

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Bryan Schrepel 913-758-6165

E-mail: SchrepelB@stmary.edu



USM Library's WWI Film Series Set To Premiere Second Film

"The World War I Years" Film Two: "Over There" Premieres 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, 2005

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— It was a difficult time for American soldiers. They arrived in Europe at a pivotal time during the "Great War"—under-trained, out-gunned and outmanned. Survival was set at a definite premium.

These are just a few of the many pervasive themes in the University of Saint Mary De Paul Library's second film in its six-part film series, *"The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power."* The second film, *"Over There,"* is set to premiere at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13 at the University of Saint Mary Mabee Auditorium. The University of Saint Mary Mabee Auditorium is the only place in Kansas where all six films can be seen.

Mabee Auditorium is located on the lower level of De Paul Library, University of Saint Mary, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan. All six films will be for free and are open to the public, but seating is limited. Call 913-758-6306 for reservations.

The entire six-part series examines the American experience in the "War to End all Wars." The events of World War I transformed America into a world power and continue to influence the most important aspects of American life today, nine decades later. The series was created by the National Video Resources (NVR) in partnership with the American Library Association and the National Endowment for Humanities. Each film runs approximately 90 minutes.

The second film, *"Over There,"* presents an account of America's military involvement in France during the final two years of World War I. The millions of American troops sent to Europe were mostly new recruits with little training or experience in modern trench warfare. They arrive at a crucial time; the British and French are exhausted after suffering incomprehensible losses, the Italian army has collapsed, and Russia has just made a separate peace with Germany, freeing German troops to focus on the Western Front. As the first Americans hit French soil, the Allied forces are on the verge of being outmanned and outgunned.

The entire series will air in six installments throughout the year. There are five installments remaining. Show dates are as follows:

- Oct. 13** **Film 2: *Over There***
The United States quickly mobilized an army and sent millions of fresh troops to France at the war's darkest hour, helping to ensure an Allied victory.
- Nov. 17** **Film 3: *Modern War***
WWI marked the industrialization of 20th century warfare, introducing brutal new weapons like the tank, machine gun, grenade and poison gas, and with them, new war-related traumas.

- Feb. 16** **Film 4:** *The American People in Wartime*
Wartime needs triggered an economic boom and large-scale worker migrations from rural areas to industrial centers, as well as creating fertile ground for the passage of a new constitutional amendment granting American women voting rights.
- March 23** **Film 5:** *Peacemaking*
President Wilson joined allied leaders at the Paris Peace Conference confident he could help establish a global peace that would help prevent future wars.
- April 20** **Film 6:** *After the War: The Turbulent Years*
The war's end ushered in an unstable period in the U.S. marked by economic problems, racial strife, and a bitter fight between President Wilson and Congress over America's future place on the world stage.

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