



Welcome to the National Archives Know Your Records program!

September 19, 2017

World War II and the First Motion Picture Unit Films

Join preservation specialists **Audrey Amidon** and **Heidi Holmstrom** for an overview of the Army Air Corps' First Motion Picture Unit from World War II with many film clips including recognizable stars that served in that unit.



About the National Archives



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all the documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%–3% are determined permanently valuable. Those valuable records are preserved and are available to you, whether you want to see if they contain clues about your family's history, need to prove a veteran's military service, or are researching an historical topic that interests you.



KNOW YOUR RECORDS

National Archives and Records Administration



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THE KNOW YOUR RECORDS PROGRAM

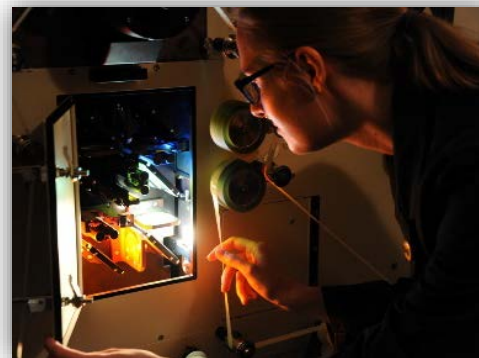
consists of free events with up-to-date information about our holdings. Events offer opportunities for you to learn about the National Archives' records through ongoing lectures, monthly genealogy programs, and the annual genealogy fair. Additional resources include online reference reports for genealogical research.

Biographies of Presenters



Audrey Amidon

Audrey Amidon is a preservation specialist in the National Archives Motion Picture Preservation lab, where she and her colleagues perform conservation and preservation work on motion picture records held across the National Archives. Before joining the lab 2006, Audrey worked with the Donald B. MacMillan film collection at the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College.



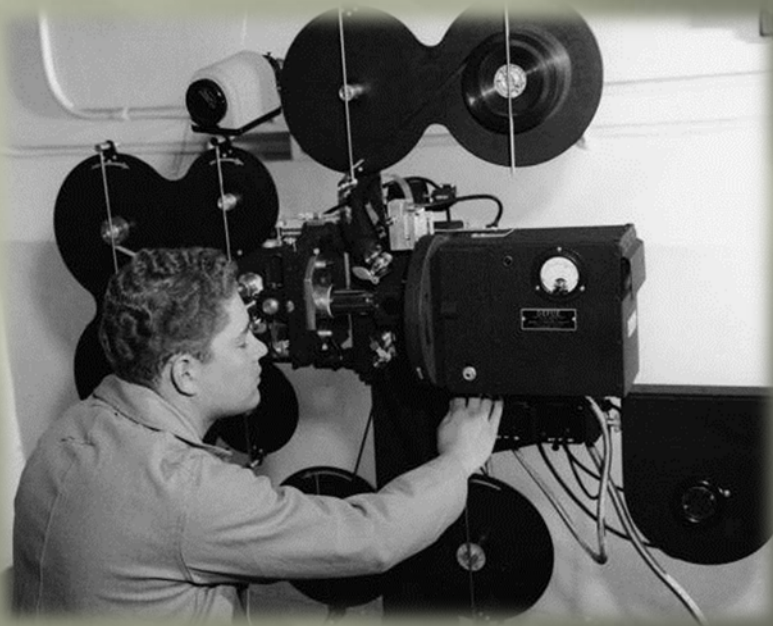
Heidi Holmstrom

Heidi Holmstrom is a preservation specialist in the National Archives Motion Picture Preservation lab. Heidi completed her archival education at Western Washington University, earning a Master's in History with a certificate in Archives and Records Management. She has worked in the National Archives and Records Administration Motion Picture Preservation Lab since 2009.



**Know Your Records:
Films of the First
Motion Picture Unit**

Film Preservation at NARA



- Film will deteriorate, but lasts a long time when we take care of it
- NARA film lab performs preservation and duplication services
- Digitization is currently for access-only

A Product of the

FIRST MOTION PICTURE UNIT

ARMY AIR FORCES



The First Motion Picture Unit

- Independent film production unit for Army Air Forces
- Produced over 300 films in three years
- Veterans include Ronald Reagan, William Holden, Clark Gable, Alan Ladd, and William Wyler

Winning Your Wings (1942)



Lieutenant James Stewart

Winning Your Wings (1942)

YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/lnxyCgdhSBw>

Catalog:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/38744>

The Rear Gunner (1943)



The First Motion Picture Unit



(62950-921-FMPUMS-10-43XPROD.62-PROP. STILL)

The First Motion Picture Unit

- Formed between March and June 1942
- Activated July 1, 1942
- Moved to Hal Roach Studios (Fort Roach) in October 1942
- First film (*Learn and Live*) released in March 1943
- Trained and oversaw Combat Camera Units

The First Motion Picture Unit (1943)

YouTube:

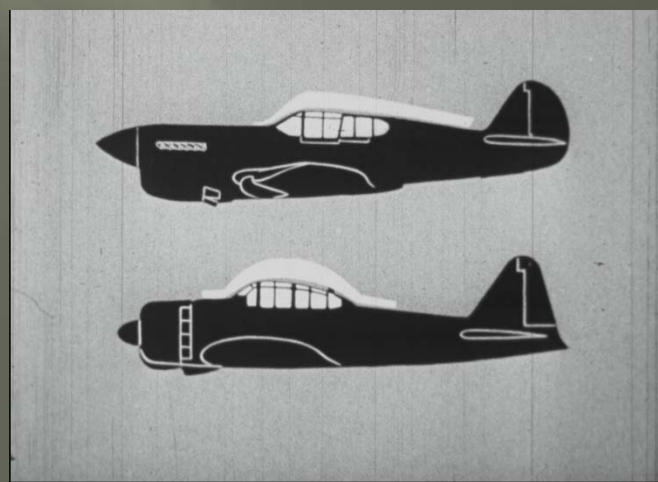
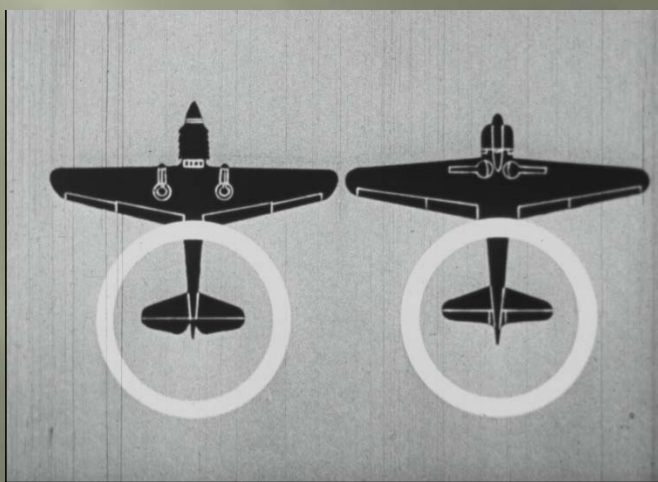
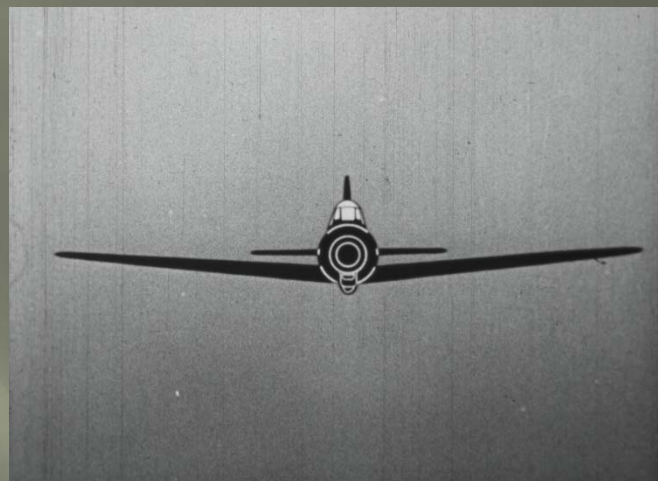
<https://youtu.be/Lpz1rBd6UDU>

Catalog:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/65891>

Recognition of the Japanese Zero Fighter (1943)

**DEDICATED TO THE
FLYERS WHO ARE
HELPING TO MAKE
THE TOTAL NUMBER
OF ZEROS... ZERO**



Recognition of the Japanese Zero Fighter (1943)

YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/uwo5uqOywFI>

Catalog:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5686522>

Photographic Intelligence for Bombardment Aviation (1943)



Photographic Intelligence for Bombardment Aviation (1943)

YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/NV5EbV43dZg>

Catalog:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5691111>

Reconnaissance Pilot (1943)



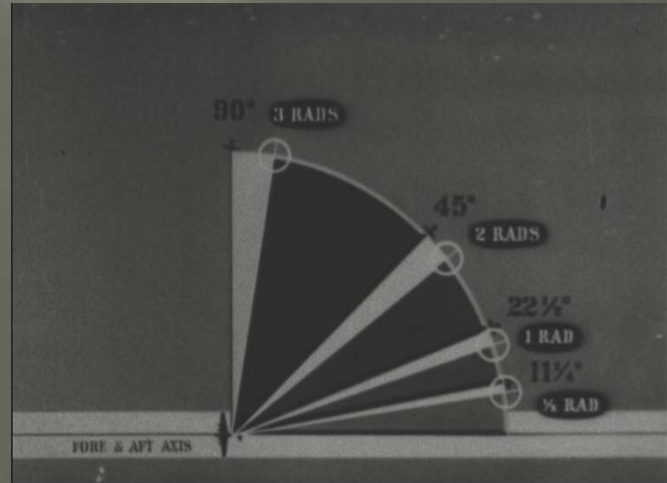
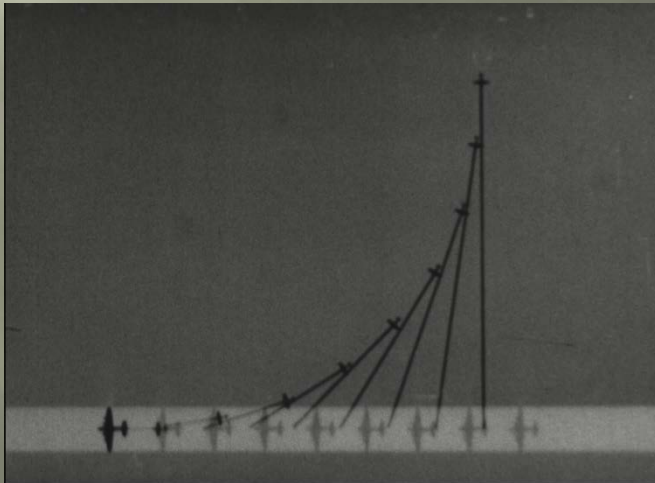
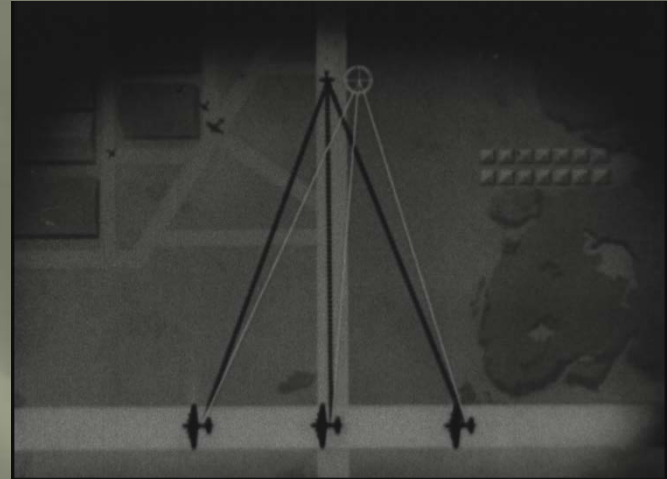
Reconnaissance Pilot (1943)

YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/Vn54nw4GMwM>

Catalog: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5697733>

Position Firing (1944)



Position Firing (1944)

YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/mXbCbPQPVc>

Catalog:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5687780>

Land and Live in the Jungle (1944)

No two jungles are exactly alike. Plant and animal life differ slightly in each. But the basic principles of survival are the same in all jungles.

*Learning them now can
save your life.*

Land and Live in the Jungle (1944)

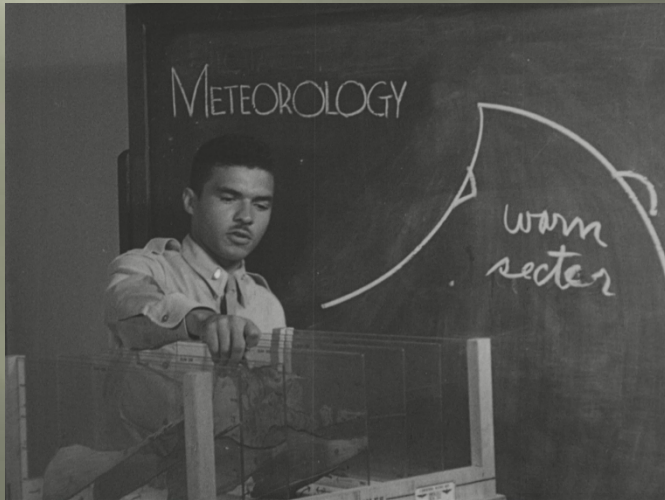
YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/UX8NUizKeJs>

Catalog:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5686920>

Wings for This Man (1945)



Wings for This Man (1945)

YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/k8Xjnl7TNus>

Catalog:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/63892>

Motion Picture and Recorded Sound Research Room

- Many items available on video tape or DVD for self-serve reference use; no pulls necessary
- Other items available only as film prints, require completion of pull slips



Further Reading

- Douglas Cunningham, “Imaging/Imagining Air Force Identity: ‘Hap’ Arnold, Warner Bros., and the Formation of the USAAF First Motion Picture Unit,” *The Moving Image* vol. 5, no. 1 (Spring 2005), 96-124.
- Mark Betancourt, “World War II: The Movie,” *Air & Space Magazine*, March 2012, <http://www.airspacemag.com/history-of-flight/world-war-ii-the-movie-21103597/>

Learn more about NARA's Film Holdings:

Check out the
Unwritten Record Blog at
unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov

Visit the U.S. National Archives
YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/usnationalarchives

Questions?

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