

# THE INFO AGE MARCONIGRAPH

NEWSLETTER OF THE INFORMATION AGE SCIENCE HISTORY CENTER AND MUSEUMS

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October – December 2018

## *Marconi Portrait Restored-* by Mike Ruane, CEO-InfoAge

At InfoAge's recent Wall of Honor reception we had an unveiling of the restoration of the 104 year old portrait of Guglielmo Marconi. The full length oil portrait of Marconi that hangs in the InfoAge lobby was painted in 1914 by the noted Italian painter Count Gustave de Muranyi. He was a popular portrait painter of social and public figures and maintained a studio in New York for 24 years in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Earlier this year Sheila Williams and (our own) Pat Thecker of the Metedeconk Questors approached InfoAge about providing a grant to restore the painting. InfoAge agreed and it was sent out and restored by Stephen Weston of the Weston Gallery in Manasquan. It was unveiled for the first time on July 28 to rave reviews as to the superb restoration.

Several years ago, on Monday, June 20, 2014, InfoAge was host to a visit by Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli of Italy, the 84 year old daughter of Guglielmo Marconi. It was the end of a two week North American tour of various speaking engagements at universities, museums and historic sites. When we showed her the way InfoAge was memorializing her father's work and then the original portrait of her father, she became visibly moved. She said that InfoAge "is a wonderful place and I will come back with my son very soon." We think she would be proud of what we have done to her father's portrait.



Patricia Thecker and Shelia Williams of the Metedeconk Questors unveiling the restored portrait



Mike Ruane, Claire French, Princess Marconi Giovanelli and Fred Carl at the 2014 visit from the Princess



The restored portrait

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



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# InfoAge World War II Weekend – 2018

*John T. Cervini, Vice Chair InfoAge Board of Trustees*

On 25 & 26 August 2018, InfoAge held its annual WWII weekend for the public. This year, in addition to the regular related displays and museums, special unique artifacts were on display for attendees.

The first item was one of the maps from the Commodore Matthew Perry mission to Japan in 1853-54. On July 8, 1853, Commodore Perry of the U.S. Navy sailed a squadron of black-hulled warships into the harbor at Edo (now Tokyo). Perry brought with him a letter from U.S. president Millard Fillmore addressed to the emperor, demanding the opening of ports and various other concessions from Japan. The U.S. show of force led to Japan's acceptance of the Convention of Kanagawa on March 31, 1854. Perry obtained the signature of Japanese authorities to the Treaty of Kanagawa on 31 March 1854. As a result of this treaty of permanent friendship, a U.S. consul was stationed at Shimoda, U.S. vessels were allowed access to the ports of Shimoda and Hakodate.

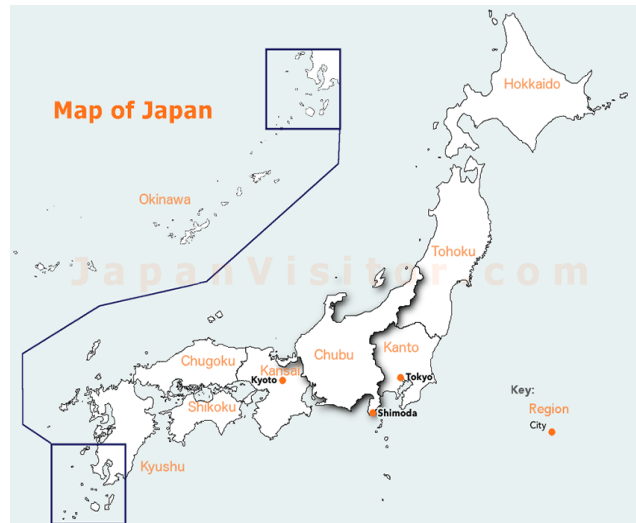


**Commodore Matthew Perry**



**Yedo (Tokyo) Bay -William Speiden Journal**

At the outbreak of WWII, the Navy strategic planners realized that they had no maps of key Japanese harbors. As a result, in 1942 they reproduced copies of the maps from Perry's expedition from the National Archives. NJHDA was kind enough to loan InfoAge the map of S(h)imoda harbor for the weekend.



**Modern map showing S(h)imoda and Tokyo**

The second item consisted of highly classified maps used during the D-Day invasion. These formerly classified TOP SECRET hand drawn maps were distributed to the Military Police to direct forces inland after U.S. soldiers were able to move off Omaha and Utah beaches and proceed inland. The accompanying Traffic Plan notes were also included. These notes detail the critical performance the MPs were expected to achieve, and the obvious pressure they were under.



**D-Day Beaches**



The maps were donated to InfoAge by former PFC Walter Pruiksma, Brick NJ. The superb planning and implementation resulted in a rapid movement of Allied forces into the interior of France, and the routes illustrated on these maps became part of the famous "Red Ball Express."



**PFC Walter Pruiksma**



**Traffic Control Point map from Utah Beach**

The routes leading inland on the above map became the starting point of the military highway ultimately leading to Germany. The Red Ball Express was the codename given to one of WW II's most massive logistics operations.

A fleet of over 6,000 trucks and trailers delivered over 412,000 tons of ammunition, food and fuel to allied armies in Europe between August 25th and November 16th 1944. To bridge the gap between user units at the front and mounting stockpiles located in Normandy a long distance one way, "loop run", round the clock highway system was born. All civilian and unrelated military traffic was forbidden on the Red Ball route. Military Police and the drivers themselves strictly enforced the rule. Red Ball convoys often drove down the middle of the highway avoiding mines on the shoulders and not stopping for anything. As the route became longer, as much as 300,000 gallons of gas per day was needed to keep the Red Ball vehicles moving.



**The Red Ball Express Highway**

Three quarters of all the Red Ball soldiers were African American. During WW II, the U.S. Army was segregated and most African American troops were often relegated to service support units of the Quartermaster Corps. It was the African American troops in large measure that performed admirably and kept the express rolling along.



## *New Audio Exhibits at RTM- by Ray Chase*

Recently the Radio Technology Museum has added new features to our Audio and Recorded Sound exhibit area. The main new feature is a demonstration of the reproduction of audible sound. We all know now that most of the time music and sound emanates from electronic/digital media or other electronic sources but, how is it transformed into acoustic waves that are what our human ears and brains respond to? Early sound reproduction, as invented by Thomas Edison was all acoustic; no electronic processing involved. But with the advent of vacuum tubes and radio, now electronic amplification, transmission and processing arrived. How then were electric signals transformed into energy that could stimulate human hearing with appropriate fidelity. The technology to do so principally evolved over a period of about seventy five years and is still evolving to some extent today. Our display, primarily the handiwork of Al Klase and others, vividly demonstrates examples of this progress. It is hands on and user friendly.

The display shows and demonstrates seven sound reproducers (speakers) from 1920 up to about 1970 using various user selected music sources. A push button control panel allows the selection of material from six music genre piped into any one of the seven speakers. Progress in sound reproduction can be clearly heard starting with a simple device that is nothing more than a trumpet connected to a pair of 1910 headphones. Then one can move through 1920 era Horn Speakers to the first “moving coil” horn speakers, then to an early paper cone speaker then to the first “dynamic field coil” speakers and finally to a modern triaxial hi-fi speaker in a proper enclosure. The improvement in reproduction of sound is quite amazing.

The sources of music (all computer generated) are quite eclectic: 1920's - Fats Waller - Enrico Caruso - Sousa - String Quartette and Bob Dylan. Finally, one can move on to a modern stereo system with inputs from a computer-generated palette of many music choices. Experience to date indicates that the theme from Star Wars is often selected.

The Sound Reproduction display has been popular as is our existing displays of record players from Edison's cylinder machine to Victrola's to wire recorders and Juke Boxes. Vinyl records and tape machines offer nostalgia trips while most of us presently get our music from tiny pocket black boxes which only engineers have any concept of how they work.



Working Display of Various Recorded Music Sources



Edison Cylinder Machine and Disc Phonograph



Juke Box Display



Sound Display Area



Sound Push Button Control Panel



An Early Loudspeaker

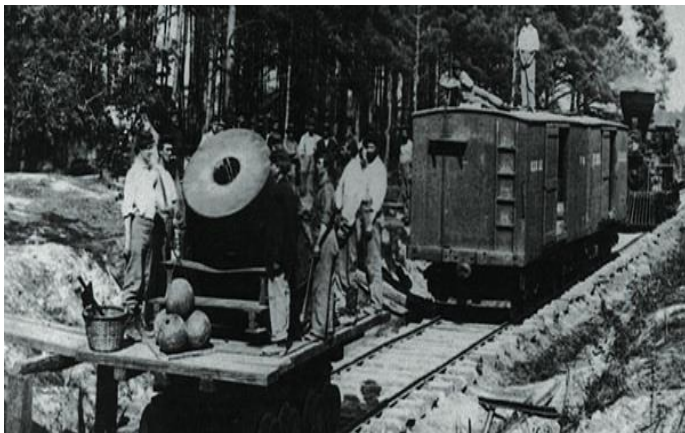


# *A History of Railroad Cannon*

*By Cole Snedeker*

Railroad cannons have always been quite a curiosity to behold. Though in most cases they have been proven to be more impractical than not, these massive weapons are nevertheless impressive feats of military engineering. InfoAge proudly displays a model of a World War II-era railway cannon, the *Leopold*, in the World War II Military Miniatures, Models, Dioramas, and Artifacts Museum Gallery.

The story of the railway gun began much earlier than World War II. Ideas for railway guns had been put forth by Russian theorists as early as the 1840s, but the first physical design was created in 1862 during the American Civil War, when Confederate forces mounted a 32-pounder Brooke Naval Rifle on a flatbed car. The prototype gun was used against McClellan's advancing army during the Peninsular Campaign, with generally positive results. Union forces would later deploy their first railroad gun, 13-inch (33 cm) siege mortar, "Dictator", during the Siege of Petersburg. The mortar was so powerful that it destroyed its railroad car upon the first firing.



The US Army's first railroad artillery: "Dictator", a 13-inch railroad mortar used during the Siege of Petersburg.

Other nations soon saw the potential on mounting massive guns on railroad cars, and by the time of World War I most of the major powers had railroad gun programs. During the war, the German program fielded the massive Paris Gun, whose shells became the first man-made objects to enter the stratosphere. The American equivalent program was run by the US Navy, which followed the international trend of converting naval guns into railroad artillery by mounting 14-inch (35.6 cm) battleship guns on railroad cars.

One of these guns is now on public display outside the Naval Museum in Washington DC.

Railway artillery would again see use during the Second World War, most famously by the Germans. The largest such examples were the *Schwerer Gustav* and *Dora*, 31.5-inch monsters designed to pummel the Maginot Line. *Schwerer Gustav* saw brief service when it annihilated a supply dump and bombarded several forts outside of Sevastopol, but otherwise they proved to be of limited use. Dozens of other types of varying calibers were also constructed and experimented with, however, many felt that the age of the railway cannon had passed.

Though most of the German guns were destroyed during the war, two such examples have managed to survive to this day, both 11-inch (28 cm) Krupp K5(E)s. One of those guns, *Leopold*, was captured by American forces and brought back to the US, while the other currently resides in Normandy France. Twenty-four K5(E)s were built in total.



Krupp K5(E) Leopold, nicknamed Anzio Annie, currently located in Fort Lee, Virginia.

Leopold could hurl a 536 lb. (243 kg) shell a distance of 40 miles (64 km) at a rate of fifteen per hour. A complement of forty-two men were needed to keep the gun operational. The gun was deployed to Italy and saw service opposing the Allied landings at Anzio in 1944. Along with her sister, *Robert*, Leopold fired on American troops landing on the beaches. The rapid sound of the gun's shells streaking overhead led to her being nicknamed "Anzio Express" or "Anzio Annie" by American forces.

## *A History of Railroad Cannon - continued*

The presence of the railway guns proved to be a major hindrance to Allied operations in the area. Leopold and Robert sank or destroyed several ships, forcing cargo vessels to remain several miles offshore. A fuel dump and supply bases were also hit. For three months, aircraft combed the countryside looking for the guns, which were hidden in tunnels between firing periods. Several ineffective bombing attacks were conducted. When one airstrike looked like it had finally done the job, it turned out to have destroyed a pair of dummy guns.

Despite the efforts of the guns, it was not enough to push the Allies off the beaches. The guns were finally forced to withdraw with the rest of the German forces, but the evacuation attempt ran short of time and the guns were spiked for destruction. Unfortunately for the Germans, the guns were only lightly damaged by the detonations, and they soon fell into the hands of American forces.

The effectiveness at Anzio of presumably obsolete railroad guns renewed interest in the concept. During the early days of the Cold War, before the age of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, the US military looked for ways to deliver nuclear warheads to the target. Among these plans was a concept for an artillery gun capable of firing nuclear shells. Though not a railway cannon, this new gun took direct inspiration from the captured Leopold. Tested during Operation *Upshot-Knothole* in 1953, the M65 "Atomic Annie" cannon could fire a 15-kiloton shell a range of 20 miles (30 km). At least twenty Atomic Annies were constructed, however the development of new missiles just years later meant that they would be retired by the mid-1960s.

The Cold War also brought the end of the traditional railroad gun, with only the Soviet Union maintaining a small number of cannons until their collapse. Though not as technologically advanced as the missiles which replaced them, railroad guns retain an unrivaled imposition to their stature. For the United States, the saga of the railroad gun ends almost nearly where it began. Both Leopold and an example of an Atomic Annie are currently preserved alongside each other at the US Army Ordnance Training and Heritage Center in Fort Lee Virginia, just outside of Petersburg, where the US Army first experimented with railroad artillery.



**M65 "Atomic Annie" with Leopold in the background at Fort Lee, Virginia.**

### About the author:

Cole Snedeker is a senior at High Technology High School who is a volunteer at InfoAge's WW II Military Miniatures, Models, Dioramas and Artifact Museum Gallery. Cole is a huge WW II and military history buff. At the museum he helps with the many tasks required to keep the gallery operating, including acting as a docent. After college he hopes to become an Air Force pilot.



Commissioning a FULL-COLOR tile is a great way to say thank you to a veteran or family member. The hall of Honor is located in the central hallway of the historic WW2 H-building complex, on the Camp Evans National Historic Landmark. The InfoAge Hall of Honor is an excellent place to display your custom tile. You supply the photos and text, and we'll create your unique custom tile. Take it home, or allow us to display it in our Hall of Honor.

The cost to commission a tile is \$250, and additional copies can be made for \$100 each. You will have the opportunity auto approve your tile's design.

**Call 732-280-3000 today to reserve your tile**

# InfoAge Happenings

JOIN US FOR OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

**CAMP EVANS  
BASE OF  
TERROR**



*Haunted Attraction*

*Every Friday and Saturday*

*September 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>/October 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>*

*7pm - 11pm*

*[www.campevansbaseofterror.org](http://www.campevansbaseofterror.org)*

*Follow us on*

*2201 Marconi Road, Wall ND 07719*

*Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram*



Garden State Central  
Model Railroad Club  
*presents the*  
**InfoAge**



## **HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR & CHRISTMAS TRAIN DISPLAY**

**SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS - Noon til 5pm**

**DEC 1,2,8,9,15,16 & 22, 2018**

**DONATION Adults \$7. Kids \$3.**

**Admit one adult FREE Dec 1, 2, 8 & 9**



**With a new unwrapped toy  
for "Toys for Tots"**

**This might be the only toy a child receives**



**InfoAge Science Center**

2201 Marconi Road  
Wall New Jersey  
(Route 18 Exit 7A)

[www.GardenStateCentral.com](http://www.GardenStateCentral.com)



Some items donated by:



## **Amazon Smile and InfoAge**

As the Holiday season approaches please remember this simple way to support InfoAge.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support InfoAge every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selections and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your InfoAge.

To shop AmazonSmile simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3607377> via the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

You can use your account with Amazon Smile. On your first visit to AmazonSmile you need to select InfoAge as the charitable organization to receive donations for eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation of 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes or service charges.

# **Thank You**

InfoAge would like to take a moment to thank all of the volunteers who continue to come out day and night, rain or shine to build and prepare for our Camp Evans Base of Terror fundraiser. Our team is the best and we can't thank them enough for all they do.





## InfoAge

Science/History Center  
at Camp Evans, Wall NJ

InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum

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## The Newsletter of InfoAge

Inside this Issue....

Marconi Portrait Restored  
InfoAge WWII Weekend - 2018  
New Audio Exhibits at RTM  
A History of Railroad Cannon  
InfoAge Happenings

## Save the Dates

### Spaceflight Lecture Series

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

### Camp Evans Base of Terror

September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
2300 Marconi Road  
Wall NJ 07719

### Holiday Spectacular and Christmas Train Display

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>  
12:00PM – 5:00PM  
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](http://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