

Perspectives in Military History

47th Annual Lecture Series

Doughboys in the Great War: How American Soldiers Viewed Their Military Experience

Dr. Edward Gutiérrez

Author and University of Hartford Professor

What was it like to kill German soldiers, or to watch a comrade succumb to a violent death at the hands of a hated enemy? Or to return home after facing such violence? Telling the stories as only a doughboy could, American Soldiers answered these and similar questions upon returning home from the Great War in 1918. Thousands of Soldiers completed questionnaires detailing their experiences, duties, interactions, and frustrations about their time spent in Europe while it was still fresh in their minds. Dr. Edward Gutiérrez, in a lecture based on his recent book, *Doughboys in the Great War*, will examine the shell-shocked stories and use the doughboys' own voices to paint a picture of their experiences, from volunteering or being drafted to their involvements in dangerous battles. Gutiérrez discovered, from the Soldiers' own opinions and views, a distinct contradiction between the accepted popular history of Soldier-level warfighting and the truth from stories of the men in the trench. By using their reflections, Gutiérrez learned these Soldiers were not disillusioned by the mud and slog of trenches and shell holes; instead, he argues the war-hardened doughboys were proud of their service, duty, honor, and country.

Dr. Edward Gutiérrez received his PhD in history from The Ohio State University and is an adjunct professor at the University of Hartford. He recently received the University of Hartford's Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award, which recognizes the outstanding contribution to teaching and learning by part-time faculty. Gutiérrez' scholarship has earned him other recognitions, including the "War and Trauma, Memory and Memorialization" Fellowship from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in France, and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship for the publication of "Sherman was Right: The Experience of AEF Soldiers in the Great War."

DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 2015

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the talk begins at 7:15 p.m.

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multi-Purpose Room

For updates and any last-minute changes in lecture times and locations, please check the USAHEC homepage: www.USAHEC.org or call the information desk at (717) 245-3972.