

Trains and Troops  
Strasburg, PA

On 1-2 November 2025, the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) supported the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum during the annual "Trains and Troops" event. This unique event chronicles the use of railroads throughout American military history from the Civil War to the present day.

The members of AGFA who participated in the event were Donna Cusano, Daniel & Rochelle Fortak, Anne Lutkenhouse, John Uhler, Gary and Deanna Weaver, Shawn Welch and our guest Becky Webb.

The educational objective was to provide interpretation of the oft-forgotten and overlooked missions of the U.S. Army's Coast Artillery railway guns; railroad-based medical operations, general railroad support during the World War Two and World War One periods and the critical morale support provided by the Chaplains of the military in all wars throughout American history.

The Pennsylvania RR Museum features a very extensive collection of excellently preserved locomotives and rolling stock within its main building. Interpreters for the Trains and Troops event set up exhibits directly in the museum proper, with the rail cars and engines as a historic back drop. The photo below shows many of our participating membership and friends on Sunday, 2 November.



AGFA had four separate focused displays at the PA Railroad Museum. Below CPT(CH) Uhler stands by his Military Chaplaincy display.



Part of the Chaplaincy display below including ecclesiastical materials and, on the right, an EE-8 field telephone connected to the switchboard at the Railway Artillery exhibit.



One of the most popular aspects of the Chaplaincy display is the Field Organ - below visitors are "making music".



Another key display is the Rail Road's aiding WWII War Effort in Pennsylvania by members Dan and Rochelle Fortak.



Three display panels from the Rail Roads in PA exhibit focusing on adapting to WWII, train travels of President Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) and troop movements.



Additional displays for the Rail Roads in PA exhibit.



Part of the Railway Artillery display is the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument station which includes the instrument, two EE-91 fire control telephones connected to the BD-71 switchboard and power supply for the instrument.



Below is the view the couple above are seeing inside the M1910A1 at four miles.



Below 1LT Lutkenhouse shows our visitors one of our project books about Fort Hancock.



Below is a full view of the Hospital Train exhibit with 1LT Lutkenhouse (left) and 2LT Cusano (right sitting).



Below is another full view of the Medical Train exhibit.



And the key members who made the Medical Train exhibit happen - 2LT Cusano (left) and 1LT Lutkenhouse (right).



The display below is part of the Medical Train exhibit.



Another portion of the medical display with an EE-5 Field Telephone connected to the BD-71 switchboard.



Below is a full view of the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument and its associated equipment including EE-91 telephones, MC-153 Time Interval Bell and power supply.



Below is the Railway Artillery charts, maps of Fort Hancock and artillery fuses display.



Below are more charts on Railway Artillery and an M1905 Deflection Board - a key component of a Seacoast Artillery plotting room.



Below is a chart showing a "range section" of a Railway Artillery unit, an M8 Panoramic sight for Railway Guns, a BE-74 for Railway Artillery telephone connection switching and the BD-71 six-line switchboard from 1939 that is connecting all our telephones.



There were many exhibitors at Trains and Troops. Below is one of the exhibits.



Below is more of the exhibit shown above.



On the Saturday evening the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum hosts a swing dance - the music is excellent and the environment enchanting! "The Moonlighters" were an outstanding selection by the Museum and they provided outstanding dance music for the evening.



Below 1LT Lutkenhouse and 2LT Cusano are ready for the evening!



One of the exhibitors is the team from Fort Mott State Park in New Jersey. They presented an outstanding exhibit regarding the operations of a harbor defense fort.



The photo below shows four key telephones for harbor defense fortifications from about 1906 to early WWII. They are (left to right) an EE-3 field telephone from about 1918, an EE-27 telephone from about 1906-1910, an EE-31 telephone from 1914-1919 and a Battery Commander's telephone complete with its cast iron box.





Below are train wheels being converted to benches. The frames are being welded onto the assemblies.



Below is closeup of the writing on the inside of the wheels. The dates ranged from 1907 to 1915.



As the day ended, exhibitors removed their displays. Below a jeep pulling a 500-pound bomb leaves the exhibit hall. Members TSG Weaver (in blue denim uniform) and 1LT Lutkenhouse are waiting at the right of the parking lot.



Below 1LT Lutkenhouse walks out with some of her displays to retrieve her car for loading behind the museum.



We look forward to returning to Strasburg, PA for Trains and Troops next year and we hope to see you there! For more information, visit AGFA Website <http://armygroundforces.org> and the Trains and Troops website at: <http://www.rrmuseumpa.org/>