The Kansas City Public Library Signature Event

January 28, 2020

Dr. David W. Mills and

Dr. Kayla L. Westra
Welcome and Introductions

• Dr. Mills is a military historian at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

• Dr. Westra is dean of institutional effectiveness and liberal arts at Minnesota West Community and Technical College.
Agenda

• History and Problems of Escape
• Escapes and Rescues
  • The Great Escape - Kayla
  • William Ash – Kayla
  • George Grimson - Dave
  • Franz von Werra – Dave
  • Henri Honoré Giraud – Kayla
  • Sobibor – Kayla
  • Cabanatuan – Dave
• Conclusion

Gaunt allied prisoners of war at Aomori camp near Yokohama
Great Escapes and Rescues

• Greatest Generation
• Hollywood Romanticizing
• Reality versus History

PFC Gordon Grupe
Source: family photos
POW Treatment in the Middle Ages
POW Treatment 18th Century and Beyond
Escape – What is Your Plan?

Prisoners of the Japanese - Pacific

POW Camps - Germany
Escape – With a Little Help From My Friends
Great Escape

Stalag Luft III  Credit: CEN/P.O.W. Camps Museum

Source: Ley Kenyon
William Ash – Cooler King
Sometimes You Just Need to Say, "What the Heck!"
George Grimson
Franz von Werra
Barron Von Werra Begins Tour of “Sights” After Arrival In New York City
Henri Honoré Giraud

Casablanca Conference; Allied leaders: Giraud, Henri; Roosevelt, Franklin D.; Gaulle, Charles de; Churchill, Winston

U.S. Army Photo
Auschwitz – 75th Anniversary

The former Auschwitz-Birkenau premises today. 
Source: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

Young survivors at Auschwitz 
Source: Wikipedia Commons
Cabanatuan Prison Rescue – January 30, 1945

LTC Henry Mucci
Wrap Up

• Summary – just a glimpse at rescues and escapes at WWII
• Greatest Generation
• Courage
• Confidence
Future CGSC Lectures at KCPL

• Feb 25 – Dr. John Curatola – Iwo Jima
• Mar 24 – Dr. Lou Dimarco – Liberation of Manilla
• Apr 21 – Dr. Gates Brown – Death of FDR, Rise of Truman
• May 6 – Dr. Mark Hull – Death of Hitler, Germany Surrenders
• Jun 9 – Dr. Dave Mills – Occupation of Germany
• Jul 8 – Dr. John Kuehn/Mr. Dave Cotter – Nimitz vs MacArthur
Thank You!

Dr. David Mills
Dr. Kayla Westra