The Patriot

The Ozark Mountain Chapter Newsletter

August/September 2024 Issue 9

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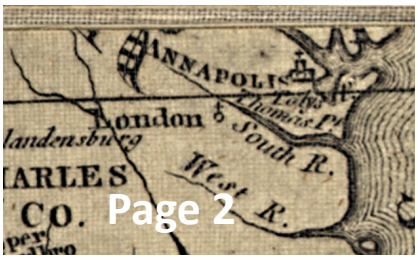

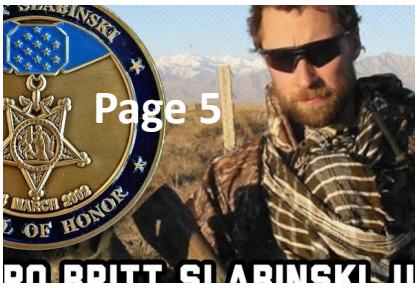

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MEMBERS

Please notify chapter registrar Steve Perkins Patriotmarcher @ fastmail .com of any recent or anticipated change to contact information: address, phone, e-mail

The Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR Challenge Coins are for sale. These coins are $5.00 each from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk.

On the Cover
Chapter members pose with our guest speaker, John Haas of the Josiah Howell SAR Chapter.

Photographs provided by: Daniel Piedlow, Margaret Swales, Steve Perkins
Editor: Daniel Piedlow

The President's Message

By President Charles McMillan

"Preserve History, Provide Youth Education and awareness of our patriot ancestors and founding fathers and inspire patriotism in our community."

John Hass, a member of the Josiah Howell Chapter spoke on the Fur Trading Era. It was very enlightening.

John had a display of items he has hand made. Several cutting blades with unique handles like Coyote jaw and Turkey claw. He was wearing a deer skin coat he made from a deer he had harvested. This was a good educational presentation and can be viewed on our You Tube Channel.

A motion for the OMC Chapter to endorse James Osborn for the position of Librarian General was made, discussion, and voted unanimously to send the endorsement.

A discussion was had on the upcoming Veteran's Luncheon on 16 November 2024 at the Knights of Columbus Diamond Room, 2340 W. Grand St. in Springfield. The C.A.R. Dinner will be held at the same location on 20 December 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Reach out to someone today and be a positive part of their day.

The nomination committee will be looking for people to fill several vacancies this next year. Volunteer and serve the Chapter and Society.

Don't forget to look at our website to keep up on our schedule of events.

https://ozarkmountainsar.com

Remember, you can order your Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR shirts from Missouri Embroidery. Their phone number is: (417) 889-2221 and their address is: 1307 S. Glenstone Ave.

OMC/SAR Meeting Minutes 21 Sept 2024

1. Regular Business Meeting.
2. Ozark Mountain Chapter
3. 21 Sept 2024, Ozark Technical College Commons
4. President Charles McMillan was present. The position of secretary and 1st VP and 2nd VP are vacant.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
6. The meeting started at 09:30 and ended at 10:15
7. There were 20 members present and 3 guests.
8. A motion for the OMC Chapter to send an endorsement to Past PG Dodd for James Osborn for Librarian General was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15.

New Medal now available! A medal for the Battle of Fort San Carlos is now available from Compatriot J Howard Fisk. They cost $35.00 and you must participate in the events in Ste. Genevieve.

"To Render Ourselves Impregnable": The Defenses of Annapolis during the American Revolution

by Raphael Corletta

The city of Annapolis has never been attacked in its long history, but it has nonetheless played an important role in American conflicts, with the American Revolution being no exception. While the British never attempted to capture the city, extensive fortifications were built around Annapolis to hold off a possible British attack. What were the quality of these fortifications, and would they have held off the British?

Annapolis residents had good reasons to fear their city becoming a British target during the Revolutionary War. Not only was the port on the Severn River a superbly located supply point for the Continental Army, but it also housed several shipyards for building and repairing warships.[1] Annapolis was also an important cultural and commercial hub. While the city would be eclipsed in importance by Baltimore later in the century, the time period between the French and Indian War and the American Revolution has been called the golden age of Annapolis. Wealthy gentlemen such as William Paca (a later signer of the Declaration of Independence), settled in the city, constructing imposing Georgian homes. The money from this building boom benefited the craftsmen, suppliers, and laborers who were involved, who in turn spent their wages in taverns and shops. This thriving economy allowed for a vibrant cultural and social scene, and a visitor to Annapolis would have had access to a plethora of amusements such as theatergoing, horseracing, or dancing. An Anglican clergyman described Annapolis as "the genteelist town in North America."[2]

After the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia and the subsequent signing of the "Declaration of the Delegates of Maryland" in July in 1776, Annapolitans began preparing for war. Maryland's Eighth Convention appropriated 10,000 pounds for defense, with brick and stone for a new church being dedicated to the war effort instead. The majority of the work erecting fortifications went to the local company of artillery men and their major, John Fulford, who had commanded the city's garrison since the early months of 1776. Fortifications were constructed on Horn Point, Fort Severn, and across the Severn River at Beaman's Point in order to enable a crossfire that the townsfolk hoped would counter a British assault.[3] The defenses were built in the French tradition under the guidance of a French military engineer who was paid by the city.[4] Fulford described the exhausting labor required for the construction of Annapolis's defenses as the "most fatiguing in life, and much more so than any company has gone through hitherto; namely, in building or assisting to build fortifications."[5]

Annapolis was heavily fortified by the summer of 1777, with cannons (mostly eighteen pounders) lining the city's shoreline. Horn Point received the most extensive fortifications with a traditional French fortification standing thirty feet above the water at the easternmost point of the peninsula, consisting of a ditch studded with pointed logs, a parapet, firing platforms and parade. Trenches reached back into the peninsula's interior in order to maintain supplies and communication across Spa Creek. [6] The loyalist William Eddis listed some of the other forts guarding the city during the summer of 1777: "They have another Fortification on Hill's Point, & a Third on Mr. Ker's Land, on the North Side of Severn, on a high Cliff called Beaumont's Point."[7] But while these forts were numerous, not all of them were equal. Fort Severn (located at the present sight of the United States Naval Academy) was minuscule compared to the imposing fort at Horn Point, consisting of a few breastworks and not much else.[8] Despite the mixed quality of Annapolis's forts, the soldiers manning them seemed eager to prove their valor. Eddis recounted that "they talk confidently of making a vigorous Resistance in Case of an Attack."[9]

An attack seemed imminent by August of 1777, when British troops sailed through the Chesapeake Bay in a fleet of over 260 vessels.[10] Panic gripped the city, and many civilians, not as confident in facing the British as the city's garrison, began to flee. The civilians had concluded that Annapolis's fortifications would not save them from the wrath of the British

Empire. Maryland's governor at the time, Thomas Johnson, made this civilian retreat official when he ordered everyone who could not bear arms out of the capitol on August 20. The next day, Annapolitan fears reached a boiling point when the British fleet sailed past the mouth of the Severn River. The governor and council removed themselves to Baltimore,[11] unanimously concluding that "Annapolis cannot be defended by any force which may probably be collected against the force the Enemy may at any Time bring against it and that therefore the Town and Forts ought to be evacuated and the Guns and Stores removed and Secured."[12] Fulford followed suit: "Major Fulford was consulted on this Question whilst the same was under Consideration and was of the same opinion as the Governor and Council."[13] Despite their efforts constructing and maintaining the city's fortifications over the past year, both statesmen and soldiers agreed that the city's defenses could not save them.

The British attack Annapoltians had so feared never arrived. The British fleet disembarked the troops at the Elk River, the most northeastern extension of the Chesapeake Bay. The British forces then crossed into Pennsylvania and went on to rout the American army at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, capturing Philadelphia a few days later. But while the Union Jack flew over Philadelphia, the British threat in the Chesapeake evaporated, and Annapolis relaxed its defenses. Most of the city's forts fell into disuse, apart from Fort Horn, which was used as an area to test gunpowder, likely under the supervision of state armorer John Shaw. With Annapolis's defenses underused, many of the city's former defenders sought work elsewhere with the majority of the artillery's matrosses being transferred to other units, and Captain Fulford resigning his commission. Nonetheless, the war was not yet over for Annapolis. The city served as a military supply depot, with important commodities such as food, medicine and ammunition all flowing through Annapolis to the Continental Army. Furthermore, British warships would soon threaten the town again.[14]

Military excitement returned to Annapolis in March 1781, when twelve hundred troops under the command of the Marquis de Lafayette landed in the city, on their way to Virginia to intercept British troops under the traitor Benedict Arnold and end the war.[15] A large portion of this force was encamped on the banks of Spa Creek (modern day Eastport),[16] while others utilized the fort at Horn Point.[17] Before Lafayette could march his forces into the south, two British warships, the Hope and the Monk, each armed with eighteen guns, blockaded the Annapolis harbor, effectively trapping the French commander on shore.[18] Lafayette wrote of his dilemma to Thomas Jefferson: "The detachement I Brought from West Point is still at Annapolis and Cannot Come unless a Superior Naval force is sent for its Protection."[19] The French commander eventually decided to take matters into his own hands, and collected a small fleet to repulse the British warships, consisting of a sloop with field weapons mounted on the bow, and boats containing infantrymen under his command. Lafayette's gambit worked, with the British warships ending their blockade.[20] While Annapolis had been successfully defended, the repulse of the British could be attributed to Lafayette's makeshift fleet rather than the fortifications around the city, with only Horn Point's fort being used by Lafayette's forces during their time in Annapolis.

Detail of a 1787 map showing Baltimore (at top), Annapolis, and Chesapeake Bay. (Library of Congress)

New fears of invasion returned in the autumn of 1781, as the war heated up in the lower Chesapeake Bay. The Maryland Gazette advised the townspeople to "exert every effort to render ourselves impregnable."[21] However, it seemed Annapolitans saw more use in training the city's garrison in order to stave off a British attack, rather than maintaining the city's dwindling fortifications, with the Maryland Gazette urging the militia to "become acquainted with their arms."[22] But just as in 1777, the feared attack never came. Following Admiral Comte de Grasse's decisive victory at the Chesapeake capes in September, and the British surrender at Yorktown

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the following month, an air of relaxation dawned on Annapolis. While the war had not yet ended and the city continued its role as a military supply depot, prewar pleasures such as the selling of non-military goods and services and horseracing returned to the city. The city had emerged from the war unscathed, and following the proclamation of peace in the spring of 1783, Annapolis briefly served as America's new capitol, hosting two events that helped conclude the American Revolution: the resignation of Gen. George Washington in December 1783 and the ratification of the Treaty of Paris in January 1784.[23]

Unlike many American cities during the Revolutionary War, Annapolis had been neither attacked nor captured by British forces. Nonetheless, because of the city's strategic importance, extensive fortifications were built around the city in 1776 and 1777 to defend it from a possible British attack. Many of these fortifications were of a high quality, built under the guidance of a French engineer. However, when the city seemed on the verge of being attacked in August 1777 by a large British force, civil and military authorities mutually agreed that the fortifications would not be enough to save them and fled the city. After this point the majority of the city's fortifications fell into disuse. When the British blockaded the city in 1781, Lafayette successfully drove them down the Chesapeake Bay with a combination of naval and infantry forces, with the city's forts playing little to no role in this defense. Afterwards, Annapolitans seemed to put more weight on a well-trained garrison rather than the maintenance of forts. Thus, it can be concluded the extensive fortifications built around Annapolis's harbor could not alone save the city from a British assault had one occurred.

Important Dates in History

Aug 1: Sons of Liberty Formed 1765
Aug 1: Ambushed by Cherokees, Patriots are saved by a mounted charge at Seneca, SC 1776
Aug 4: U.S. Coast Guard Created 1790
Aug 4: Patriot Isaac Hayne is executed 1781
Aug 6: The Redcoats, with Iroquois support, force the patriots back at Oriskany, NY, but then have to evacuate 1777
Aug 6: Patriots defeat Tories at Hanging Rock, SC 1780
Aug 7: Washington establishes the Badge of Military Merit (Purple Heart) 1782
Aug 10: Tugaloo River, SC, Andrew Pickens defeats Cherokees
Aug 12: Andrew Pickens' detachment surrounded by 185 Cherokee Indians, forms a ring and fires outward. It is known as the "Ring Fight." 1776
Aug 12: Colonel David Williamson and Andrew Pickens burn Tamassee, SC an Indian town 1776
Aug 19: Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee attacks Paulus Hook, NJ 1779
Aug 19: Battle of Blue Licks, KY 1782
Aug 23: British withdraw from Fort Stanwix, NY, upon hearing of Benedict Arnold's approach 1777
Aug 25: British General Howe lands at Head of Elk, Maryland 1777
Aug 27: Redcoats defeat George Washington's army in the Battle of Long Island. Washington's Army escapes at night. 1776
Aug 27: Battle of Brooklyn, NY 1776
Aug 29: Newtown, NY, after two massacres, American forces burn Indian villages 1779

[1] Rosemary Williams, Maritime Annapolis: A History of Watermen, Sails & Midshipmen (Charleston: The History Press, 2009), 87-88.
[2] Jane Wilson McWilliams, Annapolis, city on the severn: a history (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 2011), 72-83.
[3] Ibid., 93-95.
[4] Jane McWilliams and Morris L Radoff, "Annapolis Meets the Crisis," in Chesapeake Bay in the American Revolution, ed. Ernest McNeill Eller (Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers,1981), 416. This source gives the name of the engineer as "Monsieur Peticuson Dhuge," apparently written phonetically in a period manuscript; the engineer's actual name has not been determined.
[5] John Fulford, "Petition of Captain Fulford's Company of Maryland Artillery, for an increase of pay," Annapolis, September 18, 1776, Northern Illinois University Digital Library, digital.lib.niu.edu/islandora/object/niu-amarch%3A79067.
[6] McWilliams, Annapolis, city on the severn: a history, 98.
[7] "Extract of a Letter from Mr. Eddis to Govr. Eden," July 23, 1777, Maryland Historical Magazine V. 2 No. 2 (July 1907), 105-110.
[8] Lossing, Benson J. Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812. (Harper, New York.1868) 181

[9] "Extract of a Letter from Mr. Eddis to Govr. Eden."
[10] Woody Holton, Liberty is Sweet: The Hidden History of the American Revolution (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2021), 309.
[11] McWilliams, Annapolis, city on the severn, 99.
[12] Nathaniel Smith to Thomas Johnson, August 21, 1777, Maryland State Archives, msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000016/html/am16–340.html.
[13] Ibid.
[14] McWilliams, Annapolis, city on the severn, 99-100.
[15] Ibid., 102.
[16] Williams, Maritime Annapolis, 89.
[17] "The Fort at Horn Point," Historical Marker. Maritime Museum & Park, Annapolis, Maryland.
[18] Williams, Maritime Annapolis, 89.
[19] Marquis de Lafayette to Thomas Jefferson, March 16, 1781, founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-05-02-0208.
[20] Williams, Maritime Annapolis, 89.
[21] Maryland Gazette, and Political Intelligencer, August 16,1781.
[22] Ibid.
[23] McWilliams, Maritime Annapolis, 102-108.

https://allthingsliberty.com/2024/08/to-render-ourselves-impregnable-the-defenses-of-annapolis-during-the-american-revolution/

Profiles of Valor: Britt Slabinski

"This Medal of Honor belongs to the seven Americans killed in action on that mountain top."
by Mark Alexander
https://patriotpost.us/alexander/104384?mailing_id=8130&subscription_uuid=b6666ccb-7d37-4607-b40f-88d0603e9482&utm_medium=email&utm_source=pp.email.8130&utm_campaign=snapshot&utm_content=body

I recently spent a day with Medal of Honor recipient and former Navy SEAL Britt Slabinski and his Gold Star Wife, Christina. She is the founder of All in All the Time, a foundation supporting the emergency needs of Naval Special Warfare families.

Britt is an Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran, and after completing his military service is now the president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. For membership, all you need is a Medal of Honor.

He is a native of Northampton, Massachusetts. Given my long involvement with Scouting and being the father of two Eagle Scouts, I note that Britt earned his Eagle Scout rank at age 14 — probably a good indicator of his drive and his future. After graduating high school in 1988, he enlisted in the Navy and attended boot camp in Orlando, Florida.

His first order was to complete the Radioman Class "A" School in San Diego, California, where he learned the basics of naval communications, graduating in 1989. From there, he started down a path to complete a life-long goal to become a Navy SEAL.

He qualified for basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training (BUD/S) at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California, graduating in 1990 with BUD/S Class 164. After SEAL Tactical Training and completion of the requisite six-month probationary period, he received the Navy Enlisted Classification 5326 as a Combatant

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Swimmer (SEAL).

His operational assignments include SEAL Team FOUR (1990-1993); Naval Special Warfare Development Group (1993-2006); and Command Master Chief of Naval Special Warfare Tactical Development and Evaluation Squadron TWO (2006-2008). From 2008 to 2010, he was the Senior Enlisted Advisor for Joint Special Operations Command in Washington, DC, and then Command Master Chief, Naval Special Warfare Group TWO (2010-2012). He then served as Director of Naval Special Warfare Safety Assurance and Analysis Program before his retirement in 2014 after 25 years of service.

During his career as a SEAL, he was a Naval Special Warfare Scout Sniper and Military Free Fall Parachute Jump Master. He completed (survived) 24 deployments, including 15 combat deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Donald Trump in May 2018 for actions on March 4, 2002, in Afghanistan during the Battle of Takur Ghar. That battle is considered by DoD as U.S. special operators' most intense firefight since Mogadishu in 1993. Seven Americans were killed and 12 wounded, and U.S. Forces lost two MH-47 Chinooks.

One other American, Air Force Technical Sgt. John Chapman, received the Medal of Honor posthumously for actions during the battle. He was the first Airman to receive the award since Vietnam.

Slabinski's Medal of Honor citation notes, "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while assigned to a Joint Task Force in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM."

It continues:

In the early morning of 4 March 2002, Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator Slabinski led a reconnaissance team to its assigned area atop a 10,000-foot snow-covered mountain. Their insertion helicopter was suddenly riddled with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire from previously undetected enemy positions. The crippled helicopter lurched violently and ejected one teammate onto the mountain before the pilots were forced to crash land in the valley far below. Senior Chief Slabinski boldly rallied his five remaining team members and marshalled supporting assets for an assault to rescue their stranded teammate. During reinsertion the team came under fire from three directions, and one teammate started moving uphill toward an enemy strongpoint. Without regard for his own safety, Senior Chief Slabinski charged directly toward enemy fire to join his teammate. Together, they fearlessly assaulted and cleared the first bunker they encountered. The enemy then unleashed a hail of machine gun fire from a second hardened position only twenty meters away. Senior Chief Slabinski repeatedly exposed himself to deadly fire to personally engage the second enemy bunker and orient his team's fires in the furious, close-quarters firefight. Proximity made air support impossible, and after several teammates became casualties, the situation became untenable. Senior Chief Slabinski maneuvered his team to a more defensible position, directed air strikes in very close proximity to his team's position, and requested reinforcements. As daylight approached, accurate enemy mortar fire forced the team further down the sheer mountainside. Senior Chief Slabinski carried a seriously wounded teammate through deep snow and led a difficult trek across precipitous terrain while calling in fire on the enemy, which was engaging the team from the surrounding ridges. Throughout the next 14 hours, Senior Chief Slabinski stabilized the casualties and continued the fight against the enemy until the hill was secured and his team was extracted. His citation concludes, "By his undaunted courage, bold initiative, leadership, and devotion to duty, Senior Chief Slabinski reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

At the ceremony, Britt declared: "This Medal of Honor belongs to the seven Americans killed in action on that mountaintop: Neil, John, Phil, Marc, Matt, Brad, and Jason. They gave all for all of us. This honor is yours, for you are the true heroes."

Slabinski's additional military decorations include the Navy Cross, Navy/Marine Corps Medal; Bronze Star with Valor (five awards); Combat Action Ribbon (two awards); Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards); Meritorious Service Medal (two awards); Joint Service Commendation Medal (two awards); Joint Service Achievement Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards); Good Conduct Medal (eight awards); and numerous other personal and unit awards and decorations.

Notably, in addition to this action, Slabinski also participated in the high-profile SEAL rescue mission to recover Army PFC Jessica Lynch.

Britt Kelly Slabinski: Your example of valor — a humble American Patriot defending your fellow warriors and Liberty for all — above and beyond the call of duty, and in disregard for the peril to your own life, is eternal. “Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13)
Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis
Pro Deo et Libertate — 1776

Important Dates in History

Sept 3: Treaty of Paris Signed 1783
Sept 5–Oct. 26: First Continental Congress 1774
Sept 6: Marquis de Lafayette’s Birthday 1757
Sept 8: Greene defeated at Eutaw Springs, SC 1781
Sept 11: The British win the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania 1777
Sept 11: Annapolis Convention 1786
Sept 15: The British occupy New York City 1776
Sept 15: French fleet drives British naval force from Chesapeake Bay 1781
Sept 16: Mayflower sets sail from Plymouth, England for the New World 1620
Sept 16: Rainout at the Battle of the Clouds, Pennsylvania 1777
Sept 16: Generals George Washington, Nathanael Greene, and Israel Putnam triumphantly hold their ground at the Battle of Harlem Heights 1776
Sept 17: Signing of the Constitution 1787
Sept 18: U.S. Air Force Created 1947
Sept 19: Colonel David Williamson's Pennsylvania militia forces attacked by Cherokees at Coweecho River, NC 1776
Sept 19: Charles Carroll Birthday 1737
Sept 19: Battle of Saratoga 1777
Sept 21: Paoli Massacre, PA 1777
Sept 21: Benedict Arnold commits treason 1780
Sept 22: British execute Nathan Hale 1776
Sept 23: John André arrested, leading to the exposure of Benedict Arnold's plans to cede West Point to the British 1780
Sept 23: John Paul Jones, aboard the Bonhomme Richard, captures British man-of-war Serapis near English coast 1779
Sept 26: British under Howe occupy Philadelphia 1777
Sept 27: Samuel Adams Birthday 1722
Sept 28: The Tappan Massacre "No Flint" Grey kills 30 Americans by bayonet 1778

Youth Protection Training

A reminder concerning the Youth Protection Training (YPT). The YPT course can be accessed by going to the SAR website, logging in, and selecting eLearning from the menu at the top of the page. Also, one can access the YPT course using the following link in your web browser search window: sar.org/courses/youth-protection-training/ or https://america250sar.org/ and click on the “Youth Protection Training.”
This training takes just a few minutes to complete and is an important reminder of our responsibility.
Anyone who is in contact with children during an SAR event MUST take this training.
Be sure that you register as you begin so that you can print out a certificate with your name.
Missouri SAR has asked all of our board members and committee chairmen to take this training. We scan a copy of our certificate and forward it to our Missouri Secretary who keeps a Google spreadsheet record with the date of completion.
If you participate in a Scouting event, it is required that you also take the Boy Scout Youth Protection Training at: https://my.scouting.org/

There is a website from Texas SAR with videos they call “Revolutionary War Rarities.” They have received the full support from National and so they are being put into our newsletter. Below are two of the three pictures with links to the website. The third is on page 1.

Air Force Birthday

The U.S. Air Force was officially established on September 18, 1947. The Air Force began life as the Army Air Corps but became a separate Armed Services Branch when the Department of the Air Force was created by the National Security Act of 1947. Join us in prayer for the USAF Patriots serving our country with steadfast devotion and for their families.

Air Force History:

On August 1, 1907, the US Army Signal Corps established a small Aeronautical Division to take "charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects." There were at the time few aeronautical "subjects" upon which to build. From the close of the Civil War until 1907, the Signal Corps had acquired only eight balloons, though two more were procured in 1907. A year later the Signal Corps purchased a small dirigible, used at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, for the instruction of servicemen. But not until May 26, 1909, did Lts Frank P. Lahm and Benjamin D. Foulois make their first ascent and qualify as the airship's first Army pilots.

The Signal Corps began testing its first airplane at Fort Myer, Virginia, on August 20, 1908, and on September 9, Lt Thomas E. Selfridge, flying with Orville Wright, was killed when the plane crashed. Subsequently, after more testing with a second, improved Wright Flyer, the Army formally accepted this airplane, identified as "Airplane No. 1," on August 2, 1909.

Four years after the Signal Corps took charge of air matters, Congress, for the first time, appropriated funds for Army aeronautics: $125,000 for fiscal year 1912. By the close of October 1912, the Signal Corps had acquired eleven aircraft but possessed only nine. "Airplane No. 1" had been given to the Smithsonian Institution, and one other had been demolished in an accident.

A few months later, in early 1913, the Army ordered its aviators who were training in Augusta, Georgia, and Palm Beach, Florida, to Texas to take part in 2d Division maneuvers. In Galveston on March 3, the Chief Signal Officer designated the assembled men and equipment the "1st Provisional Aero Squadron," with Capt Charles DeF. Chandler as squadron commander. The 1st Provisional Aero Squadron, organized at Galveston on March 5, 1913, began flying activities a few days later. On December 4, general orders redesignated the unit as the 1st Aero Squadron, effective December 8, 1913. This first military unit of the US Army devoted exclusively to aviation, today designated the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, has remained continuously active since its creation. Assigned a role in the Punitive Expedition of the Mexican border in 1916, this squadron became the first air combat unit of the US Army.

Meantime, Congress created in the Signal Corps an Aviation Section, comprised of 60 officers and 260 enlisted men, to replace the Aeronautical Division. Signed by the President, this bill became law on July 18, 1914. It directed the Aviation Section to operate and supervise "all military [US Army] aircraft, including balloons and aeroplanes, all appliances pertaining to said craft, and signaling apparatus of any kind when installed on said craft." The section would also train "officers and enlisted men in matters pertaining to military aviation," and thus embraced all facets of the Army's air organization and operation. The old Aeronautical Division continued to exist, but operated as the Washington office of the new section.

When World War I broke out in Europe in August 1914, the 1st Aero Squadron represented the entire tactical air strength of the US Army. It counted 12 officers, 54 enlisted men, and six aircraft, figures that increased in October to 16 officers, 77 enlisted men, and eight aircraft. In December 1915 the Aviation Section consisted of 44 officers, 224 enlisted men, and 23 airplanes–still a tiny force when compared to the fledgling air forces of the European powers. But the war in Europe focused more attention on aviation. An urgent "deficiency act" on March 31, 1916, provided $500,000 for the Aviation Section, and on August 29 – influenced by the possibility of US entry into the European war – Congress appropriated $13,281,666 for military aeronautics and another $600,000 for the purchase of land for airfields. That same spring Congress passed the National Defense Act that increased the number of personnel authorized in the Aviation Section from 60 to 148 officers and gave

to the President the power to establish the enlisted strength. The act further provided a Signal Officers Reserve Corps of 297 officers and a Signal Enlisted Reserve Corps of 2,000 enlisted men to be trained under the direction of the Aviation Section.

By this time the Aviation Section consisted of the Aeronautical Division, the Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego, the 1st Aero Squadron (then on duty with the expeditionary force in Mexico), and the 1st Company, 2d Aero Squadron, on duty in the Philippines. In October 1916, Aviation Section plans called for two dozen squadrons–seven for the Regular Army, 12 for the National Guard divisions, and five for coastal defense–plus balloon units for the field and coast artillery. In December 1916 the seven Regular Army squadrons either had been or were being organized. All 24 squadrons had been formed by early 1917, but the 1st Aero Squadron remained the only one fully organized and equipped. Plans for still greater expansion of the Aviation Section were incomplete when the United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917.

On May 20, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson issued an executive order transferring aviation from the Signal Corps to two agencies under the Secretary of War: the Bureau of Aircraft Production, headed by Mr. John D. Ryan, and the Division of Military Aeronautics, directed by Maj. Gen. William L. Kenly. On May 24 the War Department officially recognized these two Army agencies as comprising the Air Service of the US Army. Three months later, on August 27, the President appointed Mr. Ryan Director of the Air Service and Second Assistant Secretary of War.

Despite a combat record of only nine months (February to November 1918), the Air Service made a respectable showing during World War I. The 740 American aircraft assigned to squadrons at the front on November 11, 1918, Armistice Day, represented little more than 10 percent of the total aircraft strength of Allied nations. But the Air Service had conducted 150 separate bombing attacks. Penetrating as far as 160 miles behind German lines, its aircraft had dropped about 138 tons of bombs. In all, the Air Service downed 756 enemy aircraft and 76 enemy balloons, while losing 289 airplanes and 48 balloons. The dispersal of aero squadrons among various Army organizations during the war made it difficult to coordinate aerial activities, which led to the creation of higher echelon organizations. At the front, squadrons with similar functions were formed into groups, the first organized in April 1918 as I Corps Observation Group. The following month the 1st Pursuit Group was formed, and in July 1918 the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) organized its first aircraft unit higher than a group–the 1st Pursuit Wing–made up of the 2d and 3d Pursuit Groups and, later, the 1st Day Bombardment Group. In November 1918 the AEF possessed 14 groups (seven observation, five pursuit, and two bombardment). Following the armistice, demobilization of the Air Service was rapid and thorough. At war's end the Air Service possessed 185 aero squadrons; 44 aero construction; 114 aero supply, 11 aero replacement, and 150 spruce production squadrons; 86 balloon companies; six balloon group headquarters; 15 construction companies; 55 photographic sections; and a few miscellaneous units. By November 22, 1919, all had been demobilized except one aero construction, one aero replacement, and 22 aero squadrons, 32 balloon companies, 15 photographic sections, and a few miscellaneous units. Between November 11, 1918 and June 30, 1920, officer strength plummeted from 19,189 to 1,168, and enlisted strength dropped from 178,149 to 8,428. Following World War I, the strength of the Air Service matched what Congress considered satisfactory for peacetime. The Army Reorganization Act of 1920 made the Air Service a combatant arm of the Army and gave the Chief of the Air Service the rank of major general and his assistant chief the rank of brigadier general. Tactical air units in the United States were placed under the nine USA corps area commanders where they continued to be employed primarily in support of the ground forces. The Chief of the Air Service retained command of various training schools, depots, and other activities exempted from Army corps control. During most of the 1920s, the total offensive strength of the Air Service in the United States consisted of one pursuit, one attack, and one bombardment group. Overseas, the Canal Zone and the Philippines each had assigned one pursuit and one bombardment squadron with two squadrons of each type stationed in the Hawaiian Islands. The Air Service focused initially on observation and pursuit aviation, with major aeronautical development efforts concentrated in the Engineering Division at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio.

The formal training establishment took shape during

- Continued on Page 10, Air Force -

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the 1920s. The Air Service concentrated flying training in Texas. Technical schools for officers and enlisted men were at Chanute Field, Illinois. The Air Service (later, Air Corps) Tactical School trained officers to command higher units and taught the employment of military aviation. First located at Langley Field, Virginia, this school moved to Maxwell Field, Alabama in 1931. An engineering school was part of the Engineering Division at McCook Field (later located at Wright Field), Ohio.

The Air Corps Act of 1926 changed the name of the Air Service to Air Corps, but left unaltered its status as a combatant arm of the U.S. Army. The act also established the Office of Assistant Secretary of War for Air. The Air Corps had at this time 919 officers and 8,725 enlisted men, and its "modern aeronautical equipment" consisted of 60 pursuit planes and 169 observation planes; total serviceable aircraft of all types numbered less than 1,000. In August 1926 the Army established the Air Corps Training Center in San Antonio, Texas. A few weeks later, on October 15, the logistical organization was placed on firmer footing with the establishment of the Materiel Division, Air Corps, at Dayton, Ohio. A year later this division moved to nearby Wright Field, thereafter the primary base for air logistics. In Texas, Randolph Field, the "West Point of the Air," was dedicated on June 20, 1930, and became the headquarters of the Air Corps Training Center and the site of the primary flying school in 1931. By June 30, 1932, the Air Corps had grown to 1,305 officers and 13,400 enlisted men, including cadets, and possessed 1,709 aircraft distributed among four attack, 12 bombardment, 16 pursuit, and 13 observation squadrons. The Corps also possessed at this time two airship and two balloon squadrons.

On March 1, 1935, the General Headquarters Air Force (GHQAF), which had existed in gestation since October 1, 1933, became operational and assumed command and control over Air Corps tactical units. Tactical units, less some observation squadrons scattered throughout the nine USA corps areas, transferred to this initial air force. The three GHQAF wings were located at Langley Field, Virginia; Barksdale Field, Louisiana; and March Field, California. The Office of the Chief of the Air Corps (OCAC) and GHQAF existed on the same command echelon, each reporting separately to the Army Chief of Staff. The GHQAF Commander directed tactical training and operations, while the Chief of the Air Corps maintained control over procurement, supply, training schools, and doctrine development. On March 1, 1939, the Chief of the Air Corps assumed control over the GHQAF, centralizing command of the entire air arm.

During the crisis over the partition of Czechoslovakia in the summer and autumn of 1938, the German Luftwaffe in a show of force demonstrated that airpower had become a powerful instrument in international relations. In September 1938, 500 Luftwaffe aircraft had supported German ground forces that occupied the Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia. President Franklin D. Roosevelt acknowledged the growing importance of airpower, recognized that the United States might be drawn into a European war, and believed firmly, according to his adviser, Harry Hopkins, "that airpower would win it." Assured of a favorable reception in the White House, the Air Corps prepared plans in October 1938 for a force of some 7,000 aircraft. Soon afterwards, President Roosevelt asked the War Department to prepare a program for an Air Corps composed of 10,000 airplanes, of which 7,500 would be combat aircraft. In a special message to Congress on January 12, 1939, the President formally requested this program. Congress responded on April 3, authorizing $300 million for an Air Corps "not to exceed 6,000 serviceable airplanes."

Beginning in September 1939, the German Army and the German Air Force rapidly conquered Poland, Norway, Holland, Belgium, France, and within one year had driven the British off the continent. Leaders of the Air Corps now found themselves in the novel position of receiving practically anything they requested. Plans soon called for 54 combat groups. This program was hardly underway before revised plans called for 84 combat groups equipped with 7,800 aircraft and manned by 400,000 troops by June 30, 1942. All told, U.S. Army air forces strength in World War II would swell from 26,500 men and 2,200 aircraft in 1939 to 2,253,000 men and women and 63,715 aircraft in 1945.

With this enormous expansion underway, the War Department began in 1939 to establish new bases and air organizations in rapid succession overseas and in the continental United States. At the same time air leaders worked to create an independent institutional structure for air within the U.S. Army. Both necessity and desire thus caused a blitz of

organizational changes from 1940 through 1942. On November 19, 1940, the General Headquarters Air Force was removed from the jurisdiction of the Chief of the Air Corps and given separate status under the commander of the Army Field Forces. Seven months later, these air combat forces returned to the command of air leaders as Gen. George C. Marshall, USA Chief of Staff, established the Army Air Forces (AAF) on June 20, 1941, to control both the Air Corps and the Air Force Combat Command (formerly GHQAF).

The Air Corps, during this period of expansion and reorganization, created a new echelon that would in a short time become the numbered air forces.

In December 1940, the War Department, to help control the growing tactical organizations, formed the Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest Air Districts. These districts were redesignated in April 1941 as the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Air Forces; later, in September 1942, the Arabic designations were changed to the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Air Forces. The Hawaiian Air Force was activated on 1 November1940, the Panama Canal Air Force on 20 November 1940, and the Alaskan Air Force on 15 January 1942. These air forces subsequently became the Seventh, Sixth, and Eleventh Air Forces.

Early in 1941, the War Department instituted a series of actions to create a hierarchy for noncombat activities. It set up a command eventually designated Flying Training Command to direct new programs for training ground crews and technicians. The next year, the new command assumed responsibility for pilot and aircrew training. In mid-1942 the War Department established the Air Corps Ferrying Command to fly aircraft overseas for delivery to the British and other Allies. As the functions of the Ferrying Command expanded, it was redesignated as the Air Transport Command. To control supply and maintenance, the War Department established the Air Corps Maintenance Command under the Air Corps Materiel Division. The Materiel Division then concentrated on procurement and research development.

A War Department reorganization on March 9, 1942, created three autonomous U.S. Army Commands: Army Ground Forces, Services of Supply (later, in 1943, Army Service Forces), and Army Air Forces. This reorganization dissolved the Office of the Chief of the Air Corps and the Air Force Combat Command, and merged all elements of the air arm into the Army Air Forces. This administrative reorganization did not affect the status of the Air Corps as a combatant arm of the US Army.

All of these actions affecting the air forces and commands that comprised the AAF emphasized the surge towards an independent service and the expansion of combat forces that took place during World War II. Before 1939 the Army's air arm was a fledgling organization; by the end of the war the Army Air Forces had become a major military organization comprised of many air forces, commands, divisions, wings, groups, and squadrons, plus an assortment of other organizations.

Rapid demobilization of forces immediately after World War II, although sharply reducing the size of the Army Air Forces, left untouched the nucleus of the postwar United States Air Force (USAF). A War Department letter of March 21, 1946, created two new commands and redesignated an existing one: Continental Air Forces was redesignated Strategic Air Command, and the resources of what had been Continental Air Forces were divided among Strategic Air Command and the two newcomers - Air Defense Command and Tactical Air Command. These three commands and the older Air Transport Command represented respectively the strategic, tactical, defense, and airlift missions that provided the foundation for building the postwar, independent Air Force.

The National Security Act of 1947 became law on July 26, 1947. It created the Department of the Air Force, headed by a Secretary of the Air Force. Under the Department of the Air Force, the act established the United States Air Force, headed by the Chief of Staff, USAF. On September 18, 1947, W. Stuart Symington became Secretary of the Air Force, and on September 26, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz became the USAF's first Chief of Staff.

Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis
Pro Deo et Libertate — 1776
https://patriotpost.us/references/82808-air-force-birthday

A challenge coin is available for the Boston Tea Party. They are $15.00 each from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk.

Awards and Events

On August 7th, Compatriots Norm Knowlton and Dan Piedlow assembled at the Historic Greene County Courthouse to commerate General Nathanial Greene's birthday.

On Auguse 23rd, Color Guard from across the state formed at Web City, ahead of the South Central District meeting, to dedicate the Liberty Tree that was planted. A musket volley was ordered.

The Mayor of Web City received a flag certificate for their proper presentation of the American flag.

Awards and Events

August 24th, the South Central District meeting in Joplin. President General Darryl Addington pins a pin onto Compatriots J. Howard Fisk and Ken Lawrence for their assistance in "shofering" the PG to/from Springfield Airport to Joplin.

Law Enforcement Commendation Award
Springfield Police Department

Sergeant Justin Thorn joined the Springfield Police Department in 2005 as a member of the 56th Academy.

During his tenure with the Department he has worked in the Uniform Operation Bureau-which includes Financial Crimes and Violent Crimes and the Criminal Investigation Section. He is a Field Training Officer, Major Crimes Investigator and a member the Homicide Response Team. On 7/16/2023 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant assigned over Squad 8 and Squad 14 which focuses on the City's Community Improvement District. As such:

Has coordinated with the Community Service Section to help protect city parking garages, local businesses, and even coordinated the Bike School to help Missouri State University.

Has been recognized for his proactive role in arresting criminals involved in carjackings and multiple robberies.

Has received accolades for his crime scene management skills.

- Continued on Page 14, LEO -

Birthday's

Terry Miller	8-1
Leslie Becker	8-2
Donald King	8-3
John Hass	8-8
David Healy	8-11
Douglas Healy	8-11
Edward Morehead	8-11
James Clemmons	8-12
Ernest Burton	8-13
Wayne Jones	8-14
Terry Wood	8-17
Gordon Evans	8-21
Gary Gift	8-22
Norman Knowlton	8-25
Zane Wood	8-26
Martin Capages	8-28
Gerald Fowler	8-28
Matthew Craft	9-2
Joseph Barrett Fisk	9-3
Michael Clarke	9-3
Edward Gwin	9-6
Clifton Smart	9-9
Jerome Compton	9-11
Charles Faulkner	9-12
Gary Pirch	9-13
James Curl	9-15
Justin Mutrux	9-17
Glen Gohr	9-18
Samuel Freeman	9-19
Nelson Hermilla	9-22
John McAlear	9-23
EuGene Smith	9-29
Philip Reinbold	9-30

Awards and Events

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Requested and was selected to be the LGBTQ liaison for the Springfield Police Department for 2024.

Was selected as the Mobile Force Supervisor within the Special Operation Sector.

He currently is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserves.

In conclusion, Sergeant Justin Thorn has gone above and beyond to make the Springfield Police Department, the City of Springfield, and Nation a better place. We from the Ozark Mountain Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution are proud to award Sergeant Justin Thorn with The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

Law Enforcement Commendation Award Troop D MHP

On August 30, President Charles McMillan, and Ozark Mountain Chapter members Don Higgerson and Steve Perkins presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate to Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop D Commander Captain Scott David Sater upon his retirement from the Patrol.

The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. The medal is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field of law enforcement.

His dedication and service have been recognized through several promotions, leading to his current role as Captain.

Captain Sater's leadership is crucial in overseeing Troop D, which covers 18 counties in Southwestern Missouri. His commitment to public safety and community service is evident in his long-standing career with the Patrol. (photo of recipient with Charles McMillan and Don Higgerson taken by Steve Perkins)

Compatriot John Haas, a member of the Josiah Howell chapter was our guest speaker at the Sept.

Awards and Events

21st monthly meeting. His speech was on frontier men. (Middle) OMCSAR President Charles McMillan presents Compartiot Haas with a Certificate of Appreciation.

OMCSAR President Charles McMillan presents OMC Compatriot James Clemmons with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Missouri 200th Anniversary SAR Medals are for sale. They are $30.00 if you get them from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk and $35.00 if he has to mail it to you.

mersville Beacon September 18, 2024

Patriotic Organizations Share Food, Fun, And Fellowship At "Getting To Know You Picnic"

The Josiah Howell, National Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Chapter hosted a "Getting to Know You" picnic lunch for members of the Ozark Spring Chapter,National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), and prospective members for both organizations on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at Galloway Park West Plains.

Over four dozen guests participated in festivities that included opening greetings by Josiah Howell SAR Vice President Garry Pirch, who also introduced special guests Mayor Mike Toploiff and wife Pam, former State Representative Travis Morrison, Missouri State Society Sons of the American Revolution (MSSSAR) First Vice President Ken Lawrence, MSSSAR Color Guard Commander Steve Perkins, members of Ozark Mountain SAR Chapter of Springfield and Ozark Patriots SAR Chapter of Rolla. Ozark Spring Chapter, NSDAR Regent Rebekah McKinney brought greetings and gave thanks on behalf of the chapter for the opportunity for food, fun, and fellowship. Attendees agreed that it was a beautiful day for a picnic and the opportunity to 'Get to Know Each Other'! Above is a photo of some of the attendees. Unfortunately, some of the individuals had previous engagements and were not able to be included in the group photo. However both organizations are so grateful for everyone who was able to attend the festivities!

OBC Brewery In West Plains Hosted Event To Support A Local Pet Rescue

On Saturday, September 7, OBC Brewery in West Plains held a fundraiser to support Ozarks Pet Rescue. During the

Gerald LV Roberts was inducted into the JHC-West Plains at their recent chapter picnic on September 7th. Steve Perkins was the sponsor. Ken Lawrence, State VP, performed the induction ceremony. Pictured is Gerald with his mother, and Ken Lawrence. The chapter picnic was covered is a published article in the Summersville Beacon.

Upcoming Events

Thursday-Saturday, October 3-5, the National Society Fall Leadership Conference will be held at the National Headquarters building, 809 W. Main St., Louisville, Kentucky 40202.

Saturday, October 5th, at 11:00 A.M., OMC will be marking a Patriot Grandson's Grave at 13577 Lawrence 2170, Verona, MO. Muster time for Honor Guard is 10:20 A.M. Directions will be sent out in an e-mail.

Tuesday, October 8th, at 6:30 P.M., the OMC Chapter Execttive Committee meeting will be held at Compatriot Steve Perkins home. This is open to all members.

Wednesday, October 16th, at 10:00 A.M., the OMC will be attending a Naturalization Ceremony at Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, 525 S. John Q. Hammons Pkwy., Springfield.

Saturday, October 19th, at 9:30 A.M., the OMC monthly meeting will be held at the Ozark Technical College, 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday, October 19th, at 1:00 P.M., the OMC Color Guard will be participating in a Patriot Grave Marking ceremony in Farmington, MO. Any member who would like to watch, can do so. It is a 3 hour drive. The address is: 1136-98 Hazel Ln., Farmington, MO.

Upcoming Events

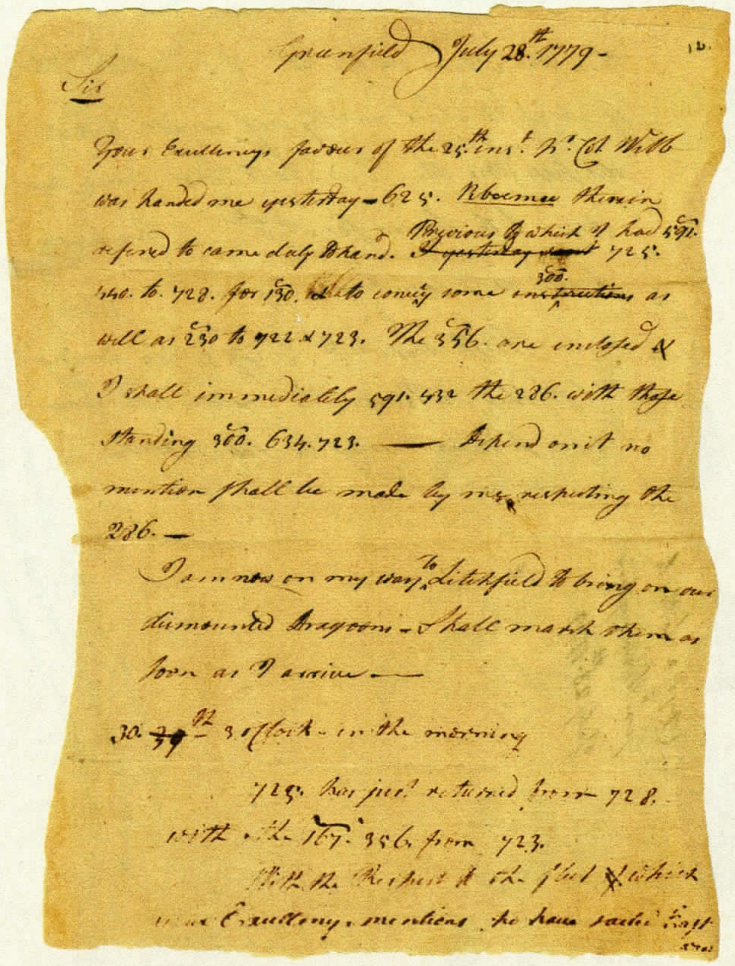
Saturday, October 26th, at 10:00 A.M., the quarterly meeting of the Missouri Society will be held at 700 Southwest Blvd. A, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

Tuesday, November 5th, at 6:30 P.M., the OMC Chapter Execttive Committee meeting will be held at Compatriot Steve Perkins home. This is open to all members.

Monday, November 11th, at 11:00 A.M., the OMC Color Guard will be participating in the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Branson. The parade route is on Branson Landing Blvd. All are welcome to participate, or you can watch.

Monday, November 11th at 11:00 A.M. the OMC will be having a Veterans Day Ceremony at Ozarks Technical College, 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, November 12th, at 2:00 P.M., the OMC will be having a World War 1 Rededication Ceremony at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery, located at 5201 S. Southwood Rd., Springfield. All are welcome to attend and take part in this important rededication.



Greenfield July 28th 1779 -

Sir

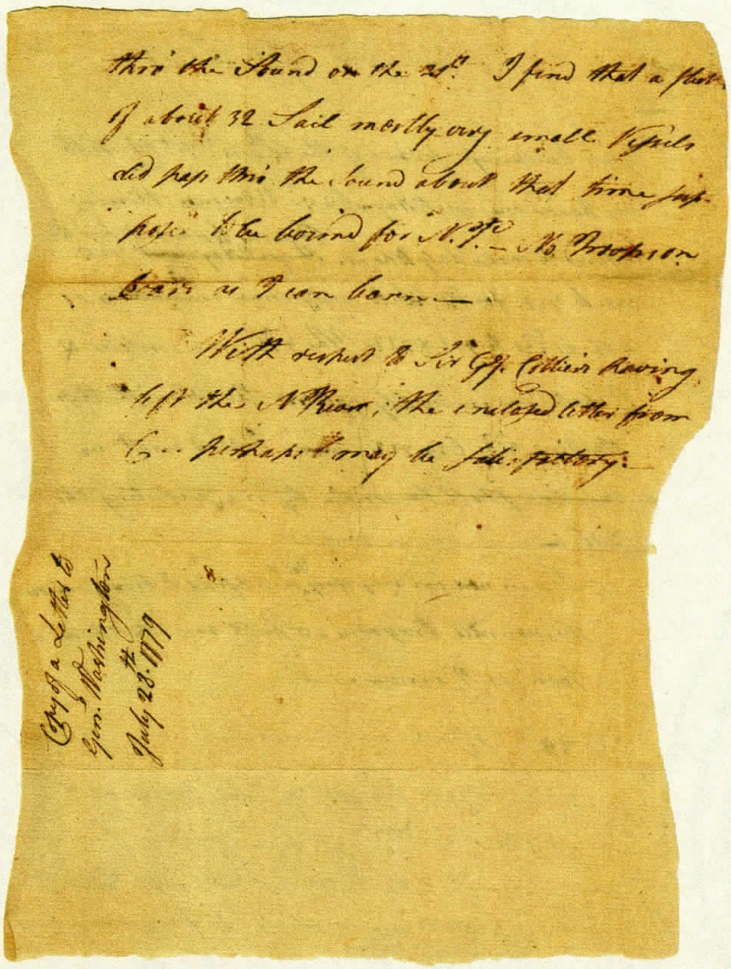
Your Excellency's favour of the 25th inst. Pr. Col. Webb was handed me yesterday - 625. Rbeemer therein referred to came duly to hand. Previous to which I had 591. 725. 440. to 728. for 130. to convey some instructions as well as 230 to 722 & 723. The 356. are enclosed & I shall immediately 591. 432 the 286. with those standing 300. 634. 723. — Depend on it no mention shall be made by me respecting the 286. —

I am now on my way to Litchfield to bring on our dismounted Dragoons - Shall march them as soon as I arrive —

30. 39th - 3 o'clock - in the morning

725. has just returned from 728. with the 167. 356. from 723.

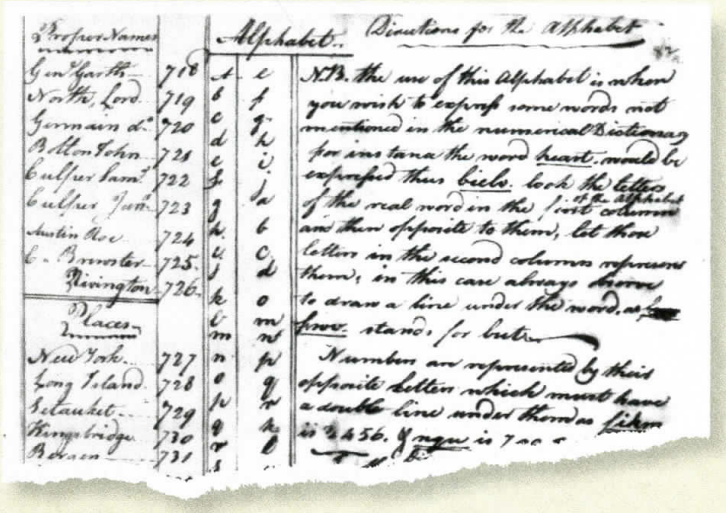
With the Respect to the fleet which your Excellency mentions we have sailed East



thro' the Sound on the 25th. I find that a fleet of about 32 Sail mostly very small Vessels did pass thro' the Sound about that time supposed to be bound for N.Y. — No Troops on board as I can learn —

With respect to Sir Gf. Collier's having left the N. River, the enclosed letter from C.. perhaps may be satisfactory.

Copy of a Letter to Gen. Washington July 28th 1779



Proper Names		Alphabet		Directions for the Alphabet
Gen. Garth	718	a	e	N.B. the use of this Alphabet is when
North, Lord	719	b	f	you wish to express some words not
Germain d.	720	c	g	mentioned in the numerical Dictionary
Bolton John	721	d	h	for instance the word heart would be
Culper Sam.	722	e	i	expressed thus bielo. look the letters
Culper Jun.	723	f	j	of the real word in the first column of the Alphabet
Austin Roe	724	g	a	and then opposite to them, let those
C. Brewster	725	h	b	letters in the second columns represent
Rivington	726	i	c	them; in this case always observe
Places		j	d	to draw a line under the word, as [illegible]
		k	o	[illegible] stands for but
		l	m	
		m	n	
New York	727	n	p	Numbers are represented by their
Long Island	728	o	q	opposite letters which must have
Setauket	729	p	r	a double line under them as [illegible]
Kingsbridge	730	q	k	is 2456. & [illegible] is 700 [illegible]
Bergen	731	r	l	

BENJAMIN TALLMADGE, left, was director of military intelligence for George Washington but was discreet about his work, describing it in his memoir as "a private correspondence with some persons in New York (for Gen. Washington) which lasted through the war." Using the pseudonym "John Bolton" in his exchanges with other agents and Washington, Tallmadge typically wrote with invisible ink, sometimes on the back of a normal letter. He also created a system in which numbers were substituted for common words, names, and places to encode messages, as seen directly above; only a handful of people had the key to the codes. At top, a sample of a letter thought to have been written by Tallmadge to Washington.