

**Press Release**

**U.S. Embassy London, National World War I Museum and Memorial and Liverpool ONE**

**Insert Date**

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**First World War ‘Doughboys’ arrive at Liverpool ONE**

*American soldiers, or ‘Doughboys’, and their entry into the First World War in 1917 provide the focus of a major photographic exhibition at Liverpool ONE.*

*Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: The Doughboys 1917-1918* is the latest in an acclaimed series of centenary photographic exhibitions, created by Michael St Maur Sheil, to document the battlefields of the First World War as they are today.

Liverpool is the second stop on a six city tour of the exhibition, which is supported by the U.S. Embassy in London.

The free exhibition will be located on Thomas Steers Way opposite the Hilton Hotel between May 18 and June 25. It has been commissioned by the National World War I Museum and Memorial in the U.S. and is supported by U.S. Embassy in London. Fifteen display stands will present St Maur Sheil’s evocative images in a similar format to his highly successful ‘Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: Somme 1916’ exhibition last year.

More than two million American soldiers, or *Doughboys* as they were known, served in Europe during the war. This exhibition introduces the viewer to the battlefields which, 100 years ago, were places of death and horror, now revealed by the photographer as landscapes of great beauty and tranquility. The exhibition was in London from April 6-May 12.

Lewis Lukens, Acting U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom said:

*“Liverpool shares so much history with the U.S. Two months after Congress declared war in 1917, the American Expeditionary Force embarked for France via Liverpool. A rest camp for American Troops was established in Knotty Ash. A YMCA hut was set up on Lord Street. The American Hospital in Mossley Hill saw regular musical entertainment, and baseball games took place at Port Sunlight. Later, American public holidays were celebrated on Merseyside. In fact, between April 1917 and September 1918, more than 800,000 American men and women passed through the city of Liverpool – by far the busiest port in the UK to receive U.S. troops and supporters.*

*Today, the United States and United Kingdom – and millions of our service members – are providing the global leadership that cements our enduring partnership and makes our countries more secure. Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace...marks the sacrifices made by the men and women of America in that conflict which shaped our world in the 20th century.”*

Dr. Matthew Naylor, President and CEO, National World War I Museum and Memorial, said:

*“The National World War I Museum is committed to understanding the Great War and how the conflict continues to affect the world to this day. The Museum holds the most comprehensive WWI collection in the world and uses that to tell the global story – an approach that differs from our peer institutions. We also have the responsibility to take the collection to new audiences. The impact of the Great War set in motion a deep and sustained relationship with our European partners, including the United Kingdom, making this powerful exhibition even more impactful.*

*“Through this exhibition in partnership Michael St Maur Sheil, we trace the journey of the American forces in 1917 and 1918, and commemorate their efforts. It is beautiful and poignant work. We’re grateful for our partnership with the City of London and the United States Embassy in London, which made it possible for this remarkable exhibition.”*

Photographer Michael St Maur Sheil said:

*“The U.S. involvement in the First World War was a hugely significant factor. Today, it is often overlooked, but it was a New World coming to the aid of an Old World, from which many of the young American soldiers - as first generation immigrants - had sought to escape. Their humanitarian effort in supplying and shipping over seven million tons of food to save the peoples of Belgium and northern France from starvation marked the advent of America as a united nation.”*

Donna Howitt, Marketing Director at Liverpool ONE, said:

*“It is important that we reflect and remember those who gave their lives over a hundred years ago. Liverpool is proud of its strong, historical links to the US and this exhibition is a poignant tribute I would encourage all visitors to Liverpool city centre to see as part of their trip.”*

**ENDS**

Insert Date

Interviews:

Dr. Matthew Naylor, President and CEO, National World War I Museum and Memorial, will be made available

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**Notes for Editors:**

**About the National World War I Museum and Memorial**

The National World War I Museum and Memorial is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. The Museum holds the most diverse collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and Memorial and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National World War I Museum and Memorial inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit [theworldwar.org](http://theworldwar.org)

**About Liverpool ONE**

Liverpool ONE is a contemporary open-air shopping complex, described as one of Europe's leading retail and leisure destinations. Built around the existing streets of Liverpool and located right by the iconic waterfront, Liverpool ONE is a stylish must-visit destination for those who love to shop, eat, drink and relax.

Liverpool ONE has over 170 stores, bars and restaurants, a 14-screen cinema, an indoor adventure golf course and an award winning five-acre park. Stores include high street favourites such as Topshop, Zara, Victoria's Secret, John Lewis and Debenhams.

Peter's Lane, Liverpool ONE's designer fashion hub, is the home of big brand style. It plays host to stores including Michael Kors, The White Company, Reiss, Ted Baker London, Karen Millen and Flannels. You'll also find the first Beauty Bazaar, Harvey Nichols in the UK, it's the ultimate luxury beauty experience and one-stop destination for all things beauty.

Liverpool ONE has been awarded Green Flag Status for its popular Chavasse Park. The prestigious Green Flag Award Scheme is judged by Keep Britain Tidy. Surrounded by a bustling and varied leisure terrace, the park plays host to many events for all the family throughout the year. Liverpool ONE is the only new city centre commercial development in the country to include a park that has Green Flag status.