

THE INFO AGE MARCONIGRAPH

NEWSLETTER OF THE INFORMATION AGE SCIENCE HISTORY CENTER AND MUSEUMS

Volume 11, Number 3

www.infoage.org

July – September 2017

Veteran's Appreciation Day – May 20th

By Mike Ruane – CEO of InfoAge



**Monmouth County Clerk Christine Hanlon
opened the event with the Pledge of Allegiance**

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1838 and InfoAge hosted our second Veterans Appreciation Day on Saturday, May 20 where over 300 visitors – veterans and their families from as far away as Trenton and Ft Dix - had the opportunity to enjoy a day dedicated to our veterans and their families.

The day started with a 2.2 mile Camouflage Run and ended just before dusk with the sounds of the Belle Tones. In between, there were burgers, dogs, beer, wine and soda. Music was provided throughout the day by Suspended Justice, After the Reign, Los Gringo, and the Belle Tones. All InfoAge museums were open and the Garden State Central had an Open House showcasing the state of construction of their new layout. Many of the visitors were first-timers and were amazed at all InfoAge had to offer.

Various military service organizations were on hand to provide information and assistance to the veterans and their families. They included Heroes on the Water, the Monmouth County Veterans Services Office, SPCA Pet Therapy, Vet 2 Vet, Horses for Heroes, the American Red Cross, VA Outreach, the NJ Hospital Assn, and the Monmouth County Mental Health Assn.

Monmouth County Clerk Christine Hanlon opened the event with the Pledge of Allegiance and US Representative Chris Smith, an avid InfoAge supporter and the recipient of the InfoAge 2016 Patriot of the Year award, spoke briefly on several veterans issues. He is truly a friend of veterans and their families and has sponsored many bills in Congress.

Local government officials also showed their support of the veterans. NJ Senator Bob Singer presented a Proclamation from the State. NJ Assemblyman Dave Rible and Wall Mayor Nick DiRocco expressed their appreciation for the sacrifices of the veterans and their families, and Freeholder Deputy Director John Curley and Freeholder Tom Arnone presented a Proclamation from Monmouth County to InfoAge and VFW Post 1838.

An early morning shower impacted on the size of our visitors but not their enthusiasm. Plans are already underway for 2018 so stay tuned for next year!!



The Marconigraph is the Newsletter of the Information Age Science History Learning Center and Museum which is a 501 C (3) Non-Profit Corporation dedicated to preservation of Camp Evans. Membership is \$25 per year for an individual and \$45 per family.

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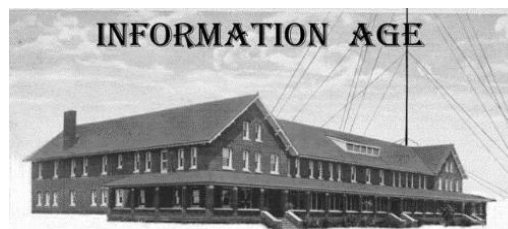
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For more information about InfoAge and our Museums or to become a member or volunteer your time here call 732-280-3000.



A Wedding Dress Made For Two

A New Exhibit at the WW II Military Miniatures, Models, Diorama and Artifact Museum at InfoAge – by Bob Perricelli



Cole and Joe putting the finishing touches on the wedding dress cabinet



Mr. and Mrs. Boyne next to their donated wedding dress

We are proud to announce the grand opening of our new WW II exhibit "A Wedding Dress Made for Two" on May 20, 2017 during InfoAge's Veterans and Armed Forces Appreciation Day. Mr. and Mrs. J. Boyne donated a bit of New Jersey WW II history to the Museum, a bridal dress made from a WW II silk parachute.

After training as a bombardier, Staff Sergeant Frank T. Robinson was sent to the Pacific Theater of operations. Sergeant Robinson flew with the 73rd Bombardment Wing flying bombing missions over Japan. At wars end he headed back to New Jersey with his silk parachute. His future bride, Violet M. Mlynarski, worked as an Aircraft Inspector at the Eastern Aircraft (General Motors Corporation) in Linden, New Jersey where they produced the Navy's FM-2 Wildcat fighter.

On the 22nd of June 1946, Frank and Violet were married. Violet wore a beautiful wedding gown made from the silk parachute that Frank had brought back from the Pacific.

Thirty years later Frank and Violet's daughter Maryann married Joseph W. Boyne Jr. in the same gown made from her dad's parachute. Her husband Frank was also a veteran serving with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam.

The dress is displayed on a mannequin in a case that was modified for our use by volunteers from the New Jersey National Guard Militia Museum located in Sea Girt, New Jersey. Two Intern volunteers, Cole and Joe helped put the finishing touches on the display case at InfoAge.

Recently I visited the fantastic National World War II museum located in New Orleans. They have two wedding dresses made from parachutes. I guess our museum is in pretty good company. Anyway, please come visit us, you will not be disappointed

Camp Evans “Alumni” Return

John Cervini – Association of Old Crows – Garden State Chapter

Over the course of five and a half decades, literally thousands of hard working Army civilians spent their careers at Camp Evans. All can be proud of their contributions to the many advances in equipment and technology that greatly aided the soldier in the field. Many of the most important achievements ultimately benefited the American public.

Felix Lavicka worked extensively in the area of Nuclear Testing Analytics and Remote Sensing, as well as in Avionics and Countermeasures. Frank Dennis is providing much documentation on the history of the Remotely Emplaced Battlefield Sensor System (REMBASS), and the “McNamara Wall” – the highly classified program that had a major presence at Fort Monmouth and Camp Evans during the Vietnam era. Don Blue provided much information on the Multiple Sensor test Aircraft and the sensor program that protected the athletes at the Lake Placid Winter Olympics in 1980. Sy Greenberg related his experiences with an important, but long forgotten, Army drone program that made great technical strides in autonomous operation, but never went into production.

These and many other programs are chapters of the “Untold Story” of Camp Evans that continues to unfold. Articles and lectures will be presented as the details continue to evolve.



Multi-sensor Test Aircraft at Lakehurst NAS



U.S. Army SD-5 Autonomous Drone

**Felix Lavicka passed away on May 8, 2017. He will be greatly missed.*



(L to R) Don Blue, Frank Dennis, Felix Lavicka, Sy Greenberg

FINALLY!!! The Roofs Are DONE!!!

Mike Ruane - CEO



After eleven years, the last roofs have been replaced on Building 9037 B, C, and D.

InfoAge has been working to replace roofs at the historical site since 2006. Over 30 have been replaced with the help of individual donors, multiple grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission, the 1772 Foundation, O.C.E.A.N. Inc., funds raised from Halloween events and critical help from the township of Wall.

Beginning in 2006, when the first of four transfers of Camp Evans buildings were completed, InfoAge went to work funding the replacement of leaking roofs. A leaking roof destroys a historic building, first with mold and fungal infestation, then the roof structure collapses. In nearly every case, the old roofing material was completely torn off, areas with rotted wood were replaced and new roofing installed. The Wall Township Building Department inspected each new roof for proper installation.

It started with the help of a matching grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission when the TIROS satellite ground control center building (9162) was given a new roof. This was followed by replacing four roofs on the WWII administration buildings (9032A, 9032B, 9032C & 9032D) and the telephone building, 9059. In 2009 the project continued and the WWII firehouse, the WWII guard headquarters, and the WWII Special Antenna Shelter were completed and, with another Monmouth County Historical Commission matching grant, the WWII electrical shop building (9034) had a second layer of roof added.

Through 2011, six large H Building roofs as well as two boiler buildings (9012 & 9038) were completed with the proceeds of the Halloween CEBOT fund raiser.

And then Super Storm Sandy hit.

Sandy badly damaged the last ten remaining H Building roofs and destroyed the sites main electric transformer. Thanks to Wall Township, insurance funds were used to replace 6 roofs and the fire damaged main site transformer was replaced. Then, Ocean Inc. stepped forward and replaced the 9037A roof. And then there were three left.

In late 2016, Wall put out a request for proposals for the last three major roofs to be replaced, buildings 9037B, C, and D. Twelve bids were received, the contract was awarded to Pravco, Inc., and the roofs were replaced at the beginning of June. Finally!!!

To read more on this, check the InfoAge website at: <http://infoage.org/wall-township-to-replace-last-three-wwii-h-building-roofs/>.

To learn more about our restoration efforts at Camp Evans visit us on the web at <http://www.infoage.org>, come and visit us during museum hours Wednesday-Saturday & Sunday, 1-5PM or give us a call at 732-280-3000.

WWI – Part 2

By Richard J. Connors
Abridged by Bob Perricelli

This is Part 2 of a three part series. Part 3 will appear in our next newsletter.

As long as the cartoon character “Snoopy” survives, so will the memory of Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron (his aircraft were all painted red). Richthofen’s success as a fighter pilot led to his appointment as a squadron leader, then as a group chief of the famous “Flying Circus”. The Red Baron himself was credited with 80 victories, the highest in WW I. Richthofen finally met his fate when he was shot down near the Somme River on April 21, 1918.

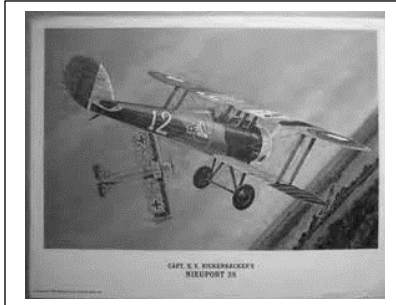
Anxious to get into the war, a number of Americans joined both the British and French air services as pilots. The French government even authorized a distinct US squadron called the Lafayette Escadrille, honoring the famed Frenchman who fought with George Washington during the American Revolution. Once the US entered the war American pilots were trained by the French flying both British and French aircraft. The US Air Service was then headed by the famous William “Billy” Mitchell (regarded as the father of the US Air Force).

Captain Eddie Richkenbacker became a famous American “Ace” during WW I. A pilot with the 94th Aero Squadron, he went to the front in April 1918 scoring 26 victories. Richkenbacker received the Congressional Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre for his wartime exploits.

As in all wars, technological advances are achieved based on the needs and goals of the combatants, WW I was no different. A major technological push of WW I was the development of the tank. The tank evolved from an armored car mounted on a farm tractor’s tread to a lumbering heavy beast.



WWI German Bomber



**Capt. E. V. Rickenbacker's
NIEUPORT 28**



**Australian Troops
Third Battle of Ypres - 1917**



**Over The Top
By John Northcote Nash**

At the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917 a group of 476 tanks attacked the Hindenburg line destroying barbed wire entanglements, eliminating enemy machine gun nests, and temporarily causing panic among the enemy. Typical of a Western Front offensive: major effort, minor success. However, in 1918 it was different, battle zones became more fluid, as a dynamic German offensive was soon followed by a massive moving allied counter offensive. At Amiens on August 8, 1918, 640 Allied tanks broke through German defenses triggering the so-called “Last Hundred Days” of the war.

Despite the introduction of both the tank and airplane, the ground was still the domain of the foot soldier. Soldiers of each nation had their different nick names. The British Tommy, the French Poilu, the German Fritz, and the American Doughboy.

These soldiers fought and died by the thousands under deplorable, barbaric conditions seizing and defending small patches of ground on the Western Front. Traditional weapons were used: the rifle, bayonet and grenades. However new infantry weapons appeared, such as the anti-tank and anti-aircraft gun. Primitive flamethrowers were also developed. But the most fearsome weapon to appear on the battlefield was poison gas.

Gas was a potent weapon suited for the static trench warfare of the Western Front. However, because its effectiveness was dependent upon the wind and other weather conditions, it could be a threat to both the user and enemy. From the war’s onset, tear gas was used by both sides with lethal chlorine gas being introduced by the Germans in the spring of 1915. Experiments with other forms of gas such as phosgene, chloropicrin, and sulfur mustard followed. Sulfur mustard gas was considered the most effective. Gas masks quickly made their appearance with adaptations being made as new types of gas compounds were employed.



Group of American WWI Doughboys

Historians estimate that there were a million soldier and civilian casualties. The effects on victims included blindness and seared lungs and shortened many lives.

The psychological effects of combat on soldiers was a main cause of incapacitation ("Shell Shock") during WW I. Nervous breakdowns resulted from the exposure to noise, terror, torso wounds, barbed wire, disease (from rotting human and animal corpses), unsanitary conditions, exposure to horrible weather, bad food, foul water etc.. Transportation from the battlefield aid stations to triage units, field and regular hospitals was well organized. The skills and training of doctors, nurses, and military aids were very good and improved as the war continued. Medical capabilities were still limited, but the overall results were still impressive. For example, some 80% of the wounded treated in British hospitals were able to return to duty.

As the war dragged on, women played increasingly significant roles. The demand for skilled nurses increased, they also became ambulance drivers, canteen hostesses, railway/trolley car workers etc.

Textile manufacturing had long been dominated by women and the need for millions of uniforms, coats, backpacks, and other field accessories significantly increased the value of their skills. With millions of men at war, women had to take over farming and other agricultural activities. A dangerous field that became dominated by women workers was the manufacturing of munitions. Millions of shells, bullets, fuses and grenades, poured off of the assembly lines. It has been estimated that 80% of the shells and bullets used by the French and British armies were produced by women, or "munitionettes", often under appalling health and safety conditions.

When the U.S. entered the war in April of 1917, American women quickly became part of the war effort. They provided support services for the military, as well as for volunteer organizations such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the YMCA.

Women worked stateside and overseas as clerks, telephone operators, drivers, aid station assistants, and canteen cooks. The most important group to serve were the nurses of the Army Nurse Corps (ANC).

By war's end, the ANC numbered over 21,000 women, with more than 5,000 serving overseas. A few were either killed or wounded in combat areas by artillery fire or air attacks. Disease, primarily pneumonia and influenza, claimed over 100 lives overseas and more than 200 at stateside army and navy bases.



WWI Army Nurse Corps



Women at work during WWI

Look for Part 3 of our WWI Series in our next Newsletter coming in October.

InfoAge Happenings



Mark your calendars and remember to come join us for our 12th annual Camp Evans Base of Terror fundraiser. As the sun goes down and darkness rises our site becomes filled with Halloween Horror, food, merchandise and a lot of fun.

Dozens of volunteers spend months planning, building and preparing to scare you like no one has before.

This is our biggest fundraising event and helps us to continue our mission of restoring and preserving history for future generations.

Tickets are \$17.00 per person. Military \$12.00 with ID.

Just a reminder that our Museums are open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1PM to 5PM.

Admission is \$5.00 per adult and \$2.50 for children under age 6.

If you haven't been here before or it has been a while, please stop in for a visit and see how we have grown!

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Friends of Infoage

This is our new program designed to raise funds to preserve and restore this National Historic Landmark.

A Big Thank You to Our Latest Donors:

Robert G. Palazzo
Joanne M. Brandon
Aspen Consulting Group

Thanks again for helping us to keep history alive at Camp Evans!

If you are interested in becoming a "Friend of InfoAge" call 732-280-3000

Other News:

NJARC has been busy working on their building. They have been fixing windows, scraping and painting and doing all around maintenance. A big thank you to them for their efforts and their dedication!

We would like to thank Fred Briard for all his volunteer work over the years. Fred comes and goes thinking no one notices, but the grounds work he does is amazing and noticed by many. Whatever needs to be done, lawn mowing, leaves, hedge clipping, he just gets it done. Thank You Fred!

If you would like to volunteer please call 732-280-3000

In an effort to cut costs and be more efficient, all members that have provided an email will be receiving this Newsletter via that email. If you have no email, don't worry, we will mail it to you.



InfoAge

Science/History Center
at Camp Evans, Wall NJ

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The Newsletter of InfoAge

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Save the Dates

Spaceflight Lecture Series

Last Sunday of Each Month
2300 Marconi Road
Wall, NJ 07719

NJARC Swap Meet

Saturday, July 22nd – 7AM – 12PM
2201 Marconi Road
Wall, NJ 07719

Camp Evans Base of Terror

September 29th & 30th
October 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st,
27th & 28th 7:00PM – 11PM
2201 Marconi Road
Wall NJ 07719

*For more information about these events, such as admission costs and times,
call 732-280-3000 or visit us online at www.infoage.org*

The Information Age Learning Center (InfoAge) received a General Operating Support Grant from the
New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the State Department