

Chapter 14: From Cylinders to WordPress: Using Digital Sound Archives for Short-Form Radio Programs

By Jason Luther, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

2. “The Unknown Soldier” by Dennis Bitetti

In “The Unknown Soldier,” Dennis Bitetti wrote a script that spoke to his dedication as a former US soldier. (This project is also available on *Sound Beat* at <http://soundbeat.org/episode/the-unknown-soldier>.)

Transcript

[record static plays briefly, then a solo violin fades in, then quickly to background]

Brett Barry: You are listening to “The Unknown Soldier’s Grave,” recorded in 1926 by Vernon Dalhart, and you’re on the *Sound Beat*.

[fades in segment of Dalhart vocals: “There is a spot so sacred, covered over with flowers and wreaths,” then fades into background]

We’ve mentioned Dalhart a bit on the program, and that’s because the man sold millions of records . . . in the twenties! The song concerns a soldier so disfigured during battle that he could not be positively identified. His remains were buried and marked by a tombstone with no name. We honor our unidentified soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. Watch is held by the Sentinel of the Old Guard, members of the 3rd United States Infantry, the oldest active-duty infantry unit of the United States Army. It’s a tremendous honor to achieve Sentinel, making The Tomb of the Unknown Badge the second-least awarded badge in the Army . . . number one goes to astronauts. For those who have not witnessed it, get more on this touching display at [Sound Beat dot org](http://SoundBeat.org). This episode was written in part by Syracuse University student, Dennis Bitetti, part of the *Sound Beat* Class Partnership.

[Dalhart vocals fade in “And now far away, he sleeps today in the Unknown Soldier’s grave,” then transitions to orchestral Sound Beat theme]

Sound Beat is produced at the Belfer Audio Archive, Syracuse University Library. I’m Brett Barry.

[theme fades out]