

## **World War One Dolls on Exhibit at the Hatti Weber Museum in Davis**

To commemorate the 100'th anniversary of the end of World War One, there will be an exhibit at the Hatti Weber Museum showing dolls from the war.

The collection is on loan from Kathy Harryman, President of the Yolo County Historical Society and a rabid doll collector. She has been collecting dolls her entire life, but only recently (last 10 years) collected dolls from World War One. There are approximately 18 dolls in the collection ranging from 10 to 28" in length. The dolls are dressed in 'doughboy' clothing and some have buttons that mimic the actual buttons used on uniforms during the war.

Most of the dolls are difficult to identify. Up until the first World War, Germany led the production of dolls and other children's toys. During the war, countries such as France, Britain and the United States began to build up their own toy industries. Most of the dolls were made and sold during the beginning of the war. As the war progressed, due to the shortages of supplies and the growing demands of the weapon industry, dolls and toys declined.

According to the International Encyclopedia of the First World War, 'children were the target of propaganda...toys (dolls); it was one means to strengthen their identification with the nation's war effort. The Liberty Boy (in the collection) was used in the sale of war bonds.

Although war toys were generally created for boys, again, according to the International Encyclopedia of the First World War, "autobiographical evidence suggests that girls played with their brothers toy soldiers, and not only with dolls clad as nurses". Jennie Lee, a future British politician was 10 years old when the war broke out. She played with broken, limbless dolls that represented wounded soldiers. (History Extra BBC History Magazine)

The collection also has one nurse wearing white and one doll that Kathy is almost positive represents Manfred von Richthofen, the famous German Red Baron of Snoopy fame.

The collection is on exhibit until after the World War One Memorial Parade on Saturday, November 10 in Woodland.