N.C., and was the first American pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft in World War I.

Display cases of note detail the lives of African American soldiers, as well as clergy present on the field. In all, six different nations and their languages are represented through the voices of child and adult actors.

The museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, welcomed more than 415,000 visitors in 2016 from all 100 counties in North Carolina, all 50 states and more than 50 countries across the globe.

The exhibit and the museum are free and open to the public, as is parking on the weekends. For more information about the exhibition, please visit [ncmuseumofhistory.org/NCWW1](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/NCWW1).

### **About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate**

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call 919-807-7900 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

### **About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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