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# Museum Features Documentary Film, Teaser Case and Educational Videos on World War I

**Raleigh, N.C.** — As part of the state's centennial observation of United States entry into World War I, the **N.C. Museum of History** in Raleigh has started to prepare for its next major exhibit, ***North Carolina and World War I***. Opening April 8, 2017, this interactive multimedia exhibit will commemorate the centennial and focus on North Carolina's role in the "war to end all wars" on the western front in France and Belgium.

Leading up to the exhibit, the Museum of History will present two September events — a documentary film with panel discussion and the opening of a teaser case for the exhibit — and release a series of 29 educational videos related to World War I. All offerings are **free**.

## **"Valor," a Documentary Film on Kiffin Rockwell**

On **Friday, Sept. 23**, from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**, watch the **documentary film "Valor,"** which tells the fascinating story of North Carolinian Kiffin Rockwell. After recovering from his second injury in the trenches of the European War, Rockwell joined the newly formed Lafayette Escadrille, where he gained fame as one of the earliest combat aviators — until his death on Sept. 23, 1916. The documentary includes historical film footage, photographs and accounts from Rockwell's letters home. The film is not rated.

The evening concludes with a **Q&A session** featuring filmmaker Mark McClure and a discussion with panelists Terry L. Johnson (author, *Valiant Volunteers: A Novel Based on the Passion and the Glory of the Lafayette Escadrille*); and Steve Tom (Kiffin Rockwell historian).

- **Marc McClure** – The filmmaker and author is a professor of history at Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tenn. He has served as an adjunct or associate professor at many colleges and universities, including Appalachian State University and Lees-McRae College.
- **Terry L. Johnson** – The author of *Valiant Volunteers* is a retired U.S. Army officer who served 25 years as an artilleryman and aviator, with combat tours as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and Desert Storm.
- **Steven T. Tom** – The historian is writing a biography on Rockwell. Tom has 21 years of engineering experience in the U.S. Air Force and 19 years in the private sector.

## **Exhibit Case on Kiffin Rockwell**

Arrive at **6 p.m.** on Sept. 23, before “Valor,” for the unveiling of a short-term teaser case, ***Kiffin Rockwell: A North Carolinian Flies for France***. Among the artifacts in this case are six French military medals awarded to the aviator — Légion d’Honneur; Medal of the Great War; Médaille de la Victoire; Croix de Guerre; Verdun Medal and Croix du Combattant Volontaire, 1914-1918 — as well as a fragment of the plane he was shot down in and his “Pilot’s Wings.”

### Compelling World War I Videos Available

Also in preparation for 2017’s major exhibit, the Museum of History has produced **29 short films** that portray the experiences of Tar Heel doughboys, nurses and family members during the Great World. Available **free** of charge to educators, students, and the general public, this compilation of videos, collectively titled “585 Days, if You’re Lucky,” can be viewed sequentially or individually at [ncmuseumofhistory.org/learning/videos-demand](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/learning/videos-demand). Film lengths vary from 2 to 11 minutes; cumulative run time for all films is 100 minutes.

- The videos share firsthand stories of life, death, suffering and hope in the trenches, hospitals and homes of those troubled times. Scripts are based on the book *Memories of World War I: North Carolina Doughboys on the Western Front* by R. Jackson Marshall III, deputy director of the Museum of History, as well as a selection of other letters, diaries and oral histories.
- The title “585 Days, if You’re Lucky” refers to the 585 days between April 6, 1917, when the United States entered the war, to Nov. 11, 1918, when an armistice ended fighting. For the 86,000 North Carolinians who fought, the 195 Tar Heel nurses who served overseas, and the countless families left behind to wait in anguish, this was the World War. Their experiences of war and worry are dramatically portrayed in the videos.
- Additional features of “585 Days, if You’re Lucky” follow.
- The films are generally organized in chronological order, from before U.S. involvement in 1915 to postscripts in 1919 and 1945.
- Each film contains actual war footage from the U.S. Signal Corps.
- Authentic weapons and gear are used to help convey the terror, humor and fear that war brought about.
- The videos feature actors who are the same ages as young men who served: Four actors portray soldiers in battle; three others depict men who served just behind the lines, in field hospitals, base hospitals and other positions.
- Two actors portray nurses; two others portray a mother and a sweetheart, both left at home to wait, always waiting, to hear from their loved ones.
- Take advantage of these excellent opportunities to learn about the wartime experiences of North Carolinians during the first World War.

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

### **IMAGES** [Dropbox link, captions and credits](#)

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qwkqprasxnlmsl/AABNWcqGifFzHhOO5RFmcj\\_7a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qwkqprasxnlmsl/AABNWcqGifFzHhOO5RFmcj_7a?dl=0)

**File Kiffin Rockwell:** Kiffin Rockwell, August 1916. Watch the film “Valor” on Friday, Sept. 23, about Kiffin Rockwell and the Lafayette Escadrille. **Image credit:** N.C. Museum of History.

**File Exhibit logo:** The major exhibit *North Carolina and World War I* will open April 8, 2017, at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. Image credit: N.C. Museum of History

### **[About the N.C. Museum of History](#)**

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 300,000 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.

### **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. Led by Secretary Susan Kluttz, 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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