



U.S. ARMY

THE ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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“History is made everyday in this command.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Military logistics has long been recognized as the lifeblood of nations in times of conflict, often serving as the decisive factor between victory and defeat. The lessons that are learned from the successes or failures in the past can be readily translated to be applied to ongoing and future missions. The above picture is of the “Red Ball” express which was an ad hoc convoy system that supplied the Allied Armies drive across Europe in 1944 that eventually led to the defeat of Nazi Germany.

MONTHLY TRIVIA

- 1 Who was Rock Island Arsenal’s first historian and the oldest history of the island?
- 2 Who can conduct oral histories?
- 3 How can the ASC History Office provide you and your team CLP?

ANSWERS FOR DECEMBER 2023 QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the unofficial name of the 280-mm Heavy Motorized Gun, M65?
➤ Atomic Annie
- 2 What weapon replaced the M16 rifle?
➤ The M4 carbine
- 3 What was the alternative form of ammunition designed to be used in an environment without oxygen?
➤ The flechette cartridge

Nostalgic person: I wish we could go back to the good ol' days

Literally every historian:



As historians we understand that not all lessons from the past are applicable to the present or the future. It is important to understand the context of the past as history does seem to lay out road maps for future endeavors, contingencies and missions.

“History never repeats itself, but it does often rhyme.”
-Mark Twain

Have you ever wondered about the folks or office behind your favorite reading material? Okay, but what about the office behind the ASC History Newsletters? We can help you with that second question.

The ASC History Office by regulation exists to “preserve the history of the command and its installations.” That means we cover everything from Changes of Command to the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) and all items in between. But a question that is often overlooked is how does what we do impact you, and how do we operationalize history in a command?

Let’s first talk about how it impacts you. You’re reading this, right? Well, okay, that’s a little bit of a cop-out, we know. We spread historical education throughout the command on how the past impacts the present to help shape the future. The History Office maintains a large library of reading materials, two archives of technical data and command information to enable this sharing of knowledge. Think of us as the command’s hippocampus (we can use big words too), the part of the brain that retains and recalls memories. We are the institutional memory of the command, and when things work (or don’t) we are here to offer lessons learned to assist in making good command decisions .

But then, how do we operationalize this?

The History Office is more than just a few nerds that live in the basement of a building (we want windows, please!). The office conducts monthly programs at local libraries as well as conduct routine public outreach to support the command intent. More importantly we offer this as well to DoD entities in the form of staff rides, leadership professional development, or simply research support on a requested topic that covers an array of topics. A few of the things we are commonly asked about are ASC’s evolution and how it fits within the overall development of Army logistics history, Rock Island Arsenal’s over 200 years of support to the warfighter, nation studies and specific topics such as the Russo-Finnish War of 1939-1940. We know it seems like a random topic but if you read the Wikipedia page, we promise you will be intrigued and find it useful in application to present day operations. If you prefer something different, how about background on battle tested lessons learned on contested logistics in the Pacific. When it comes to the archive and the information we have to draw upon, this is where you come in. “History is made everyday in this command,” and we need your help to preserve it. If you are part of an ASC mission that is not in the annual history (it should be) let us know about it. Help us to preserve our Command’s history awareness or providing documents (according to regulation) or by an oral history of your part or someone in your office about their part in the mission.

We use those tools to hopefully place an individual in the shoes of those who experienced significant historic events. If you’re looking for a staff ride, your very own ASC History Office can administer those across the Army footprint by tailoring the material to meet desired intent . We just appreciate lead time to be able to build the necessary materials.

The History Office is more than just collecting annual histories (which by the way are coming due 15 March for the Headquarters Staff); if given the opportunity we can provide institutional memory into your planning model. You just have to ask.

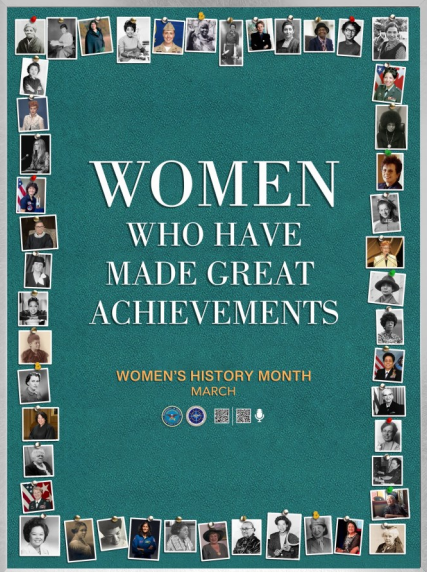
As we in the History Office are good at, we will leave you with a quote, one that we feel is far more impactful than the worn out one about history repeating itself.

“History lights the often-dark path ahead; even if it’s a dim light, it’s better than none. If you can’t be additive as a leader, you’re just like a potted plant in the corner of a hotel lobby: you look pretty, but you’re not adding substance to the organization’s mission.” Secretary of Defense, James Mattis

Women’s History Month Observance

Every March, we celebrate the women who helped to shape American history and the many contributions they’ve made to the society we live in. Women’s History Month honors their achievements. The month-long event began as “Women’s History Week” in 1978 as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California, meant to coincide with International Women’s Day on March 8. The event, which was organized by the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, began to spread across the country. In 1980, a collective of women’s groups and historians, led by the National Women’s History Alliance, lobbied for national recognition. Because of them, in February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as the first National Women’s History Week. In 1987, Congress passed Public Law 100-9, which designated the entire month of March as “Women’s History Month,” to request and authorize the president to proclaim the celebration, which has happened each year since 1995. Every year, the National Women’s History Alliance publishes a yearly theme.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month>



H i s t o r y i s b e i n g m a d e e v e r y d a y a t t h i s c o m m a n d .

Cover Photo: ASC Soldiers on a Battle of the Rock Island Rapids staff ride, on Campbells Island.

For more history content visit us on our website or scan the code to left: <https://www.aschq.army.mil/About/History>

Presented to you by your friendly ASC History Office. Feel free to call or stop by our office for any of your history needs.
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