



NEWS FROM ASCA

An ongoing series of reports, articles, and news items about the Arlington Sister City Association's programs and activities, plus news from its Sister Cities

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How Pershing's Warriors Defeated the German Army in World War I

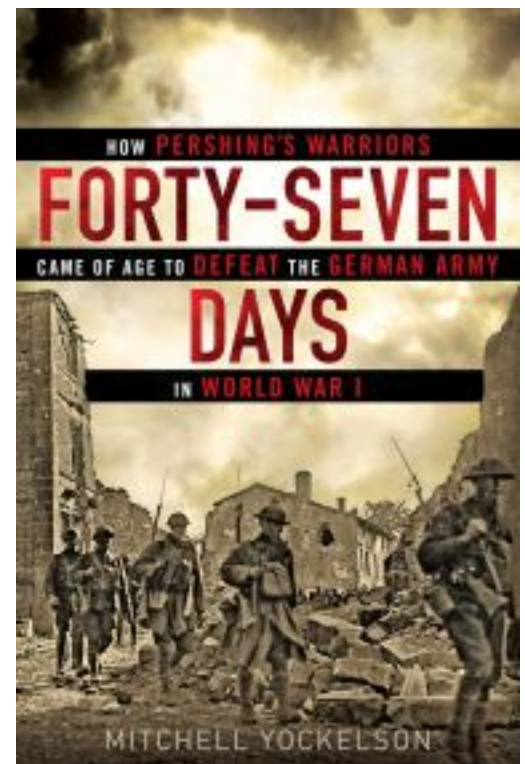
by Carl Lankowski

On the afternoon of June 10, 40 Arlington neighbors gathered in the Central Library on Quincy Street to hear Dr. Mitchell Yockelson deliver a slide-supported talk about General John "Black Jack" Pershing and the success of the American Expeditionary Force in turning the tide of war in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Dr. Yockelson is an investigative archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration, historical adviser to the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, and professor of military history at Norwich University. His talk was based on his latest book, *Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army in World War I* (NAL/Caliber, 2016).

Having entered the war in April 1917, the United States took more than a year to mobilize and marshal the two million troops that weighed decisively in the balance. Pershing insisted on concentrating American forces under American command, and the AEF First Army prevailed in closing the St. Mihiel salient in the days beginning September 12, 1918. On the 26th of that month, the Meuse-Argonne offensive was launched, forcing Germany to agree to an armistice that ended World War I on the 11th of November.

Mitchell Yockelson's well-received presentation was the third in an ongoing WWI centenary series organized and sponsored by the Reims and Aachen committees of ASCA.





Dr. Mitchell Yockelson

The first event commemorated the war-defining battle of Verdun (February-October 1916). It featured a presentation by Paul Jankowski, professor of history at Brandeis University and author of the definitive account of that battle.

To commemorate America's entry into the war, Anne-Marie Daris, president of ASCA's Reims Committee, and I also organized a presentation by Robert J. Dalessandro, chairman of the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, and Edwin Fountain of the American Battle Monuments Commission. This April 22 event addressed the reasons for and consequences of the U.S. engagement.

In the coming months, the Aachen and Reims Committees expect to cosponsor discussions of the 1918 armistice and the 1919 Paris peace conference. Stay tuned!

Carl Lankowski is president of ASCA's Aachen Committee and editor of the ASCA Oral History Project.

The Arlington Sister City Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit organization established in 1993. ASCA works to enhance and promote Arlington's international profile and foster productive exchanges in education, commerce, culture, and the arts.

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