



Summer 2014

Vol. 27, No. 3

# I Corps in the Occupation of Japan

By Joe D. Huddleston

Early in July 1945 under the direction of the Sixth U.S. Army, I U.S. Corps began the planning intended to accomplish the invasion of Kyushu, the southernmost island of Japan. This planning was brought to an end on 14 August with the Japanese agreement to surrender under the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration. Plans were then drawn for the part that the Corps was to play in the movement to Japan and the subsequent Occupation.

During the struggle in the Pacific, the Corps had participated in actions that stopped the Japanese juggernaut, pushed it back, and accomplished its complete defeat. At various times during the two and a half years in which it was in action, the following divisions were attached or assigned to it: the 6th, 24th, 25th, 30th, 32d, 33d, 37th, 41st, 43d, 77th, 98th, 2d Marine, 7th Australian, and elements of the 11th Airborne. The Corps was awarded battle honors for its participation in three major campaigns.

(continued on page 3)

*During the Occupation of Japan, the I Corps Headquarters published a series of historical reports. In addition to preserving valuable historical information, they featured wonderful illustrated covers. This one depicts I Corps' wartime progress towards Japan..*



As Director Myles Grant states in his notes, The Center for Military History (CMH) plans to upgrade the Museum galleries to make them "world class." Planning is in the very early stages and much coordination among CMH, JBLM and Museum staff will be occurring before the final details of the improvements are firm. CMH representatives were at JBLM in early August both to brief their intent and to receive input from key stakeholders, including *The Friends*. Representatives of *The Friends* (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and MG Thomas Cole (Ret) who met with CMH were very specific on one point: Whatever plan is chosen for accomplishing the Museum upgrade, work must occur without closing the Museum.

The two articles in this issue of *The Banner* touch on specific aspects of World Wars I and II, two major events in the world's and our nation's history. Both were global conflicts that resulted in a world much changed from the pre-war situation.

It is interesting to note that Camp Lewis was established in 1917 at about the same time that the United States entered World War I, which had been ongoing since June 1914. Camp Lewis, later Fort Lewis, and now the Army part of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), has been an enduring and significant United States military installation for almost 100 years. JBLM staff have begun planning for celebrating the centennial of the installation in 2017. The Museum staff will be assisting and supporting the JBLM staff as needed.

The unconditional surrender of Japan was announced by President Harry S. Truman on August 14, 1945 and was formalized aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945. Both dates have been used to mark "V-J Day" or "Victory over Japan Day." I Corps, which had been involved in the war in the Pacific, found itself with a new mission: Occupation duty in Japan. The article by the late Joe Huddleston provides an interesting glimpse into that aspect of I Corp's history. Today, the focus of I Corps remains the Pacific region.

Our brunch speaker for our upcoming meeting is a member of *The Friends* and resident of Patriot's Landing. Donnie Weeks lived in Japan during the occupation that followed Japan's surrender. The program will focus on her experiences in Japan and will also recognize current residents who participated in the Pacific Theater of Operations.. We hope to see you at Patriot's Landing on October 5, 2014 for this interesting personal look at history!

Ian Larson

Summer is here and things are in full swing at the museum. Business has been brisk with up to 300 visitors per day. In addition to a uptick in visitors, the museum has been addressing many historical queries and requests to donate items or provide other historical support outside of the museum.

The museum, as the historical arm of the Joint Base, has launched the beginnings of the Camp Lewis Centennial Campaign with the development of historical interpretive panels which have been distributed in key locations throughout the base. The initial two panels are integrated into this issue of "The Banner." The long range plan is to create a set of interpretive panels each quarter which detail the intertwining of international, national and local events shaping the environment which drove the need for and the establishment of Camp Lewis. In addition to the panels, videos will be developed and released in serial fashion to help educate and generate interest in the base will partner with the local communities on events and activities which support the Centennial.

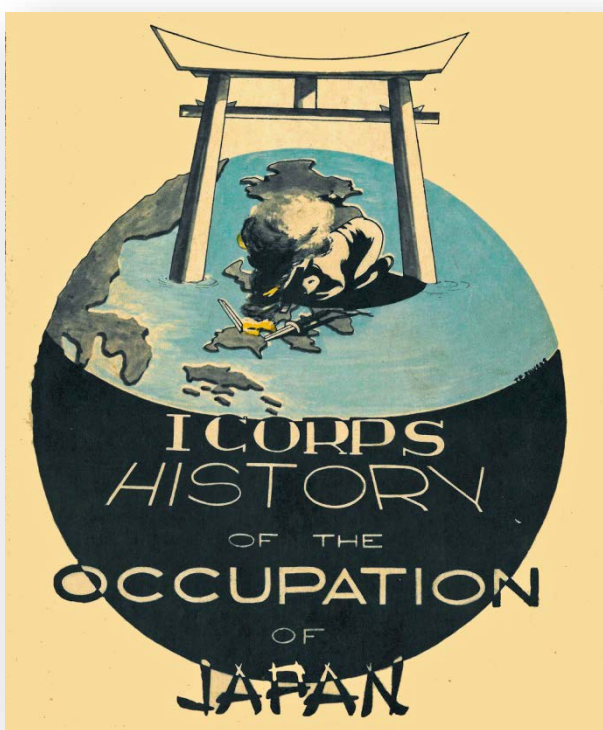
Another recent high profile event the museum supported was a workshop for the mayors and city managers of the surrounding communities hosted by the Joint Base. The workshops were held in the museum conference area. The museum director gave a presentation about the museum and its context to the base's history and community leaders participated in a historical scavenger hunt team building exercise. The event was a great success.

Lastly, the museum hosted another team from the Center of Military History who came to meet with museum stake holders in advance of the CMH led initiative to redo our museum's galleries for several million dollars. The team walked away with a unified message from the Friends and commanders that the renovation should be phased so that the museum could remain open and that there should be some flexibility in the design so that updates and changes can be made with relative ease. The project will take place at a highly accelerated rate, with, for example, all artifacts and image selections and storyline development – normally a years long process – to be completed in a 30 day period. At the conclusion of the renovation, the museum will have modern look and new displays. As a result of this museum renovation, the number of artifacts we display will be significantly reduced to reflect only those artifacts deemed most important to the storylines of the museum. Until this work is complete, the museum staff must refrain from accepting any artifacts.

Myles S. Grant



On 19 September 1945, the I Corps Headquarters, with the assigned 33d Infantry Division, sailed from Lingayen Gulf for Japan, landing on the Island of Honshu three weeks after the formal surrender, on 25 September. Other units of the Corps followed and were assigned various areas of responsibility. There followed a period during which the terms of the surrender were supervised and enforced; Japanese military installations and material were seized, troops were disarmed and discharged, and the means of warfare disposed of. The manifold duties of the Occupation included conversion of industry; repatriation of Foreign Nationals; and supervision of the complex features of all phases of Japanese government, economics, education, and industry. From 15 November 1945 until 1 February 1948 the Corps was commanded by Major General Roscoe B. Woodruff. As the purely Occupational mission was accomplished, troops of the Corps turned more to military training and field exercises designed to prepare them for combat.



*The two I Corps historical graphics reflect the deep respect for the Japanese culture, which helped members of the Corps effectively help rebuild Japan after the Second World War.*

At this time the Corps was comprised of the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions which were deployed on Kyushu and mid-Honshu respectively. Lieutenant General (then Major General) Joseph M. Swing assumed command of the Corps in February 1948, to be succeeded by Lieutenant General (then Major General) John B. Coulter in February of the following year. On March 28, 1950, the Corps was formally inactivated in Japan.

Ironically, after almost a decade of service in the Pacific Theater of Operations and the Occupation of Japan, I Corps' period of inactivity was to be very short.

At 0400 hours, on 25 June 1950, North Korean Communist Forces crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel and invaded South Korea. In response to this aggression, I Corps was reactivated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 2 August 1950. Before the month was over, I Corps had begun to assume duties in the Pusan Perimeter in the Southeast tip of the Korean Peninsula. The Corps was back in Asia and was destined to play a vital role in protecting the freedom of South Korea. The Corps remained in Korea until 1971.



# The Long, Winding, Road To A World War

The causes of the First World War, which began in Europe in August 1914, are long and complex, having their root causes imbedded deep in the ethnicity, culture and history of Europe, and alliances throughout the world. Up through the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Europe remained largely tribal with people living in small communities and retaining their local traditions, customs and dress. However, as Europe entered the "industrial age," many people moved to larger cities leading to a shift in values and a greater sense of "Nationalism."

The rise of nationalism in Europe, along with it's accompanying militarism, caused increased tension as each nation sought to exert it's dominance. The growing Imperialism of the European powers to gain territory in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, in order to take control of raw materials, ensured that any conflict between the major powers would involve most of the world.

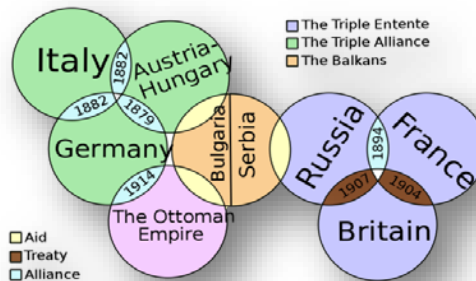
Certainly, the most immediate cause leading to global war was the alliances between various European powers. These "mutual defense" alliances would ultimately draw each of the powers into war based on their alliances.

The spark that would ignite the war would occur in the Balkans where Serbians, with a sense of increased nationalism, wanted independence from Austria-Hungary. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife by a Serbian radical would provide Austria the excuse it needed to impose impossible demands on Serbia.



*A period cartoon depicts the absurd European alliances that led to the beginning of World War I*

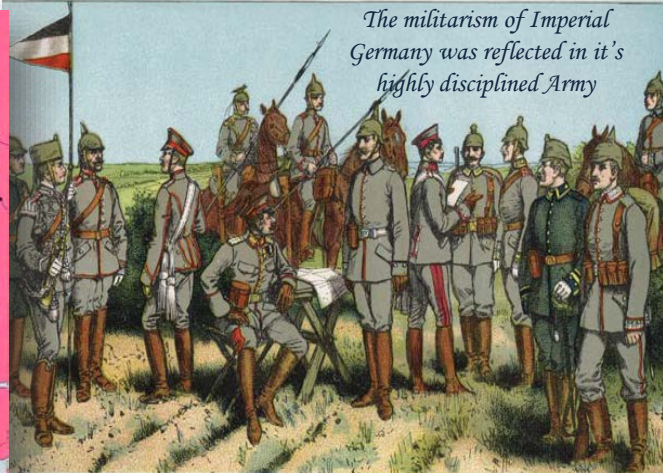
At the start of the Great War, in 1914, Germany was a relatively young power, only coming into existence following a series of wars in 1871. Germany's Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, had shepherded the country into the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the adage that Germany must always be in a majority of three in any dispute among the five great European powers. His aim was to maintain peaceful ties with Russia.



When Kaiser Wilhelm II came to power, he quickly retired Bismarck, and upset the Chancellor's delicate balance of power by refusing to renew Germany's friendship with Russia. Germany soon found itself in a minority of two. Its only European ally was the weakest of the European powers, Austria-Hungary.



*Map of Pre-War Europe, 1871 - 1914*



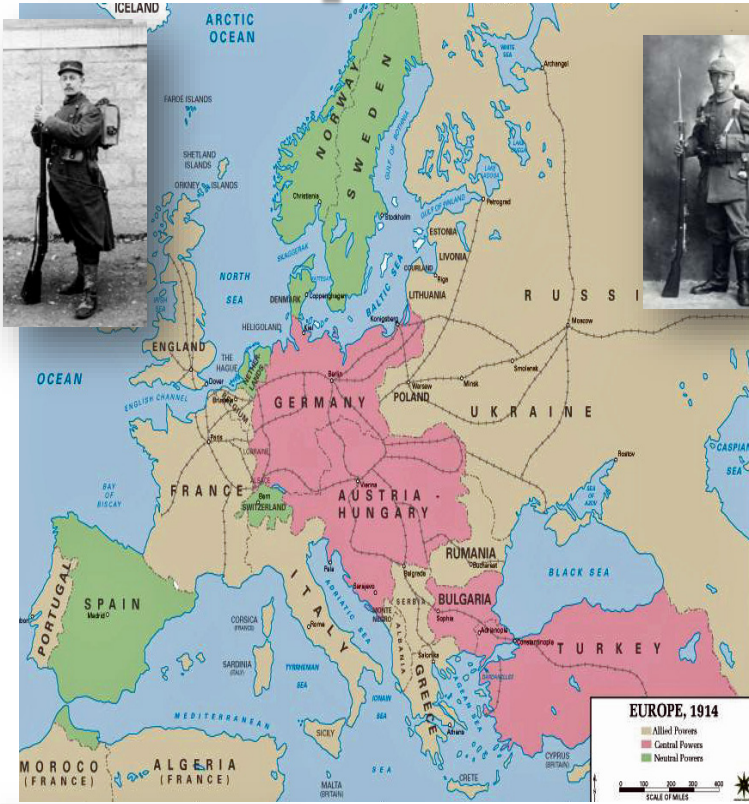
Although the United States officially declared it's neutrality in 1914, the strong ties to Great Britain and France, along with Germany's aggressive and unyielding stance on unrestricted submarine warfare was to ultimately bring the United States into the Great War on the side of the Allies.





# 1914 - Europe Goes To War

# The Opening Guns



At the outbreak of war, the German High Command activated the Schlieffen Plan, which called for a major offensive to capture Paris in precisely 42 days.

The German army would avoid France's fortifications by sweeping west through neutral Belgium and then turning in a huge arc south into France. The French army would be destroyed defending Paris. If the plan worked, France would be forced to surrender and Germany could shift its forces to the eastern front and defeat the Russians before they were fully prepared to fight. According to the German generals the War would be over by Christmas 1914.

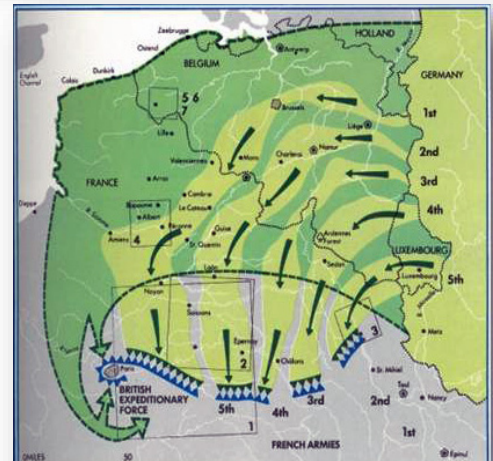
As the German army advanced through Belgium, the French believed that this was a diversion, and sent most of the French army northeast to attack Germany through the lost provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. The French would lose 27,000 men in a single day, proving that the machine gun and the long-range rifle were devastating defensive weapons against traditional tactics.

By the end of August, the Schlieffen Plan began to unravel. The German army, having advanced rapidly through Belgium and deeply into France, was exhausted and far ahead of its supply lines. As the German right flank drove towards Paris, it separated from the rest of the invasion force. Seeing their vulnerability, the Germans halted twenty-five miles short of Paris. Now it was France's chance to attack. French General Joffre ordered a desperate stand along the Marne River.

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne) on June 28, 1914, was the spark that set off the world's first global conflict. On July 28, Austria declared war on Serbia. As a traditional ally of Serbia, Russia soon announced mobilization against Austria. In response, Germany declared war on Russia. Germany also declared war on France and neutral Belgium and on August 4, 1914 launched an invasion through Belgium into France. As a result of the invasion, Great Britain declares war on Germany. In a flash, the whole continent of Europe was mobilized and at war.

## Key Dates- June - August 1914

June 28- Archduke Ferdinand and his wife assassinated.  
 July 28- Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.  
 July 31- Russia mobilizes its forces against Austria.  
 August 1- Germany declares war on Russia.  
 August 3- Germany declares war on France.  
 August 4- Germany declares war on Belgium and launches invasion.  
 August 7- The British Expeditionary Force arrives in France. "The Battle of the Frontiers" begins and lasts until September.





## Editorial Notes

This issue of the Banner has two major themes: I Corps' role in the Occupation of Japan, following World War II, and the beginning of World War I in the Summer of 1914.

The article on I Corps in the Occupation of Japan is based on the work of the late Joe D. Huddleston, who served as I Corps Historian from 1982 to 1997. Sadly, Joe passed away in 2001. However, his research and publications continue to be utilized by current historians.

The posters dealing with the beginning of World War I, presented in this issue, were originally prepared for placement around Joint Base Lewis-McChord in order to help educate our military and civilian personnel on the importance of how World War I influences today's world situation.

They have been adapted to a format suitable for publication in the Banner. Over the next few years, other posters, detailing various aspects of World War I, are planned to appear in this publication.

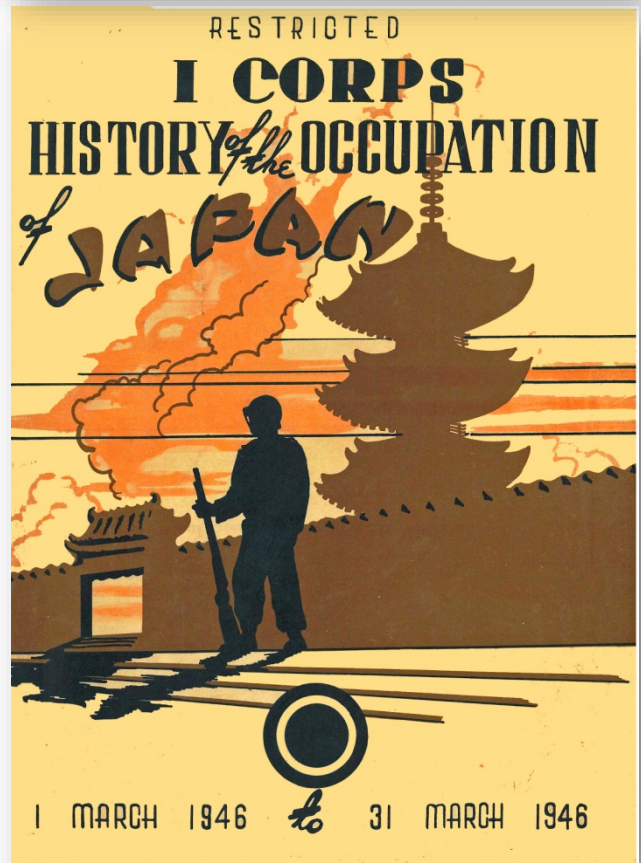
Even today, the legacy of World War I is felt throughout the world. The fall of empires, the end of several monarchies, and the creation of new boundaries in the Middle East, have an important impact on our world today.

The history of the Puget Sound region was changed dramatically when Camp Lewis was established in 1917. Although local businessmen, politicians, and patriotic citizens had lobbied for a military post for over a decade, America's entry into World War I made the installation a reality.

The mission of the Banner is to help the museum promote an interest and appreciation for our priceless military heritage. Towards this end, I hope all our Museum Friends continue to support the museum and its activities. Of course, if anyone has an article to consider or a recommendation for an article, please contact the editor through the museum director.



*U.S. Army Recruiting Poster from World War I*



# FRIENDS OF THE FORT LEWIS MILITARY MUSEUM

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

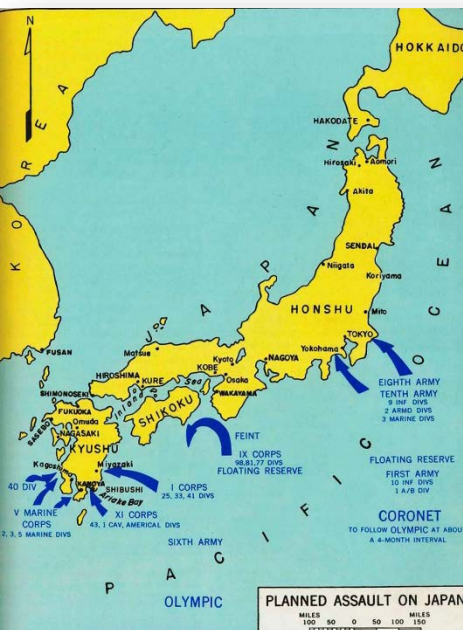
### 5 OCTOBER 2014

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

Time: 1130-1215 Social Hour

1215-1330 Brunch

1330-1415 Program



Our Autumn program will feature a commemoration of the end of the War in the Pacific Theater, the Occupation of Japan and that nation's influence on the world today. Friends Member Donnie Weeks, will present

### **“The Occupation Through the Eyes of a Young Woman,”**

Based on her experiences in Japan. Other members will be recognized for their service in the Pacific.

Please join us for this memorable program!



*Sketch of Donnie Weeks drawn by a Fort Lewis Soldier, T-5 Jon Neilson in 1945*

Please return your reservation form and check by Thursday, 2 October 2014.

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

Return this form to LTC (Ret) Donald A Simpson, 6615 79th Street W  
Lakewood, WA 98499. Make checks payable to “The Friends.”  
Cost of Brunch for members and guests: \$16.00 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  
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Shop.

<http://www.fortlewismuseum.com>



**ANNUAL DUES**

*Individual.....\$10*  
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**Please Continue to be a Friend  
of the Lewis Army Museum  
and Keep History Alive!**



*"The Old Buddy"*

*World War I era print of a Doughboy and Friend*

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Military Museum  
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JBLM, WA 98433-1001**