

THE AMERICAN

A Photographic Tribute

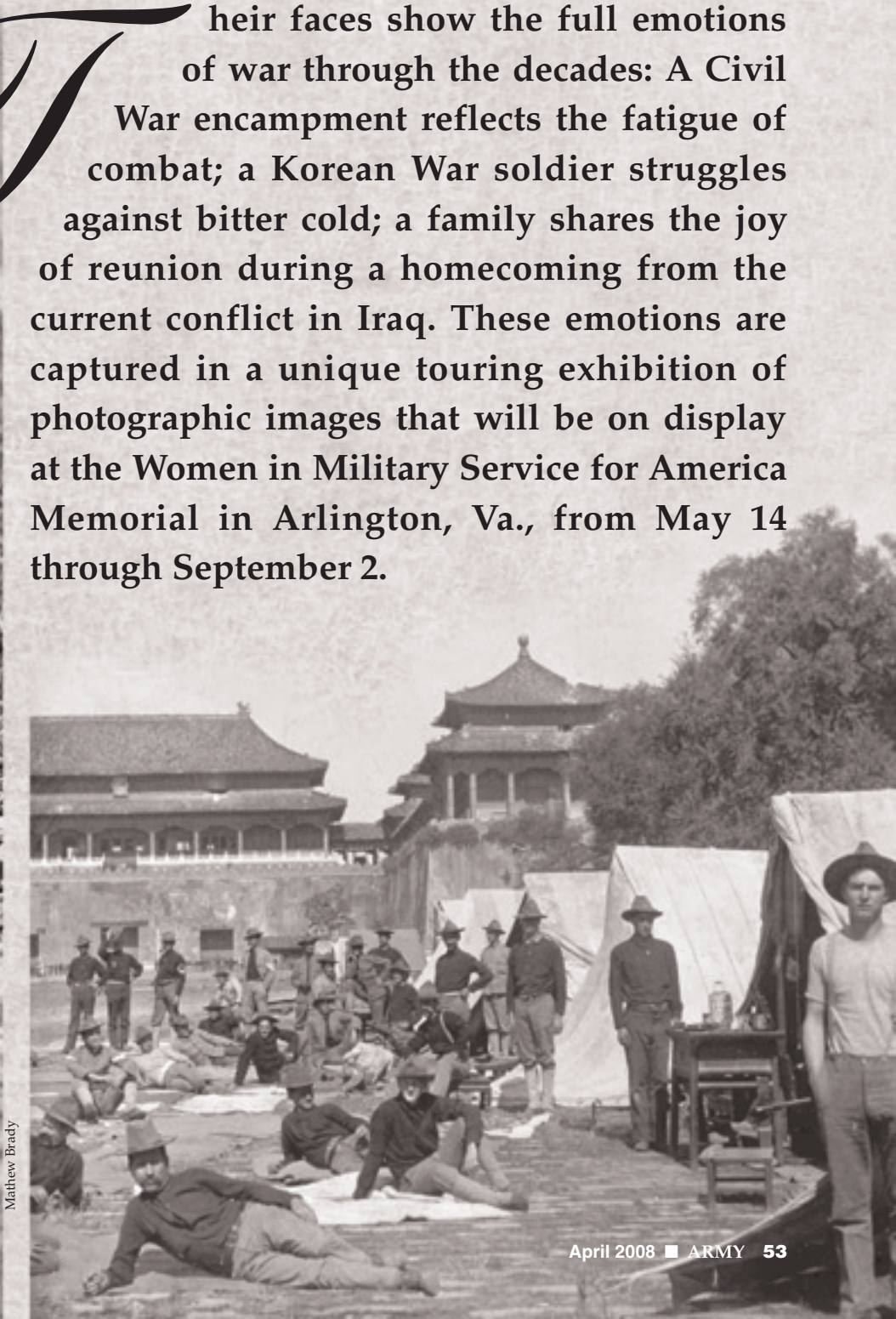
Below, a Southern battery takes up its position during a drill near Ringgold, Georgia. Opposite page, soldiers of the 9th Infantry take a break at their campsite in a courtyard at the Forbidden City in China.



SOLDIER:

to Soldiers and Marines

Their faces show the full emotions of war through the decades: A Civil War encampment reflects the fatigue of combat; a Korean War soldier struggles against bitter cold; a family shares the joy of reunion during a homecoming from the current conflict in Iraq. These emotions are captured in a unique touring exhibition of photographic images that will be on display at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va., from May 14 through September 2.



Mathew Brady



U.S. Army Signal Corps

Above, a gun crew fires a 37 mm gun during an advance against entrenched Germans in the Argonne Forest in France, 1918. Right, A New York National Guardsman says good-bye to his sweetheart as his regiment leaves for Camp Wadsworth in South Carolina, c. 1917.

The exhibit, entitled “The American Soldier—A Photographic Tribute to Soldiers and Marines from the Civil War to the War in Iraq,” consists of 116 images from early use of photographic apparatus to today’s digital cameras and features American ground soldiers and marines in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, the Boxer Rebellion, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The idea for this unique public collection dates to 1995, when curator Cyma Rubin was inspired by a photograph of a World War II GI that appeared on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine*. In 2004, Rubin and her staff at New York-based Business of Entertainment began gathering the photographs that make up the exhibition. They examined more than 4,000 images that chronicled nearly 150 years of American military history. The decision was made to focus on the lives of American soldiers and marines through the wars that America has fought since 1861.

“Our exhibition underscores just how much our soldiers and marines have given us through their service for our country,” Rubin explained. “When a photographer opens the shutter on a camera, that moment in time is captured forever—and in this collection of images there’s something



U.S. War Department



U.S. Army

After his first night of combat during the Battle of the Bulge, Cpl. Frank Johnson of Brooklyn was sent to a depot to get blankets and ammo for his unit, December 1944.

new to see each time you look at the photographs.”

Since beginning its U.S. tour last year, the exhibition has been a resounding success. Its first venue in Hot Springs, Ark., attracted 132,000 visitors, followed by more than 355,000 visitors at North Carolina State University during each 90-day engagement. At the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum in Shreveport, the exhibit opening was accompanied by a Civil War battle reenactment, complete with cannon firings.

In 2006, while preparations were under way, it was brought to the attention of EADS North America—prime contractor for the Army’s newest helicopter, the UH-72A Lakota. The com-



Stars and Stripes

American servicemen and women celebrate in the streets of Paris on V-J Day, the day Japan surrendered, ending World War II, August 14, 1945.

A grief-stricken American Infantryman whose buddy was killed in action is comforted by another GI as a medic fills out the casualty tags, Haktong-ni, Korea, August 28, 1950.

pany decided to co-sponsor the exhibition and facilitate its appearance at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. EADS also is hosting an exhibition opening and reception that will raise money to benefit the primary support organizations for soldiers, marines and their families, the Army Emergency Relief and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

“We saw this as an excellent opportunity for the business community to assist these critical relief agencies, while also raising the public profile of an exhibition that truly brings home the sacrifice of our soldiers and marines,” said EADS North America Chairman and CEO Ralph D. Crosby Jr.

Crosby, who served as a U.S. Army officer in Vietnam, said it is particularly appropriate that the exhibit’s Washington, D.C.-area appearance will be at the



U.S. Army Signal Corps/Sgt. Al Chang



Paratroopers of the U.S. 2nd Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade, cross a river in the rain during a search for Viet Cong in the jungle area of Ben Cat, South Vietnam, September 25, 1965.

AP/Henri Huet



A Florida Reserve soldier says an emotional good-bye to his family before leaving for the Gulf War zone.

women's memorial. Located at Arlington National Cemetery's ceremonial entrance, this is the only major national memorial honoring women who have served in the nation's defense during all eras and in all services. The memorial was dedicated in 1997 and draws some 200,000 visitors annually.

"The contribution of women in military service is highlighted throughout the exhibit, from its earliest photos to the collection's most recent," Crosby noted. "One of the oldest photographs is of the Union Army Women's Volunteer Unit during the Civil War, while contemporary images highlight the role of women soldiers in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts."

Two of the Civil War photographs illustrate children as young as 12 to 14 years of age serving in both the Union and Confederate camps; another dramatic photo captures the aftermath of battle in Antietam, Md., where a scene of destruction unfolds in front of Dunker Church.

Photos from 1889 to 1902 follow American soldiers to foreign soil. An image from this time frame shows volunteers taking an oath at a Niagara Falls, N.Y., training camp as the modernized U.S. Army prepares for conflicts in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and China. Another has Col. Theodore Roosevelt and his famed Rough Riders standing victorious atop a hill they captured in 1898 during the Battle of San Juan Hill, Cuba.



A Marine patrol walks across the charred oil landscape near a burning well during a perimeter security patrol near Kuwait City, March 7, 1991.

A member of a Marine reconnaissance team, with a night-vision scope mounted on his helmet, returns to Camp Rhino in southern Afghanistan following a mission near Kandahar, December 12, 2001.



AP/Dave Martin

In World War I, cameras were used on the front lines and routinely went airborne for reconnaissance duties. Photo coverage begins with preparations for “the Great War,” including images of drafted recruits trading their civilian clothes for Army uniforms at Camp Travis, in San Antonio, Texas, and includes women marines preparing for a drill on Washington, D.C.’s Ellipse, just south of the White House, in 1919. The magnitude of World War I battles is illustrated by a photo taken in the Argonne Forest, where shattered trees provide an eerie background as a gun crew fires into an advance against entrenched enemy forces.

World War II photos follow American soldiers across the European and Pacific theaters, from infantrymen leaving a Coast Guard landing craft at Normandy on D-Day to Navajo Indian code talkers with the first Marine assault on Saipan.

One particularly moving photograph depicts an exhausted soldier resting on a stack of bedding at the rear during the grueling Battle of the Bulge.

Korean and Vietnam War images provide graphic illustrations of battle, as well as close-up views of the human strain from these conflicts. Action shots include marines scaling ladders as they come ashore during the amphibious invasion at Inchon, Korea, as well as paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade crossing a river in the Ben Cat region of South Vietnam. A haunting image shows a Korean War GI struggling to eat from a frost-coated can of



U.S. troops battle their way across a bridge amid shouted orders and heavy enemy fire in an early fight in Baghdad.

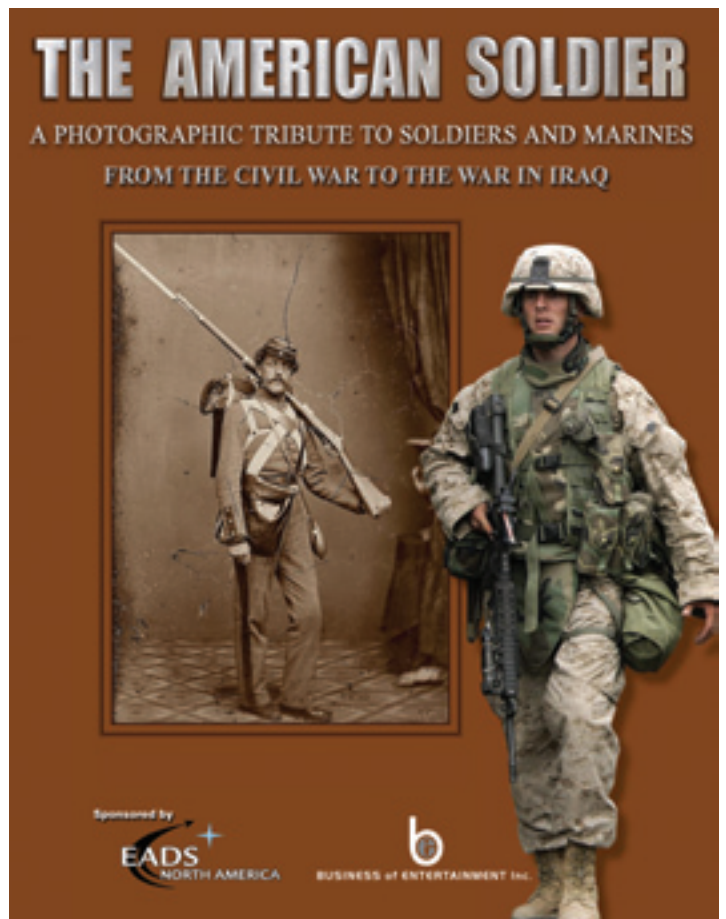
Boston Herald/Kuni Takahashi

beans on a bitter winter day, while one of the Vietnam-era photos shows a weary American soldier seated next to a Vietnamese villager following battle with the Viet Cong some 290 miles from Saigon.

The first Gulf War's extensive build-up to combat and its four-day sweep through Kuwait and Iraq are chronicled in photos that include troops of the 1st Cavalry Division deploying across the Saudi desert in November 1990, and a Marine patrol near a burning oil well on a perimeter security patrol near Kuwait City in March 1991.

Photographs depicting America's role in the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan also are included in the collection. One of these images was taken by Joseph C. White, a veteran who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a senior scout for a long-range surveillance detachment of the 82nd Airborne, White photographed members of Team 3 taking a much needed rest on a Humvee after a surveillance recon mission along the Syrian border. "With the technical progress in imagery, we've reached the point where photography is truly part of a soldier's everyday life," White said.

"When most people see a soldier or marine," said Rubin, "they only see the uniform. But when they see the exhibition photographs, they will see them soldiering." ★



A baby greets his aunt for the first time at the soldier's homecoming in Sacramento, Calif. The sergeant had served 15 months in Iraq.