

American Air Museum Website



Who we are

- Jenny Cousins, Project Leader
- Carl Warner, Research & Information Manager
- Lucy May Maxwell, Research Officer
- Jeremy Ottevanger, Technical Web Manager
- Esther Blaine, PR Manager
- Adam Todd, Magnetic North
- Sanjeev Shewhorak, Magnetic North

What we've built

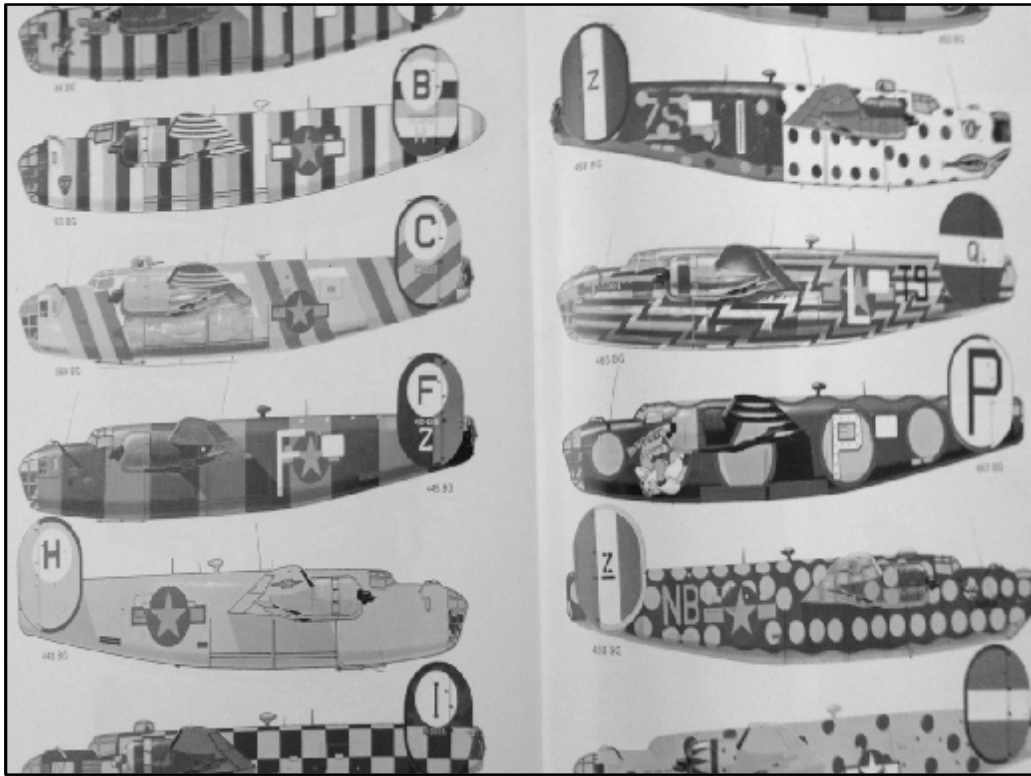
- An interactive archive for the air war
- An organised way for people and organisations to make their photographs available
- Accessible for first-timers and experts
- Responding to a perceived need – audiences, collections, sustainability
- Everyone can make it better

What is on the website now?

- 5,000 photographs from the Roger Freeman Collection
- 225,000 names/biographies from the Mighty Eighth Museum
- Airfield polygons from English Heritage
- IWM's places database
- Dave Osborne's B-17 database
- Paul Andrews's aircrew roll of honor (Project Bits and Pieces)
- Lee Cunningham's mission database
- Ted Damick's 8th AF pilots listing
- Philip Grinton's units list for 31 May 1944

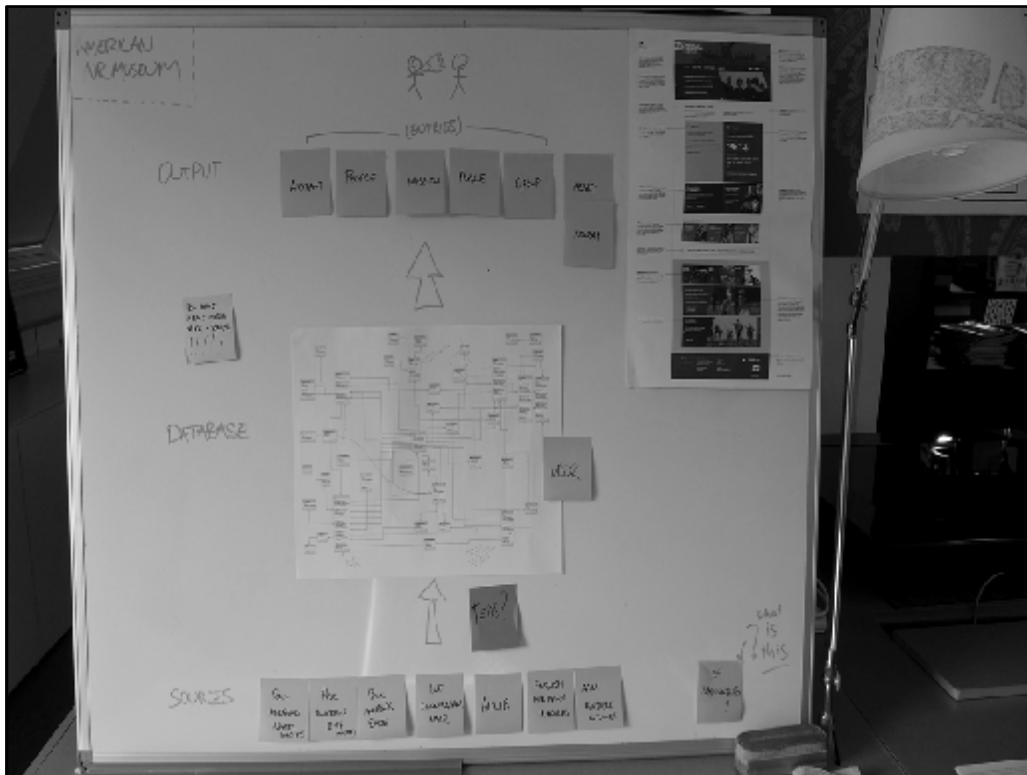






Design challenges

- **Creating a design that works for such a huge dataset**
- **Keeping it simple to use and understand**
- **Showcasing the Freeman collection**
- **Explaining the structure of the USAAF**
- **Appealing to both browsers and searchers**
- **Works across different devices**



Technical challenges

- Military terminology and taxonomies
- Different data sources and structures
- Duplications and inconsistencies
- Creating map locations and clusters
- Creating trustworthy connections

Some numbers... 12 data sources

- Ted Damick 8th Air Force Pilots
- 9th Air Force Roll of Honor
- Dave Osborne fortress log
- Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
- Lee Cunningham missions database
- Paul Andrews 8th Air Force Roll of Honor
- Adlib media
- AAM unit descriptions
- AAM station relationships
- AAM places database
- AAM units database
- English Heritage Airfields

...268,713 Entries

- 238,759 people
- 18,268 aircraft
- 426 places
- 2,022 missions
- 3,937 units
- 5,301 media items

...186,356 Events

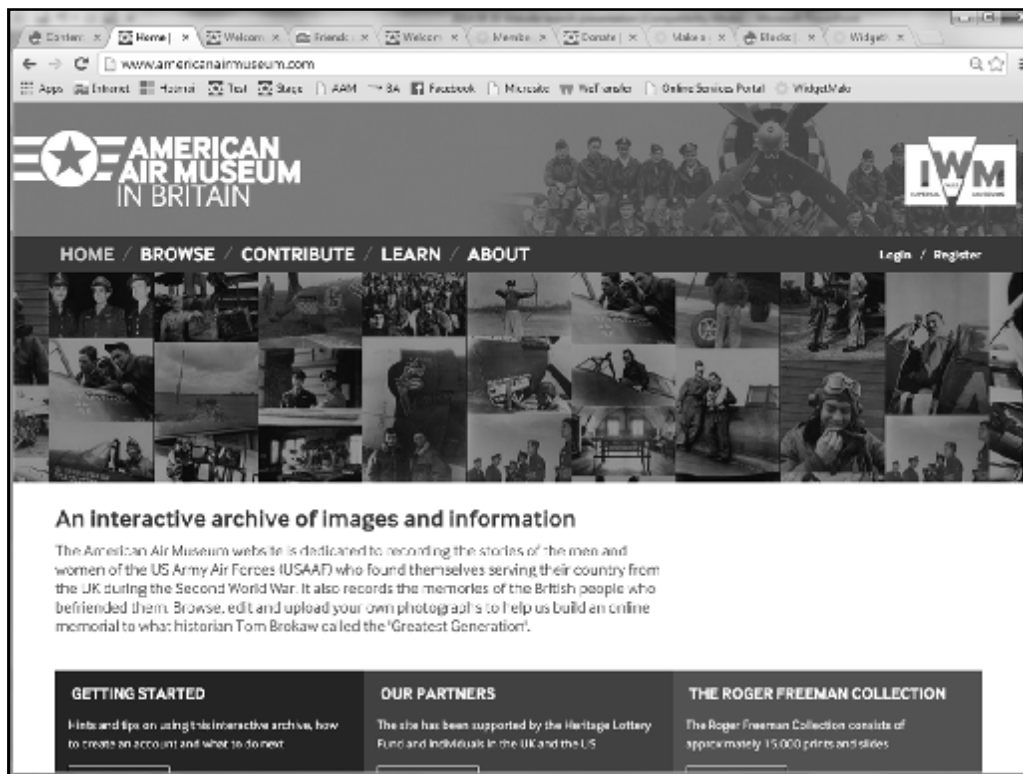
- 171,412 people events
- 8,581 aircraft events
- 6,363 missions events

...74,899 Locations

- 63,669 places of birth
 - 11,021 places of burial
 - 186 military airfields
 - 23 military non airfields
-
- *40 hours to compute all the pins for the map using 10 machines*

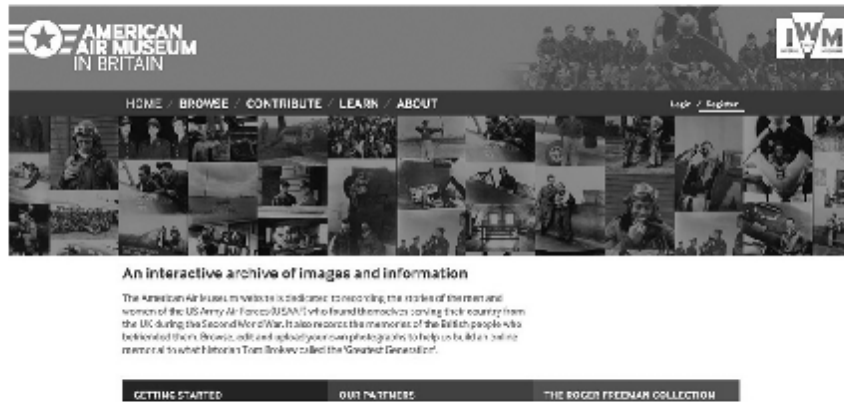
...944,067 Connections

- 944,067 (~1m) connections between entities
- 3,919,486,272 (~4bn) search operations to produce relationships between entries and captions



Home page

Registering on the website



The button to register is in the top right hand corner

Registering on the website

Register

To help us grow the website and improve the information we already have, register to contribute information or material to our interactive archive.

First name (required)

Last name (required)

Username (required)

This will be the name you use to communicate with others on the JAM site.

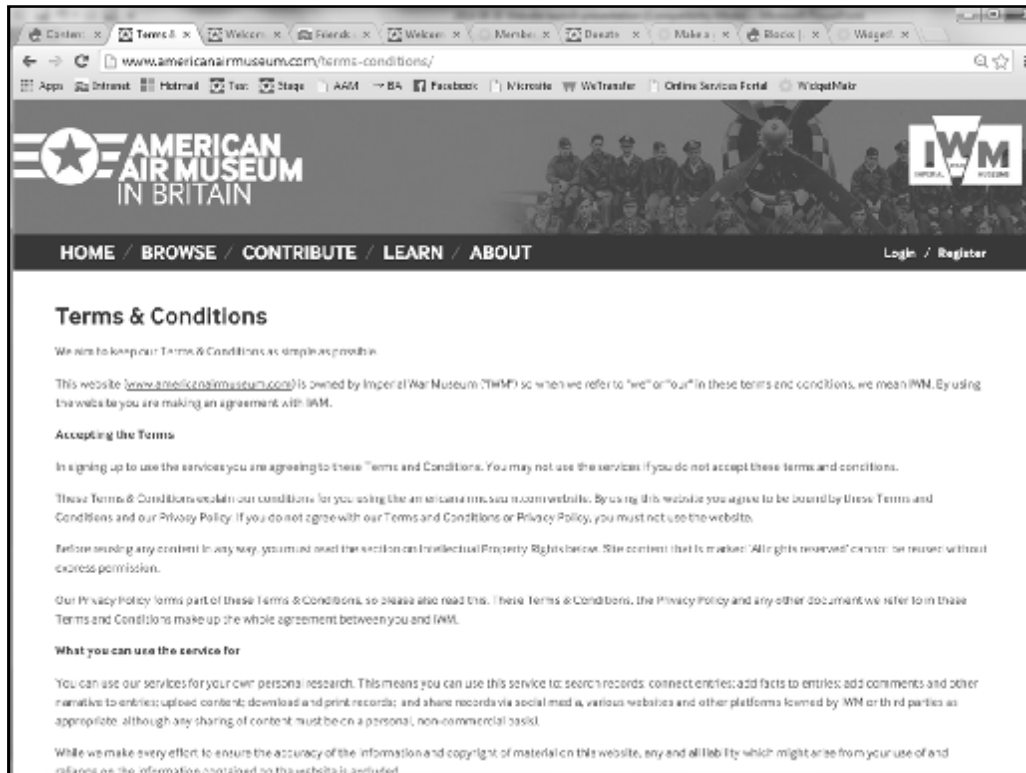
E-mail address (required)

The e-mail address is not made public and will only be used for communication between you and the JAM website.

By registering a user account you agree to our [Terms & Conditions](#), our [Privacy policies](#), and our [cookie usage](#).

Register

Short form but you need to put something in each of these fields. Right click any of the links and open them in new tabs to read through them before clicking 'Register'.



Follow the links to find out the Terms & Conditions – important to note that AAM is part of the IWM so IWM T&Cs apply

Registering on the website

LucyMM,

Thank you for registering at American Air Museum in Britain. You may now log in by clicking this link or copying and pasting it to your browser:

http://test.americanairmuseum.co.uk/users/reset/760/L412014473/b01270cm6mHlI5x4j08NVMOKFV5aL_KSG4ywwd

This link can only be used once to log in and will lead you to a page where you can set your password.

After setting your password, you will be able to log in at <http://test.americanairmuseum.co.uk/user> in the future using:

username: LucyMM

password: Your password

--American Air Museum team

This is the email you'll receive on registering – follow the link or copy it into a new tab in your browser

Registering on the website



This is a one-time login for LucyMM and will expire on Tue, 09/30/2014 - 18:00.

Click on this button to login to the site and change your password.

This login can be used only once.

Log In

When you follow the link this window will open up

Registering on the website

You have just used your one-time login link, it is no longer necessary to use this link to login. Please change your password.

Edit Profile

Username (required)
This will be the way you are known to everyone with access to the AMM site.

Real name (required)

Last name (required)

E-mail address (required)
This e-mail address is not made public and will only be used for communication between you and the AMM website.

Change Password

To change the current user password, enter the new password in the fields below.

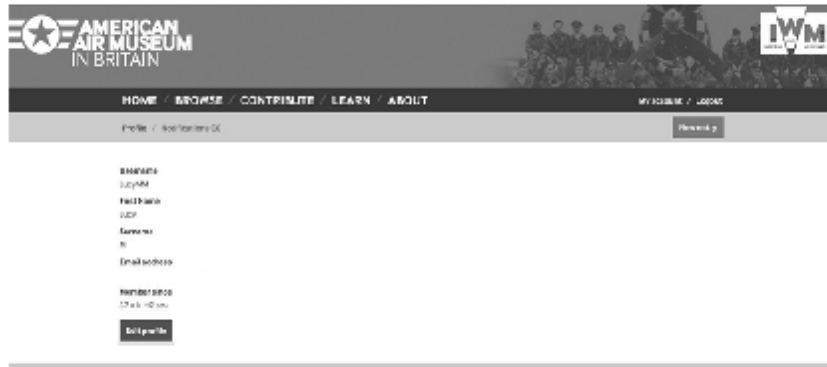
Recurrent

Confirm password

Bit

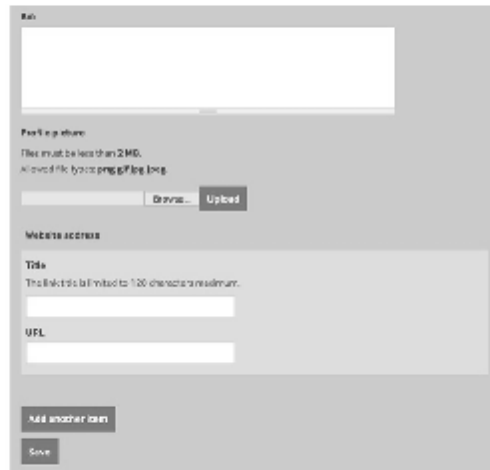
You'll be prompted to change your password to something you can remember (don't worry if you forget it – you can ask the website to send you a reminder)

Profile page



You can edit your profile by clicking here

Updating your profile



The screenshot shows a web form for updating a profile. It includes a large empty text box at the top, followed by a section for profile pictures with instructions and a file upload button. Below that is a section for social media links with fields for Title and URL, and a button to add more links. At the bottom is a 'Save' button.

Profile picture
File must be less than 2MB.
Allowed file types: png, gif, jpg

SOCIAL MEDIA

Title
The link title is limited to 120 characters maximum.

URL

Add all sorts! Help other people know who you are

Notifications



Notifications

We will show you any activity regarding the entries you can interact with. It includes any entry that has been marked as a your favorite, who changed it and when the edit occurred. Click on an entry to view the changes.

You have 0 notification

Notifications – let you know when someone has edited one of your entries

Notifications

Profile / Notifications (2)

Notifications

Notifications shows activity regarding the entries you are interested in. It lists any entry that has been revised since your last edit, who changed it and when the edit occurred. Click on an entry to view the changes.

You have 2 notifications



Clarence A Aaberg

Edited by same

4 hours ago



Clarence A Aaberg

Edited by same

4 hours ago

The second tab lets you see if records you've edited have then been edited by another user

Other users

Username

sam12

First Name

Samuel

Surname

C

Bio

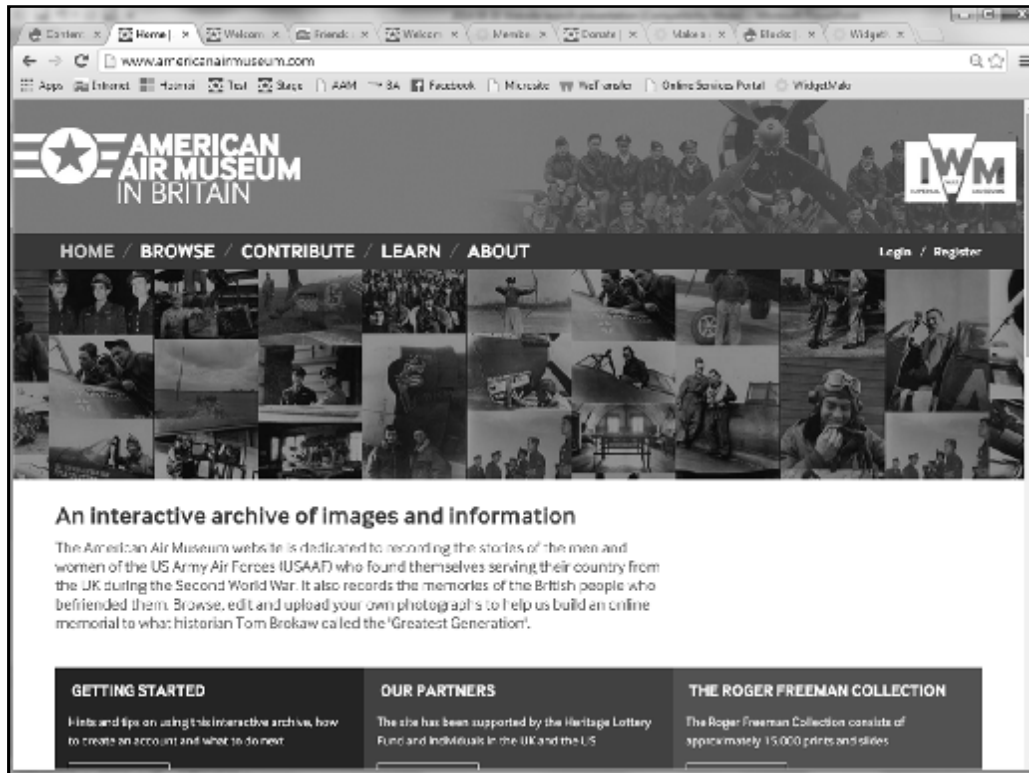
Website address

• [mN](#)

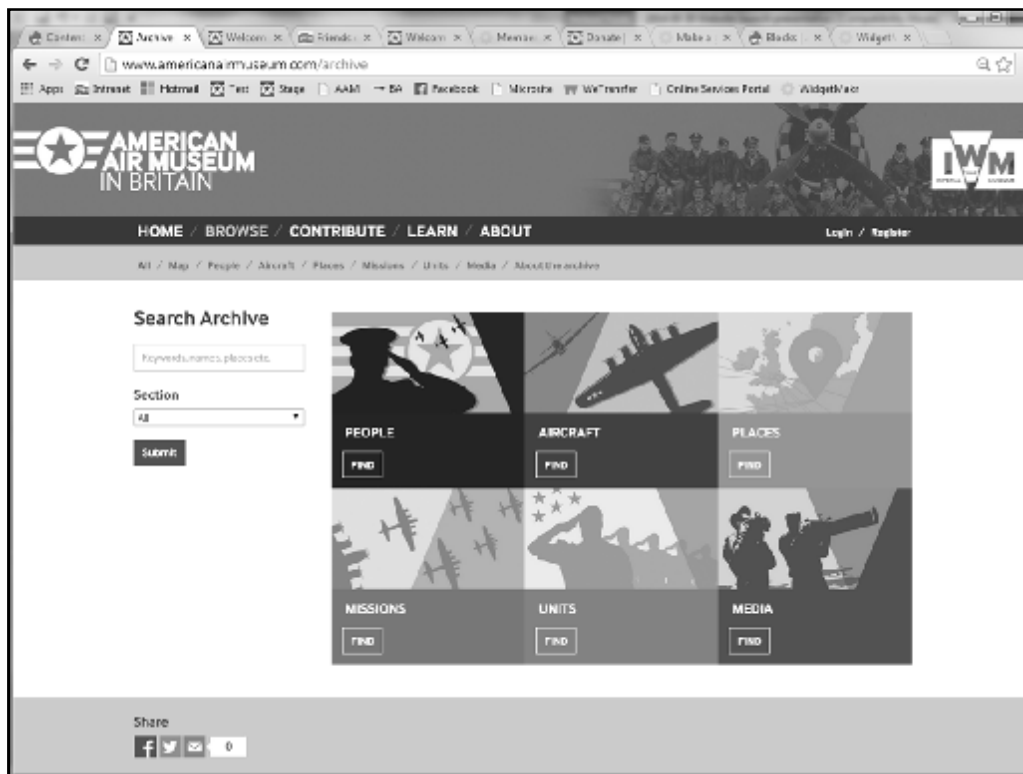
Member since

7 months 2 weeks

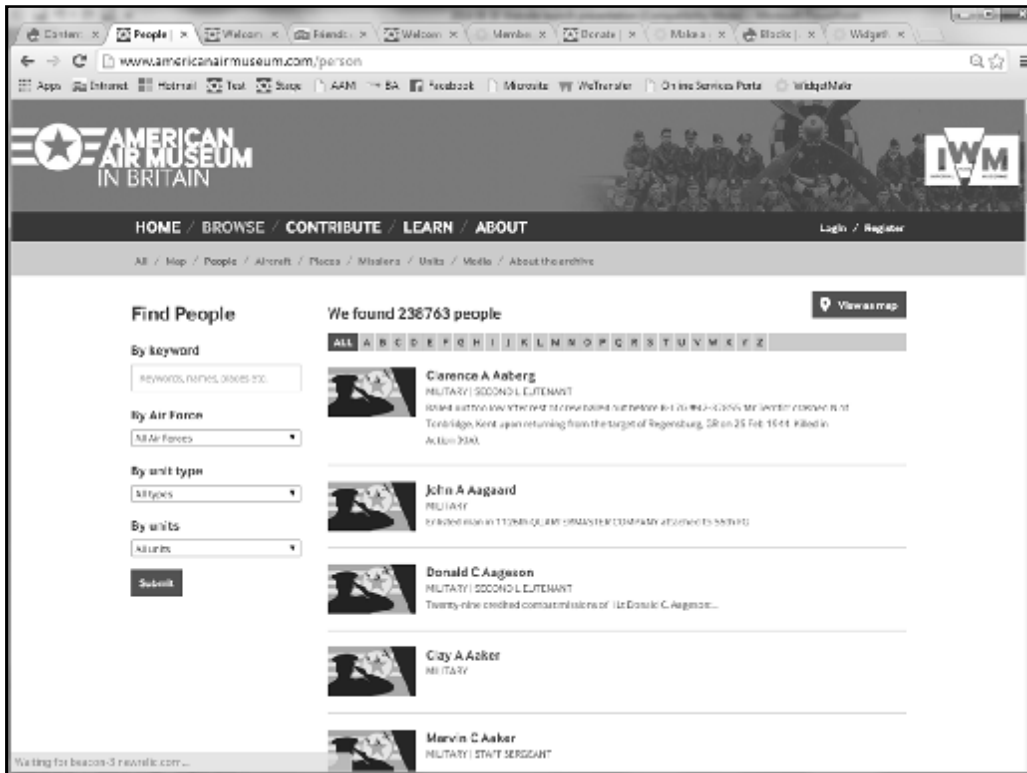
And then you can see who the other user is by clicking on their username



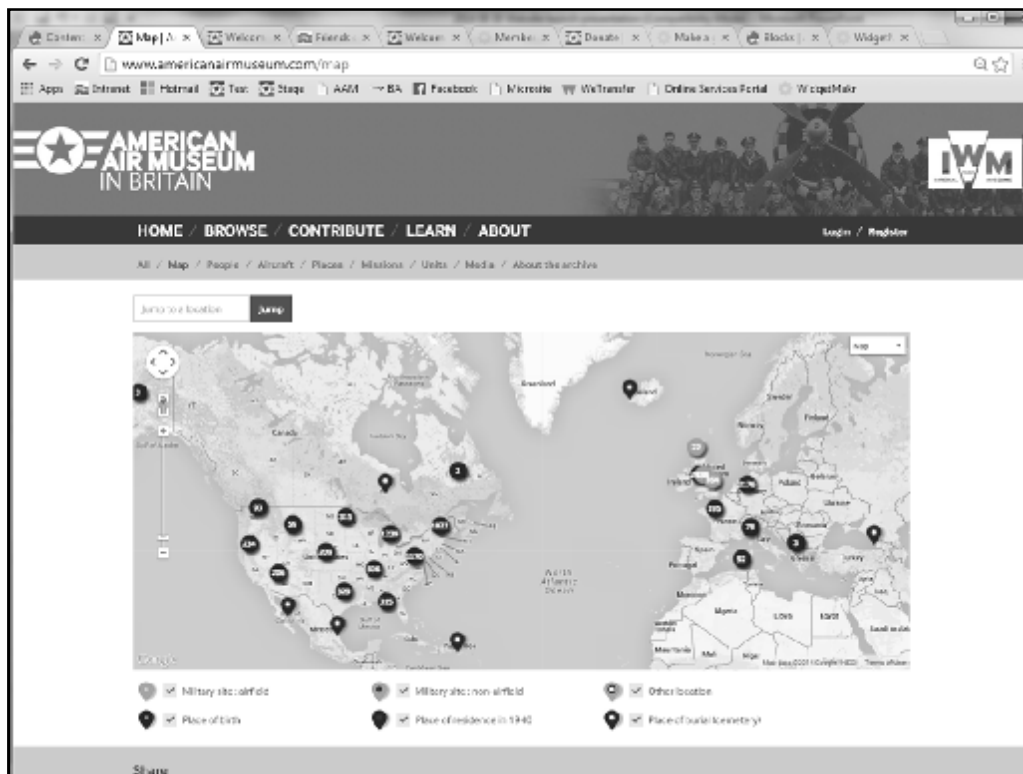
[Back to the home page](#)



Browse page



View all people as a list




Map view of people's places of residency, birth and burial

Selecting a Person entry



Map view

James M Cates Jr
MILITARY [Edit entry](#)



Nationality
American

Nickname
Not yet known

Service numbers
14202506

Highest rank
Staff Sergeant


Role/job
Toggle: Bombarrier


Awards
Not yet known

Air Medal w/ Oak Leaf Cluster, ETO medal w/ 2 stars, Amer.Theatre Medal/ 2 Pres. Unit Citations and Victory Medal

SERVICE


Units served with

 **96th Bomb Group**
GROUP

 **337th Bomb Squadron**
SQUADRON

Person entry

EVENTS



Event	Location	Date
Born	Savannah, Georgia	29 June 1925
Died		9 February 2014
Buried	Hvalfjörður, Iceland	

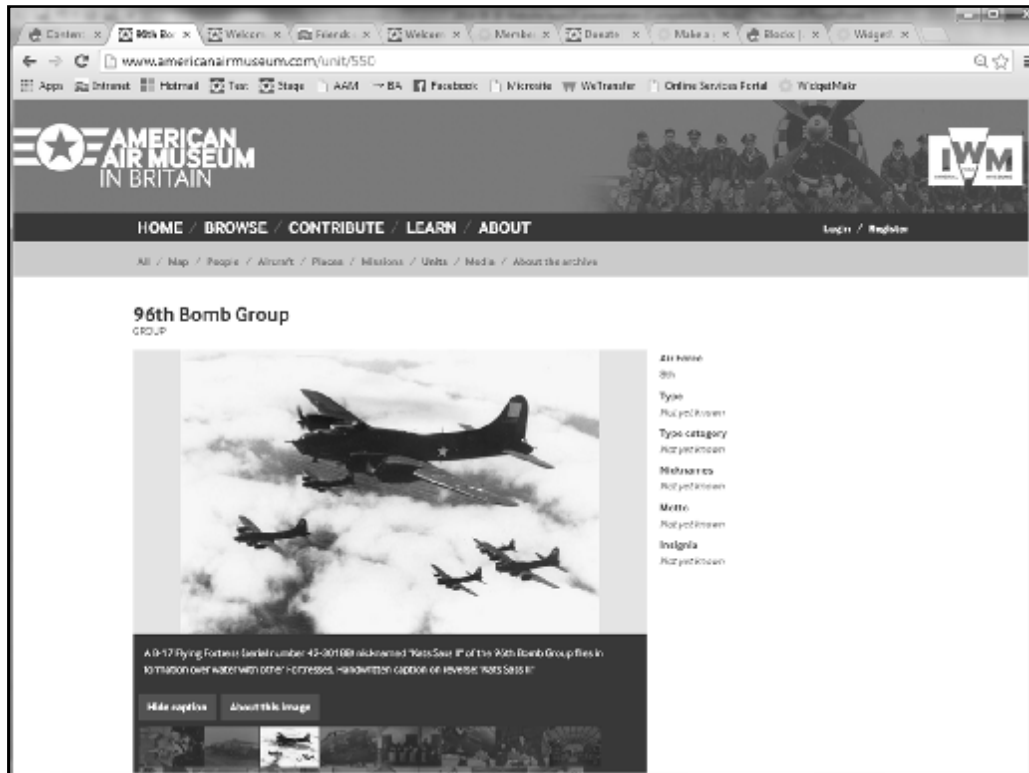
REVISIONS

Date	Contributor	Update
27 September 2014 18:14:41	AAM	AAM ingest

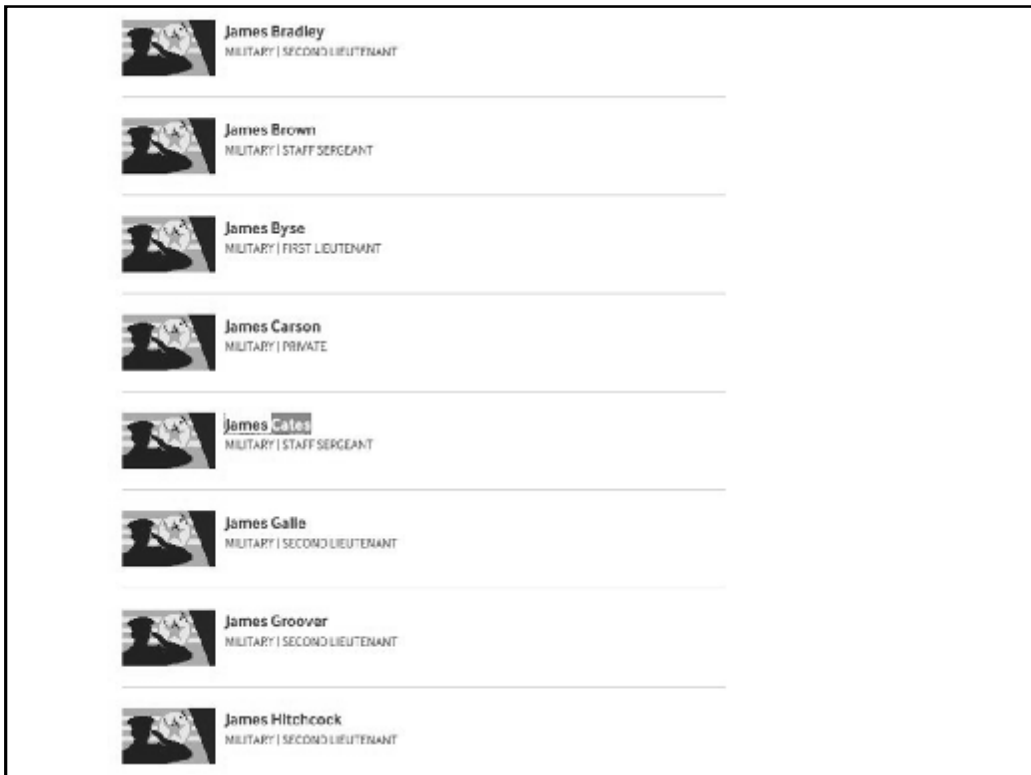
Sources

Drawn from the records of the [National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force](#), Savannah, Georgia / SELF, Swedish Air Force, pg.194

Personal events. Adding location data automatically creates a map.




We could have got to James Cates' page through the 96th Bomb Group page



We could have got to James Cates' page through the 96th Bomb Group page

James M Cates Jr
MILITARY Edit entry



Nationality
American

Nickname
Not yet known

Service numbers
14202506

Highest rank
Staff Sergeant


Role/job
Toggle: Bombarrier


Awards
Not yet known

Air Medal w/ Oak Leaf Cluster, ETO medal w/ 2 stars, Amer. Theatre Medal/ 2 Pres. Unit Citations and Victory Medal

SERVICE

Units served with

 **96th Bomb Group**
GROUP

 **337th Bomb Squadron**
SQUADRON

Back to his page – edit button is in the top right hand corner

Person

US military?
 Yes
 No

PERSONAL DETAILS	<
SERVICE	<
CONNECTIONS	<
BIOGRAPHY	<
MEDIA	<

Source message (required)

Edit options

PERSONAL DETAILS <

SERVICE <

CONNECTIONS v

Make as many connections and associations as you can. This will make it possible to link records together.

Units served with
96th Bomb Group
337th Bomb Squadron
Associate a unit

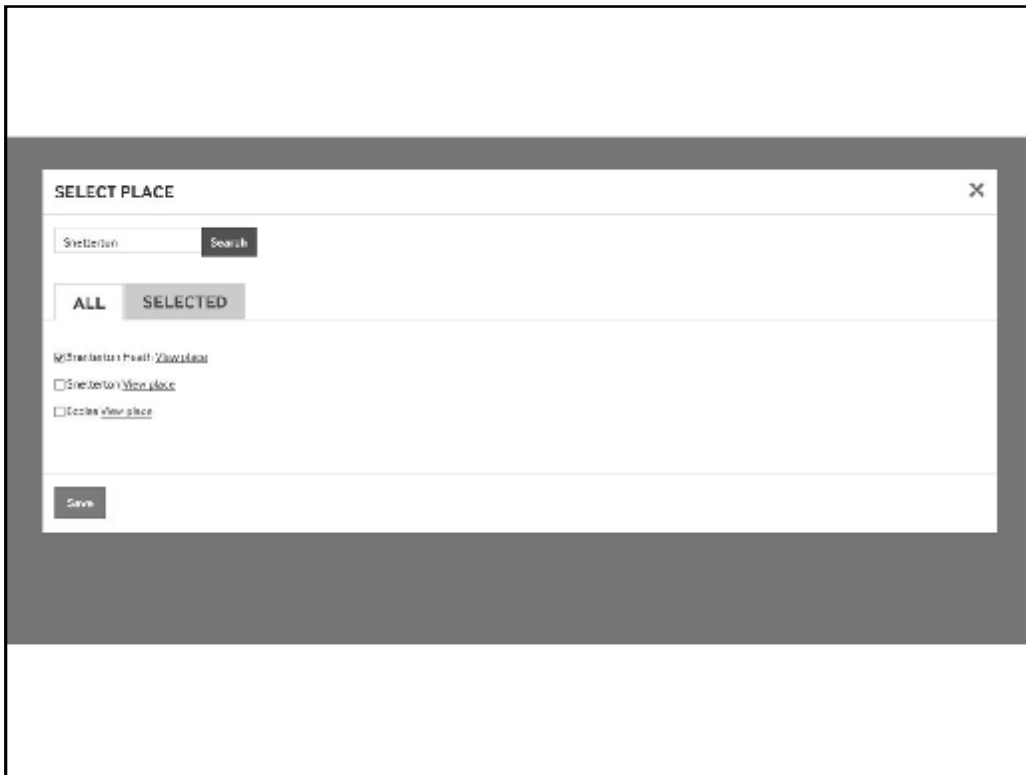
Places
Associate a place

Aircraft
Associate an aircraft

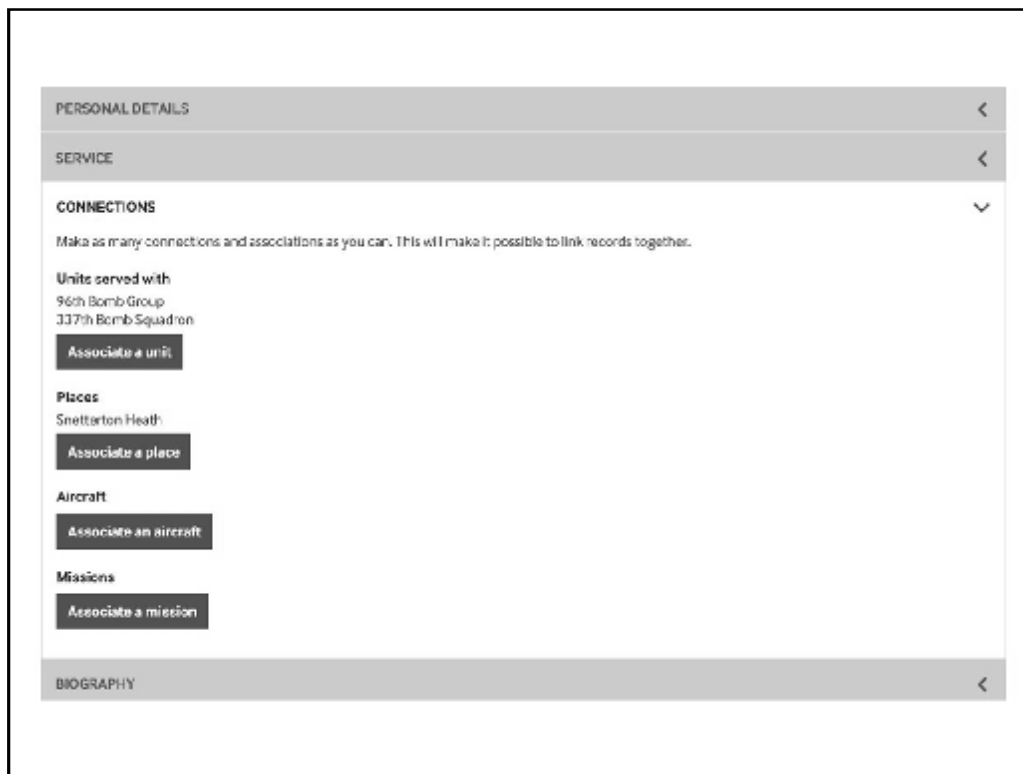
Missions
Associate a mission

BIOGRAPHY <

Make as many connections as you can to link his record to others. Make sure you record your sources.



Selecting a location to associate him with a place.



The association has now appeared.

Field Title	Value	Meaning
ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	14002906	14002906
NAME	FUTRFA150RFAH100000000000	FUTRFA150RFAH100000000000
RESIDENCE STATE	43	GEORGIA
RESIDENCE COUNTY	081	CHATHAM
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	4244	FT MCPHERSON ATLANTA GEORGIA
DATE OF ENLISTMENT DAY	17	17
DATE OF ENLISTMENT MONTH	12	12
DATE OF ENLISTMENT YEAR	43	43
GRADE - A-PAY DESIGNATION	PVT6	Private
GRADE CODE	8	Private
BRANCH - A-PAY DESIGNATION	474	6th Corps
BRANCH CODE	10	6th Corps
HEADLINE NUMBER	4	4
TERMS OF ENLISTMENT	5	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus 30 months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
MOBILITY	000	000
SOURCE OF ARMY RESERVE	5	Enlisted Reserve or Medical Administrative Corps (MAC) Officer
NATIVITY	43	GEORGIA
YEAR OF BIRTH	25	25
SEX AND CITIZENSHIP	1	White, citizen
EDUCATION	2	2 years of high school
CIVILIAN OCCUPATION	992	Unclassified Code
RECALL STATUS	6	Surge, without dependent
COMPONENT OF THE ARMY	3	Reserve - exclusive of Regular Army Reserve and Officers of the Officers Reserve Corps in active duty under the Thompson Act (Officers and Related War - O.R.C. and O.R.C., and reserve-status)
CARD NUMBER	4	4
NOV NUMBER	0150	0150
EMPL SERL NUMBER	3 274	3 274

Source:
NARA Enlistment
records


Sources of info online

[▲ Prev Thread](#)
[Next Thread ▼](#)


1st Lt. Nagle's crew

Author: [James M. Cates Jr.](#)

[Essentials Only](#)
[Full Version](#)
[Exit](#)

James M. Cates Jr. 

[01/25/2007 05:50:16 AM](#)
[\(permalink\)](#)



[0](#)

1st Lt. Nagle's crew

ANY INFO REGARDING CREW MEMBERS :

- 1st Lt. N Nagle pilot
- 2nd Lt. W. Norton co pilot
- 2nd Lt. D. Sealfeld navigator
- S/Sgt. J. Cates Toggleair
- T/Sgt. D. Murphy Radio op
- T/Sgt. R. Tarrant Eng.
- S/Sgt. W. Levitt Waist
- Cpl. G. Morrison ball
- Sgt. W. Niemi Tail

All or any info regarding this crew would be greatly appreciated.


James M. Cates Jr.
jfm1m@yahoo.com
 757 400 7803

[Quote](#)
[#1](#)

Source: Army Air Forces Forum

Sources of info online

Norman C Nagle
MILITARY



Nationality
American

Nickname
Not yet known

Service numbers
Not yet known

Highest rank
Second Lieutenant


Role/Job
Pilot


Awards
Not yet known

Assigned Sept 1944

SERVICE

Units served with

 **96th Bomb Group**
GROUP

 **337th Bomb Squadron**
SQUADRON

Sources of info online – our own site as well

Add a new event
For example: life events, promotions, postings, accidents, injuries. This will be used to generate a timeline and a map.

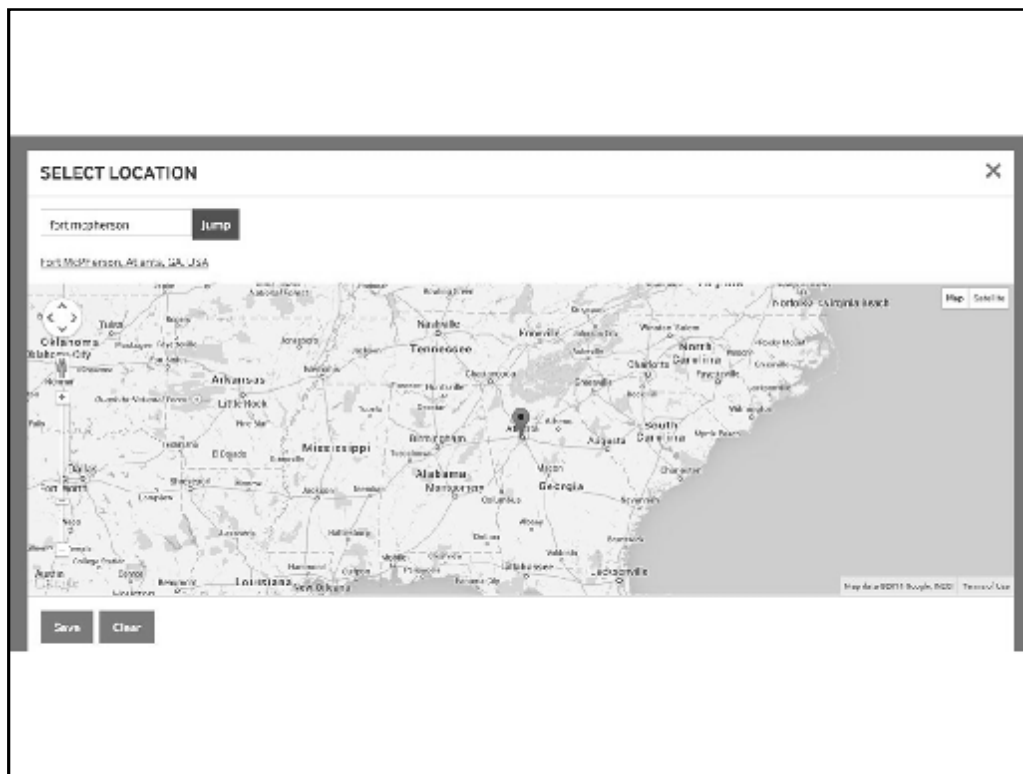
Type
Enlisted ▾

Event description

Event location

Event date

Adding an event to a Person page – adding his enlistment details



Finding the location of his enlistment

Type
Enlisted ▾

Event description

Event location
Fort McPherson, Atlanta, GA, USA
Select a location

Event date
12 13 1913 ✕

Add

Enter the date and click 'add' to create the 'event'

Summary biography
Write a brief introduction to the subject's story. This will go at the top of their page. Tell us about what made them special—what were they like, why they joined up, any memories you might have of them.

James Cates posted on the Army Air Forces forum in 2007 and lists one of the crews he flew with as follows:
1st.Lt. N Nagle pilot
2nd.Lt. W. Barton co pilot
2nd.Lt. D. Saalfeld navigator

Source message (required)
Enlistment record: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dm=893&mtch=2&ff=FWq%22cates%2C-james+m%22&bc=sd&pp=10&pg=1&nd=893662&nst=5264536,982662>
Army Air Forces forum post: <http://forum.armyairforces.com/1st-lt-Nagle39s-crew-m126665.aspx>

Save Cancel

You can edit the longer biography as well as the list of events. Remember to update your source message!

James M Cates Jr
MILITARY



Nationality
American

Nickname
Mcrjet known

Service numbers
14202006

Highest rank
Staff Sergeant

Role/Job
Troopier; Bombardier

Awards
Mcrjet known


Air Medal w/ Oak Leaf Cluster; EIC medal w/ 2 stars; Amer. Theatre Medal/ 2 Pres. Unit Citations and Victory Medal

James Cates posted on the Army Air Forces forum in 2007 and lists one of the crews he flew with as follows:

- 1st Lt. N Nagle pilot
- 2nd Lt. W. Barton co pilot
- 2nd Lt. D. Soffeld navigator
- S/Sgt. J. Cates Troopier
- T/Sgt. D. Murphy Radio op
- T/Sgt. R. Tarrant Eng.
- S/Sgt. W. Lewis Tailor
- Cpl. G. Morrison Bell


Here is the saved entry.

Associated Place



Snetterton Heath
OFFICIAL MILITARY SITE

EVENTS



Event	Location	Date
Enlisted	Savannah, Georgia	26 June 1925
Enlisted	Fort McPherson, Atlanta, GA, USA	13 December 1943
Died		9 February 2014
Buried	Hólarfjörður, Iceland	

Here is the saved entry with its updated map.

REVISIONS

Date	Contributor	Update
30 September 2014 09:01:23	LucyMM	Changes to biography, events and place associations

Sources

Enlistment record: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=2&tf=F&q=%22ca...>

Army Air Forces forum post: <http://forum.armyairforces.com/1st-lt-Nagle-35s-crew-m126665.aspx>

Norman Nagle's entry: <http://www.americanairmuseum.com/person/164300>

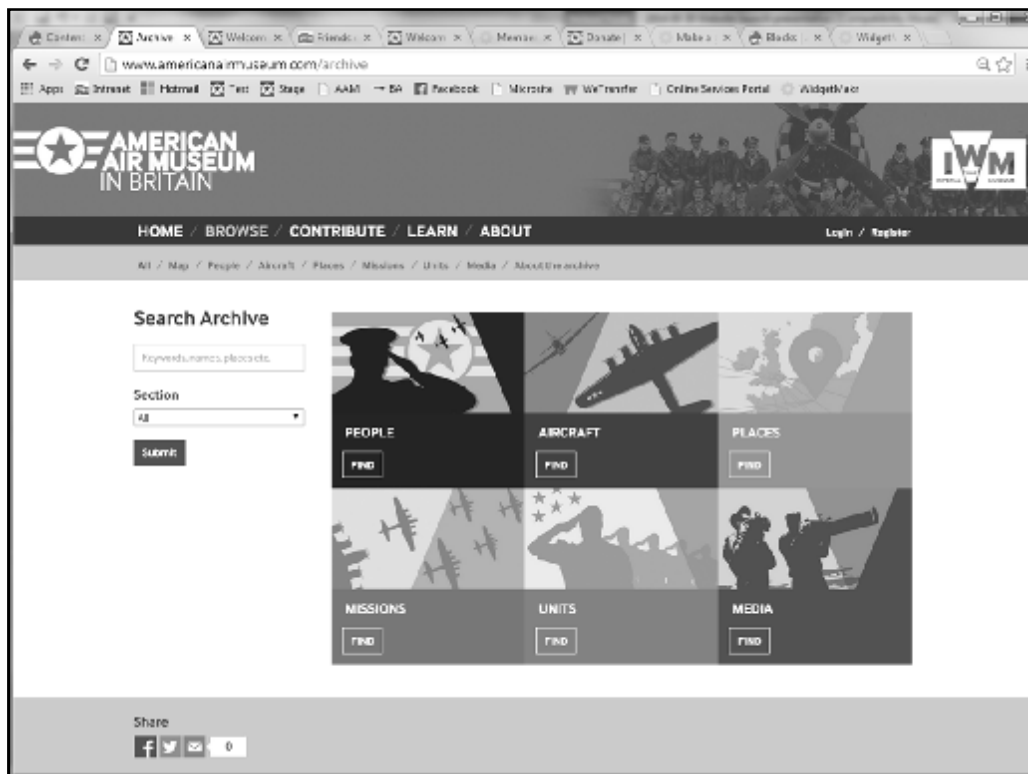
[Show all revisions](#)

Here is the updated entry source message

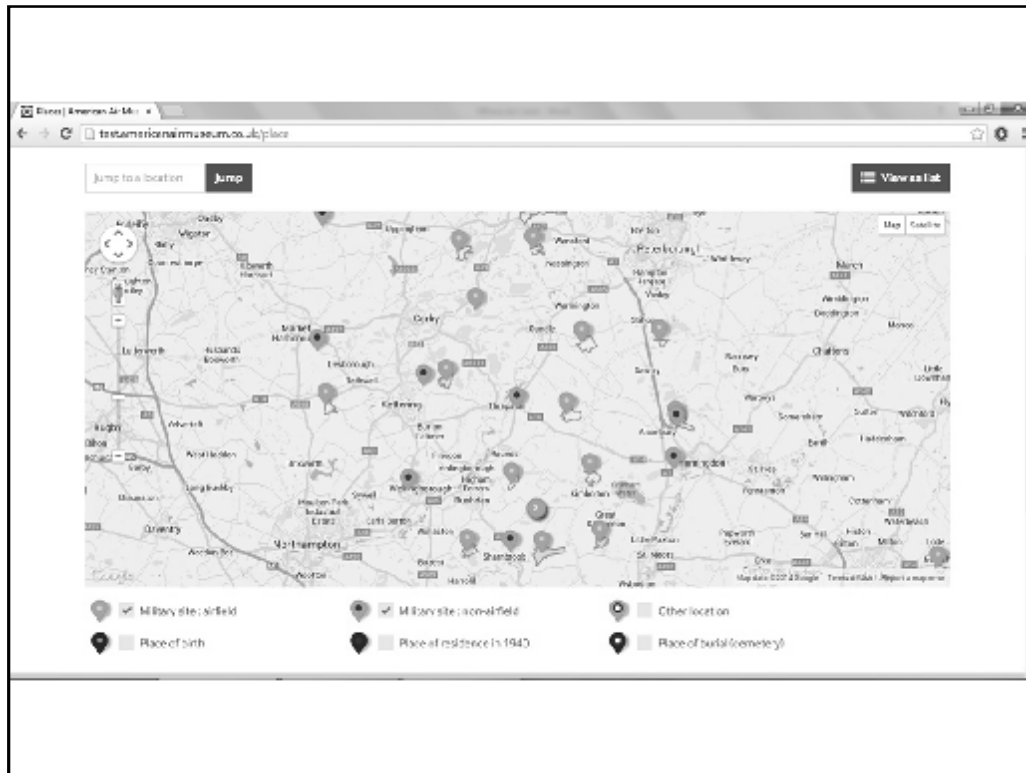
Just some of the questions that remain:

- Is there a photograph of James M Cates in the Roger Freeman Collection or elsewhere on the web?
- What was the serial number of the aircraft that Cates flew in?
- Is there an interview with Cates held by the Veterans' History Project or any other museum?
- What was his war like?
- What did he do afterwards?
- Was he really buried in Iceland and if so, why?

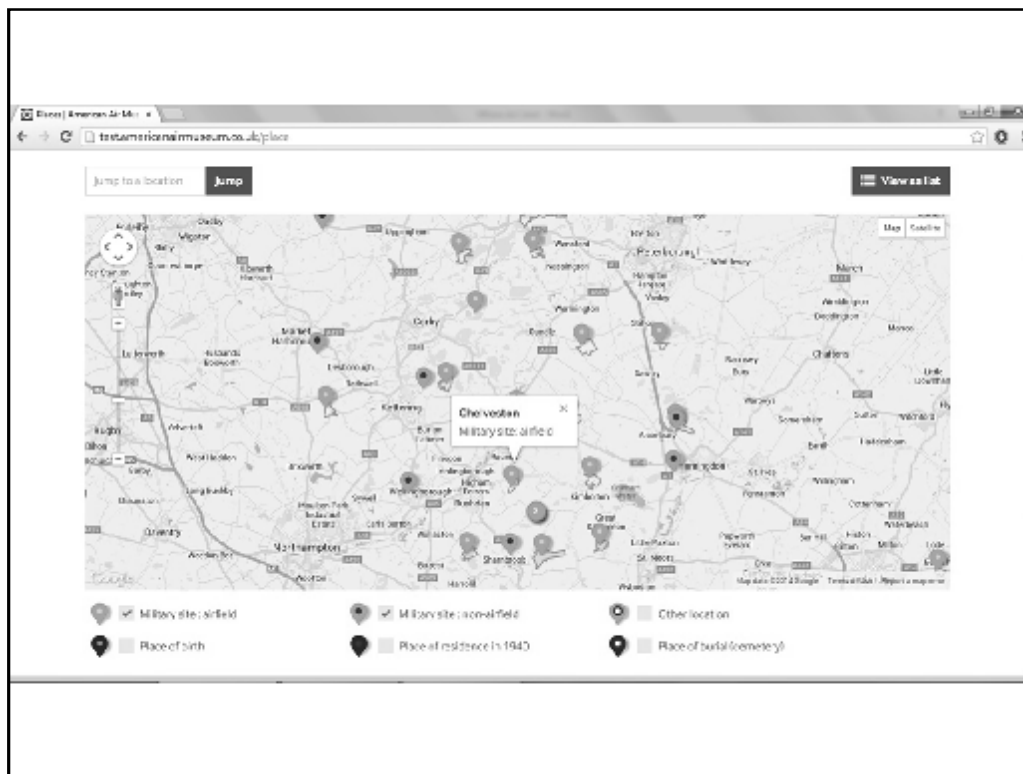
Questions that remain...



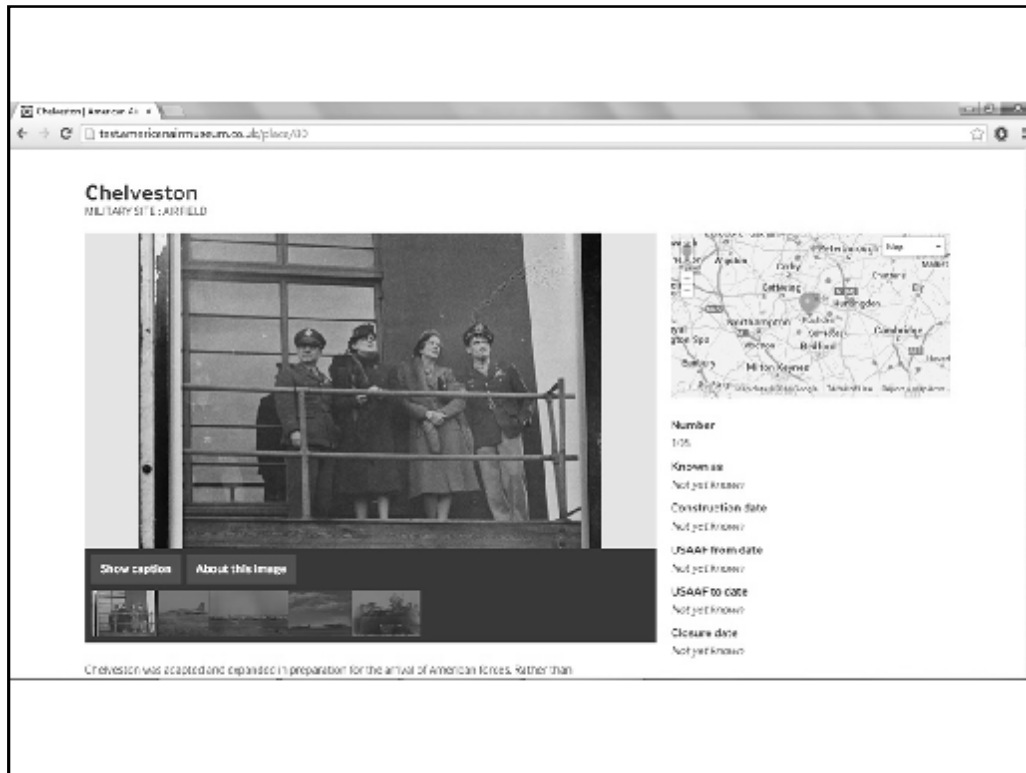
The main 'ways in' to the content...



You can view places on a map, or as a list. Here is the map 'zoomed' to Northants/Cambridgeshire



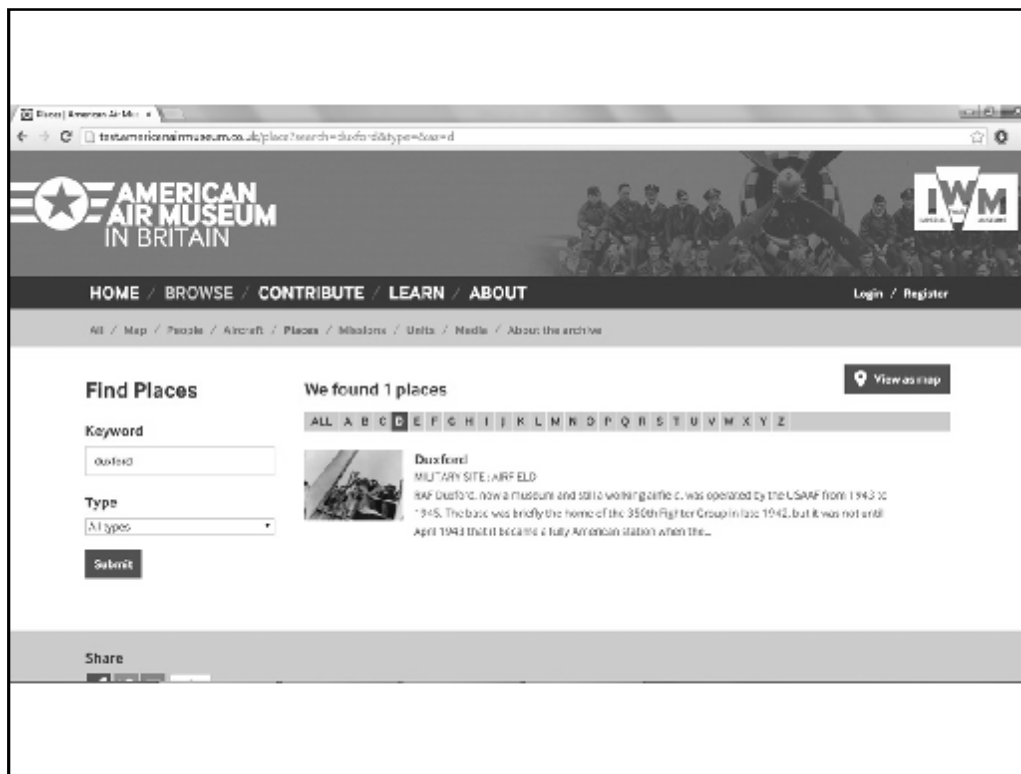
I've clicked on Chelveston's pin, here. Note how you can see the airfield outlines, supplied by English Heritage.



Clicking on 'Chelveston' brings you to its page.

You can see the photos from the Freeman Collection, and more information.

Look at the right-hand-side. We haven't filled all of these parts in for all airfields, and would love for the experts in each airfield's history to do so...



So, let's see what that would look like. Instead of the map, I've searched for an airfield: Duxford.

You can click on this in the same way as the map.

Duxford
MILITARY SITE : AIRFIELD

Number
357

Known as
'Duckpond'

Construction date
1910

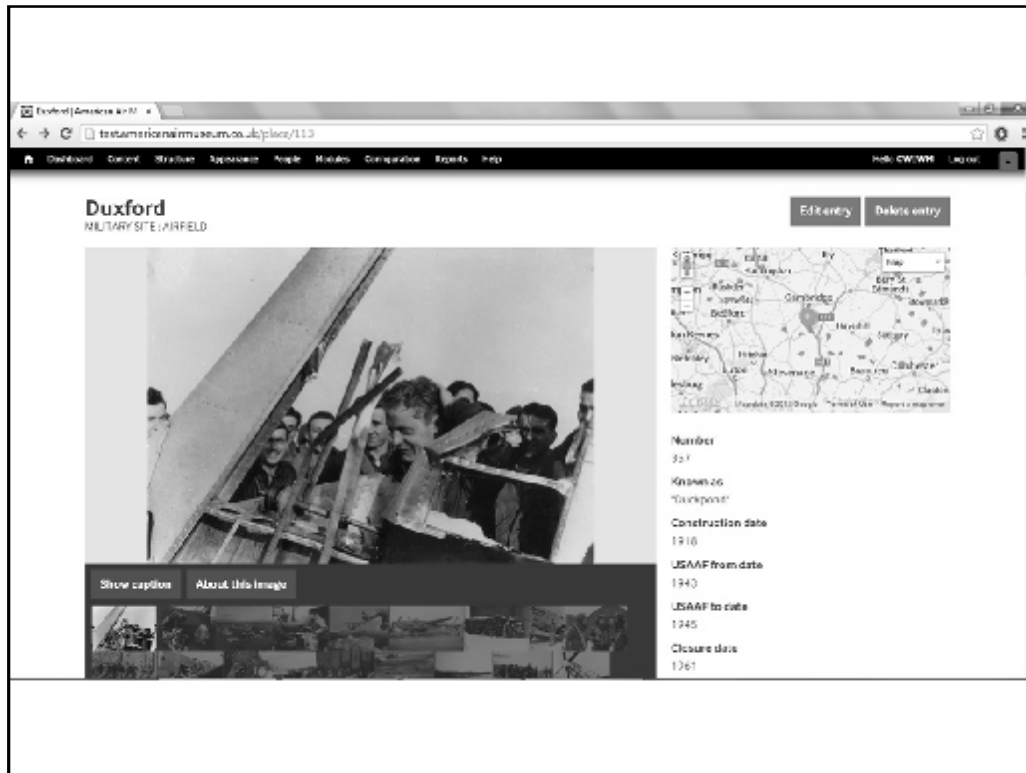
USAAF from date
1942

USAAF to date
1945

Closure date
1961

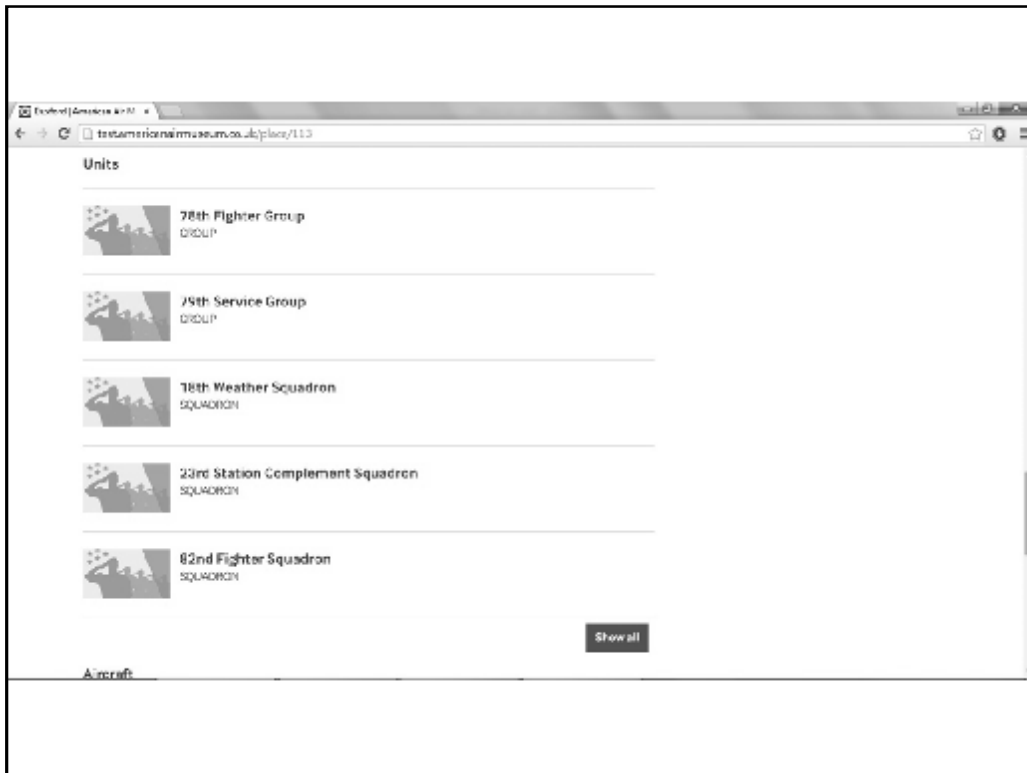
I've filled in some of the detail on Duxford to show you. Compare this to the unfilled-in Chelveston.

How?



Now this page shows I've signed in. I now have an 'edit' box at the top right.

There's also a 'delete entry' button, because I'm signed in as an administrator. Not all accounts will have this, to prevent accidental deletion!



Let's look at the units. Here is a list of units attached to Duxford's page.

We want to make sure that as many of the smaller units have their own pages - not just the Groups and combat squadrons.

If I click 'show all', I get a list of all the units so far attached to Duxford.

18 Weather Squadron, Weather Detachment 357
23 Station Complement Squadron
78 Fighter Group (Single Engine), HQ & HQ Squadron
78 Fighter Group (Single Engine), 82 Fighter Squadron
78 Fighter Group (Single Engine), 83 Fighter Squadron
78 Fighter Group (Single Engine), 84 Fighter Squadron
79 Service Group (-), HQ & HQ Squadron (-)
79 Service Group, 84 Service Squadron
989 Military Police Company (Aviation) (-)
1042 Signal Company (Service Group) (-)
1099 Quartermaster Company (Service Group) (-)
1671 Ordnance Supply & Maintenance Company
2027 Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon (Aviation)

Here's where we got this info from. It's a list of units researched by Lt. Col. Philip Grinton, correct to May 1944. It's a snapshot, we know there were others, formed or created as the USAAF changed...

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

The 48th Air Service Group, commanded by Lt. Col. Samuel P. Stoddard, was activated 18 April 1945 at Duxford. It included three squadrons in which all the units' former parent units were disbanded. The Headquarters and Base Services Squadron, commanded by Maj. Jack B. Young, was composed of elements from the 99th Military Police Company, 1042nd Signal Company, 254th Station Complement Squadron and scattered personnel from other units. The 616th Air Materiel Squadron, commanded by Maj. Ernest W. Dehn, was made up partly of the air mail supply section of the 8th Service Squadron, the 109th Quartermaster Company and the 167th Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company with additional personnel from other units. The 815th Air Engineering Squadron, commanded by Maj. Alvin C. Myers, was composed almost entirely of personnel from the 8th Service Squadron's flightline with an extensive maintenance and weapons repair section of the 167th Ordnance Company.

The 7th Service Group was activated at Eder Field, La., as the 28th Air Base Group in February 1942. Redesignated, it was later redesignated 14 September 1942 as the 7th Service Group and was later merged into the 7th Service Group. The Headquarters Squadron was commanded by Maj. Rudolph H. Hines an aviator. It was succeeded by Capt. Paul E. Anderson, who died from natural causes at Duxford, shortly before Capt. Anderson's death. Capt. Robert S. Newman took charge of the unit and he was later succeeded by Maj. Lloyd R. Cogswell.

The 8th Service Squadron was activated as the 32nd Hospital Squadron 3 February 1942 at Bushdale Field, La., then moved to Eder Field, La. and was redesignated the 8th Service Squadron of the 22nd Service Group. It embarked for overseas on 28 September 1942 under command of Maj. Harold A. Kiker. Maj. Wyburn C. Doster took command at Duxford and the squadron arrived at Duxford 4 April 1943. It was reactivated as the 8th Service

Squadron in February 1944 as a part of the 7th Service Group.

The 2nd Station Complement Squadron was activated 22 May 1942 at Kellough Field, Middle Creek, Mich., and departed the States in August 1942 arriving at Duxford for 11th of that month. Maj. Elmer A. Jones commanded the squadron during its entire overseas stay.

The 2nd Station Complement Squadron arrived at Duxford 28 November 1945 and departed on 1 March 1946 for Towson, Capt. Marcus Hicks was commanding officer during entire period.

The 89th Military Police Company (Av.) was activated in August 1942 at Camp Kofke, Miss., and moved to Jacksonville Army Air Base, Columbia, S.C., from October 1942 and departed for England on 14 January 1943.

The 1042nd Signal Company Service Group was activated at Westover Field, Miss., in June 1942, and came overseas in December 1942 as the 62d Signal Company under command of Capt. John E. Ligon-Fisher. It was redesignated the 1042nd in June 1943.

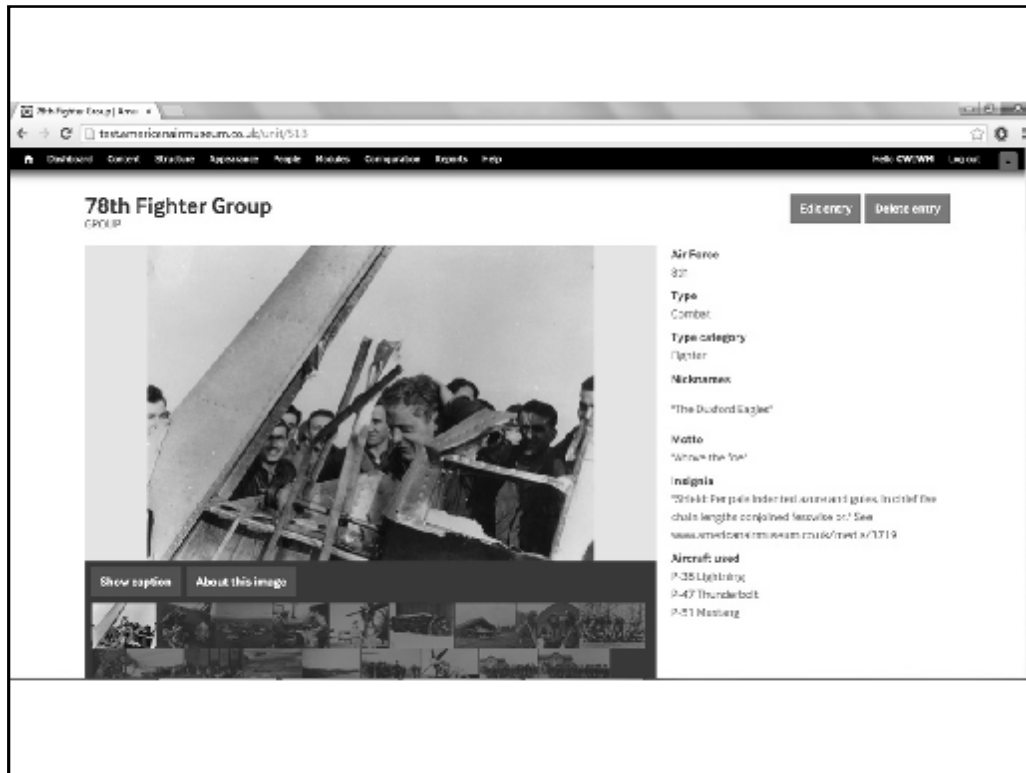
The 109th Quartermaster Company Service Group (Av.) was activated at Eder Field, La., in February 1942 and moved to the United Kingdom in October 1942. It was redesignated several times and personnel assigned into detachments stationed at various fields.

The 167th Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company was originally known as the 67th Ordnance Medical Maintenance Co., commanded by Capt. Sam M. Coburn, with its tempo unit part of the 168th Ordnance Company (Av.) (A2), commanded by Capt. John A. Bort, who took charge of the new unit.

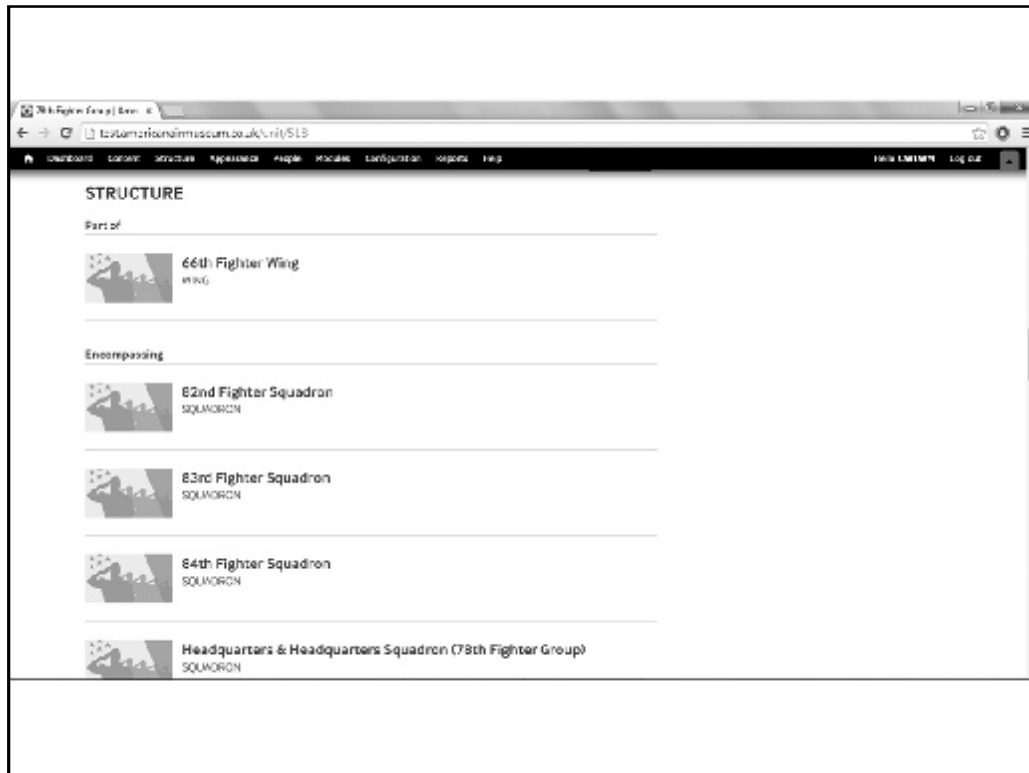
The 302th Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon (Av.) was activated in August 1942 at Duxford Field, La. It arrived at Duxford 17 October 1942 under command of Lt. Wm. M. Shoenster who was later killed in a bomb explosion while directing fire fighting on a crashed B-24 bomber.

84

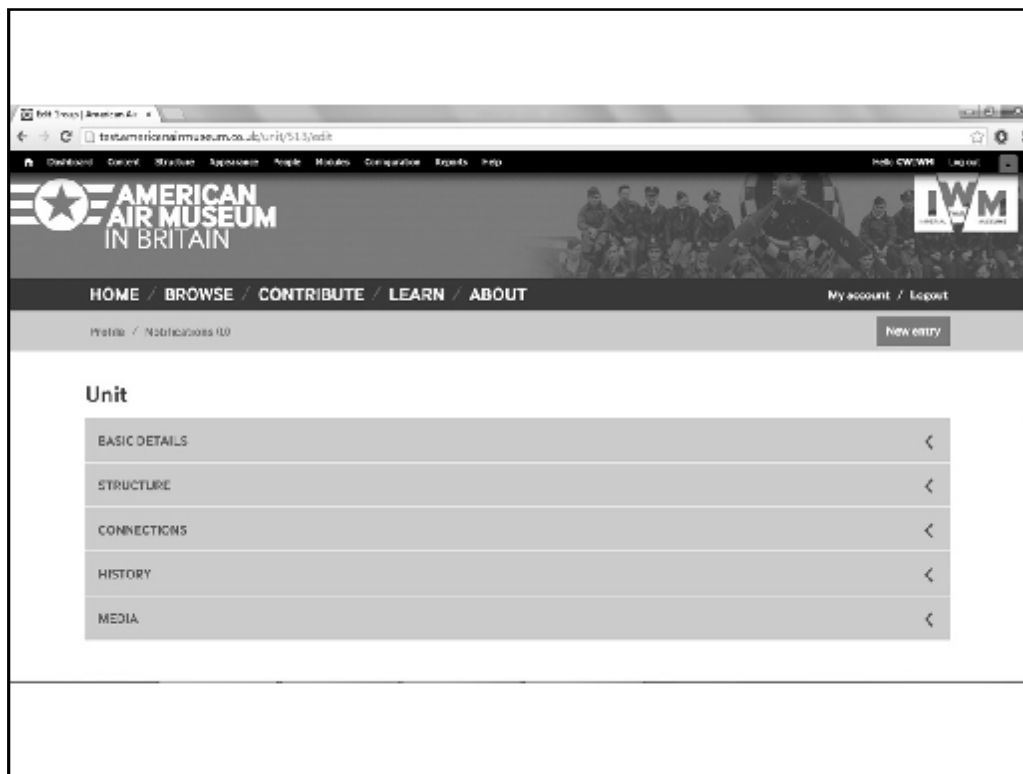
Here's the page from the 'Duxford Diary' that begins to unpack the complexity of these extra units...



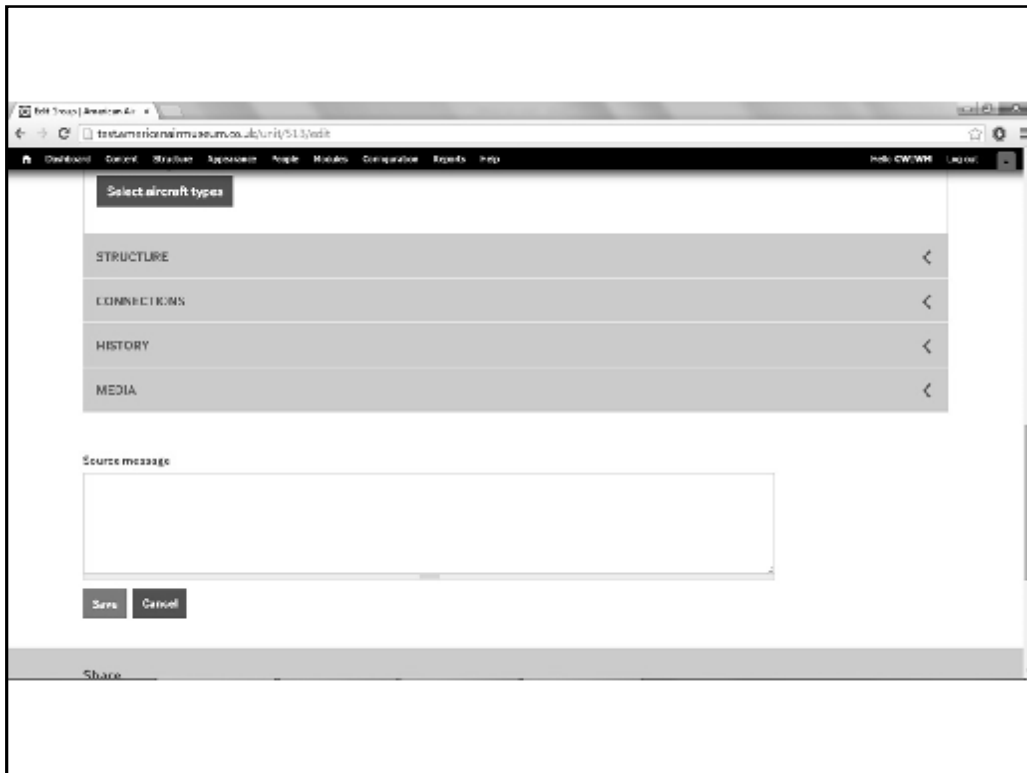
Keeping it simple, let's look at the 78th Fighter Group. I selected this from Duxford's page, but you could also search for it – there are multiple ways to find what you need.



Scrolling down on the 78th's page, you can see the component units that made up the 78th.

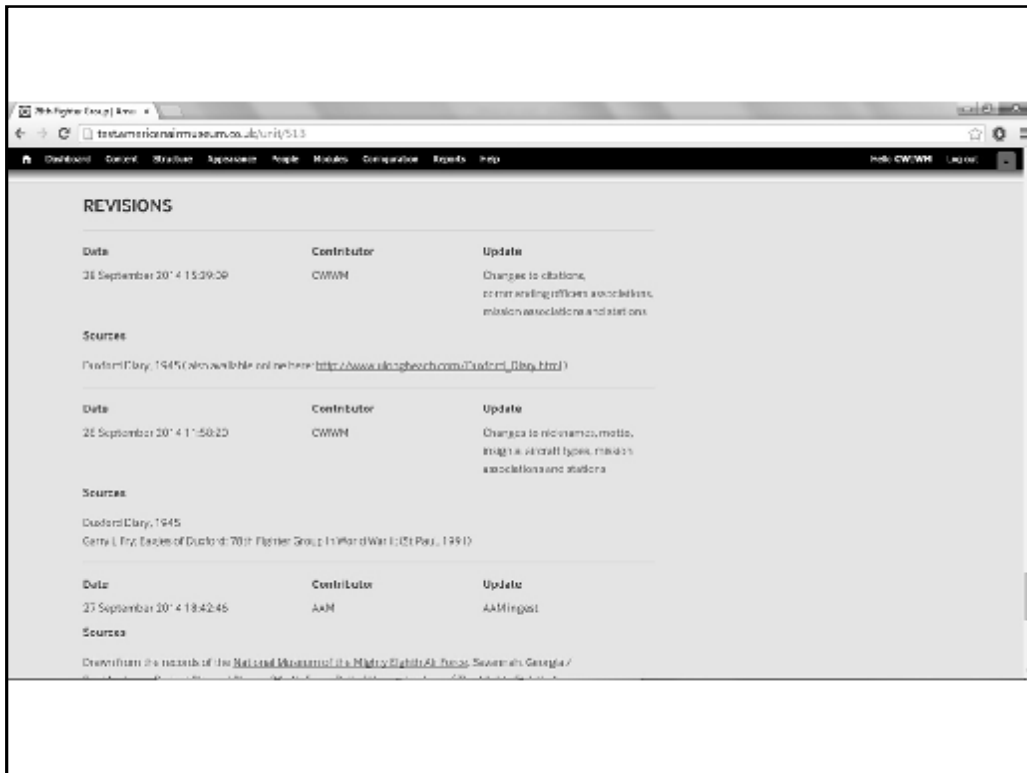


I'm going to add more information to the 78th's page. I hit 'Edit entry', and just as with places, I get the form.



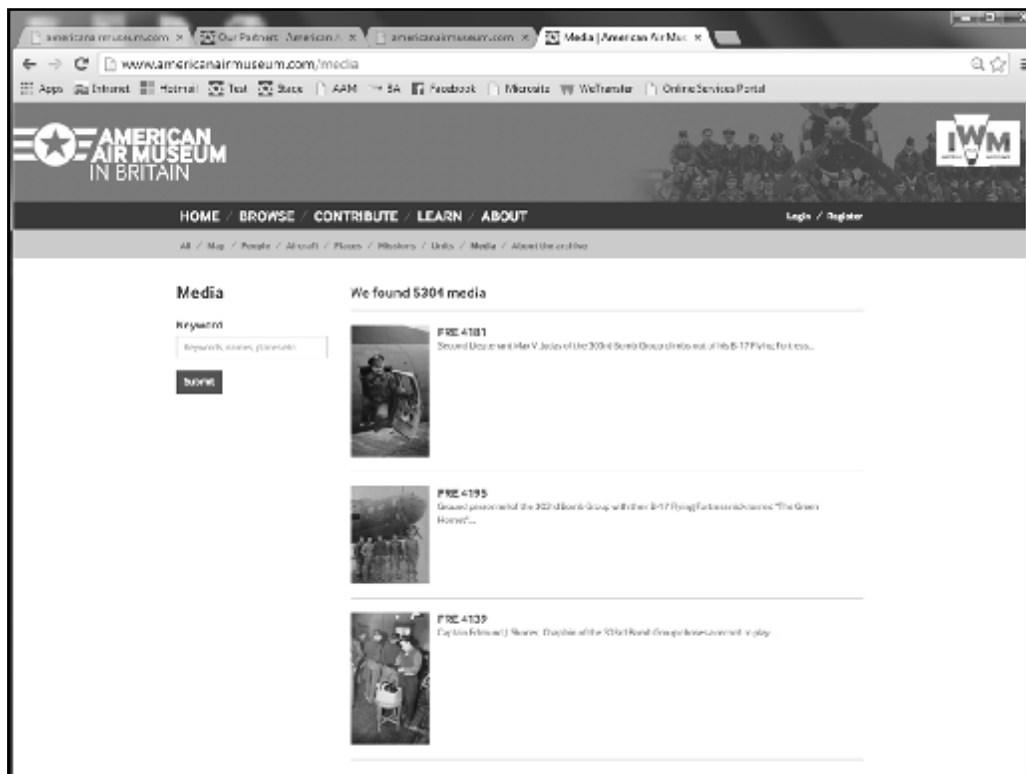
Now, let's have a look at the bottom of the form. Every time I make a change, I have to add a source message, telling everyone where I got the information that I'm adding.

This is vital/ The site is only as good as the accuracy of the data wee all put in, so we need to demonstrate best practice – source, source, and source again!



Once I've edited my unit, and saved it, any future user can then look at the bottom and see who has edited it, the changes that were made, and the sources they used.

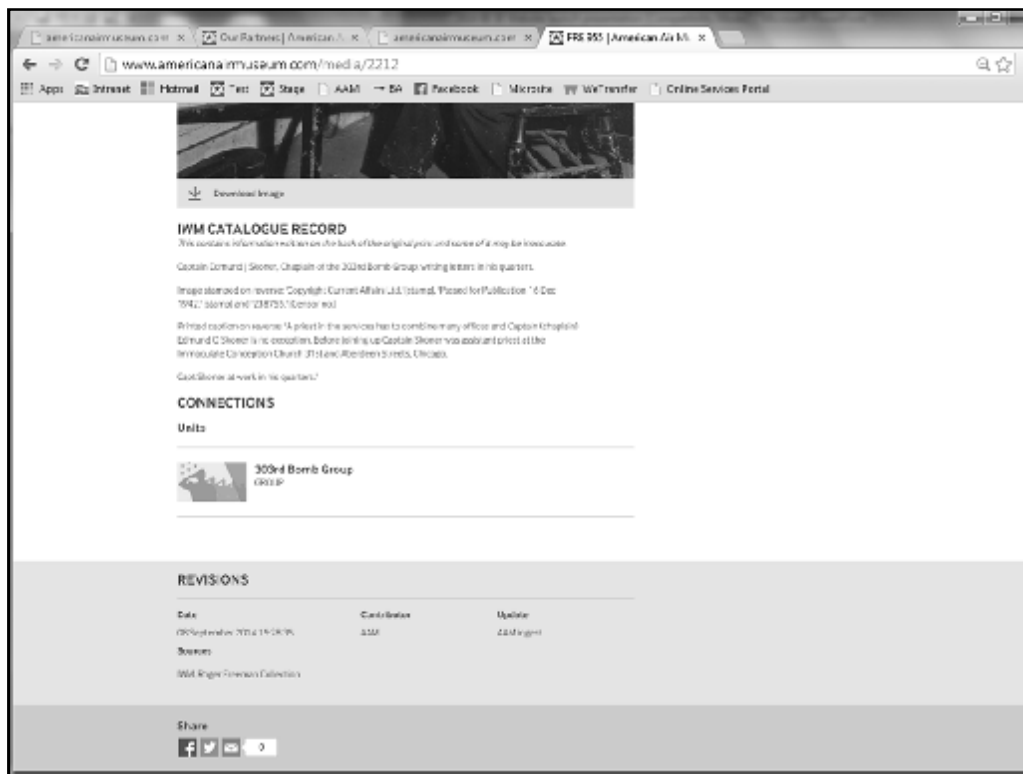
Online is fine, but do attribute. Many of you run magnificent websites, and we want to make sure people link to them, and explore further.



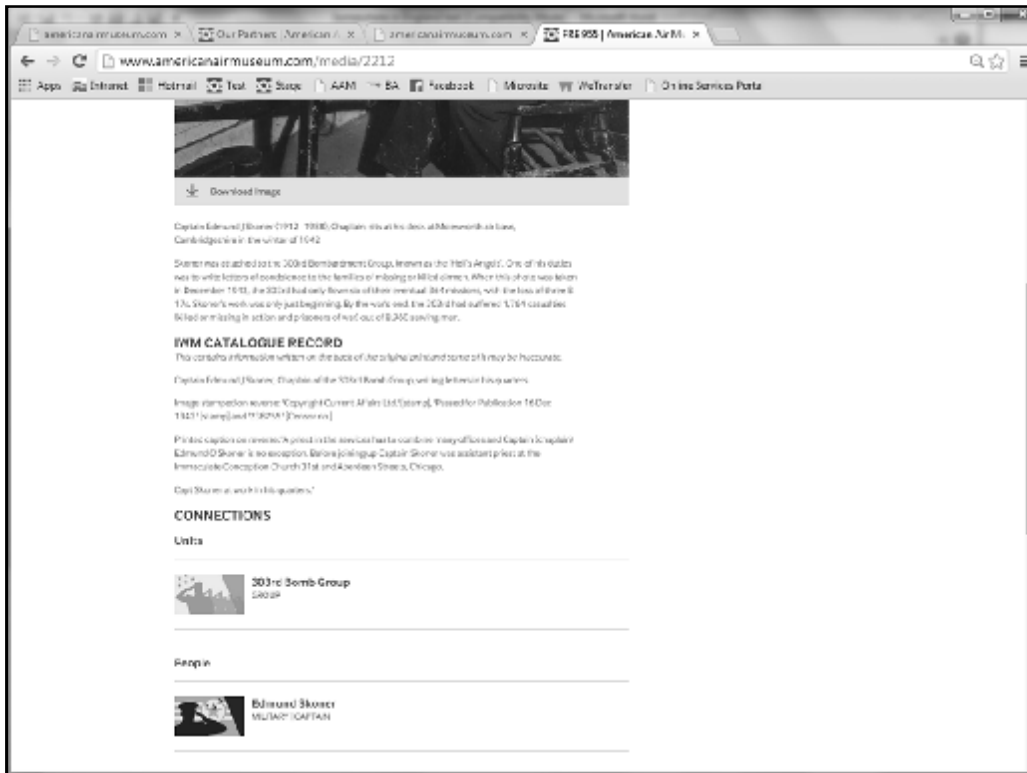
The media section site contains all the photographs currently on the website



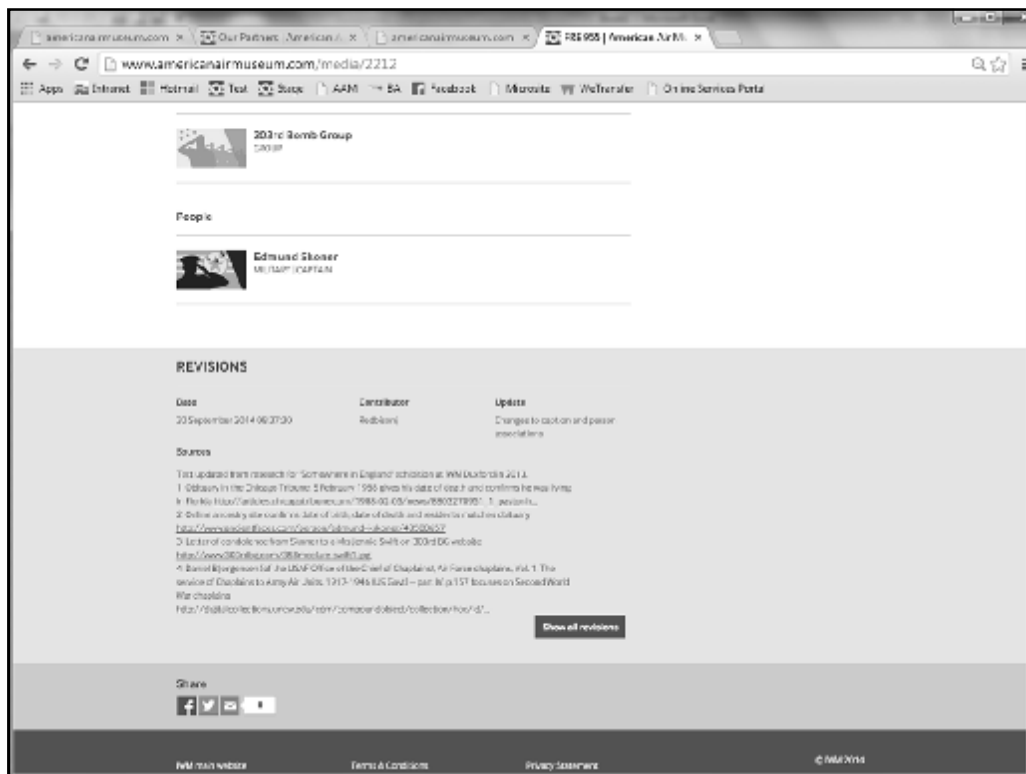
Clicking on a photograph will show its caption and give you the option to download it.



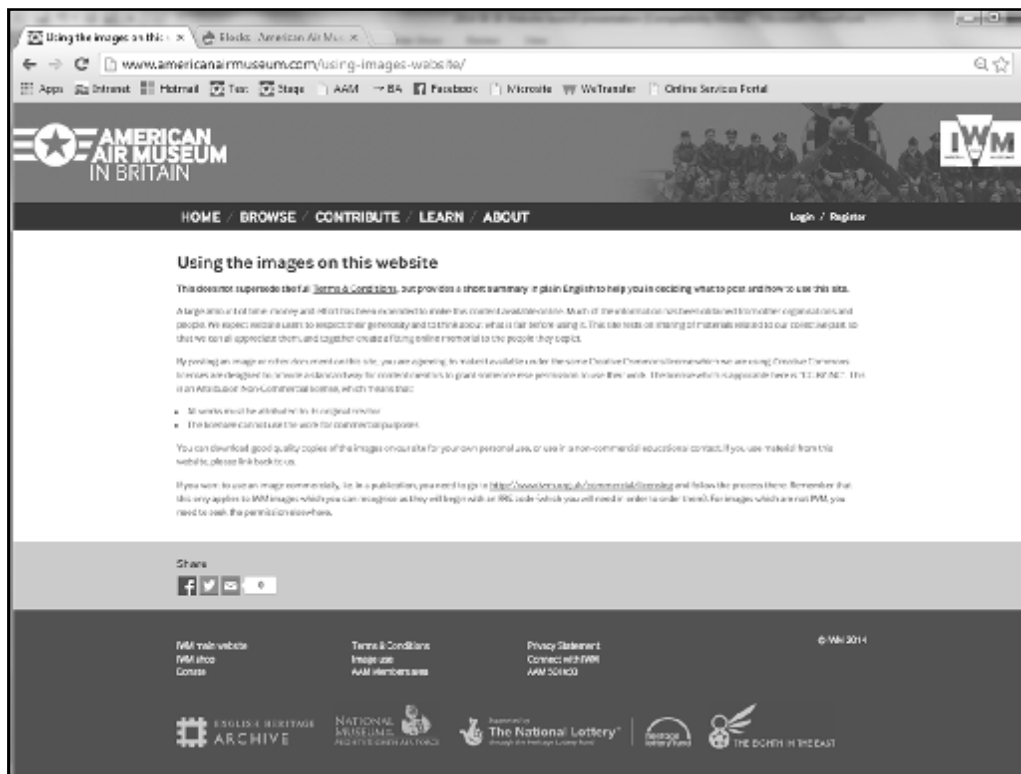
If there is only one 'official' IWM caption, only that will show until a user edits it.



Then there will be two captions – the original and the edited one.



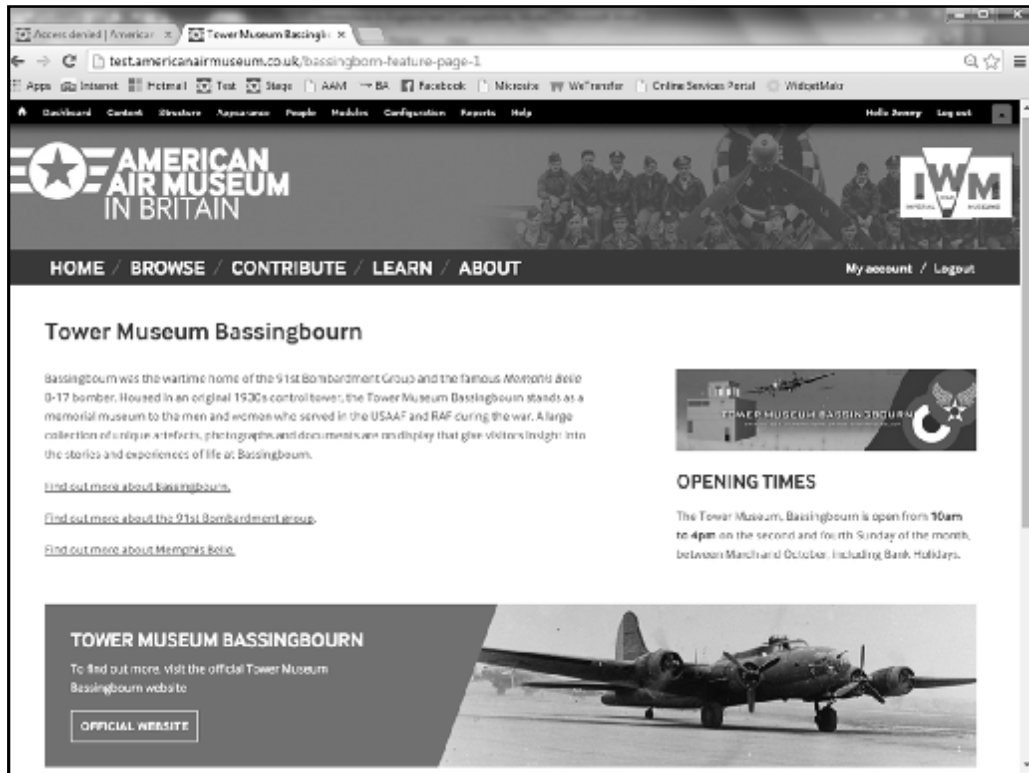
I added my revision message at the bottom listing the sources I used



A short guide to using images exists as well as the full Terms & Conditions

American Air Museum Website





Example of a museum page