



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas Museum of History Features Prisoner of War Story

TOPEKA, KS—Kansas soldiers, like others across the nation, made incredible sacrifices to ensure our nation's freedom: 80,000 Kansans served in World War I; 227,000 served in World War II. The Kansas Museum of History's upcoming special exhibit, *Captured: the Extraordinary Adventures of Colonel Hughes*, highlights one man's experience in both wars. The exhibit opens May 28, 2016, at the Kansas Museum of History. More information about the opening event on Saturday, May 28, will be coming.

"As the world marks the centennial of World War I, the Kansas Museum of History pays tribute to the contributions of all Kansas soldiers, past and present," said Jennie Chinn, executive director, Kansas Historical Society. "We each experience history in a personal way. This story is told through one Kansas soldier, James Clark Hughes."

"In essence, he captured his life in print, photographs, and objects. Hughes was an amateur photographer and shot incredible photographs during World War I," said Mary Madden, director, Kansas Museum of History. "In October 1941 he was sent to the Philippines in anticipation of a Japanese invasion and was captured at Bataan. He kept a diary of his 41 months as a prisoner of war. Colonel Hughes and his family donated personal items from both wars to the Museum."

Hughes' story is both common and exceptional. Born in Topeka in 1888, he began his service as a member of the Kansas National Guard and was sent to the Texas border with the American Expeditionary Forces in 1916. As a member of the U.S. Army he served from 1917 to 1948. *Captured* is truly an exhibit of an unparalleled collection from one soldier who witnessed both world wars. The exhibit features historic films, a recreated POW bunkbed, and hands-on activities, and includes these items from this extraordinary collection:

- Uniform he wore as a member of the 130th Field Artillery in the Kansas National Guard

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- Photographs of France, Germany, and Belgium he took in 1918 and 1919 as part of the 35th Division
- Photographs taken by a great granddaughter-in-law in 2000 of many of the same locations to compare then and now.
- Heavily patched pants he wore in four Japanese POW camps
- Red Cross items he brought home after 41 months as a POW
- Entries from his daily POW diary.

The Museum is located at 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka. For more information, visit kshs.org/museum.

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