



1331 ALGOMA BOULEVARD ■ OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN 54901 ■ 920-236-5799 ■ FAX 920-424-4738 ■ www.oshkoshmuseum.org

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Oshkosh Public Museum Book Honors Local Veterans and Troops

This Memorial Day the Oshkosh Public Museum helps recall the price of freedom in its book *Voices of History, 1941-1945*. The book, available in the museum store, explores the impact of World War II on Northeastern Wisconsin.

Oshkosh, WI – May 15, 2008 – This Memorial Day, as Americans take time to remember the men and women who have sacrificed for our nation, the Oshkosh Public Museum helps recall the price of freedom in its book *Voices of History, 1941-1945*. The book, a celebration of local patriotism, honors and reflects upon the lives and valor of local U.S. veterans. Based on materials from the museum's collection, *Voices of History* documents the wartime experiences of Oshkosh men and women who served and supported our country during World War II. The award-winning book, written by museum director Bradley Larson, is available in the Oshkosh Public Museum Store; school officials are encouraged to inquire in the museum store about the availability of the book free to area schools.

A thorough documentary of Oshkosh life during World War II, *Voices of History* calls upon the recollections of area WWII veterans and civilians to paint a vivid picture of life on both the battle field and the homefront from 1941-1945. Based on oral histories, letters, diaries and other primary materials from the museum's collection, the book draws upon first-hand accounts of Oshkosh locals to relive the impact of the war on the region.

Included in *Voices of History* are the stories of George Dempsey, a captain in the Army who was discharged from an Italian hospital on his own request to return to fight with his men; Dorothea L. Koehn, a Red Cross nurse from Oshkosh, who was never seen again after a German submarine torpedoed the merchant ship she was traveling on in the North Atlantic; and Edgar Lenz, a soldier who fought on New Guinea with the famous National Guard 32nd Division. These and other stories explore life in Oshkosh before the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the theaters of War that Oshkosh was involved in and the return to civilian life after the war ended.

In 1942, Edward Dempsey of Oshkosh wrote to his son George, an Army captain, "Periodically, everything in the whole world that is worthwhile depends upon the fighting spirit of our combat forces." ...a line that sums up the strength and courage of WWII Oshkosh.

Voices of History was given a Certificate of Commendation in 2005 from the American Association for State and Local History. Oral histories collected for the book are part of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. The Oshkosh Public Museum has participated in



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the Project since its inception by the Library of Congress in 2000. The museum continues to collect oral histories from veterans of all U.S. wars.

The Oshkosh Public Museum was founded in 1924 and is accredited by the American Association of Museums. The museum houses artifacts, photographs, film and archival materials that represent the material culture, ideas and values of Oshkosh and the Lake Winnebago Region. It is dedicated to bringing history and heritage to life through creative, quality exhibitions, programs, publications and other educational experiences. The museum is a center for the preservation of local culture and encourages citizens to discover their community and its heritage.

The Oshkosh Public Museum is located at 1331 Algoma Boulevard. The museum is open Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm and Sunday, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children (6-17) and free for members.

For more information on the Oshkosh Public Museum, call (920) 236-5799 or visit www.oshkoshmuseum.org.

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