



The Urbana School District's American History Teachers' Collaborative presents:

Wartime Innovation

A Focus Workshop



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Session and Exhibit Descriptions

December 5, 2009

The American History Teachers' Collaborative is funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the Teaching American History Grant Program and coordinated by Urbana School District #116.

Sessions

World War II Veteran, Phil Dziuk

When Phil Dziuk was an 18-year-old farm boy, he qualified for an eleven-month-long Navy electronic technician training program, in June 1944. His education in Minnesota's School of Agriculture was a far cry from repair, maintenance, and servicing radar, sonar, receivers, transmitters, and other electronic gear. He served on the USS Ajax, a repair ship that went to Hawaii, the atom bomb test site in Bikini, and later served at the transmitter station in Lualualei, Hawaii.

World War II Veteran, Jesse Dowell

Jesse Dowell volunteered to join the U.S. Navy Air Corps, serving from August 1944 to August 1947. He completed bombing practice with a new secret radar bombsite, which could bomb for the first time at night, in total darkness.

World War II Veteran, Jill Knappenberger

Jill Knappenberger was one of three women serving on the front lines during the Battle of the Bulge. She joined the Red Cross to get into the action of World War II. She worked for them operating a refitted truck dubbed a "clubmobile," passing out donuts, coffee, and cigarettes to weary soldiers. She was trapped for eight days during the Battle of the Bulge, surrounded by the enemy.

Agent Orange: A Wartime Weapon or a Vietnam Veteran's Worst Enemy? Natalee Steffen, Urbana Middle School Instructional Differentiation Coach

In this series of lessons, teachers and students will examine the history of the United States' use of Agent Orange in Southeast Asia during the time of the Vietnam conflict. The lesson includes and analysis of primary documents relating to the health effects caused by exposure to Agent Orange as well as documents dealing with protests against the maker of the chemical.

From Bullets to Blood: Military Technology and its Impact on Civilian Life Karen Klebbe, Centennial High School Social Studies Teacher

In this unit, students use local and national primary sources to examine the ways in which military technology inventions and discoveries have changed civilian life.




Dropping of the Atomic Bombs in World War II

Jesse Guzman, Edison Middle School Social Studies Teacher

This lesson has two main objectives. First, students will learn how the United States ended the war with Japan. Second, students will decide for themselves whether the dropping of the atomic bombs was necessary to end the war with Japan. They will use a variety of sources to discover what an atomic bomb is, and what their opinions are of the decision to drop the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Armed Conflict and the American Red Cross: Tools for Today's Students

Harley Jones, Director of Emergency Services for the American Red Cross

This presentation will focus on the history of the American Red Cross during wartime, as well as on tools for teachers, including a 125th Anniversary Guide for teachers, and the Exploring Humanitarian Law Program.

More Than Just Airplanes

Jim Eldridge, Chanute Air Museum

This presentation will focus on aviation-related resources the Chanute Air Museum can provide to teachers. Mr. Edlridge will speak about the items that the Museum has for classroom use, including their vast collection of pictures and archival materials. Lastly, he will speak on Chanute's summer programs for students, such as the Summer Aviation Camp.





