



**PBS
45 & 49**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 to Air Northeast Ohioans' World War II Stories

*Project is part of national initiative in celebration
of September premiere of **The War***

KENT, Ohio — Aug. 30, 2007 — A Canton woman remembers working at age 16 as a riveter, a job that enabled her to wear blue jeans for the very first time. A Stow man recalls landing on Omaha Beach in France and holding his rifle over his head “just like in the movies.” A Canfield man talks of feeling deep remorse for having to kill every living person and creature that his regiment encountered in a tiny French village.

These stories and more about life during World War II are told in a special PBS 45 & 49 local production, **Northeast Ohio: The War**, which airs during the national premiere of **The War**, Ken Burns’ seven-part documentary. **Northeast Ohio: The War** will premiere on Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 10:30 p.m., immediately after the final episode of **The War**. It will repeat on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 1:30 a.m. Even more local stories can be found on the PBS 45 & 49 Web site, www.pbs4549.org/thewar.

During the summer of 2007, PBS 45 & 49 invited community members to attend free local workshops that gave instruction on how to create videotaped oral histories. Then workshop attendees — and others who were interested in the project — interviewed local people who agreed to share their memories of life during World War II.

PBS 45 & 49 also helped preserve World War II stories by interviewing local residents in Canton and Canfield. The station videotaped 13 people on Thursday, Aug. 9 at Canton’s VFW Post 3747 and Canfield’s War Vet Museum. Many were veterans of the war, while others recalled memorable stateside experiences.

PBS 45 & 49’s efforts to help gather local stories about World War II are part of a nationwide public outreach campaign designed to collect and preserve the firsthand recollections of people who served our nation during the war. Sponsors for the campaign are the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project and the Public Broadcasting Service. All of the qualifying videotapes that PBS 45 & 49 has collected will be forwarded to the Library of Congress for permanent archiving.

The campaign offers local perspectives to Ken Burns’ national production, **The War**, which premieres beginning Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. Burns’ film tells the story of World War II through the personal accounts of nearly 50 men and women from four quintessentially American towns. The series honors and celebrates the bravery, endurance and sacrifice of the generation of Americans who lived through what will always be known simply as “the war.”

For more information about PBS 45 & 49’s local efforts in concert with the national premiere, visit www.pbs4549.org/thewar or call 1-800-554-4549.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. The only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio, PBS 45 & 49 is available to 1.8 million households and 4.6 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, the organization provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 257,400 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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