

THE HISTORY OF BUILDING 3 AT CAMP PERRY



The original land for Camp Perry was purchased in 1906, and the reservation was named after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the American naval commander who won the Battle of Put-in-Bay during the War of 1812. Rudimentary structures were constructed for use by competitors in the National Matches, and for transient military personnel. During World War I, Camp Perry served as a training center for Army officers and marksmanship instructors. When Camp Perry originally opened it featured a fire station, mess cafeteria, two warehouses, one post exchange, guard house, theatre, a hospital, and one shop.

For entertainment they had a library, a post dramatic club, a swing band and organized basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, and ice hockey teams which would compete with local area teams.

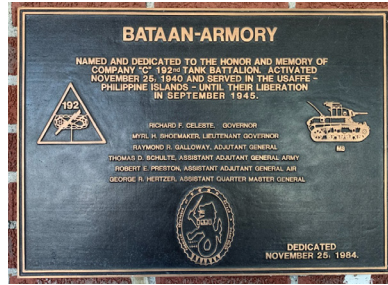
Visitors to Camp Perry may know that the ranges are named in honor of sons of Ohio that gave their lives during World War II and subsequently received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

By the 1930's commercial activity at the National Matches had gotten so big that they decided to put up a building to house all the retailers that showed up. Called Commercial Row, it became another iconic building at Camp Perry, what we now know as the Arcade/Building 3.

ARCADE - BUILDING 3

When the Arcade was built in 1936 at an approximate cost of \$78,000, it was known as the Commercial Center Building. The "Y" shaped building housed the PX, Post Office, Western Union, Barber Shop, YMCA, and Telephone Exchange. On September 6, 1936 a monument in front of Building 3 was unveiled as a tribute to Brigadier General Ammon B. Critchfield from Shreve, Ohio, the founder of Camp Perry. This monument is now located on the Shooters Memorial Plaza.

The Arcade formerly housed the Bataan Armory with its World War II memorabilia collection, the 213th maintenance company, Sea Grant of Ohio, Post Exchange 145th MASH mobile army surgical hospital and the snack bar.



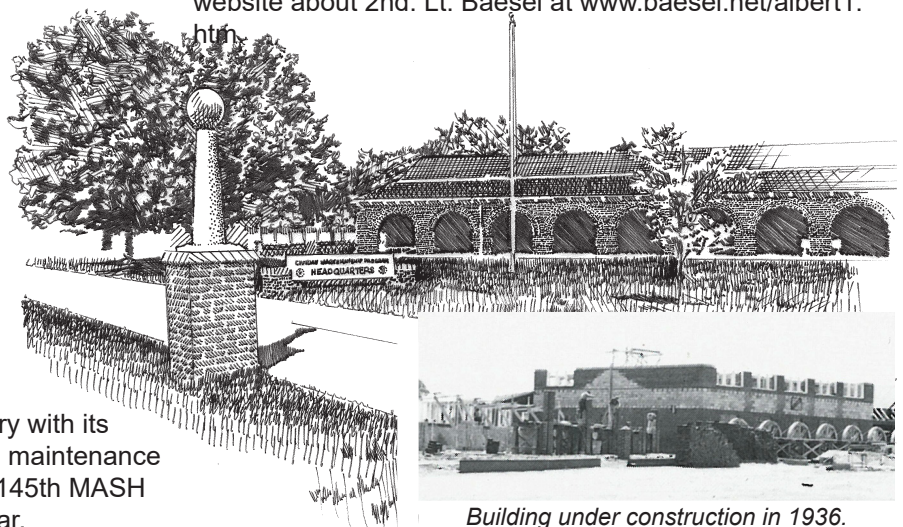
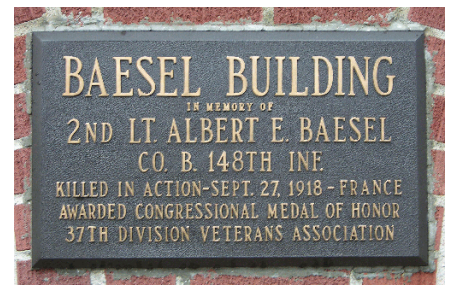
On November 25, 1984, the Armory was official named "Bataan Armory" in honor of the men of Company 'C', 192nd Tank BN who were captured on April 9, 1942 with the fall of Bataan and were Prisoners of War for three and a half years.



What you may not know is that Building 3 which houses the CMP Headquarters, the CMP North Store, the Bataan Armory and the PX was named in honor of 2nd Lt. Albert Baesel of Berea, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. He was not only the first Ohioan to receive the Medal of Honor for World War I actions, but also the first Ohioan to be killed in action in World War I.

Building 3 Dedication Plaque

2nd. Lt. Baesel was mortally wounded while attempting to rescue Cpl. Sterling Ryan during a battle near Montfaucon, France. Soldiers under his command loved him saying he was fearless for leading raiding parties into the enemy trenches. American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio, which was formed in 1919, was named for Lt. Baesel as the first Ohio casualty of World War I and local hero. Baesel's Medal of Honor was awarded on December 23, 1922 to his widow Lydia. The Baesel family maintains a website about 2nd. Lt. Baesel at www.baesel.net/albert1.htm.



Building under construction in 1936.