

Perspectives in Military History Round Table

Never in Finer Company

The Men of the Great War's Lost Battalion

Dr. Edward G. Lengel

2018 Revolutionary in Residence for Colonial Williamsburg

In the final push to end World War I American infantrymen of the 77th Division advanced against the vaunted German defenses in the Argonne Forest. Nine companies of the 77th Division found themselves encircled behind enemy lines on October 2nd, 1918 and were thereafter known as the "Lost Battalion." Left in command of the cut-off force, Major Charles Whittlesey and his executive officer, Captain George McMurty, fought for five days to hold out and escape. The struggle of the Lost Battalion was not in vain, as heroic actions by the American Expeditionary Force, including the actions of Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Alvin York, saved these lost men. As the fighting raged, their plight was conveyed to the American people by the later famous newspaper man, Damon Runyon. On Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 2:00 PM, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania will host Dr. Edward G. Lengel, to present a lecture based on his upcoming book, *Never in Finer Company: The Men of the Great War's Lost Battalion*. Dr. Lengel will be accompanied by Dr. Douglas Mastriano, author of the book, *Thunder in the Argonne, A New History of America's Greatest Battle*, and historian and educator Mr. John Heckman, owner of "The Tattooed Historian," a history-focused media company.

The U.S. began its effort to join the World War One in 1917, rapidly collecting men in a patriotic frenzy to fight the German Empire. The volunteers and draftees were quickly formed into units that went through hurried stateside training, shipped off to Europe, and encountered life on the front just after their arrival in war-torn France. Dr. Lengel will discuss the differing experiences of the enlisted men, officers, and civilian reporters through the experiences of the four men made famous in association with the Lost Battalion affair in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Dr. Edward G. Lengel is the 2018 Revolutionary in Residence for Colonial Williamsburg and former Chief Historian of the White House Historical Association. He earned his B.A. in history from George Mason University, his M.A. in history and Ph.D. in modern European History from the University of Virginia. He recently won the Outstanding Book Award from the Army Historical Foundation and the Master Corporal Jan Stanislaw Jakobczak Memorial Book Award from the U.S. Military History Group for his 2015 book, *Thunder and Flames*. He is also well known for his work as assistant professor and associate editor, and later as the professor and senior editor for the Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia.

DATE: Saturday, December 8, 2018

TIME: Doors open at 10:00 AM and the talk begins at 2:00 PM

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multipurpose Room

For updates and any last-minute changes in "Perspectives" meeting times and places,

Please check: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk: 717-245-3972.