

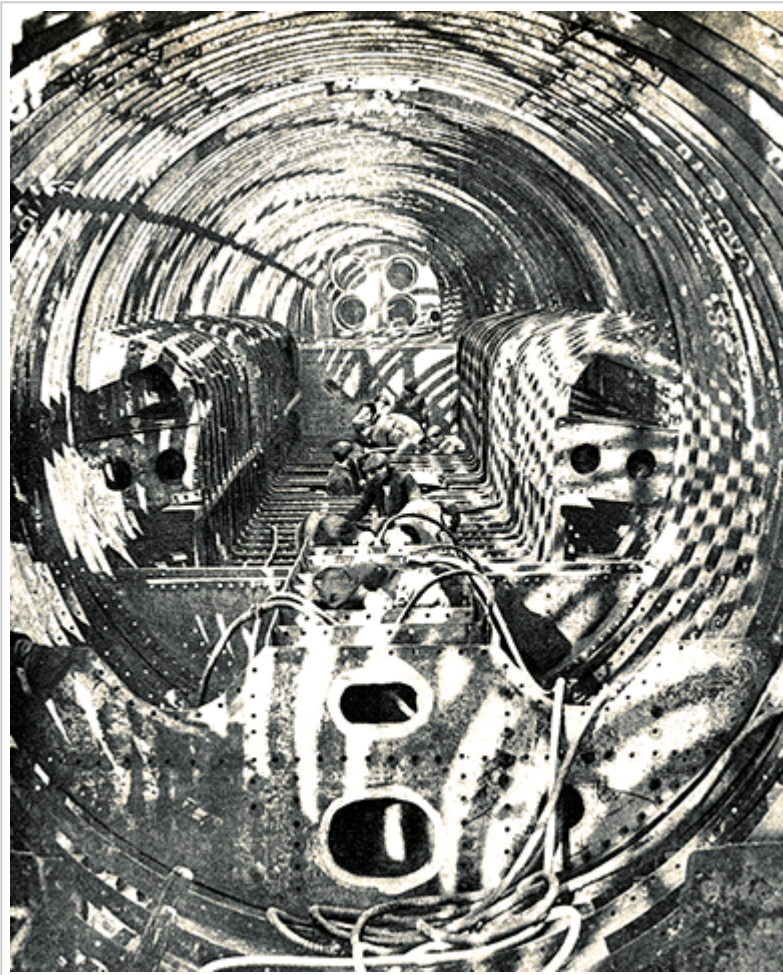
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C A M O U P E D I A

A BLOG FOR CLARIFYING AND CONTINUING THE FINDINGS THAT WERE PUBLISHED IN CAMOUPEDIA: A COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON ART, ARCHITECTURE AND CAMOUFLAGE, BY ROY R. BEHRENS (BOBOLINK BOOKS, 2009).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

Camouflage Artifacts at Spencer Museum of Art



Above Photograph of the interior of a World War I British submarine under construction. The intense exterior lighting is casting shadows on the workers inside, and providing an apt demonstration of the disruption of shapes using shadows. This photograph was published in France in *Le Miroir* magazine on February 10, 1918, with the following caption—

The British fleet, which was by far the most powerful in the world during peacetime, has increased its superiority since the beginning of the war thanks to the strengthening of its ordnance. It is not possible, of course, to offer precise information on this subject. The fact that the German fleet

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remains in the port indicates that our enemies are not fooled by the results of naval combat. Our allies have launched many submarines. Here is one of them under construction.

...

On March 2, 2019, an exhibition opened at the **Spencer Museum of Art** on the campus of the University of Kansas in Lawrence. It continues through June 9, but unfortunately I found out about it only recently and won't be able to see it. Titled **Camouflage and Other Hidden Treasures**, it includes a selection of artifacts from the **Eric Gustav Carlson WWI Collection**, which includes nearly 4,000 items from the Great War. The current exhibition includes only about 1/60th of the full collection.

Over the years, Kansas and Missouri have increasingly become prime locations for research pertaining to art, architecture and design in connection with camouflage. In Kansas City MO (as we mentioned in an earlier blog), there is the **National WWI Museum** (formerly the Liberty Memorial), which features what remains of a huge WWI diorama, called the *Pantheon de la Guerre*. Completed by French artists in 1918, it originally included about five thousand full-length figures, including identifiable images of some of the French army's camoufleurs.

Also of significance is the **Missouri State Capitol Building** in Jefferson City MO. It was designed by New York architects **Evarts Tracy** and Egerton Swartwout in 1917. When the US entered WWI that year, Tracy was among the first officers in the **American Camouflage Corps**. Prior to that, one of the co-founders of a civilian forerunner to that unit was Iowa-born sculptor **Sherry Edmundson Fry**, who was commissioned to create the figure of Ceres that stands on top of the building's dome. Inside the building, in the House Lounge, are the famous Missouri history murals by **Thomas Hart Benton**, who was a US Navy camoufleur during WWI. Also inside is a mural (with two camouflaged ships in the background) titled *The Navy Guarded the Road to France*. It was painted in 1921 by US naval camoufleur **Henry Reuterdahl**, whom we've often blogged about.

There's yet another option: The **Ulrich Museum of Art** at Wichita State University in Wichita KS owns what may be the largest collection of paintings and other artworks by **Frederick Judd Waugh**, who was a prominent American ship camoufleur during WWI.

POSTED BY ROY R. BEHRENS AT 2:09 PM

LABELS: AMERICAN CAMOUFLAGE CORPS, ART HISTORY, CAMO, CAMOUFLAGE, DAZZLE, EXHIBITS, FREDERICK WAUGH, FRENCH CAMOUFLEURS, MISSOURI, SHIP CAMOUFLAGE, WORLD WAR I, WWI

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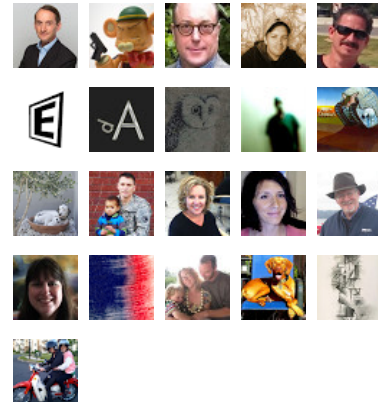
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