



Ghost Army Soldiers lifting an inflatable tank. Built on a frame of inflatable tubes, the facsimiles were surprisingly realistic when viewed from a few hundred yards, from a reconnaissance plane in the air, and especially when combined with camouflage netting or other natural coverage.

Only 2 More Weeks to See the Ghost Army Exhibit!

During World War II the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops played a role in the Allied victory as a unique and top-secret "Ghost Army" unit that used visual, sonic and radio deception to fool German forces during the final year of the war. Artifacts such as artwork, uniforms, a life-size inflatable tank and more will be on display at the Airborne & Special Operations Museum (ASOM) through April 25.



This wire recording and playback machine recorded tank, truck, artillery, and small arms sounds by pulling a 37 gauge steel wire over the recording head that magnetized each point along the wire to reproduce sound. The 3132nd Signal Service Company of the Ghost Army projected these sounds of combat towards the real U.S. Army in an attempt to disguise the U.S. Army in its locations and intentions, as well as draw enemy fire to keep them occupied in a certain area of the battlefield. This artifact, loaned from the National World War II Museum, is featured in the temporary Ghost Army exhibit at the ASOM through April 25, 2021.

The U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum is hosting this special Ghost Army exhibit, in its temporary gallery. Ghost Army tells the story of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops - the first mobile, multimedia, tactical deception unit in US Army history.

What is the Ghost Army? Activated on January 20, 1944, the unique and top-secret "Ghost Army" unit was comprised of 82 officers and 1,023 men. Under the command of Army veteran Colonel Harry L. Reeder, the group was capable of simulating two whole divisions (approximately 30,000 men) by using visual, sonic and radio deception to fool German forces during the final year of World War II. Armed with nothing heavier than .50 caliber machine guns, the 23rd took part in 22 large-scale deceptions in Europe from Normandy to the Rhine River, the bulk of the unit arriving in England in May 1944, shortly before D-Day.

The Ghost Army consisted of a carefully selected group of artists, engineers, professional soldiers and draftees, including fashion designer Bill Blass, painter Ellsworth Kelly and photographer Art Kane. Many West Point graduates and former Army Specialized Training Program participants were assigned to the 23rd, and it was said to have one of the highest collective IQs in the Army.

The unit waged war with inflatable tanks and vehicles, fake radio traffic, sound effects and even phony generals, using imagination and illusion to trick the enemy while saving thousands of lives. Along with the 3133rd Signal Service Company in Italy, the unit helped liberate Europe from the grip of Nazi tyranny.

Through this special exhibit, visitors can learn the comprehensive story of the 23rd and their role in Allied victory.

For more information you can visit www.asomf.org/ghost-army-exhibit-2021. The Airborne & Special Operations Museum is located at 100 Air Blvd., Fayetteville, NC 28301. The telephone number is (910) 643-2778.

Ansonia Spotlight is on Cheryl Carpenter Stewart



This is a release from the Ansonia Theatre: Cheryl Carpenter Stewart is a true lover of the arts. Not only is she an active board member of the Anson County Arts Council, she has entertained audiences on the Ansonia stage in *Our Town* (Don't know when I have seen such a lovely wedding!), *Gypsy* and *Fruitcakes*. Her portrait has been painted (twice!) by the talented Michael Phillips, and is on display in the Drake Gallery.

Cheryl always helps with anything in the Arts Council, Ansonia Theater and Drake Gallery. She works Bach's Lunches, paints sets, works intermissions, and helps at the box office. We are grateful for her heading up the committee to renovate the new Gibson Building (now Drake Gallery & Studio). The new building has been turned into a beautiful gallery space and workshop/classroom with a functional kitchen space and ample bathroom. We look forward to all the possibilities the Drake Gallery and Studio affords us.

A loving daughter and proud mother, she helps with her mother's needs on a regular basis. Her mother Maxine has been to many functions, and usually lends a hand whenever needed. Her son Will is a brilliant chef; her daughter Ellie is a travel nurse who has been working on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cheryl is a Tour Coordinator at EF Go Ahead Tours and enjoys globetrotting with her "Tribe."

Cheryl, we love you!!! The spotlight is on YOU!

You can see Cheryl in the Ansonia's upcoming play, *Prelude to a Kiss*, May 14-23. Don't miss it!!!

Lifelong Improvements Through Fitness Together (LIFT)

This time last year we were all worried about having enough toilet paper to stay at home during the pandemic. We are not in the free and clear, but as more become vaccinated, the trends decrease and restrictions are loosening, many of us have started to get out a little more. With warmer temps and longer days, now is good time to start working on your physical activity to help strengthen our bodies to become stronger for the summer.

Lifelong Improvements Through Fitness Together (L.I.F.T.) is a research-based program that helps develop relationships, improve functional fitness and emotional health. These classes will help improve your strength and mobility, learn healthy food options, and most importantly help form a community to socialize and interact in the virtual world. L.I.F.T. is an 8-week group-based strength training program that meets 2 times a week for 1-hour sessions. This program is open to all adults, young and old. We will meet Tuesday and Thursdays, May 4-June 24. All classes are from noon-1:00pm.

Alexander, Anson, Bladen, Montgomery, Pitt and Stanly counties have partnered to offer this virtual fitness program. Agents will instruct the hour-long class and all you have to do is click the link and participate. How easy is that??? Classes will be prerecorded for those that may have a scheduling conflict and have to miss our live class. Making time for exercise can change your life! If you're looking for a free, at-home strength training program, LIFT is the program for you. Let's get active and LIFT to New Abilities, together! Link to register is: go.ncsu.edu/lift2newabilities.

NCDMV Online Services Expanding to Allow for State-Issued ID Card Renewals

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles expanded its online services and now customers can renew state-issued identification cards.

Individuals with a state-issued ID card making an office appointment and renew online by going to payments.ncdot.gov and follow the instructions. State-issued IDs can be renewed up to six months before they expire. The price to renew an ID is \$14, plus the \$3 online convenience fee. However, there are also ID holders who can renew for free. That information can be found at www.ncdot.gov/dmv under No-Fee ID Cards.

Obtaining an initial state-issued ID still requires a visit to a driver license office. Information on obtaining an ID card can be found on the DMV website.

NCDMV already offers online access for many services, including driver license renewals, ordering duplicate licenses and ID cards, driving record requests, driver license office appointments, registration renewals, vehicle property tax payments, duplicate registration cards, ordering personalized and specialty plates, payment of insurance lapse fines, and applying for voter registration.

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