



PRESS RELEASE

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Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and National Historic Site unveil their largest exhibit

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – April 27, 2015 – The largest temporary exhibit ever to come to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site will open Friday, May 1 in West Branch. It's called, "*The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and WWI*," and focuses on Hoover's life 100 years ago at the onset of WWI.

"It's the period when Hoover set aside his private life and entered public service," said Foundation executive director, Jerry Fleagle. "Hoover first set out to help Americans stranded in Europe return home safely, and then began a relief program that kept millions from starvation during the war."

The exhibit contains five elements both in the museum and on the grounds of the National Historic Site.

- 3-D Theatre – tells Hoover's story in a visually stunning way, and uses five projectors on 25 screens
- WWI Trench – the largest, most technically advanced trench of its kind puts you on the battlefield
- The Savoy Hotel – (presented by the Kofoed family) tells how Hoover's organizational skills helped thousands of Americans return home safely
- The Belgian Village – pick up a typical relief meal of soup, bread and fruit, or shop the office
- The 1/8 scale Replica Relief Ship – learn how difficult it was to move freight by hand and how safe the waters were for travel

The Hoover Presidential Foundation worked to raise \$600,000 for the project. Foundation board of trustees president, Charlie Becker, says all the logistical pieces are lining up nicely. "We have great synergy among staff at the Foundation, Tom Schwartz, director at the Presidential Library-Museum and Superintendent Pete Swisher at the National Park Service," said Becker.

The exhibit portrays a story seldom taught in school. "Hoover's life was truly remarkable. There's something for everyone at this exhibit," said Fleagle. "It's a great place for families or history buffs to spend the morning or even the whole day. Visitors will also enjoy exploring Historic downtown West Branch," he added.

It's estimated that Hoover fed 2.5 million children between 1914 and 1918 throughout the ravaged continent of Europe. Belgium was a top priority because the tiny kingdom imported 80% of its food supply, which was cut off during the war. Hoover played an integral role in the creation and leadership of the Commission for the Relief of Belgium (CRB), and is credited with saving 10 million people from starvation there.



The exhibit will be open daily from May 1 through Oct. 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site are located in West Branch, Iowa, just two blocks north of Interstate 80 at exit 254. Learn more at www.HooverCookie.com.

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