

Easton Heritage Days Easton, Pennsylvania

On 7 July 2024, AGFA participated in the Easton Heritage Day celebration (<http://heritageday.org/>). Heritage Day celebrates Easton's historic significance in the founding of the United States. At noon on July 8, 1776, Easton was one of three places where the [Declaration of Independence had its first public reading](#). It was read on the steps of the old courthouse in Easton's historic Centre Square by the Chair of the Committee of Safety, Robert Levers. A reenactment of that event, and a festival organized around it, first occurred during the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. From that year forward Heritage Day has been celebrated as Easton's own Independence Day celebration.

The members of AGFA who participated in the event were Callum Bujdos, John Dwyer, Joel Gonzalez, Anne Lutkenhouse, John Uhler, and Shawn Welch. AGFA members John Uhler and John Dwyer brought their jeeps and we flanked the display area with jeeps on each end.

The educational objective was to provide an interpretation of the Coast Artillery, Medical Corps, Chemical Warfare and Chaplaincy during World War II.

This year's event was conducted on a bright sunny day and public participation was high.

Below is a photo of the AGFA team.



There were many visitors starting before the official opening at 1100 hours. Below T-3 Dwyer explains the medical equipment that is on his jeep.



Another view of the medical Jeep and 1LT Lutkenhouse (in pith helmet) at the Philippine medical display on the other side of the jeep.



The 1LT Lutkenhouse's medical operations in the Philippines is shown below.



Below the public learns more about US Army medical operations in the Philippines during the early part of WWII, December 1941-early May 1942.



The Philippines medical operations display also told the story of the US Army nurses surrendered to the Japanese with the fall of Corregidor, and their almost 3 years in internment camps. All lived to come home.



Below is the WWII Army Chaplaincy display.



A Chaplain's field desk display is shown below.



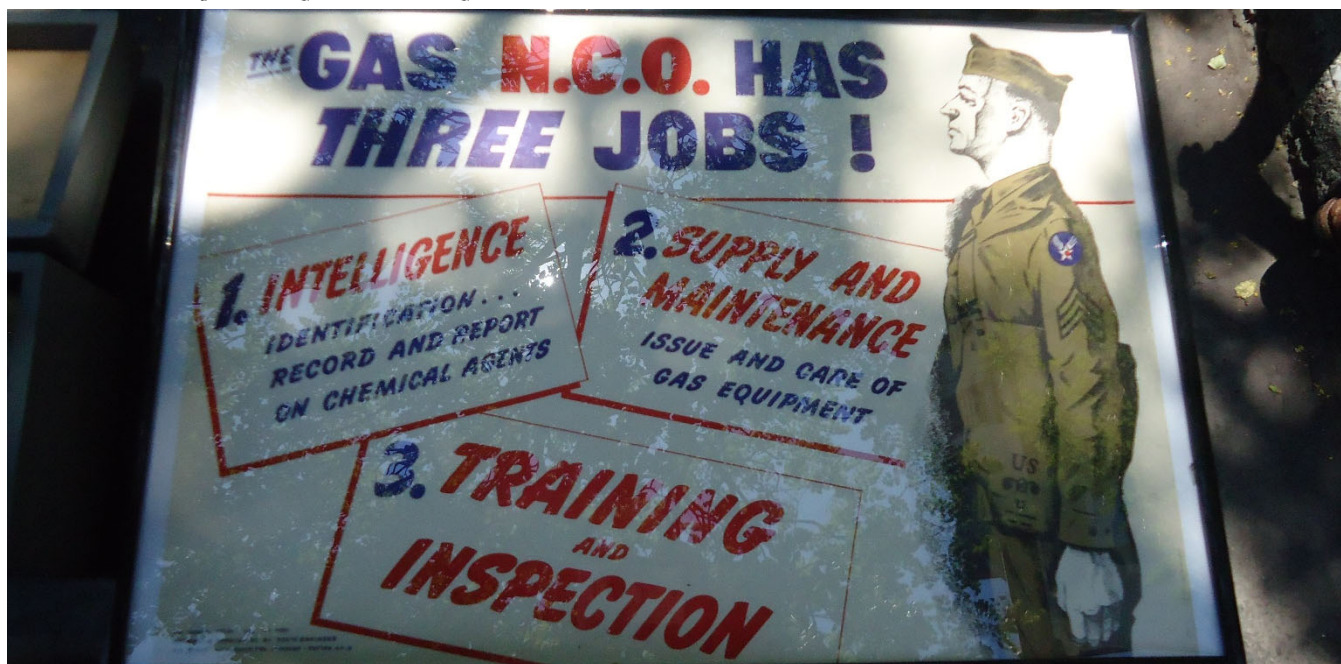
Below is a view of the Chaplaincy display with CPL Bujdos sitting on the Chaplain's jeep bumper.



The chemical warfare display is below including both agent identification and decontamination equipment.



The "Gas NCO" poster below is from early WWII and explains the duties of a Chemical Corps sergeant assigned to a combat unit.



Below is a view of the Coast Artillery display to include M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument and a replica Mk-12 2,400 lbs 16-inch armor piercing shell.



Another view of the Coast Artillery display including the shell, EE-91 telephone and a large water thermos filled with ice water - it was critical on this day.



Below 2LT Gonzalez takes a break from interpreting the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



The view below of the Coast Artillery display shows a visitor looking through the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



And below is one of the views our visitor could have seen through the telescope of the M1910A1 - notice the reticle in this view.



We saw many fun approaches to the day's festivities to include those who are skilled at walking on stilts!



The stage saw a lot of performers through the afternoon to include the Swingtime Dolls (<https://www.swingtimedolls.com/>).



A visitor reads the posters in the Chaplain's display while CPT(CH) Uhler sits down to experience his vintage 1930s fan!



CPT Mellon of the Historic Military Interpretation (HMI) sits ready to answer questions on his organization's weapons display.



More displays hosted by HMI are shown below with HMI member Sheila Martin at the ready for WAC (Women's Army Corps) information.



Below is a very large small arms display and Bret Dagnall explains the various weapons to visitors.



By 1730 hours we were beginning the process of packing up our displays. Below CPL Bujdos and 2LT Gonzalez begin taking items out to their cars.



Easton Heritage Days is a very welcoming event with historians from all relevant American time periods of US military history. We encourage you to attend next year!