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In 1988, Marine Staff Sergeant Brad Hartsell was stationed on the island of Okinawa and received permission from the Japanese government to visit the island of Iwo Jima. What started out as a hobby of exploring the WW II tunnel systems, turned into a passion that has helped bring to light the final struggle of the battle from the Japanese perspective. Brad's collection of tunnel dug relics and his firsthand knowledge of the tunnel systems has led to lectures, a traveling exhibit, and consultation on movies. **Brad will be on hand to give one final lecture at 9 a.m. Sunday before the auction.** Don't miss this opportunity to hear and see accounts of his findings and have a chance to bid on these historic relics including the personal fountain pen of Japanese General Kuribayashi, who was killed in the battle.



*Personal fountain pen of General Kuribayashi,
commander of Japanese forces on Iwo Jima*

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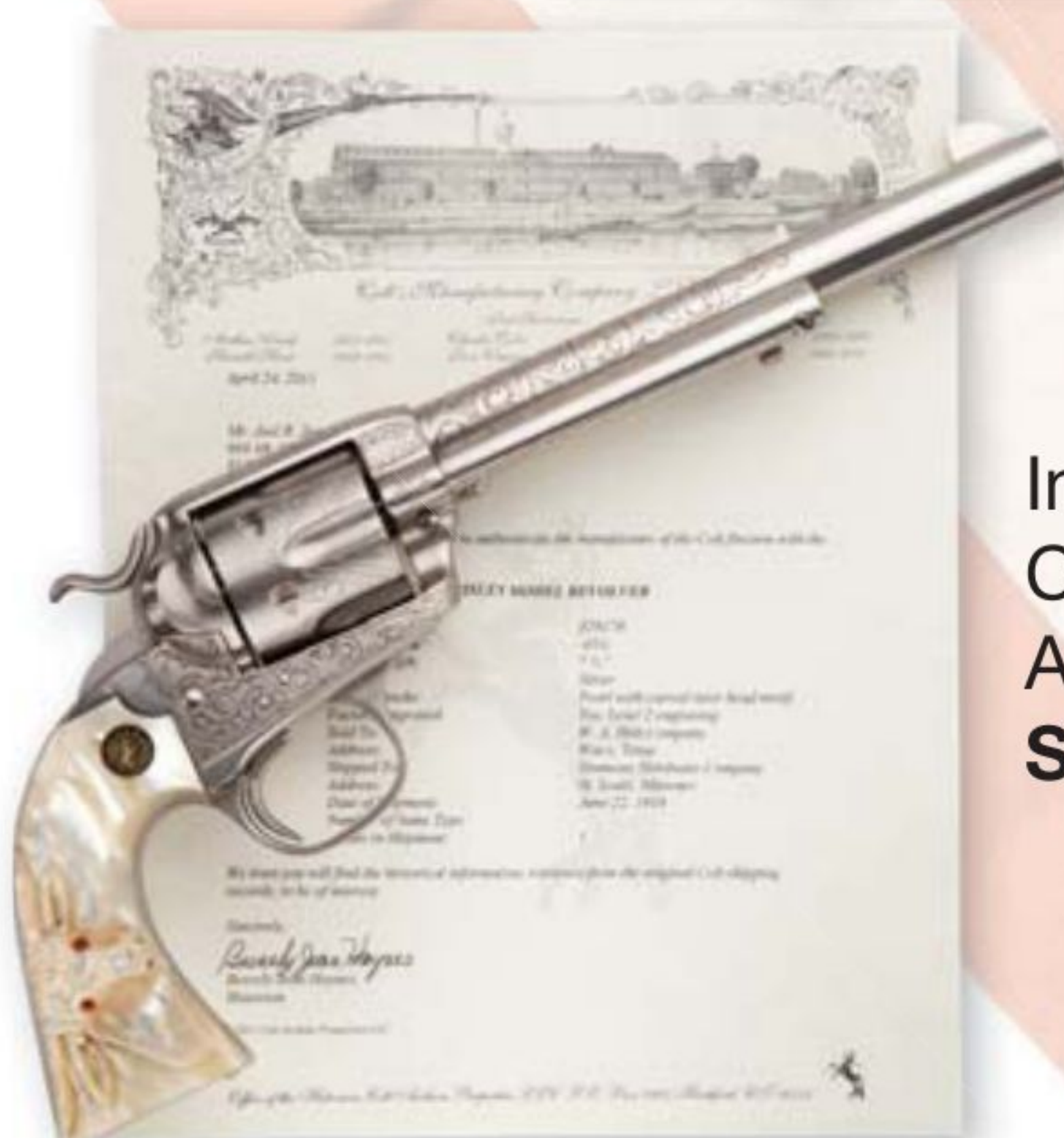
Painted Haversack and Contents Identified to Pvt. Robert G. Molineux, Co. E, 45 Mass Inf.
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Commander: John Cheney II –
419-349-4795, m2hbcrazy@yahoo.com



Or visit www.findlaymilitaryshow.org for more information and download a registration form.

The Findlay Military Association, P.O. Box 24, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872



MILITARY TRADER®

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MARCH 2020 • VOLUME 27, ISSUE 3

General Manager: Peter Miller

Publisher: Corinne Zielke

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715-781-2047, 9-5PM, CST, M-F

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Cover Date

April 2020 (vol. 27, no. 4)

May 2020 (vol. 27, no. 5)

Ad Deadline

March 9, 2020

April 08, 2020

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Military Trader® (ISSN: 1540-0581) is published monthly by Cruz Bay Publishing, an Active Interest Media company, 5720 Flatiron Parkway, Boulder, Co 80301. *Military Trader* is a registered trademark. Periodicals postage paid at Boulder, CO, and at additional mailing offices. Canadian Agreement No. 40665675. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Military Trader*, Circulation Department, P.O. Box 421751, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1751. *Military Trader*® assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials sent to it. Publisher and advertisers are not liable for typographical errors that may appear in prices or descriptions in advertisements.

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ABOUT THE COVER: Soviet troops prepare to leave May 15, 1988 in Kabul, Afghanistan. In May 1988 Afghanistan, Pakistan, the USSR, and the United States signed agreements providing for an end to foreign intervention in Afghanistan. The USSR began withdrawing its forces — and their distinctive headgear would become a symbol of their failed invasion. Robert Nickelsberg/Liaison/ Getty Images

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ON THE WEB

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The latest hobby news

- Late-breaking military hobby headlines!
- Online auctions and shows that are making headlines

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CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS FOR SPACE FORCE

The U.S. Space Force revealed the nameplates that airmen who are assigned to the Space Force will wear over their utility camouflage uniforms.

A picture posted on the U.S. Space Force's official Twitter account in late January 2020, showed a U.S. SPACE FORCE blue name tag on a camouflage battle uniform. Airmen who are assigned to the Space Force will wear the nameplates over the battle uniform made with the same camouflage pattern currently used by the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army.



The photo also showed a full color flag on the left arm, which would be unique to the Space Force, as airmen wear a spice brown flag on the right arm.

U.S. NAVAL UNDERSEA MUSEUM TURNS 25

KEYPORT, Wash. — For 25 years, the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum (USNUM) has strived to connect veterans, sailors and the local community with the history, technology and operations of the undersea Navy. The Undersea Museum opened as a pre-view center in 1991, and proceeded to open as a fully operational museum in 1994, with the goal of keeping the community connected and educated with its undersea Navy.

The museum's biggest attractions include the acquisition of the attack submarine USS *Sturgeon*'s (SSN 673) sail, located in front of the museum, and the Greenling control room that was constructed with real equipment from the Cold War-era fast attack submarine USS *Greenling* (SSN 614). The museum offers hands-on learning opportunities for children in the local community. Since 1999, the museum has been the venue for more than 7,000 retirements, changes of command, meetings, trainings, field trips and other education programs.

The Naval Undersea Museum is one of the largest maritime museums on the West Coast and holds the country's most comprehensive collection of undersea-related artifacts and documents. Through education programs and an 18,000-square foot exhibit hall, the museum connects visitors to more than 150 years of naval undersea history and technology.

FULL MATERIAL RELEASE FOR SIG SAUER PISTOLS

The U.S. Army recently approved Full Material Release (FMR) of its new Modular Handgun System that will replace its Cold War-era M9 9mm pistol.



Since the service adopted the handgun in 2017, Sig Sauer Inc. has delivered 59,000 M17 and M18 MHSs and plans to supply an additional 350,000 of the new 9mm pistols over the next five to seven years. The weapons will be used by all of the services, according to a recent Sig Sauer news release.

FIRST NIGHT VISION GOGGLES ISSUED

Army Futures Command began equipping the first of two combat brigades to receive the Enhanced Night Vision Goggle-Binocular (ENVG-B) in late September. The ENVG-B is a wireless, dual-tubed technology with a built-in thermal imager that is part of a capability set modernization officials started fielding to soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, at Fort Riley, Kansas.

The Army has also selected 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as the next unit to receive the new capability in March. The service plans to buy as many as 108,251 ENVG-Bs to issue to infantry and other close-combat units.

STOMACH PROBLEMS? DON'T BLAME MRES

Scientists from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM) are exploring the complex relationship between the gut microbiome, health and operational readiness. Research by Army and civilian scientists is beginning to show that the gut microbiome reacts to stress, influences responses to stress, and can be shaped by diet. These findings suggest that interactions between diet and the gut microbiome may be factors in mission success.



During operations, Soldiers often shift from eating their regular diets to eating military rations, particularly the Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE). The MRE contains similar amounts of carbohydrates, fat, protein and fiber as the average American diet, and the vitamin and mineral content is designed to meet Soldier nutritional requirements. However, unlike most diets, the MRE needs to withstand rough conditions and exposure to the elements while maintaining a three-year shelf life. As a result, commercially sterile, highly processed items and no fresh foods are used.

The Surgeon General's current policy allows the MRE to be consumed as the sole source of subsistence for up to 21 days. Earlier studies demonstrated that consuming the MRE for 21 days had no negative effects on Soldier nutrition status. However, the question of whether subsisting solely on MREs could cause gut leakiness or other gastrointestinal symptoms and change the gut microbiome had not been considered.

It turns out that the MRE does not appear to have negative effects on gut health and has only a small impact on the gut microbiome community. USARIEM recently published these findings in the *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry* in a report that concluded, "The MRE ration diet alters fecal microbiota composition and does not increase intestinal permeability."

"We found that the MRE does not increase gut leakiness, does not appear to negatively impact gut health, and has only subtle effects on the gut microbiome in people eating the MRE while going about their normal daily lives."

MREs do not contain fermented yogurts and cheeses, which, for most people, are the primary dietary sources of lactic acid bacteria. Despite these differences, volunteers who ate the MREs

reported few, minor differences in gastrointestinal symptoms and did not experience an increase in gut leakiness compared to the control group.

According to Karl, these study results strengthen the theory that Soldiers experience gut leakiness and gastrointestinal symptoms during operations due to psychological and environmental stress, rather than the MRE diet.

ARMY PERSONNEL DISPOSE LIVE MORTAR ROUND

Army personnel from Fort Hood were called in to Commerce to dispose of a live mortar round that was innocuously taken in to the B6UP Pawn & Gun store of Greenville, Texas, for appraisal on Monday, November 25, 2019.

Commerce Director of Public Safety Chris Basham said Monday that a patron brought the mortar round into the store earlier in the day without knowing what it was. He said that a bomb squad was called in to examine the device which was determined to be live.

Bassham said that a call was then made to the Army to properly dispose of the ordinance. At around 10:15 p.m., Army personnel left the scene to detonate the bomb, with the device being taken to city-owned property on Ross Street near the former Commerce Fire substation.

The mortar was safely detonated inside of a containment device shortly after 11 p.m. Reports came in that the loud boom could be heard as far away as Campbell.

A small crater was visible at the back end of the property. Following the detonation, several people on social media questioned the decision to perform the operation at that location, which is less than half of a mile away from several residences. A request for comment on that decision had not been returned as of Tuesday morning. — *Ryan Scott, The Herald Banner, Greenville, Texas*

MORPHY AUCTIONS APPOINTS JAMES L. KOCHAN

Dan Morphy, president of Morphy Auctions, has appointed James Kochan to the position of specialist for the company's Americana, Early Arms and Militaria division. Tapping into his vast knowledge of American antiques, Kochan will also be involved in the curation and cataloging of American manuscripts and fine art.

"We are honored and delighted that Jim has joined our team," said Dan Morphy. "He is one of the most respected and knowledgeable authorities in his field. He will be working together with our Arms and Armor specialist David Geiger. I can't think of a more formidable pairing of experts to represent Morphy's, both within the hobby and at the highest levels of the business world."

Prior to founding James L. Kochan Fine Art & Antiques in 1998, Kochan was director of museum collections at Mount Vernon. During his tenure there, he organized the blockbuster traveling exhibition "George Washington Revealed: Treasures from Mount Vernon." He spent nearly two decades as a museum director and curator, principally with the U.S. Army Museum System and the National Park Service, which included seven years as supervisory curator at Morristown National Historical Park.

Kochan received his bachelor's degree in history from Miami University in 1980 and conducted graduate work in early American history and historical archaeology at the College of William



and Mary. He has received numerous honors and awards for his curatorial and historical work, including the Anne S. K. Brown Military Fellowship at Brown University, the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History, and a Museum Fellowship from the British Council. He is also the Founding President of the Mars & Neptune Trust, and a Fellow and Life Member of the Company of Military Historians.

James Kochan is the author or co-author of eight reference books on military material culture and history, including *Soldiers of the American Revolution*, *Insignia of Independence: Military Buttons, Accoutrement Plates and Gorgets of the American Revolution*, and *The United States Army, 1783-1815* (2 vols.), as well as more than 100 published articles or research reports on various facets of early American life. He is considered a leading expert on American and British military and marine artwork and material culture from 1700-1850 and has been a consultant to numerous museums and historic sites.

Kochan has served as the expert consultant on several film and media projects, as well. He was the principal historical consultant and technical advisor for costume, props and set dressing on Peter Weir's film adaptation of the Patrick O'Brien novels *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* and A&E Network's *The American Revolution*; and participated as an expert appraiser on PBS Television's *Antiques Roadshow*.

"I am excited about joining Dan's talented team and have already hit the ground running, working in partnership with David Geiger on a specialized sale of early American martial arms, manuscripts, artwork and militaria for a May auction at Morphy's," Kochan said. In a previous collaboration with Geiger, Kochan cataloged the prestigious Walter O'Connor collection, sold by Morphy's in 2018.

"In my 22 years as a dealer, the most enjoyable experiences have come from providing museum-quality pieces to private and institutional clients and creating strategies to help them build and refine their collections, including the well-considered culling or deaccessioning of pieces. I look forward to providing the same services as part of Morphy Auctions' team," Kochan said.

To contact James Kochan, call 877-968-8880, ext. 722; or email james.kochan@morphyauctions.com. Visit Morphy Auctions online at www.morphyauctions.com.

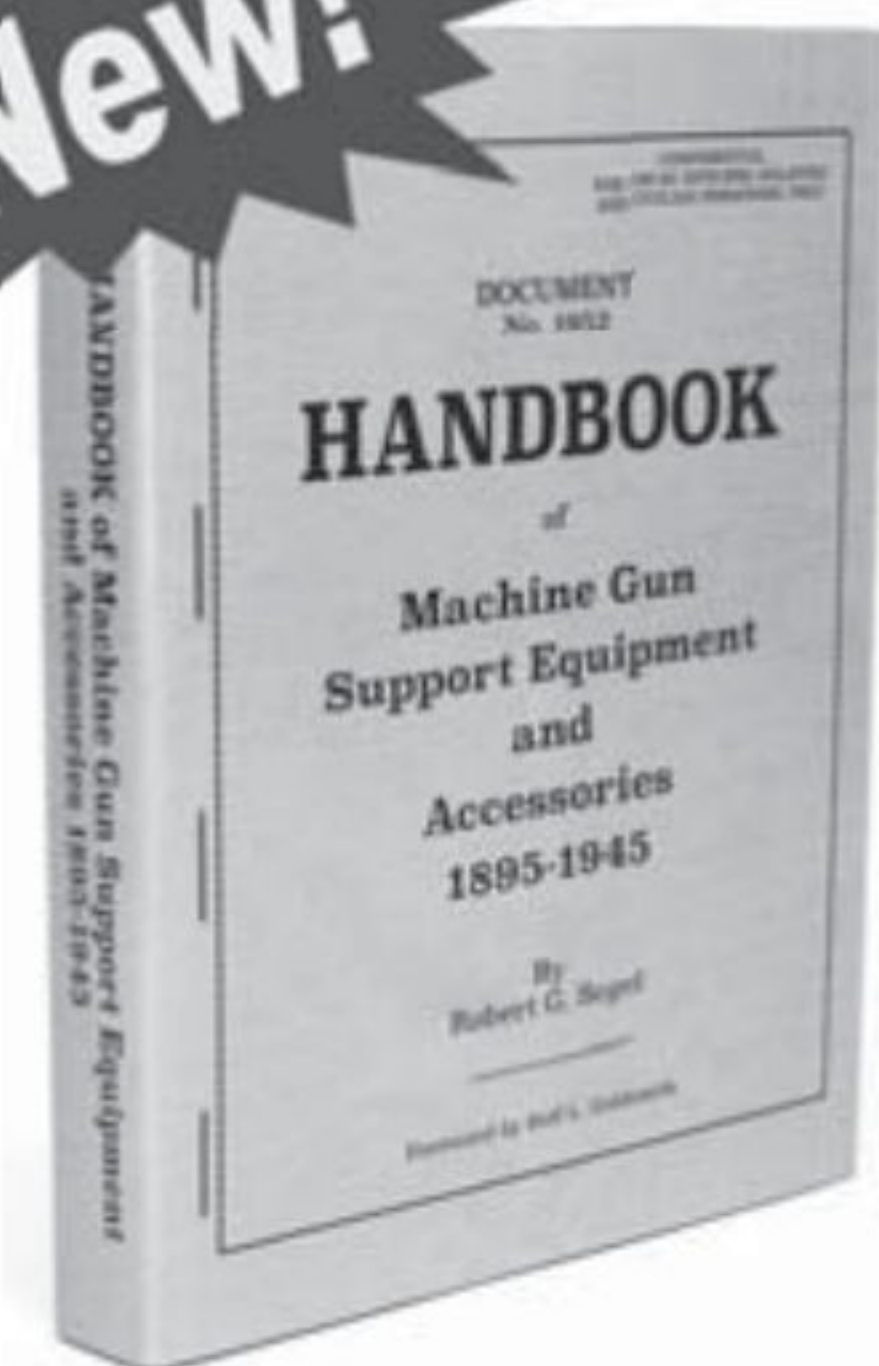
NAVY AUTHORIZES SPECIAL LAPEL PINS

The US Navy recently announced it has authorized special lapel pins approved by Congress as official designation for surviving family members of service members. The Gold Star Lapel Button, designed and created in 1947, is awarded by the government to surviving families of service members who were killed in action. The closely related Next of Kin Deceased Personnel Lapel Button was approved in 1973, specifically for family members of fallen service members from the Army Reserve or Army National Guard. The small round pins feature a gold star at the center.

Navy guidance specifies that these pins are approved only for optional wear with the service's most formal uniforms: service dress and full dress. ⚡



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6. Orig. WW1 Blue Infantry Hat Cord for Campaign Hat. Exc Condition. \$25.00
7. Civil War Federal Issue Army Canteen with wool cover, cloth shoulder strap and cork stopper with chain. All in Exc+ Condition. Not one moth nip to Cover. Superb Condition. No rust, no dents either \$395.
8. WW1 37mm 1 pounder Round with Case. French made with nose fuze. Nice Cond \$75.00
9. WW1 37mm 1 pounder Round with case. US made with base fuze. Nice Cond \$75.00
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36. Original VN War manufactured US Army M14 Magazines. Mint in their labeled wrapper..... \$75.00
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38. Rare WW2 OSS and US Navy UDT and Combat Rangers uber rare Brown Lung/Rebreather set for bubble free diving with first type mask. Exc Complete condition, and comes with its original lead belt with 9 lead weights and quick release pins, etc, Further details and price upon request. A piece that is missing from even the most advanced WW2 Collections.
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46. WW1 US Mill's Officer's belt set w/interlocking Eagle belt plate, Saber Hanger, Rimless Eagle Snap Magazine Pouch for .45 auto and web belt sli9de. Exc Condition..... \$795.00
47. Civil War early Light Artillery Buff Leather Saber belt w/ Eagle belt plate. Complete with both buff leather Saber Straps. Early pre 64 manufacture without rivets \$895.00
48. M1910 Early Infantry Canteen Case with Rimmed Eagle Snaps. Nice Condition. Scarce..... \$225.
49. WW1 Mill's .45 Auto Swivel Holster with its original web leg Strap. VG/VF Condition. Rare \$895.
50. WW1 M1910 Infantry Trench Shovel Carrier dated 1918. Mint Condition..... \$110.00
51. WW2 USMC marked and dated folding Stove for Hexamine Tablet for use with Canteen. Exc..... \$15.00 ea.
52. WW2 Orig. German K-98-k Mauser Grenade Launcher with Original Case. (no sight) Exc \$895.00
53. 1943 dated USMC M3 Shoulder Holster .45 Auto M1911A1 Pistol. Exc Condition \$225.00
54. WW2 German Training Band for use w/Steel Helmet. Red/Yellow color. orig. Exc \$20.00 each
55. Rare US WW1 Mark 1 Practice Grenade..... \$125.00
56. Very Rare US WW1 Mark 1 Handgrenade with fuze handle that turns to the side. These were found to be extremely danger to the user and most were recalled and destroyed. Exc Condition..... \$895.00
57. Rare "USM" embossed for US Marines .45-70 McKeever Cartridge box as used from 1880s until 1890s when the Winchester Lee Straight pull was adopted by the Marines. Very Nice Cond..... \$295.00
58. Russet Leather US Embossed Colt 38 Revolver Holster as used in the 1900s. VF Cond..... \$225.00
59. WW1 US Army Trench Wire Cutters as issued to the Doughboys. VG Cond \$75.00
60. WW1 US Mark 2 Handgrenade with the short handle and angle cut fuze body. Exc Cond \$550.00
61. French WW1 M1914 Ball Grenade with the brass and wooden fuze mechanism..... \$285.00
62. WW1 French Petard Racquette Grenade. VG Condition. Complete. Very scarce to find \$285.00
63. WW2 US Army Mk 2 Pineapple Grenade with OD painted body with yellow band at top with proper Complete Fuze Assembly \$250.00
64. WW2 US Mark 2 handgrenade Fuze set complete. Nice Condition..... \$39.00 each
65. US Model 1907 Mill's 8 pocket rimless Eagle Cartridge Belt. VF Condition..... \$225.00
66. US Model 1903 Mill's 8 pocket rimless Eagle Snap Cartridge belt in VF condition. Tan Color..... \$225.00
67. WW1 North Russia US Wool Tunic with NR Embroidered shoulder patch, PFC Chevron, HD and OS stripes and complete with US and Infantry Collar Discs. Exc Cond \$895.00
68. WW1 Siberian Wool Tunic. Has the beautiful Standing Bear Shoulder patch, US and 27th Infantry Discs, HD, Oversea's stripes and Combination Infantry and Sgt chevrons on sleeve. Exc Condition..... \$895.
69. WW1 81st Div. Wool blouse. Beautiful while Embroidered Circle and Wildcat patch, HD & OS stripes, US and Infantry brass and ribbons above pocket. Exc Condition..... \$265.00
70. WW1 US Tank Corps 1st Sgt. wool Jacket w/Tank Corps Shoulder patch, US and Side view Tank discs, and HD and OS stripes. Exc Condition \$495.00
71. WW1 US Army wool Overcoat with 32nd Division Shoulder patch. Exc Cond..... \$100.00
72. Indian war US Army Sgt. blue wool five button blue wool blouse with 4 prior service stripes on sleeve. Exc Condition \$495.00
73. WW2 M1938 US Tanker's Helmet in Size 7 1/8. Exc Condition..... \$435.00
74. WW2 US Army Engineer Training Copy of German Tiller Mine. Exc Condition. Complete \$225.00
75. WW1 German Brass Fuze for M1913 and M1915 Kugelhandgrenades. Hard to find on the loose \$50.00 ea.
76. WW1 Collectors Handbook Vol. 1 and 2 Combined. Autographed to you by Hayes Otoupalik \$24.50

WANTED: No. 5 Mills Bomb of WW1, YOUR PRICE PAID for USMC pre WW1 .45 auto pistol belt with the horizonatal Magazine pockets; \$100 paid for US/146 WW1 collar Disc; 37mm Maxim Machinegun ammo belt; Wanted US Mint 1880s to 1890s US Army Markmanship Prizes in gold, silver or bronze; Always buying American Militaria from 1860 to 1945. Please let me hear what you have to offer. All deals Confidential.

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GOOD COLLECTING ECONOMY?

During the past few months, popular media outlets reported that the “economy is good.” After years of disheartening economic measures, recent news of stabilized interest rates, increases in housing start-ups, and jobs numbers growing, a lot of people are breathing easier these days. But, as far as you and I are concerned, how does this translate to the world of historic military memorabilia?

THE STATE OF THE HOBBY

Back in 2008-2009, I was writing catalog descriptions for a prominent militaria dealer. While we heard reports of a falling market, we were seeing record sales of military relics. With each news report of an impending “great recession,” we would joke with each other, “What recession?”

At the time, we didn’t realize that there was a lag in impacting the military relic and historic military vehicle (HMV) markets. The great recession didn’t hit our world until several years later — and I think we are still fighting to drag ourselves out of it.

A few, fairly reliable barometers of our hobby include WWII Jeeps, Civil War firearms, and WWII Second Class Iron Crosses. When the economy is good, the prices of these items rise. And when the economy falters, so do the prices on these relics (as a whole field).

While all of us can point to examples, let’s consider the average price of what we call a “number 2” WWII Ford GPW or Willys MB Jeep. Basically, a number 2 vehicle is parade ready, being 95-99% restored to accurate, original condition. In 2009, a standard grille version of either the Ford or GPW in this condition was running around \$15,000-\$18,000. Today, ten years later, that same Jeep will run about \$20,000-\$24,000.

In the world of Civil War firearms, the Model 1861 Rifle-Musket serves as a good measuring stick of the economy. By far, the most typical of infantry weapons, any Civil War collection is incomplete without a representative Model 1861. In 2008, an 1861 pattern made by one of several manufacturers would sell for around \$900-\$1,200 in National Rifle Association’s “Good” condition (defined as “In safe working condition, minor wear on working surfaces, no broken parts, no cor-

rosion or pitting that will interfere with proper functioning). Today, while you will see these rifles at a variety of prices, they tend to sell for \$1,200 to \$1,800.

And in WWII memorabilia, the staple remains the iconic, German Iron Cross, Second Class. While tens of thousands of German soldiers received these awards, they remain a popular, distinctive relic to represent the rise and fall of the Third Reich. Whether a collector focuses on WWII German, American, British, Canadian, or other nationality, an Iron Cross can easily fit into the theme, making them one of the most popular WWII collectible.

Back in 2008, prior to the market crash that initiated the Great Recession, an Iron Cross, 2nd Cl. ran about \$45. A decade later, that same medal is going to sell for about \$95.

So, based on these three basic barometers, we could conclude that the military collecting field is doing okay. Some areas, like historic military vehicles and WWII memorabilia, are growing steadily, while others, like Civil War firearms, have flattened out but are recovering are over the last ten years.

But, is that accurate? You and I both know that attendance at shows and rallies is down in the last few years. We have seen many shows fold-up. Many of our favorite haunts like antique stores, junkyards, and flea markets have disappeared. And, from my perspective, the number of advertisers in traditional print media has dropped. If we measured our response based on these indicators, we would conclude that the hobby is in a slump.

SEE THE BOOM?

I am sure you, just like a lot of market watchers, will quickly interject, “But look at the internet! The hobby is *booming*!”

Appearances can be deceptive. That is why we need to look deeper. How quickly are internet dealers changing inventory? An easy indicator is to watch the smart dealers — they raise prices when the market is strong and have sales when the market is weak. How are your favorite dealers reacting lately?

Regardless of the indicators, our hobby is a nuanced one. It is very fickle. Unique or deeply desirable pieces are selling for record prices, leaving some with the impression that things are great. But

what about the guy with a table full of WWII-modern field gear, or the couple selling US patches and distinguished unit insignia, or the dealer who has hauled a variety of parts for M35 deuce-and-a-halves, M715s, and M38A1s to the local show. How are they doing in this current economy?

WHAT STIMULATES OUR ECONOMY?

We could talk on and on about the health of the hobby, arguing whether prices are up or down. We could debate whether new people are entering or old ones are leaving (through choice or death). Regardless, what we are really want to know is, “What will stimulate our market?”

There are some genuine, proven stimulants to our hobby, though most are out of our individual control. These include:

***Movies.** Remember how “Saving Private Ryan” and later, the HBO mini-series “Band of Brothers” impacted the hobby? We are still feeling the influence as people rediscover these action-packed dramas. Sales of D-loop helmets, 101st Airborne patches, and WWII Jeeps are still benefiting from these productions. It has been a long time, though. Saving Private Ryan debuted in 1998 and Band of Brothers, three years later in 2001.

***Major Reenactments.** Some media has reported that the number of reenactors participating in the 2019 Battle of Gettysburg was down by 10,000 from the peak at the 150th Anniversary celebration of 2013. Regardless, major, multi-thousand participant events spark *lots* of spending.

***Anniversaries.** I don’t know that I really believe this, but I will throw it out there: Major military anniversaries do spark some interest. That has certainly been true of the 75th Anniversary of major WWII milestones. To a much lesser degree in the United States, the 100th Anniversary of WWI did draw new people into the hobby and a rise in demand. However, the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American War and the 150th anniversary of the Mexican-American War both came and went virtually unnoticed.

***Discovery a cache of relics.** Wow. Nothing creates demand like the discovery of a forgotten stash. Take, for example, Mosin-Nagant rifles. With more than 37 million made since its inception in 1891, the Mosin-Nagant is one of the

most mass-produced military rifles in the world. Prior to Fall of the Soviet Union, collectors regarded the rifles as oddities, never letting them achieve much status in our market. But, when the Wall came down and the market flooded with tens of thousands of surplus Mosin-Nagant, collectors took notice and began to discover subtle nuances that determined which rifles were desirable (and therefore, more expensive) and which were common. A whole new market emerged that is still strong today as collectors and shooters discover more details about the rifles.

***Lowering prices.** Dealers hate to succumb to the idea that nothing generates interest and activity more than simply lowering prices. Face it, our hobby is definitely governed by the principle of supply and demand. If supply is high and demand is low, the common market correction is: Lower the price.

I think I am typical of most buyers. For example, I don't collect K98 rifles. However, if I suddenly notice that Mauser K98s have dropped significantly in price, I am likely to buy one. The fear of missing an opportunity will cause me to jump into collecting areas that are new to me.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

We can't control all the factors: Home prices will rise and fall without our input, as will the stock market, and the price of corn futures. However, in our little world of military collectibles, we can impact our hobby. We can strengthen it if we determine to do so. How? Here are a few tips to strengthen the hobby:

***Attend one more show than you did last year.**

***Look over your inventory and mark down several pieces by 20 or more percent.**

***Advertise.** Don't rely on people finding you on the Internet. Print up your business cards, take out some print ads, or even put a wrap on your vehicle. Let people know you exist outside of the shadows. It is up to you to "mainstream" the hobby.

***Let some of your "good stuff" go at reasonable prices.** If we all hold out for "top dollar" for our collections, new collectors won't be able to become involved.

***Try to figure out how to reach out in your community:** Talk to Scout troops, visit Veteran homes, put up displays in the local mall or library, drive your vehicle to the evening cruise-in or volunteer it for rides at local church bazaars or community events.

The key to a successful hobby — or any business, for that matter — is exposure. We can't grow if we stay in our "war rooms" or garages. Making contact with the general public is the fastest way to stimulate our hobby.

Or, we could wait another 20 years for another "Saving Private Ryan" to save our hobby.

Preserve the Memories — JAG

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Tell us about your 'favorite find' in up to 1,000 words and 3-4 photos (high resolution, 600 pixels x 900 pixels minimum). Email your tale and images to: jadmas-graf@aimmedia.com (write "Favorite Find" in the subject line) or send via regular post to Military Trader: Attn: John Adams-Graf, Editor, 901 Fourth St., Suite 50, Hudson, WI 54606.



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CLOSED to Member & Exhibitors at 6PM

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2. BDM propaganda DOLL in uniform, complete with hat. Great condition \$450
3. GENERALFELDMARSCHALL ROMMEL propaganda post card with cap on his head and all his medals signed. Great condition \$400
4. Blockade runner cased badge and miniature stickpin, blue case. Badge marked SCHWERIN. Superb \$650
5. Group of 8 Kriegsmarine knight cross winner post card propaganda. Mint. All for \$260
6. Hitler youth ORDENSBURGEN school cuff title. Full length..... \$89
7. SS sleeve diamond patch membership in the police..... \$69
8. Cased large table award medal film propaganda 1938 dated..... \$110
9. SS dog tag, easy to read, shows light age \$150
10. Anti-partisan silver badge, nice silver finish \$850
11. Spanish decoration to commemorate the blue division. Iron cross on the front. Nice long ribbon.....\$140
12. Panzer army crusher visor cap by PEKURO, factory sewn insignias. Nice condition \$1450
13. Luftwaffe officer visor cap, all silver embroidered insignias. Great condition \$900
14. SA sports badge for the war wounded. RZM marked \$285
15. Bronze infantry assault badge \$160
16. Silver infantry assault badge \$110
17. WWI flare gun, well-marked and single barrel \$250
18. WWII flare gun, single barrel and well-marked. Bakelite grips not broken \$185
19. K98 combat bayonet matching number, Bakelite grip. Black leather frog and blade never sharpened \$210
20. K98 Luftwaffe dress bayonet by PUMA, mint with leather frog and knot..... \$250
21. Luftwaffe officer dagger, white grip with knot and hangers. Near mint. Rare..... \$650
22. Army officer dagger orange grip by WKC with knot and hangers. Near mint \$550
23. Luftschutz NSDAP green armband \$114
24. NSDAP party armband \$49
25. SA sports armband..... \$89
26. Special grade of the battle tank in silver with 50 engagements. GB marked. Near mint. As shows in the books. Very Rare \$1900
27. Spanish cross silver, no swords and large pin in the back. Nice finish and never been cleaned \$900
28. Special sleeve badge for single handed destruction of a tank, army cloth backing \$341
29. Olympic Games 1936 enamel breast cross with ribbon, enamel not damaged..... \$475
30. Olympic Games enamel door sign in paper envelope from the maker, mint \$300
31. Black wound badge in LDO paper envelope, mint..... \$49
32. WKC wall advertising in color, thick cardboard.....\$89
33. Gas mask combat in metal container with straps, complete and clean \$166
34. Group of 8 different tinnies, not damaged. All for \$88
35. Group of 7 different tinnies, not the usual ones. All for \$121
36. Donation red can for, "Tag der DEUTSCHEN POLIZEI". Shows light age..... \$149
37. BDM young girl silver ring in his red box. Rare.....\$186
38. Bronze Panzer badge, great finish \$250
39. Group of 4 SA tinnies. All different \$123
40. General assault badge, nice finish \$110
41. WWI patriotic plate, large iron cross center, dated..... \$80
42. DAF sports shirt insignia, RZM tag..... \$90
43. Large 12" diameter Kriegsmarine plated, well-marked..... \$82
44. Large 17" oval Kriegsmarine serving dish, well-marked..... \$91
45. DAF saucer, red trim. Saucer with plate and well-marked..... \$76
46. DAF 17" oval serving dish, well-marked \$72
47. Army mess plate, 1940 dated and eagle \$50
48. Luftwaffe dish mess plate, 1936 dated with eagle \$55
49. Luftwaffe mess plate 1942 dated, eagle \$51
50. Black leather map case, nice leather and marked \$110
51. Brown leather map case, mint and marked \$130
52. Combat Bakelite whistle with lanyard... \$31
53. K98 black leather ammunition pouch. Perfect..... \$39
54. Winter parka reversible, white/late war water pattern. Near mint, complete. Hood not cut and belt present \$760
55. NSDAP 13x7 two piece construction flag \$53

WINTER CATALOGUE NOW READY FOR SHIPPING

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- 56. NSDAP 10x12 multi-piece construction flag \$49
- 57. NSDAP flag, 31x44 multi-piece construction, double sided. Mint..... \$110
- 58. Kriegsmarine flag, 54x92, well-marked and great condition \$405
- 59. Visor cap Veteran with Edelwiess on the side. Great condition..... \$345
- 60. Close combat clasp in bronze, nice condition.....\$350
- 61. Close combat clasp in silver, maker marked..... \$400
- 62. Silesian service bronze medal..... \$91
- 63. Knight cross of the iron cross 1957 issued, nice ribbon and great condition..... \$210

****All medals are in issued envelope with ribbon. ****

- 64. Iron cross 2nd class..... \$118
- 65. War merit medal \$41
- 66. War merit cross no swords \$43
- 67. War merit cross with swords..... \$46
- 68. Winter 1941 in Russia \$56
- 69. West wall medal \$42
- 70. Luftchutz 2nd class medal..... \$89
- 71. Red Cross 2nd class medal..... \$94

- 72. Black belt, dated and mint \$90
- 73. Army dress belt and buckle \$74
- 74. NSKK nickel buckle, brown belt. Near mint \$131
- 75. RAD leader buckle with brown belt..... \$265
- 76. FAD enlisted buckle, nice condition.... \$149
- 77. Police belt buckle with rare white leather belt. Unit marked..... \$250
- 78. Early DJ belt buckle, 2 piece construction \$114
- 79. SS enlisted combat belt buckle, shows light age \$305
- 80. Blue steel Luftwaffe combat belt buckle, mint in factory wrapping paper..... \$129
- 81. Kriegsmarine aluminum officer belt buckle \$120
- 82. German eagle medal in bronze with swords, superb ribbon \$210
- 83. Iron cross 2nd class with award document, signed by a general. Both for..... \$210
- 84. KRIM shield with award document, signed by a generalfeldmarshall. Both for \$280
- 85. Luftwaffe bomber clasp and award document. Rare \$340

- 86. Winter in Russia 1941 medal and award document. Both..... \$120
- 87. War merit cross 2nd class with swords and award document. Signed by a Luftwaffe general. Both for \$99
- 88. Iron cross 1st class and award document, signed by a general. Both for \$415
- 89. Photo album, young officer army. Great pictures \$186
- 90. Small photo album, silver helmet on the front, army NCO..... \$114
- 91. Small photo album, campaign in Russia, fallen in 1945..... \$116
- 92. Fall of France photo album, silver eagle on the front with unit marking..... \$120
- 93. Officer sword by ALCOSO, late war... \$241
- 94. Lions head officer sword artillery, 1938 dated \$350
- 95. Luftwaffe flight helmet complete with throat microphone. LKPS 101 type. Superb... \$375
- 96. Propaganda book, very large. Panzer East and West. Great pictures \$91
- 97. Propaganda book campaign in Finland \$78
- 98. WAKE UP GERMANY propaganda book. Complete..... \$120
- 99. Afrika KORPS campaign book propaganda. Forwarded by ROMMEL \$130
- 100. POLIZEI manual 1940 dated..... \$41

MISCELLANEOUS

- 101. US- 13th airborne sleeve patch WWII. Two of them \$14
- 102. Japan – 29x35 flag, red sun center \$84
- 103. US – Colt 45 black leather holster. Marked..... \$61
- 104. US – WWI 5th infantry division helmet. Front painted insignia. Complete near mint \$141
- 105. US- WWI 28th infantry division helmet, painted insignia. Shows light age. Complete \$119
- 106. US – KABAR just after WWII, dark brown. Mint \$110
- 107. US- Group of 45 shoulder arm patch for soldier in WWII. All different..... \$118
- 108. US – WWII complete uniform, 4 pocket tunic, shirt, pants and overseas hat. Superb condition and comes in hard protection storage box \$119

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SEEKING DRESS BLUES FOR MUSEUM

The Battleship Wisconsin Museum is in need of a set of 1980s vintage USMC Dress Blues for permanent display in the Marine berthing area of the ship. This uniform must have lower enlisted insignia (E-5 or below) to be appropriate for the exhibition. Please contact Marty Crane at marty.d.crane@gmail.com

PROVENANCE MATTERS

I'd like to say 'great article' on the relevance of provenance ("The JAG File: How Much is Provenance Worth?" *MT*, December 2019, pp. 10-11).

Here's a personal experience I had with some provenance: A number of years ago, I bought a Colt Bisley revolver from a local dealer that had allegedly been used in the murder of a deputy sheriff in Wyoming in 1902. The gun came with a 1970s newspaper that had an article about the shooting. It came with an affidavit from the then (1970s) County Sheriff stating that this particular revolver with that serial number was the weapon used to shoot the deputy and was taken off the criminal by the sheriff of the time. It just so happened, that sheriff was the grandfather of the sheriff who signed the affidavit stating that the weapon had been in the family since the time of the shooting.

This seemed pretty iron-clad to me: An affidavit signed by a county sheriff from a very small community. That should be easy to trace — or so I thought!

I wrote to Colt requesting any info they may have on the revolver. I received a very nice parchment document with official Colt embellishments (for a fee, of course). It stated that this particular revolver was part of a ten-gun shipment sent to a hardware store in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1904 — two years *after* the shooting had occurred!

I promptly trashed newspaper and sheriff's document.

— Steve Crane

SCHARNHORST DISCOVERY

Thank you for the fine article in *Military Trader* on the finding of the SMS *Scharnhorst* ("SMS *Scharnhorst* Discovered," January 2020, pp. 44-5). I hope they find the other three German ships soon."

I have a framed print of Spee's squadron at anchor off a South Pacific lagoon before the war in my living room. My wife actually bought for me! I think she likes the palm trees better than the ships.

— Kyle Crews

Your wife is pretty darn nice to let you have that in the living room! That said, I want our readers to know that it was Kyle's note that alerted us to the discovery of the Scharnhorst. MT thanks him and all of our readers who take the time to share notes or comments with us. None of them go unread!



A PIECE OF HISTORY

I talked our son into buying a WWII German P-38 from a dealer friend who knows them inside and out. He bought a 1943 Walther-made P-38. It is all original and not a fooled-with example. It came with an original holster. I told him it is a collector piece as they are always going up in value.

P-38s happen to be my favorite handgun. I once saw one in an old movie being used by a leader of a gang of crooks in Japan just after WWII. I believed the actor was Robert Ryan. I fell in love with the P-38 at that moment. I don't know why!

Hopefully, my son's pistol will be passed down through the family. To me these guns are pieces of history!

— Bob Collins
Westlake, Ohio

FIRECRACKERS AND BB GUNS

Following the publishing of the JAG file, "Firecrackers and BB Guns" (*MT*, July 2018, pp. 12-13), we asked readers, "How did you get your start in the hobby? These are some of the replies we received:

John Carroll: "These guys! >>"



Octavio Ruelas: "BB guns, pellet rifles, blank guns, old cars, and old trucks."

Terry Mcmillan: "Driving military vehicles in the Army!"

Ralph Watkins: I wasn't allowed a BB gun. My name is Ralphie so you can see why. My friends and I were prolific model builders and played around with model rockets, small explosive devices, & turning model rockets into bazookas."

Thomas Galloway: "I grew up with M-80s, a bb gun, then a .22 rifle." ★



SCOTCH, CIGAR, AND MILITARY TRADER

Steve Shalaby sent this photo and asked, "How do you enjoy your *Military Trader*?"

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MILITARY WHATIZIT?



27-3-1. Ned would like to know the country origin, date, and meaning of this medal.



27-3-4. Jeremy T. asks what is the date and significance of this Nationalist Chinese medal?



27-3-3. Rob wants to know what the decal on this 1940-dated British helmet represents.



27-3-8. Jon wonders if this pin is military. If so, what does it represent?



27-3-2. Ed wonders if this red wool armband is military. If so, what does it represent, and who wore it?



27-3-5. Sal sent these photos of silver cord shoulder boards with blue wool backing. The chevrons on the cord are pink and blue. Who wore these and when? What do they represent?

IDENTIFIED

27-1-1. P.J. Hassett wrote, "This is a North Korean (DPRK) Military Merit Medal. It looks to be a Type 1 version."



"WHATIZIT?" is a place where collectors can share their collective knowledge with each other. If you have an item you want identified, or you can share information about one of the items pictured here, write to WHATIZIT, c/o Military Trader, 5225 Joerns Dr., Suite 2, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or email: JAdams-Graf@aimmedia.com. If replying to a "Whatizit?" be sure to include the item number in your response. Only send duplicate photos. All submissions become property of Active Interest Media and may be considered for inclusion (with proper credit) in other features.

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With Humanity, Towards Peace

WWI Medals for Those Who Cared

by David L. Burrows

The First World War was one of the deadliest periods in history with about 40 million military and civilian casualties. Of these killed and wounded, military personnel accounted for 9 to 11 million deaths, while the civilian death toll was close to 11 million and at least 8 million deaths due to war-related famine and disease. It is too easy to forget all the people who actually made extensive humanitarian efforts to relieve the misery and suffering of both military and civilian casualties.

The period from 1914-1918 offers an opportunity to examine those who chose to alleviate the suffering of both those involved in direct military conflict and those civilians that were victims of

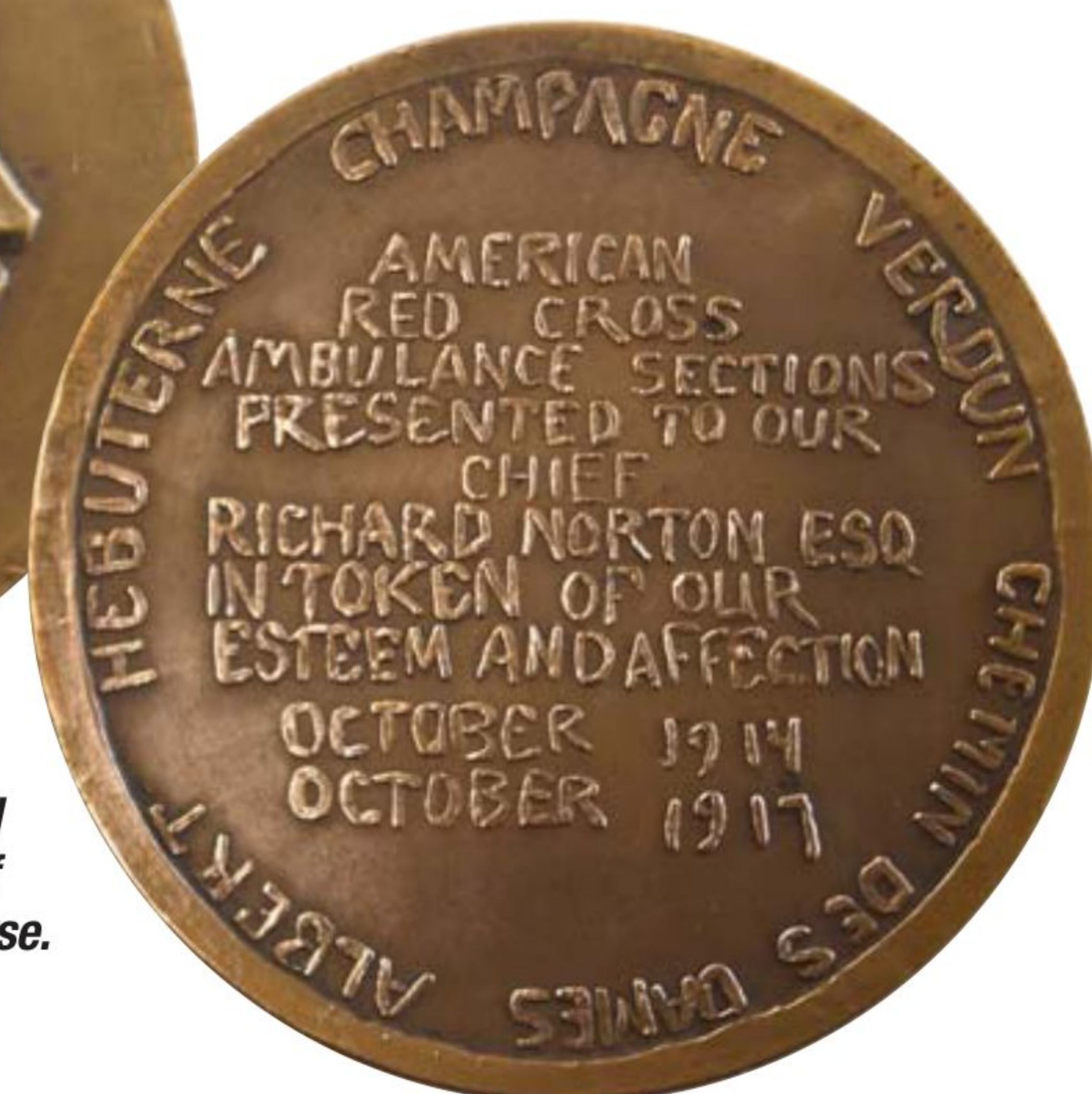
both military actions and war-related privations and the effects of disease. While it is not possible to list every organization or the individuals who gave of themselves to alleviate the miseries of the Great War, the artifacts and lasting records of these selfless humanitarians offers opportunities in some of the following examples.

THE AMERICAN VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

The United States was a neutral power until April 1917. Even under these circumstances, America volunteers contributed more than 3,500 personnel to ambulance service, primarily aiding the French Army.



The large 58mm presentation Norton Red Cross Award Medal shows the image of Richard Norton in high relief on the obverse.



The reverse of the Norton Red Cross Award expresses the appreciation of the American Red Cross to the Norton ambulance sections.

A poster that was popular during WWI, shows a Red Cross nurse reaching out for aid as soldiers march past.

The first use of motorized ambulance service can be attributed to Richard Norton whose American Volunteer Ambulance Corp revolutionized the range of battlefield triage and transporting wounded to hospitals far behind the lines. Initially working with the British Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Service, Norton's group began with only two cars and four drivers.

By 1917, the Service had 600 American Volunteers and 300 ambulances. At that time Norton's American Volunteer Motor Ambulance service was directly affiliated with the American Red Cross which honored Norton for his humanitarian services.

AMERICAN AMBULANCE FIELD SERVICE

Another volunteer service, the American Ambulance Field Service (AFS), chose to be directly integrated within the French Army. The field service relied on college students, graduates and university faculty in their divisions fostering a sense of prestige and genteel tradition.

The AFS in the period 1914-1915 grew with the arrival of Abram Piatt Andrew, a former Secretary of the Treasury. Under his direction, the AFS became the largest volunteer ambulance service. Units of twenty five to thirty men along with 20 ambulances were each assigned to individual French Divisions. Two units were even serving with the French Army of the Orient in the Balkans.

By October of 1917, both the American Field Service Ambulance and the American Volunteers Ambulance Corps were amalgamated into the United States Army Ambulance Service and the AEF Transportation Division.

The United States Army Ambulance Service (USAAS) provided a continued supply of ambulances to the French Army with French Marshal Joseph Joffre sending units to priority areas. The USAAS used the existing volunteer structure with 40 member units including 3 sergeants and a corporal, approximately 30 driv-

ers, two chefs, and a number of mechanics. Units also served in Italy as well as France and in late 1918 with AEF forces.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) began in 1863, as a result of a business man Henry Dunant who witnessed more than 40,000 dead and wounded men during the war of Italian Unification. Dunant recognized the lack of medical attention and the need for humanitarian treatment of the sick and wounded. He formed the ICRC and encouraged the creation of national Red Cross societies when the ICRC rapidly expanded to more than 3,000 employees with national bureaus for each combatant nation. The ICRC set up the International Prisoners of War Agency which arranged for the exchange of more than 200,000 POWs and distribution of mail and aid packages.

FRENCH RED CROSS

Because France was the major country involved in fighting, it was logical that the French Red Cross (composed of three entities) provided for auxiliary hospitals. The *Société française de secours aux blessés militaires* (SSBM) ran 541 Auxiliary Hospitals, 110 border posts and 70 health centers. They also employed 3,300 stretcher bearers and 10,000 nurses.

Because different French Red Cross groups existed, collectors often encounter the French Red Cross Medal for Aid to Wounded Military along with the SSBM medal. The French government even awarded a medal to civilians who came to the aid of the wounded, both in France and abroad: the Medal of French Recognition.

BELGIUM RED CROSS

Belgium was the first country to be invaded by the Germans August 4, 1914. The Germans wanted passage for its armed forces through Belgium even though Belgium was neutral. When Belgium did not meet German demands for access, the Germans forces invaded Luxembourg on August 2. When Belgium de-



The American Field Service Medal displays a perched eagle (U.S) and crowing rooster (France) on each side of a flaming bomb with "A" for French Ambulance insignia.



The reverse of the U.S. Army Ambulance Service Medal is inscribed "France-America-Italy World War 1917 - 1919."



The obverse of the French Medal of the SSBM shows a nurse caring for a wounded soldier.



The silver, four-arm cross with wreath of the French Cross Medal for Aid to wounded Military carries the traditional ribbon of a Red Cross on White.



French Medal of Recognition, Type 1 is an example of a national French medal given mostly to civilians for humanitarian service.



The Belgium Red Cross Merit Medal features a four-arm, red-enameled cross imposed on a silver laurel wreath with red cross on rampant lion in oval center. It is suspended from a royal crown.



The Queen Elizabeth Medal is an example of a national Belgium medal awarded from 1914 -1918 to Belgians and foreigners for no less than a year helping Belgian soldiers and civilians.



Instituted in 1915, the reverse of the Queen Elizabeth medal shows a feminine figure in prayer for the suffering people of Belgium.

clared war, the Germans crossed the Belgium Border and began the Battle of Liege.

By October 1914, the Germans had overrun nearly all of Belgium on its path toward Paris. The Belgium Red Cross was active in supporting the military and civilian population. The Belgium Red Cross provided assistance in reuniting individuals displaced by the war. For example on March 22, 1916, the Red Cross sent 400 people to respond to the bombing of Brussels. They sent 30 ambulances to transport over 100 wounded individuals to more than 16 different hospitals to gain medical care.

Much like the French government, Belgium also recognized people both Belgium and foreign with the Queen Elizabeth Med-

al. Belgium awarded it to those who cared for the suffering victims of war for a year or more (not limited to just medical care). A variant of the medal with a red cross in the wreath was issued for those who worked in hospitals.

CENTRAL POWERS RED CROSS

The Central Powers consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungarian Empire, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire. In Germany, within 48 hours after the call for mobilization, 5,000 Red Cross nurses who had served in time of peace and more than 1,000 assistant nurses reported for duty. By February 1917, Red Cross personnel in Germany had reached 170,000 and included large numbers of



Prussian Red Cross Medal & Service Badge was awarded for 10 years active service (including WWI service).



The Austrian Red Cross Medal of Honor is beautifully enameled in red and white on a Rupert Cross (convex ends) surmounted by a green, closed wreath. The dates 1864-1914 are on the reverse.



The 40mm x 30mm Bulgarian Red Cross Membership Badge carries the Royal Crown of Bulgaria with traditional red cross on a white center.

women nurses, male nurses, lab assistants, bearers, home hospital workers, and laborers and workers from all areas.

National organizations of the Red Cross of Austria and Bulgaria offered similar services on behalf of the Central powers.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross (ARC) was still in its infancy when war broke out in Europe. The American Red Cross's mission was to prevent and alleviate human suffering in face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and generosity of donors.

Even though the ARC served on a small scale during the Spanish American War, it struggled at the start of WWI — because America was still a neutral power. When the nation did enter into the war in 1917, many Americans responded by creating and joining local chapters of the ARC. By the end of the WWI, nearly one third of the American population joined the ARC.

In terms of major objectives, the ARC's priorities were service to American forces and allied military forces — particularly the French, service to American and Allied prisoners of war, and service to civilian victims of war with an emphasis on children.

With women volunteering in great numbers, either as newly trained professionals in nursing careers or semi-trained volunteers, life on the front was difficult. Often dealing with such horrors as facial reconstruction or the effects of gas attacks on soldiers, the work was often gruesome and dangerous. More than 330 women died during their volunteer service.

The ARC gave many women a sense of purpose during War. Volunteer jobs included setting up canteens to service traveling soldiers. Volunteers often passed out cigarettes and chocolate to soldiers on trains, or simply offered a touch of sympathy — as

only a woman could give. It was an opportunity for an unprecedented role in the fight.

With women playing a greater major role in most of the humanitarian efforts, the example of two sisters from the Buffalo area of New York perfectly illustrates the sense of Americans' contributions to the war effort. Both nursing school graduates, sisters Jane and Kate Coleman both served overseas during the War. Jane joined the Army Nurse Corp as a 1st Lieutenant. Kate volunteered to the ARC.

The reminders of the sisters' service include VFW Service pins, Army Nurse Corps insignia, American Red Cross pins, along with sorority and Emergency Training School pins. Newspaper reports reveal that Jane was an active member of the New York State Nurses Association well in to the 1930s.

Another example of how American women contributed to the war work is illustrated by Miss Jean Ohl, of Washington, D.C. She traveled to Belgium in 1917, where she became the private secretary for the Belgium Minister, E. de Cartier de Marchienne. She worked tirelessly for the Minister in the mornings, and then devoted the rest of her time in the Red Cross canteen. Her efforts in supporting the troops and civilian population was rewarded when the Minister personally decorated Miss Ohl with a special award for the fine work she contributed to Belgium: *Le Médaille de Son Altesse Royale la Duchesse Vendome*.

AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED

Another example of the major contributions of women to the war was the American Fund for French Wounded. American women living abroad created the organization to provide relief to wounded soldiers in France. They served in small hospitals in



The American Red Cross Overseas Service Medal featured a dark blue ribbon and split wrap brooch. The reverse is a plain, concave gilt surface.



Jane Coleman (left) and Kate seated in what appears to be a graduation photo from Nursing School.



Jane Coleman with artifacts of service from both sisters – note Jane's lieutenant bars, Army Nurse Corps' pin and both sister's Red Cross pins.



Miss Jean Ohl traveled to Belgium in 1917, where she became the private secretary for the Belgium Minister, E. de Cartier de Marchienne. In the evenings, she volunteered her services to the Red Cross.



The obverse of the American Fund for French Wounded Medal carries a shield with an upright sword of George Washington imposed on an eagle with outstretched wings. "Do Right" is on the top border "And Fear No Man" at the bottom. The reverse features "April 6, 1917" on an American shield.



The American Committee for Devastated France Medal carries the unique image of a winged dragon with the dates, "1916 – 1923."



National League for Women's Service Medal is often found with service bars. This particular example was from King's County Canteen Division for 12 months service.

France and assisted in support of refugees. Eventually, the group expanded to eighty municipalities in the United States where they raised funds for the organization.

The US representatives sold the "American Fund for French Wounded Medal" to raise funds to support the group's relief work. The medal is often called the "Do Right and Fear No Man Medal" or the "Spicer Simson-Medal" (giving credit to its designer, medallic artist Theodore Spicer-Simson).

The organization worked closely with the ARC and the American Committee for Devastated France. Some 350 volunteers of the Committees for Devastated France served in France. The committee provided an opportunity for many female physicians to serve in Europe since the military medical corps would not accept women as officers. Interestingly, to represent the close cooperation between such organizations, the reverse of the Medal for Devastated France uses the obverse of the American Fund for French Wounded.

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE

The National League for Women's Service (NLWS) was established in January 1917. The NLWS provided stateside services such as feeding and caring for and transporting soldiers and war workers. The NLWS even set up a training program for female wireless operators to take the place of male wireless operators who had gone to war.

The organization worked with Belgium Relief and the American Committee for Devastated France. The NLWS even sponsored chicken farms in France to aid food shortages. Finally, they donated clothing for Belgium refugees and provided food for the influenza epidemic in 1918.

While this list is not conclusive, it provides a glimpse of the wide-ranging scope of different humanitarian organizations in which women and men sacrificed to help those in the warring countries during the Great War. They gave hope by demonstrating that the general goodness of humanity could offset the evils of war. ♡

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603rd B.S. Patch



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German WW2 Bulk Food
Sack With Maker Marks



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SS Totenkopf SLB Walter
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Despite the similarities the Space Force seal (left) is not based on that of the fictional Starfleet Command

MAY THE SPACE FORCE BE WITH YOU

New branch of service's seal too close to Starfleet logo?

by Enid Burns

At a White House ceremony in January 2020, Vice President Mike Pence formally swore in General John “Jay” Raymond as the new Chief of Space Operations at the White House. Raymond, who was named commander of the United States Space Command last August, assumed his duties on December 20, 2019, after President Donald Trump signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act that officially “launched” the new branch of the military.

President Trump had touted the Space Force as “the largest ever investment in the United States military.” In June 2018 he directed the Pentagon to begin planning for the Space Force as the sixth independent military service branch, making it the first new military service in more than 70 years. The last “new” branch of the military was the United States Air Force, created in 1947.

The Space Force will be part of the Department of the Air Force in much the same way the United States Marine Corps is part of the Department of the Navy. Its purpose is to organize, train, and equip military personnel with a primary focus on space operations.

A SEAL FOR THE STARS

This sixth branch of military service also has a distinct seal. While it is essentially an update of the United States Air Force Space

Command seal, it features a “delta symbol” over a globe with longitude and latitude grid lines with stars in the background. Its detractors have argued that it closely resembled the fictional Starfleet Command seal from the “Star Trek” television and movie series.

George Takei, who starred as “Mr. Sulu” in the original TV series in the late 1960s, and in several of the films, responded on Twitter noting, “Ahem. We are expecting royalties from this...” Takei’s comments were largely tongue-in-cheek, but others took aim at President Trump. A writer for Fast Company even suggested that the seal was “pretty much a carbon copy of the logo for Starfleet Command,” with a bit of “copy-and-pasted” elements from NASA’s logo.

President Trump didn’t actually design the seal, so calling him out for its similarities to the fictional Starfleet Command insignia was just an example of the partisan divide in our country. Ironically, the detractors don’t seem to know their history.

The fictional Starfleet logo was based on the symbols used by the early U.S. Army Air Forces, including the inclusion of delta symbol. It also draws on early Air Force space organization emblems dating back to 1961.

In a statement addressing the controversy, a spokesperson for the U.S. Space Force said the seal “pays tribute to the newest armed service that organizes, trains, and equips space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint forces.” The spokesperson also re-

The seal of the Air Force Space Command, which was activated in September 1982. It is easy to see that the current Space Force seal is clearly an evolution of this design.



The seal of the United States Space Command, which originally created in September 1985 to coordinate the use of outer space by the United States Armed Forces. The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law in 2018, directed the reestablishment of U.S. Space Command as a sub-unified combatant command under U.S. Strategic Command. Instead, the Space Command was officially reestablished as a full unified combatant command on August 29, 2019.



While this image has been widely posted on the internet, this is not the camouflage uniform for the Space Force.

sponded to the criticism as well as the similarities for the Star Trek design, noting that the seal “honors the Department of the Air Force’s proud history.”

The other part of the story is that the round NASA insignia (known as “the meatball”) has also long-featured a red delta symbol and stars. This design was approved by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959, and was slightly modified under President John F. Kennedy in 1961. As such, it clearly predated Star Trek, which didn’t make its debut until 1966.

Another consideration is that the Starfleet Command design isn’t really that old. While the curved delta symbol was used during the original Star Trek TV series and seen on various uniforms, there was no actual seal for the fictional Starfleet Command until 1996!

According to the Star Trek fan site, Ex-Astris Scientia, the full Starfleet seal actually was only introduced in the fourth season of “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.” And then it was made to look like it evolved from actual military seals. Michael Okuda, graphic designer and lead designer for Star Trek, was quoted as saying, “the symbol was intended to be somewhat reminiscent of the NASA emblem!”

SPACE CAMO AND NAMETAPE

The seal wasn’t the only item of controversy for the Space Force. After the swearing in of General Raymond, a “leaked” uniform appeared online. It was a black camouflage pattern with white “stars” — possibly taking a cue from the fact that past United States Navy camouflage utilized various shades of blue. However, this Space Force camo pattern was a hoax.

In reality, the new branch of service will rely on the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform that is currently used by the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. It will feature a name tape that reads “U.S. Space Force,” while the U.S. Space Command



The actual Space Force uniform will be the same Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) pattern that is currently used by the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

patch will be worn on the left sleeve. Above the patch will be worn the full-color American flag patch — a departure from the subdued flags that soldiers and airmen typically wear on the right shoulder of the OCP uniform.

While some have questioned why camouflage is needed at all — it is worth noting that Space Force isn’t actually sending “Storm Troopers” (to mix sci-fi references) into space. Instead, the personnel will be very much earth-bound.

There are still a few unanswered questions, including the rank structure, the full system of uniforms, or notably, what to call members of the new force. These issues, as well as the permanent location of Space Command, will likely be addressed later this year. To boldly go... 🚀



The Soviet “Boonie” Hat

The M38 Panamanka and M88 Afghanka

by Peter Suci

While there were fittingly many types of winter headgear employed by the Soviet Union’s Red Army, less well-known were the various types of “boonie” hats worn during the summer months. These iconic hats actually date back to the 1920s and are little more than a light-weight version of the *budenovka*, the archetypal hat of the Communist forces during the Russian Civil War.

In the 1930s, the *budenovka* evolved into a hat with a wider brim. They were issued to units of the Red Army serving in the Central Asian, North Caucasian, Transcaucasian military districts, as well as the Crimea.

Officially known as the “M38 Field Hat,” the hat has been widely known by its nickname, “Panamanka,” due to its resemblance to Panama hats. How well-known this nickname was at the time is a matter of debate, however. It is unlikely many soldiers in these remote regions of the Soviet Union could find Panama on a map, let alone know of a “Panama hat!” It is far more likely the name was popularized after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, when it was worn with the Afghanka uniforms. Hence it is also known by the name “Afghanka,” as well.

COLONIAL HAT FOR A NATION WITHOUT COLONIES

Specialized summer or tropical uniforms were certainly not

the norm for the Soviet Union. The same held true for Imperial Russia. While both Russia and later, the Soviet Union, controlled vast territory, it was truly an empire without far off colonies — apart from some brief adventures during the Imperial era and the Soviet’s proxy wars of course.

Yet, during the Second World War, the Soviets utilized a number of summer uniforms, including lightweight khaki colored tunics and other clothing. Generally, the headgear of choice was the ubiquitous sidecap — not the M38 Field Hat. Production of the field hats likely ceased at the start of the war. In fact, few photos exist that even show the hat being worn at all on the front lines.

It wasn’t until the 1979 Soviet “adventure” into Afghanistan that this interpretation of a “boonie hat” was widely worn by the Red Army. While not technically developed as part of the Afghanka uniforms and equipment, the hat seemed ideally suited for the campaign in the rugged countryside.

The Panamanka /Afghanka had been developed to keep the rays of the sun off the wearer’s head and out of his eyes. Made of heavy cotton cloth, the crown featured a set of ventilation holes. The version used during the Soviet-Afghan War was a modern update of the original M38 hat.

The Panamanka /Afghanka hat featured a thick leather headband, a plastic chinstrap, and an enameled metal M22 Red Star



Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan in 1987 wearing the Panamanka / Afghanka hat. E. Kuvakin/Creative Commons.



First stage in the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan – these troops are also wearing the Panamanka / Afghanka cap. Note the stars on the caps appear to be the later subdued plastic versions. Yuriy Somov/Creative Commons

An Uzbek woman greets Soviet troops in Termez, as they return from Afghanistan. The Soviet soldiers are wearing the Afghanka uniforms with the distinctive hat. The latter would become a symbol of the failure of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Photo by Patrick ROBERT/Sygma via Getty Images.

badge on the front. The biggest difference between the Panamanka / Afghanka and the M38 is that the earlier versions featured a leather chinstrap and the M22 badge was placed over a branch-color cloth backing.

The versions produced in the 1980s were of Soviet construction — meaning “basic” and “bare bones.” Examples were made with both sewn and metal grommets for the vents.

These hats were also supplied to pro-Soviet governments around the world, including those of Angola, Mozambique, Grenada, and Nicaragua. The versions deemed for export often lack the Soviet stamps. It does appear, however, that many issued in Afghanistan didn’t have Soviet military stamps, either.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan became a quagmire for the communist nation. Eventually, the Soviets pulled out.

THE M88 HAT

The traditional Panamanka / Afghanka was seen as being symbolic of the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan. Therefore, it was replaced by a similar looking hat — one that has dubbed the “Panama Hat” by online sellers and collectors. Officially, it is called the M88. Some sources even refer to it as the “Afghanka,” despite the fact it wasn’t actually used in Afghanistan.

This hat, which more closely resembled the boonie hats used by NATO forces, had a flatter top than the Panamanka / Afghanka. It also had a plastic chinstrap that could be unbuttoned and passed through holes on the rim to allow it be worn with the rim up, much like an Australian slouch or bush hat. Later versions also featured snaps or press-stubs. However, shoddy manufacturing in the Soviet Union meant that the snaps often failed to hold!

TWO DIFFERENT HATS

The two hats are often confused with one another. In the final days of the Soviet Union, it was possible to see the two versions worn side-by-side. However, the latter version — the so-called “Panama” (M88) style — was not used outside the Soviet Union.

Collectors should be wary. Reproductions of both pattern hats are actually being made despite the fact that originals aren’t that hard to come by. The construction is often one way to tell a reproduction from an original. Ironically, the reproductions are often of better quality than the originals! ★



The “Panamanka” featured a peaked top, a plastic chinstrap and an enameled metal M22 Red Star badge on the front. As there were no holes for the chinstrap, it would be impossible to actually use it!

The interior of the “Panamanka” shows the leather headband and generally crude construction.



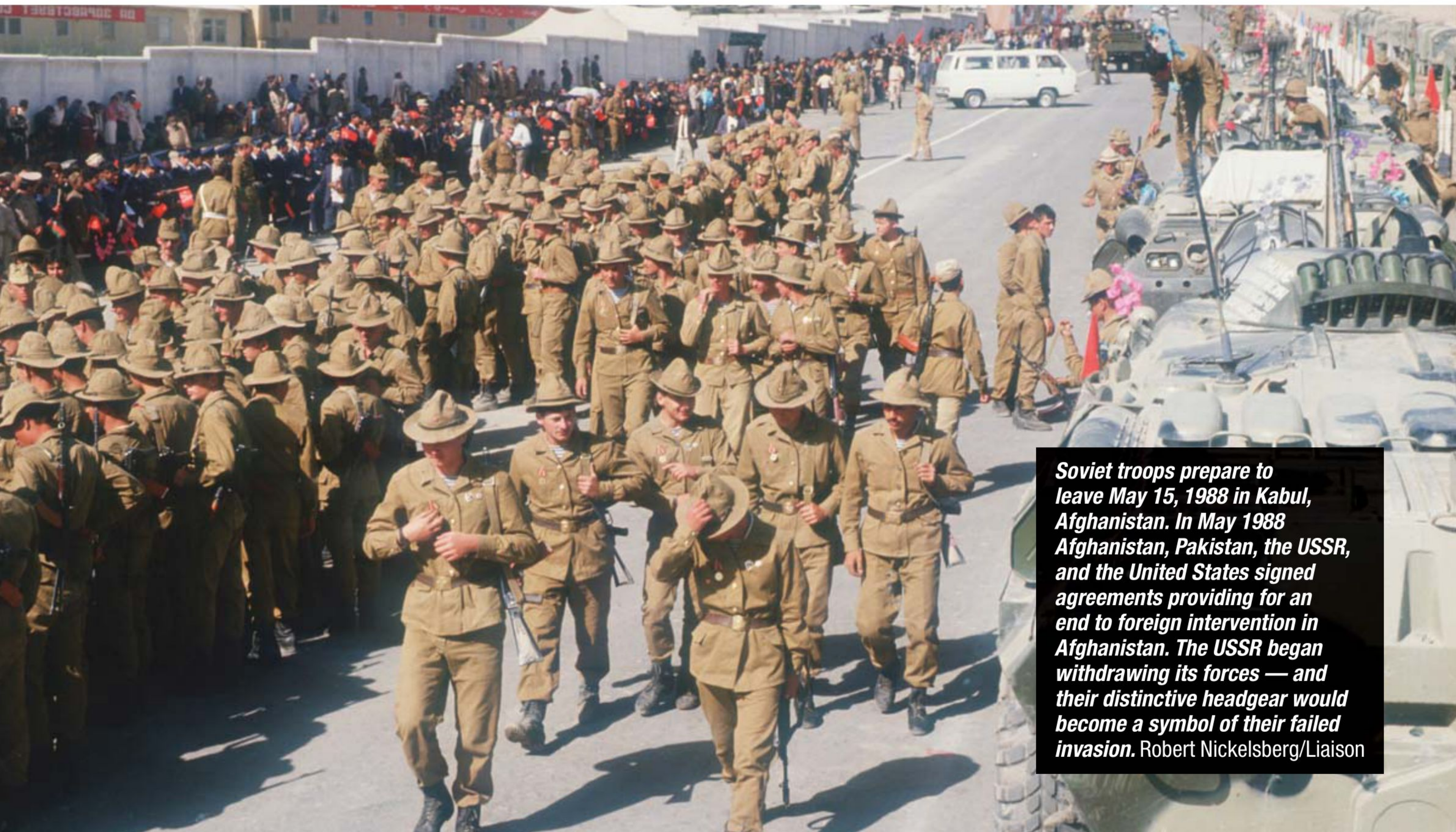
The M88 version was sometimes known as the "Afghanka" despite the fact that it wasn't reportedly used in Afghanistan. The M88 has a flatter top than the "Panamanka."



The M88 had loop holes for the chinstrap and buttons that allowed the sides to be worn up. This was necessary as the snaps/press-studs seldom worked.



A comparison of the M38 "Panamanka" and the M88 "Afghanka" caps.



Soviet troops prepare to leave May 15, 1988 in Kabul, Afghanistan. In May 1988 Afghanistan, Pakistan, the USSR, and the United States signed agreements providing for an end to foreign intervention in Afghanistan. The USSR began withdrawing its forces — and their distinctive headgear would become a symbol of their failed invasion. Robert Nickelsberg/Liaison

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ERSATZ

Once a low-grade substitute, now highly collectible

by Chris William

During WWII, most participating countries found it necessary to change production methods and materials to manufacture their tools of war and the items used every day by their citizens. Faced with a huge, two-front battlefield Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime were forced to produce many *ersatz* (substitute) items to meet the needs of the masses of soldiers racing across Europe and Africa, and for the civilians left at home. Not only did these substitutes include fighting equipment, weapons, and decorations but also many items used by people living within the Third Reich's realm.

When Hitler began his war by sweeping across Poland in 1939, the German soldiers who took part in that campaign were issued excellent equipment that had been manufactured during the five years of massive military buildup before that fateful August. As the allied nations joined the conflict, Hitler realized that he could not win a quick, decisive victory. He was forced to plan economize both men and resources for the duration.

MEDALS NOT WORTH THE METAL

Some of the earliest military-related items to be gradually changed were decorations for service or combat. While the first years of war saw some awards produced in high quality tombac (an alloy of brass, copper and a small amount of zinc), later wartime medals and badges were produced in cheaper zinc or other alloys that could be polished or thinly plated.

To divert brass to war material production, it was greatly reduced or entirely eliminated from decorations. Even ribbon and medal bar backings were changed from brass to tin or alloy materials.

Besides military awards, paramilitary and civilian groups economized materials and craftsmanship needed for the war. Like the *Wehrmacht*, these groups turned to zinc-based pins and medals with enameling dropped in lieu of painted surfaces.

BLADES MADE FOR LESS

German Army dress daggers changed in composition, as well. Polished zinc fittings replaced the earlier heavy nickel silver parts. Navy daggers and *Luftwaffe* daggers retained their basic



The use of substitute materials did not begin nor end with WWII. During the Great War, German soldiers wore accouterments and uniforms made from ersatz material. Again, during WWII, both German soldiers and the civilians had to rely on ersatz items. Even after the war, ersatz items still permeated the market as shown in this 1947 photo of a blind pedlar selling ersatz brushes and slippers at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin. Photo by Keystone/Getty Images

designs from the prewar years, but gradually showed lesser quality materials, finish, and embellishments as the war dragged on.

Members of the paramilitary organizations, such as the *Sturmabteilung* (SA — Storm Troopers) and the *Hitlerjugend* (HJ — Hitler Youth) continued to sport dress daggers until midway through the war. Like those of the military, however, these ceremonial weapons reflected more economic manufacturing as re-



◀ *Though nicely dressed in a suit, one civilian wears wooden shoes as soldiers look on.*

▲ *Recycling is not new: A German airman poses by barrels of paper and metal refuse destined for potential ersatz products.*

sources and man power was devoted to the war effort. By the final year of conflict, production of most dress daggers for the armed forces and paramilitary branches had entirely ceased.

ARTIFICIAL LEATHER

With funding and materials in decreasing supply, combat equipment saw material substitutions as the war dragged on. One such striking change was the introduction of pressed paper and early vinyl materials taking the place of leather in belts and holsters.

Presstoff (artificial leather) had been invented in the late 1800s and produced in Germany since the early part of the 20th century. This material was formed by cementing layers of treated paper pulp together, and bonding it with a tough sealed overcoat imprinted to look like pigskin or other natural leathers. Mass amounts of artificial leather were used to manufacture binocular cases, holsters, belts, bayonet frogs, cap visors, map cases, and many other items.

As natural leather production decreased, experiments were made in the limited production of plastic belts, holsters and other equipment to fill the never-ending needs of the military and civilian population. A German chemist, Eugen Bauman had invented early forms of vinyl in the 1870s. Later scientists developed bioplastics using materials such as soybeans when oil-based products became more difficult to obtain.

AFTER THE FORESTS WERE THINNED

With the supply of lumber dwindling, Germany produced some of the first laminated stocks for their bolt action K-98 and semi-automatic G43 rifles. Starting with thin layers of sliced wood, high pressures were applied with dyes and bonding agents to produce an extremely strong, waterproof, and attractive product. Rifle stocks made from laminates proved so resilient, other countries later followed suit, developing their own laminate stocked weapons following the end of the war.



A Krieghoff holster for a Browning model 22 consisting of a nylon body and leather flap.

SUBSTITUTES AT THE TABLE

Since Germany had imported much of its foodstuffs and other goods from neighboring countries before the war, rationing went into effect at the onset of hostilities. To fulfil demand, Germany produced substitute foods for both the military and civilian populations alike.

Among the hundreds of ersatz foods made during this period were fish-based sausages, flour and ground fish-based egg substitutes, cooked rice cakes in fat that became “meat,” and coffee made from roasted chicory, barley, or acorns.

An interesting substitute for Coca-Cola, a popular drink that could no longer be produced in the German plants when America was drawn into the war, was a new beverage made from locally obtained ingredients (beet sugar, whey, and apple pomace). It was developed and sold under the brand name “Fanta” (short for the German, *Fantasie*). After the war, this popular drink was reformulated and brought to the US as part of the Coca-Cola brand.

KEEPING FAMILIES CLOTHED AND FED

As the war continued, soldiers sent food, clothing and other pilfered items home from whatever front they had fought on. In



Lesser quality fittings and detail can be seen on the late-war, second model Luftwaffe dagger on the right. An early example is on the the left for comparison.



Paper holsters with strong riveted flaps, such as this one dated 1941 were developed for German flare and cartridge pistols.



This HJ knife is mounted in a scabbard with the rarely seen plastic suspension loop and strap.



The ersatz paper belt on the left is finished with a pigskin surface.



A not often encountered HJ plastic belt. These were not popular as they become brittle in cold temperatures.

addition, a “black market” could supply many scarce items if the purchasers had enough cash, and were willing to risk the harsh penalties if caught by the German authorities.

Ersatz clothing was developed from paper products, while shoes carved from wood were offered in stores to replace leather goods.

With little petrol available, many vehicles were modified to run with wood gasification units, or with synthetic gasoline made from wood or coal. Vehicle tires, when available, were made from a combination of ground coal and limestone.

If coal became scarce for heating in the winter, potato stalks were harvested from the fields and shipped to a mill in Weimar where they were processed into ersatz heating pellets.

As German soldiers were driven back to the Fatherland and civilians drudged through their own daily grind of work and hardship, life in the Reich became more dire as the war drew to a close.

Because “necessity being the mother of invention,” the abundance of ersatz products allowed many of the soldiers and citizens of Nazi Germany to continue to live an “almost normal” life (under the circumstances) until the final year of the war. As the allies pounded the countryside with increased bombing and artillery, the collapse of the infrastructures and transportation lines spelled the final doom of the German war machine. The followers of the Third Reich were left fending for themselves in the scant remainders of their homeland until eventual peace and democracy rebuilt both their country and their national spirit. ★



Painted examples of HJ and Frauenschaft membership pins show the distinct look of flat painted zinc, which differs greatly from shiny enamel.

► Though early Luftwaffe flak badges were made of tombac, later issues were polished zinc.



Considering that this binocular case is 76 years old and made of pressed paper, it is in remarkable condition.



The difference in quality between an enamel NS party pin and painted zinc variety (with reverse show) is very evident.

Even paperwork went through a lessening in quality. The well-dressed man's photo is in an earlier oil cloth "Kennkarte," while the young woman was identified in a late war cardboard "Ausweis."



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EMBLEMS OF HONOR



The Chief Commander Degree of the Legion of Merit Medal is for heads of state or government. However, this degree was awarded by President Roosevelt to some Allied WWII theater commanders, usually for joint amphibious landings or invasions. It is 2-15/16 inches (75 mm) wide. The words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" are engraved in the center of the reverse. A miniature of the decoration in gold on a horizontal gold bar is worn on the service ribbon.



The Commander Degree is awarded to the equivalent of a U.S. military chief of staff or higher position, but not to a head of state. It is 2-1/4 inches (57 mm) wide. The neck ribbon is 1-15/16 inches (49 mm) wide.



The Officer Degree of the Legion of Merit Medal is for General or flag officers below the equivalent of a U.S. military chief of staff; colonel or equivalent rank (e.g., Navy or Coast Guard captain) for service in assignments equivalent to those normally held by a general or flag officer in U.S. military service; or military attachés. It is similar to the degree of Commander except the overall width is 1-7/8 inches (48 mm) wide and the pendant has a suspension ring instead of the wreath for attaching the ribbon.



The Legionnaire Degree of the Legion of Merit Medal and the Legion of Merit Medal is issued to U.S. personnel not covered by the other three degrees of the award.

LEGION OF MERIT

America's Medal for Meritorious Conduct

by Peter Suci

Often considered an award issued only to foreign soldiers, the United States Legion of Merit is actually sixth in order of precedence of U.S. military decorations. The decoration is issued to both U.S. military personnel and to military and political figures of foreign governments for exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service and achievement.

Created during World War II, it is awarded to our allies' leaders, generals, and admirals, as well as fighting men, including World War II veterans Audie Murphy and Senator John McCain (for his service in the Vietnam War).

HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF MERIT

The recommendations for the creation of a Meritorious Service Medal actually began in September 1937. It was not until 1941, when the Adjutant General formally requested action to initiate the creation of what would become the Legion of Merit. Finally established by Act of Congress (Public Law 671, 77th Congress) and approved on July 20, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Executive Order 9260 on October 29, 1942, which formally created the Legion of Merit.

The first American recipient of the Legion of Merit was Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Ann Agnes Bernatitus, USN for her service as a nurse during the campaign in Manila-Bataan Peninsula from December 1941 to April 1942. Her award was approved on October 14, 1942.

Free French Navy and commander of the corvette *Roselys*, Lieutenant de Vaisseau A. Bergeret was the first foreign recipient of the Legion of Merit, in the grade of Legionnaire. His award was approved on October 27, 1942.

COLLECTING THE LEGION OF MERIT

Unlike the Medal of Honor, the Legion of Merit can be obtained by purchase. However, as a result of the Stolen Valor Act it is a federal crime to fraudulently claim to be a recipient of certain military decorations or medals in order to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit.

Legion of Merit Background

Awarded for: Exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements

First Awarded: 1942

Description: The Legion of Merit Medal issued to U.S. personnel features a wreath of green laurel joined at the bottom by a gold bow-knot and five-pointed white star bordered crimson, points reversed with v-shaped extremities tipped with a gold ball, and in the center, a blue disk encircled by gold clouds, with 13 white stars arranged in the pattern that appears on the United States Coat of Arms.

Legion of Merit Factoids:

*The Legion of Merit is one of only three U.S. decorations to be issued as a neck order (the other two being the Presidential Medal of Freedom and of course the Medal of Honor), and this is the sixth in order of precedence of U.S. military decorations. It is worn after the Defense Superior Service Medal and beyond the Distinguished Flying Cross

*The Legion of Merit is also the only U.S. decoration to be issued in award degrees, which are awarded only to members of armed forces of foreign nations. These degrees include: Chief Commander, Commander, Officer, Legionnaire

*Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek was the first recipient of the Legion of Merit in the grade of Chief Commander

*Other notable winners include Soviet Marshal Georgy Zhukov, King Michael I of Romania and Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia

*Actor David Niven was one of the "celebrity" recipients for his service in World War II

*The Legion of Merit is also awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States without reference to degree for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.



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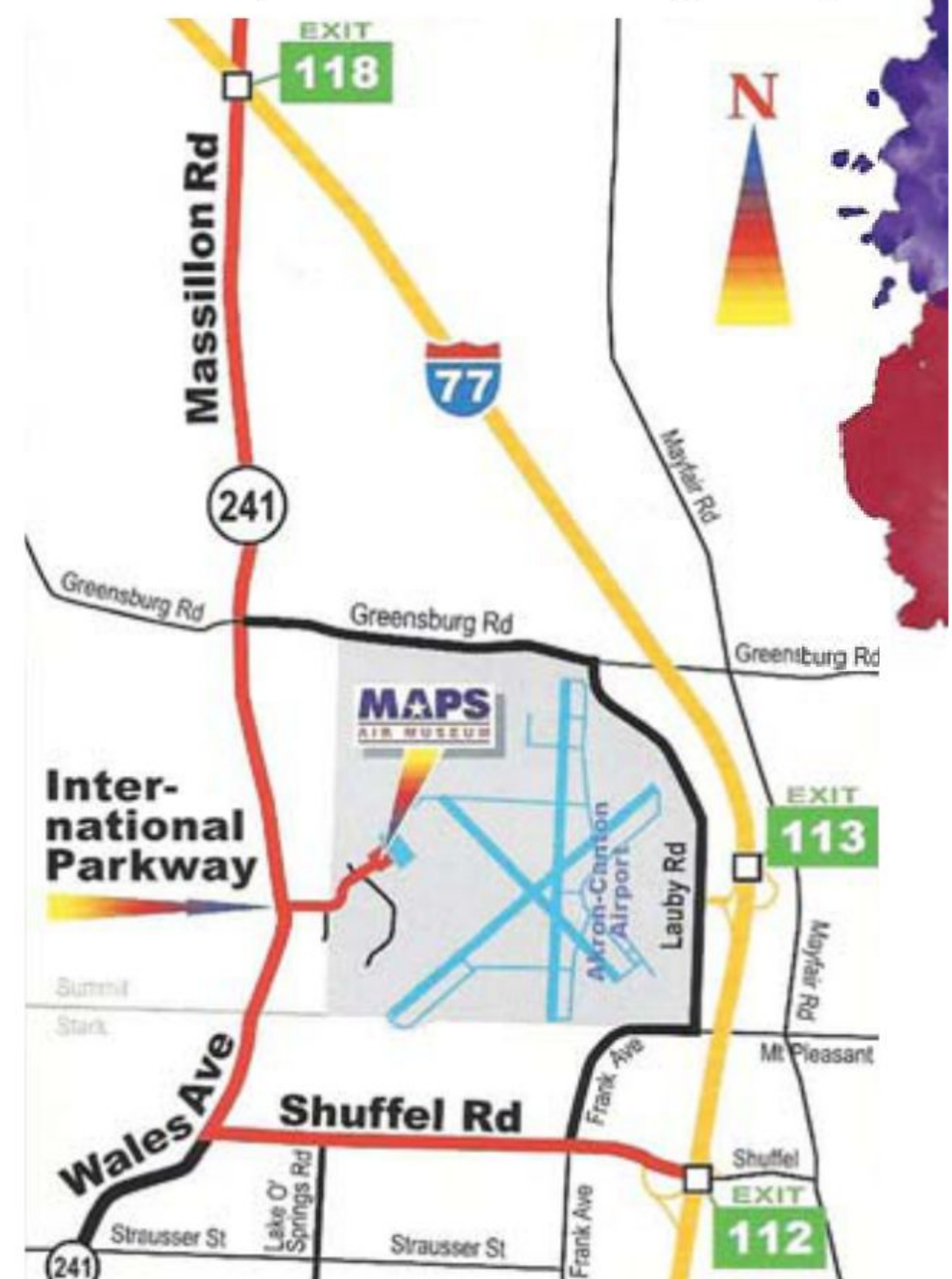
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POND REVOLVER IN A SMITH & WESSON CASE

by Ron Norman

Very few collectors of Civil War or American arms are aware that Lucius W. Pond of Worcester, Mass., developed a 6-shot revolver in 1860-61 that used .44-caliber Henry rimfire cartridges. *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values* lists the weapon noting that it is a "very rare revolver." It is described as a "6-shot, 7-1/4 inch octagon tip-up barrel, brass frame, square butt with a brass-handled screwdriver in the butt." I have never seen a real one, just a photo.

This article is about another Civil War-era Pond revolver that appears to have been originally sold in a Smith and Wesson case. This revolver appears to be very similar to the rare .44-caliber model in action and style. It also shares the unusual screwdriver in the butt feature unique to Pond's revolvers.

WHY IN A SMITH AND WESSON CASE?

In 1862, Smith & Wesson filed a lawsuit against several gunmakers who were manufacturing cartridge revolvers using Smith & Wesson's bored-through cylinder design. One of the companies served was that of L.W. Pond. It was also making and selling a competitive .32 rim fire cartridge revolver. The suit required Pond to either stop manufacturing the revolver or pay a large royalty to Smith & Wesson.

In the end, Pond was forced to turn their current inventory — including 4,486 revolvers — over to Smith & Wesson. These revolvers were marked on the barrel that they were manufactured for Smith & Wesson with a 1855 patent date.

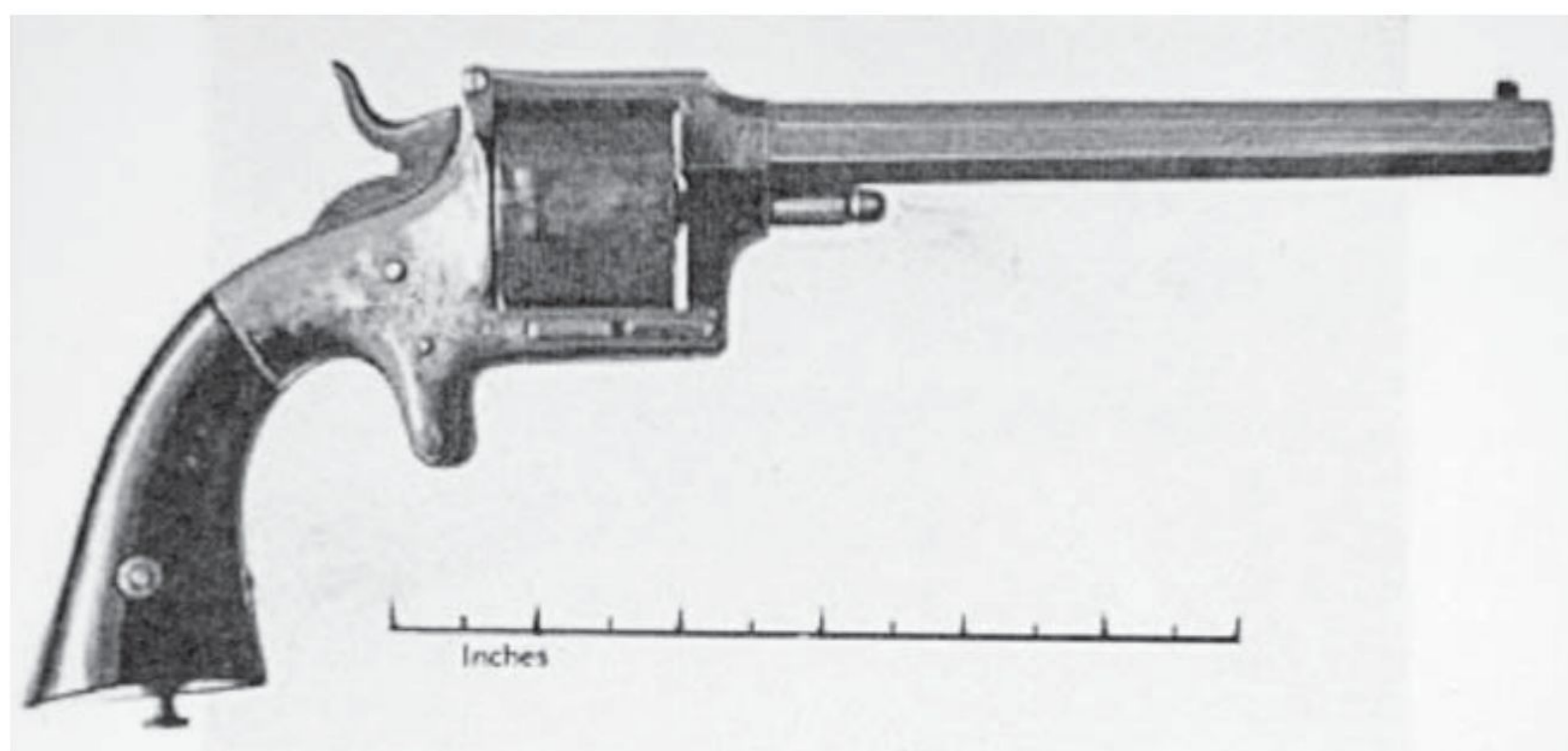
Because this occurred during the Civil War when there was a tremendous demand for personal side arms — especially the new, easy-to-load cartridge arms — the Pond revolvers turned over to S & W were quickly sold. Many considered the Pond revolvers to be superior in action and accuracy than the very popular Smith & Wesson comparable .32-caliber revolvers.

What makes this particular Pond revolver both rare and interesting is that it has been cased in an original Smith & Wesson wood-lined case of the same period. It has one slight period adjustment to one of the partitions that made it a perfect fit for the Pond revolvers that were turned over to S & W under the law suit requirements.

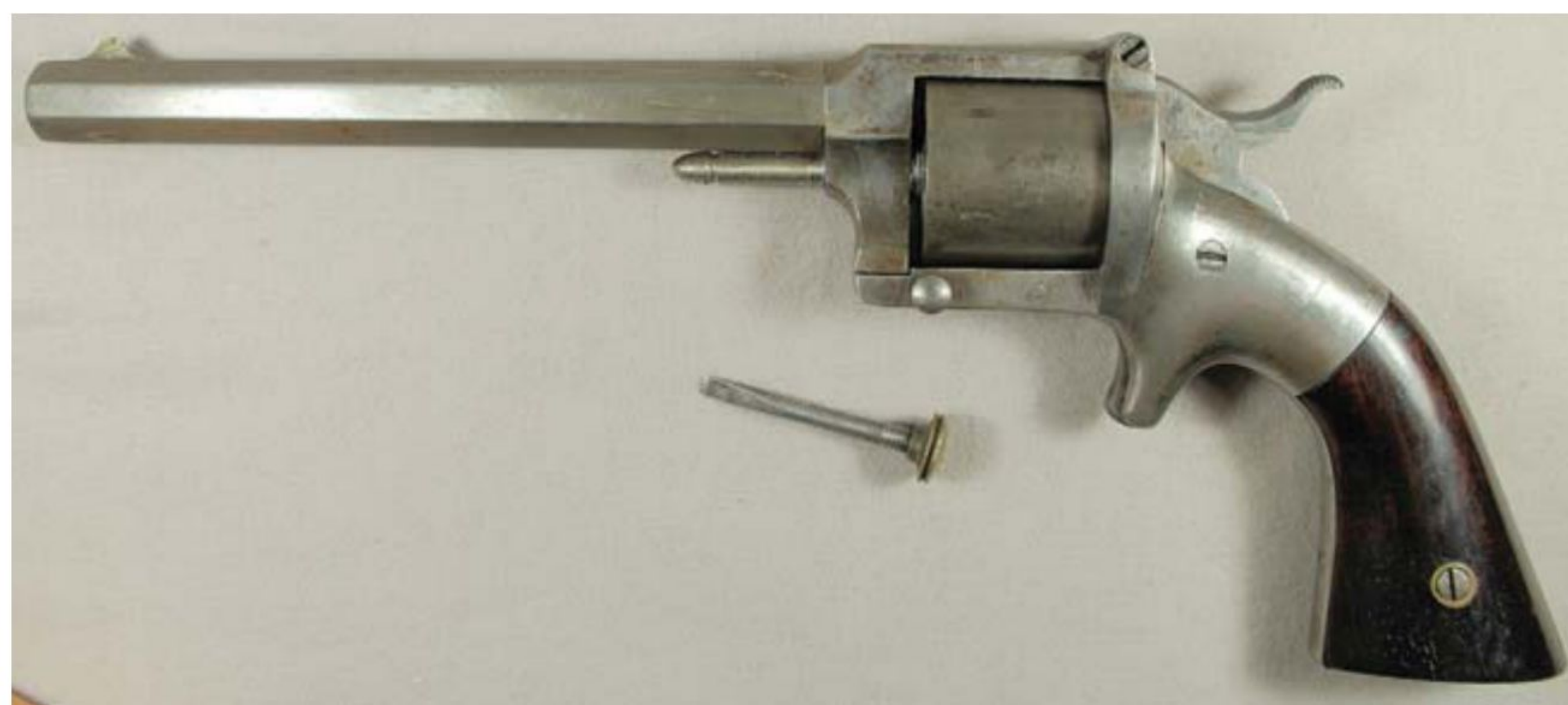
Since their revolvers were sold out in a short period of time, I can only speculate that



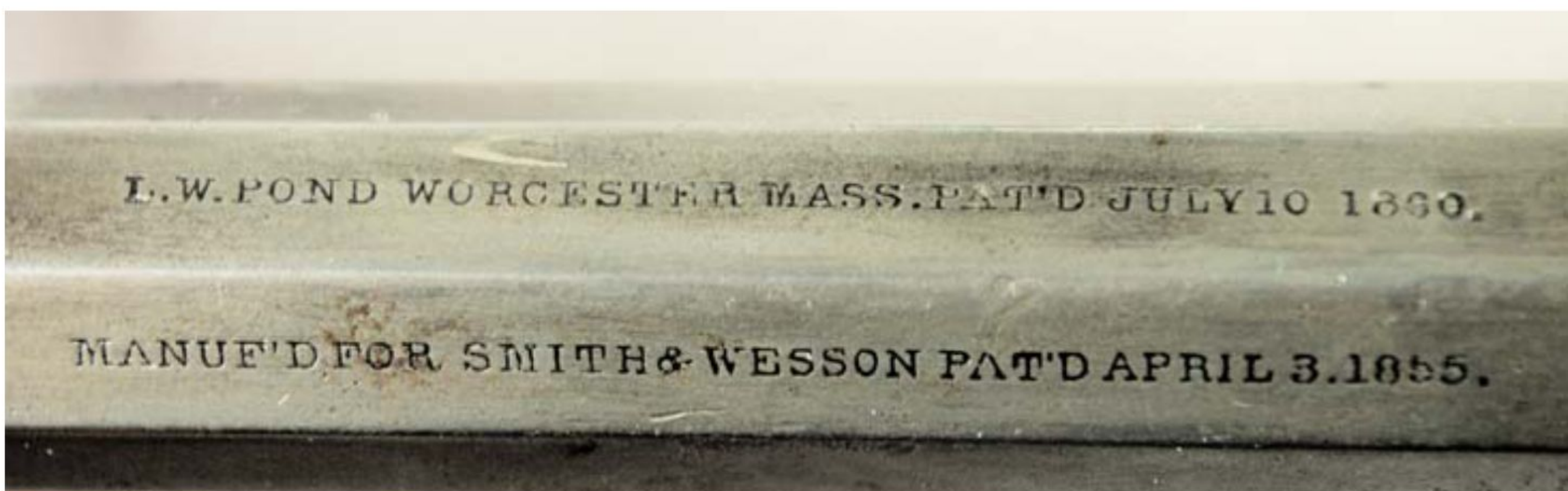
Possibly a one-of-a-kind, this .32-caliber Pond revolver is not misplaced in the wooden Smith & Wesson case. In fact, a patent infringement forced the manufacturer to turn over nearly 4,500 revolvers to Smith & Wesson. In turn, S & W marked the barrels with their patent information and quickly sold them all to a market deeply engrossed in the American Civil War.



Pond's other revolver, the single action "Army" was chambered to accept the same .44-caliber cartridges used in the famous lever-action Henry rifles. An exceptionally rare firearm, very few are known to exist.



Like the larger .44-caliber revolver, the .32-caliber 6-shot pocket version featured a small screwdriver fitted in the underside of the butt.



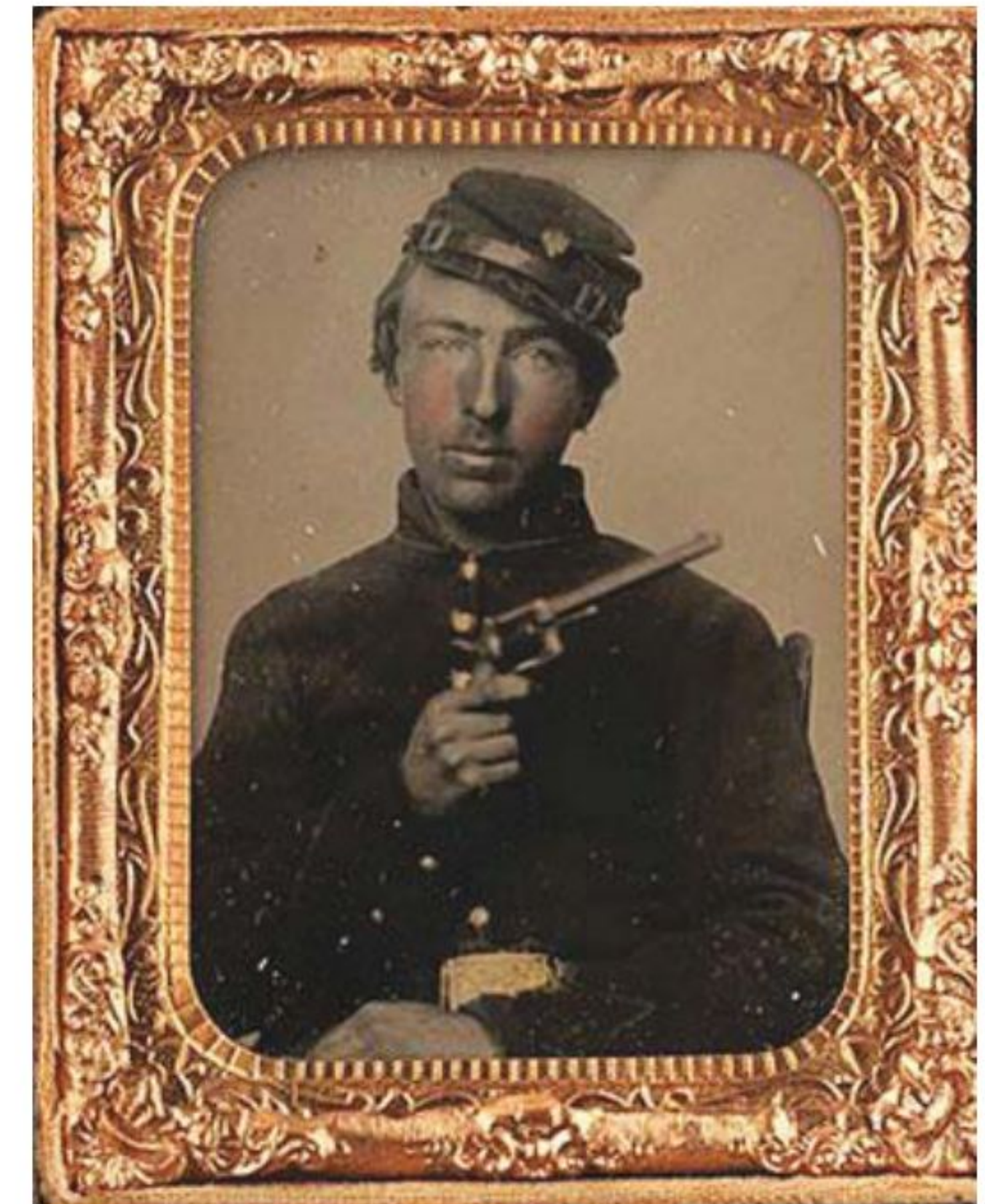
The 4,486 revolvers that Pond turned over to Smith & Wesson were marked on the barrel, "MANUF'D FOR SMITH & WESSON PAT'D APRIL 5, 1855."

this original 1860 revolver case was altered to be used to display the Pond revolver. It is possible it was the only Smith case altered which would make it and the Pond revolver the only known cased Pond / S & W revolver known to exist.

I acquired this set because I had recognized the original Smith period gun case. I was surprised, however, to see a Pond revolver in the box. After I traded for the set, my research led me to realize that this was possibly a unique set.

At the time when I acquired it, there was a gentleman in the Florida Gun Collectors Association who had put together a fine collection of Civil War-era cartridge revolvers. Most were in excellent condition. His collection was near complete with only a few exceptions — mostly experimental models. I showed him the cased set and asked his permission to try out the other models from his collection to see if any would properly fit in the case. He was also interested in the experiment, so he gave me permission to try out each of his revolvers. To our surprise, the only revolver that fit properly was the Pond .32-caliber revolver. We discovered that a partition in Smith & Wesson's case had to be slightly altered to accommodate the screwdriver in the butt of the Pond revolver.

After all the research I have been able to do, I can present this S & W Pond as a rare, genuine Civil War-era revolver. This Pond with S & W markings in an original Smith & Wesson case of the same period makes it one of the truly rare revolvers of the 1860s — and the only one known such set in existence. ★



With the demands for small arms of all varieties skyrocketing at the outbreak of the Civil War, Smith & Wesson wasted no time marketing the pocket revolver to soldiers to carry as personal sidearms. In a very short period, S & W sold out their entire stock of Pond-manufactured revolvers.

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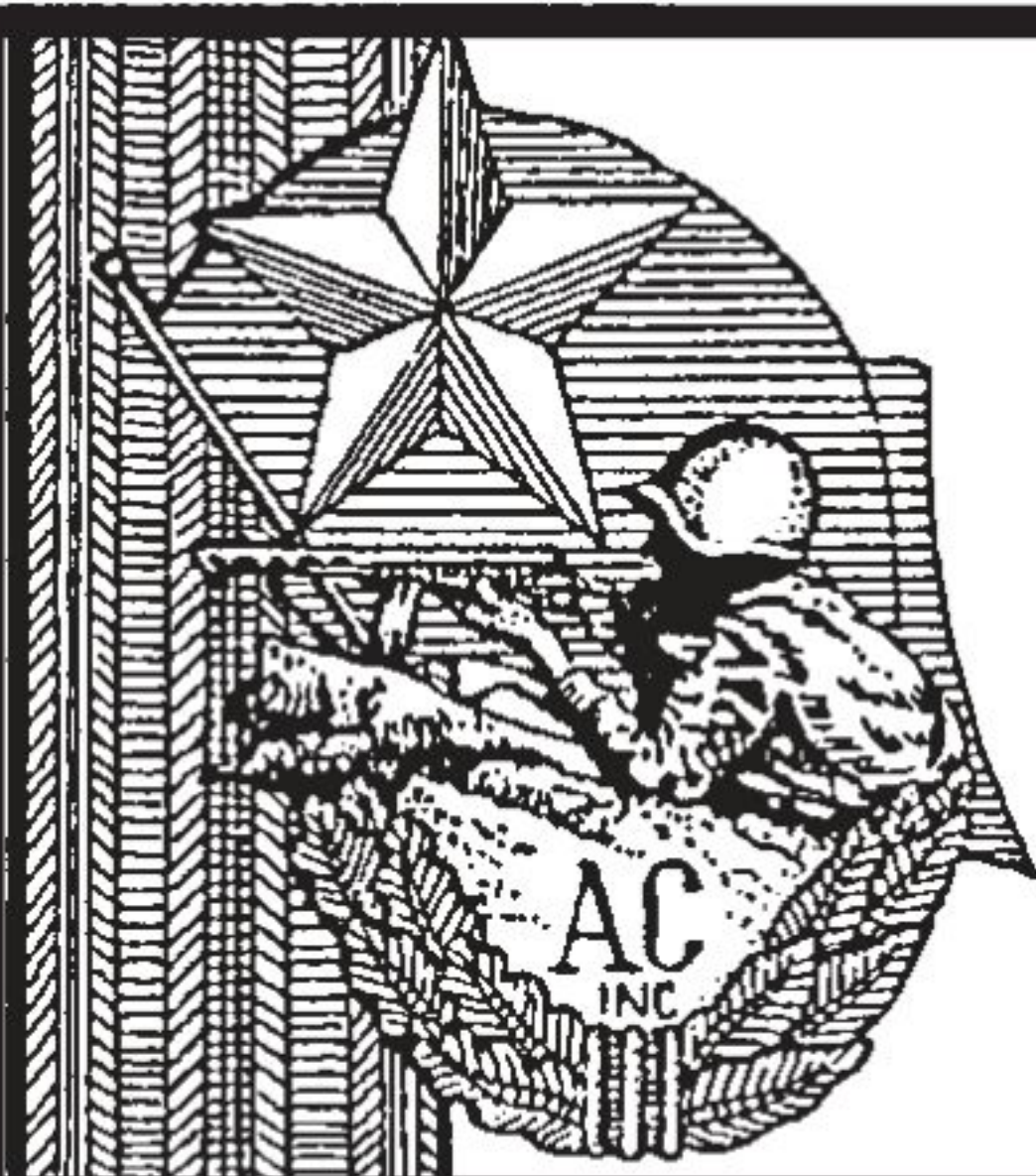
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Feb 22-23, WV, Fairmont. Fairmont Gun Show, National Guard Armory. Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmasters-gunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com

Feb 22-23, VA, Harrisonburg. Shenandoah Valley Gun Show, Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com

Feb 28-March 1, NV, Las Vegas. Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, Westgate Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Rd. Paul Balfour; (951) 970-9669; beinfeldproductions@gmail.com; www.antiqearmsshow.com

Feb 29-March 1, VA, Lynchburg. Lynchburg Gun Show, Old Macy's at the River Ridge Mall, Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com

Mar 6-7, MS, Southaven. Mid-South Civil War and Military Show - 53rd Edition, Landers Center, 4560 Venture Drive. Info: Donald Harrison, PO BOX 171251, Memphis, TN 38187-1251, or 901-832-4708; dwharrison@aol.com

March 7, VA, Fredericksburg. Relic Hunter's 39th Civil War Show, Eagles Lodge, 21 Cool Springs Rd, Info: Jason@fredericksburgrelicshow.com; www.fredericksburgrelicshow.com

March 7, PA, Brookville. 6th Annual Military Collectibles Show, Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Info: 814.849.0077; kburkett-jchc@windstream.net; www.jchconline.org

March 7-8, MA, Wilmington. Militaria & Gun / Knife Show / Sale. Wilmington Shriner's Auditorium, 99 Fordham Rd., Rte 95 (Old Rte. 128 to Rte 93 North, Exit 39, go right, 1st left. Go to end). FREE Parking. Info: 781-665-4666; www.northeast-gunshows.com

March 7-8, IN, Newburgh. Evansville Military Collectors Club Show, Amer. Legion Post 44, 711 State St. Info: 812/483-3064; evvmcc@aol.com

March 14, FL, Ft Meyers. Fort Myers Gun, Knife, Civil War and Militaria Show, Araba Shrine Temple, 2010 Hanson St. at Rt. 41. Info: Gary, 847.863.3929 or Pat (954) 294-2526; infofmac@yahoo.com; www.fmaac.tripod.com

March 14-15, MA, West Springfield. Militaria & Gun / Knife Show / Sale. Young Building, Eastern States Exposition, Home of the Big "E", 1305 Memorial Ave. Gen. Info., 413-205-5081 or Dealer Info: 914-248-1000 or www.northeast-gunshows.com

March 14-15, AZ, Kingman. Pioneer Country Events Gun & Knife Show, Mohave County Fairgrounds, 2600 FRGS. Blvd., Info: Lon Carroll, P.O. Box 3955, Kingman, AZ 86402; 928.692.0937, PioneerCountryEvents@gmail.com; www.PioneerCountryEvents.com

March 15, MI, Livonia. Livonia Militaria Show, Livonia Elks #2264, 31117 Plymouth Rd. 9AM-3PM. Info: Reefer Renforth, 248.321.1264; svm1944@comcast.net; Karl Kithier, 586.549.3150; www.michmilitaryhistory.com

March 20-22, OK, Cushing. Cushing Fly-In Fairfeaturing Military Vehicles, Gun Show, Relics, Antiques, and Collectibles, Cushing Municipal Airport, 2414 Tom Maloney Dr. Info: Charles Montgomery, 817.929.1816; whipp.events@gmail.com; www.whippfarmproductions.com

March 21, NH, Concord. The NHAC Cartridge & Militaria Show, Bektash Shrine Center, 189 Pembroke Road. Contact: Scott Marston; (603) 731-4866; scott@cfnparts.com

March 21, CA, Santa Clara. Military Relics Show, American Legion Hall POST 419 NO GUNS OR LIVE AMMO, 958 Homestead Rd. 8:00AM-3:00PM. Info: The Military Annex 1-408-275-9730

March 21-22, VA, Roanoke. Roanoke Valley Gun Show, Berglund Center, 710 Williamson Rd. Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmasters-gunshows.com

March 21-22, MD, Timonium. Original Baltimore Antique Arms Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds, Cow Palace, 2200 York Road. Maryland Arms Collectors Assn., Inc. Ed Kemp, 5755 Windsong Court, New Market, MD, 21774. Phone 301-865-6804 or www.baltimoreshow.com.

March 22, MA, Boxboro. Militaria Show, Boxboro Regency Hotel. Info: 978.870.2944; www.baystatemilitaria.com

March 28, IN, Noblesville. Greater Indianapolis Militaria Show, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, Sat 9-4; 2003 Pleasant St, Located in the OV Winks Bldg (BLDG 7). info: Phil Elder, 317-332-7819 after 5.30PM; milsho07@yahoo.com; www.indplsmlilitaria.com

March 28, MN, Eagan. Heritage Arms Society Antique Arms Show (pre-1945 only), Eagan Civic Center, 3830 Pilot Knob Road, 9-3. Info: www.heritagearmssociety.org

March 28-29, VA, Richmond. Richmond Gun Show, Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E Laburnum Ave. Info: Showmasters Inc, P.O. Box 10277 Blacksburg, VA 24062; 540-951-1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com

March 28-29, WV, Morgantown. Morgantown Gun Show, Mylan Park Expo Center. Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com

March 28-29, TX, Parker. Dallas Arms Collectors Gun & Knife Show, Southfork Ranch, 3700 Hogge Drive. Info: Dallas Arms

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Collectors Association, PO Box 30, Lillian, TX 76061 info@dal-lasarms.com

March 29 OH, North Canton. Spring Bi-Annual Military Show, Military Aviation Preservation Society (MAPS) Museum, 2260 International Parkway. Info: Scott Denniss 330.546.3085, northcoastmilitary@att.net; www.facebook.com/NCMCUSA

March 29, IL, Orland Park. Orland Park Military Expo /Military Collectable Show 6:30 am to 1:00pm Orland park Civic Center 14750 S Ravinia Ave. Info: Darryl Wertheim 708-403-6115 dwertheim@orlandpark.org

March 29, ENGLAND, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW. Great Malvern Indoor Militaria Convention. Three Counties Show-ground, Wye Hall (Brown Gate). Info: G.A. Promotions, Tel: 07976 777117; www.militaryconvention.com

April 3-4, KY, West Point. America's Largest Machine Gun Shoot and Military Gun Show, Knob Creek Gun Range, 690 Ritchey Lane. Info: 502.922.4457; www.knobbcreekrange.com

April 4, MI, Wyoming. Grand Rapids Annual Military Antique Show. 5830 Clyde Park SW Contact:Martin Super 269-214-2797 or martinsuper@yahoo.com. www.supermilitariashows.com

April 4-5, VA, Fishersville. Fishersville Gun & Knife Show, Augusta Expo Center, 277 Expo Road. Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmasters-gunshows.com

April 4-5, PA, Monroeville. Pittsburgh Gun Show, Monroeville Convention Center. Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com

April 4-5, MS, Corinth. 11th Annual Corinth Civil War Show, Cross Roads Arena, 2800 S. Harper Rd. Sponsored by SCV Camp #321. Info: Dennis Brown, 662..212.4621; ducksu@frontiernet.net or Buddy Ellis, 662.665.1419; bellis1960@comcast.net; www.battleofcorinth.com

April 5, NY, Mattydale (Syracuse area). NFG Shows' Military Collectible Show, 2000 Lemoyne Ave. (VFW Post 3146), 8:30-2PM. ABSOLUTELY NO GNS ON THE PREMISES. Info: 716-542-9929; nfgshows@aol.com; www. NFGShows.com

April 5, CO, Thornton. Colorado Militaria Collector & Gun Show, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and hosted by Audie L. Murphy Infantry Museum. Info: E. Ramirez; (720) 621-6339; mail@audielmurphyinfantrymuseum.com; www.audielmurphyinfantry-museum.com

April 11, FL, Orlando / Mt. Dora.Florida Military Collectors Show 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Renninger's Antique Center 20651 US Hwy 441 Mount Dora, Fl. 32757. Info: Greg (407) 462-2163 qed4@aol.com

April 11, CA, Hayward. Bay Area Militaria Show (BAM) NO GUNS OR AMMO, Hayward Veterans Building, 22737 Main St 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Info. Ed. Anderson,Jr. 415-921-0667; Tables Mark Hull 415-531-0917

April 18, NY, Patterson. Militaria & Knife Collector Show, Patterson Recreation Center, 65 Front Street (I84/I684, I87, building adjacent to Metro-North Railroad). The Duffle Bag, Inc., P.O. Box 22, Patterson, NY 12563 845•878•7106, www.thedufflebaginc.com

April 18-19, MN, St. Paul. Minneapolis-St. Paul Military Show, Minnesota State Fairgrounds Complex. Info: 612.868.6242; mspcollectorsgroup@gmail.com www.msp-militaryshow.com

April 18-19 KS, Wichita. Military Guns and Collectables Show. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3. Cessna Activity Center, 2744 S. George Washington Blvd. Info: Shawn Stone, 316-210-3255.

April 18-19, ND, Williston. Northern Plains Military Show, Upper Missouri Valley Fairgrounds, 519 53rd St. East. Info: Tom 701-www.militarytrader.com

572-5087 or lasseyr@restel.com

April 19, OH, Toledo (Perrysburg). NEW DAY AND TIME Military Collectibles Show and Sale, Graystone K of C Hall 29101 Huford Rd. Sat., 10-3:30 PM. Info including local hotels: 586.549.3150; Info: Reefer Renforth, 248.321.1264; svm1944@comcast.net; Karl Kithier, 586.549.3150; www.michmilitaryhistory.com

April 24-25, VA, Chantilly. The Nation's Gun Show, Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com

April 24-25. GA, Marietta. Atlanta Antique Gun and International Military Show. IAMAW Local 709 Union Hall, 1032 S. Marietta Parkway, Fri. 12-5pm, Sat. 9-4pm. Carolina Trader Promotions 704-282-1339; Richard@thecarolinatrader.com; www.TheCarolinaTrader.com

April 24-25, AL, Huntsville. Alabama Military Collectors Association's 28th Military Show, Sandra Moon Community Complex, 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. NO LIVE AMMO. Info: 256.651.7302; amcahq@comcast.net; www.almilitarycollectors.org

April 24-26, IL, Schaumburg. Chicago Japanese Samurai Sword and Collectible Show, Hyatt Regency Woodfield, 1800 E Golf Rd. Info: Mark Jones, chicagoswordshow@gmail.com; www.chicagoswordshow.com

April 25 IL, Wheaton. Chicago Civil War Show, DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester. Info: Zurko Promotions, 715.526.9769; www.ChicagoCivilWarShow.com

April 25, TX, San Antonio. Alamo City Militaria Expo (ACME), Knights of Columbus Hall, 509 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz TX 78154 (7 miles north of San Antonio off I-35). Info: 210-843-6012 or www.acmemilexpo.com

April 25-26, NC, Denton. 8th Annual Military Vehicle & Gun Collector Show. Denton Farm Park, 1072 Cranford Rd. Info: Denton Farm Park, (336) 859-2755; https://www.dmvgs.com/

April 26, MA, Boxboro. Militaria Show, Boxboro Regency Hotel. Info: 978.870.2944; www.baystatemilitaria.com

AUCTIONS

Feb 19, ENGLAND, Warwick. World Coins, Medals, Orders, and Militaria Auction, Court House Ballroom, Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EW. Info: Warwick & Warwick, www.warwickandwarwick.com

Feb 27, ENGLAND, London. Indian Coins and Historical Medals Auction, Dix Noonan Webb, 16 Bolton St., Mayfair. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7016 1700; Email: auctions@dnw.co.uk; web site: www.dnw.co.uk

Feb 29- March 1, IL, Union. Gun and Military Auction featuring lifetime collection of Gary Holen, Donley Auctions Services, 8512 Union Road. Info: 815-790-9435; DonleyAuctions@outlook.com; www.donleyauctions.com

March 4-5, ENGLAND, London. Orders, Decorations, Medals and Militaria Auction, Dix Noonan Webb, 16 Bolton St., Mayfair. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7016 1700; Email: auctions@dnw.co.uk; web site: www.dnw.co.uk

March 21, IL, Union. Civil War / GAR / Photo / Images / Native American Auction. Donley Auctions Services, 8512 Union Road. Info: 815-790-9435; DonleyAuctions@outlook.com; www.donley-auctions.com

April 10-11, OH, Findlay. 2-Day Gun, Knife & Militaria Auction, Old Barn Auction, 10040 St. Rt. 224 West, 1 Mile West On S.R. 224, Off Rt. I-75 – Exit 159. Phone:(419) 422-8531; auction@oldbarn.com; www.oldbarn.com

April 17-19, ME, Fairfield. Premier Firearms Auction, Poulin Antiques & Auctions, 199 Skowhegan Rd.; Catalog available. Info:

continued on page 51

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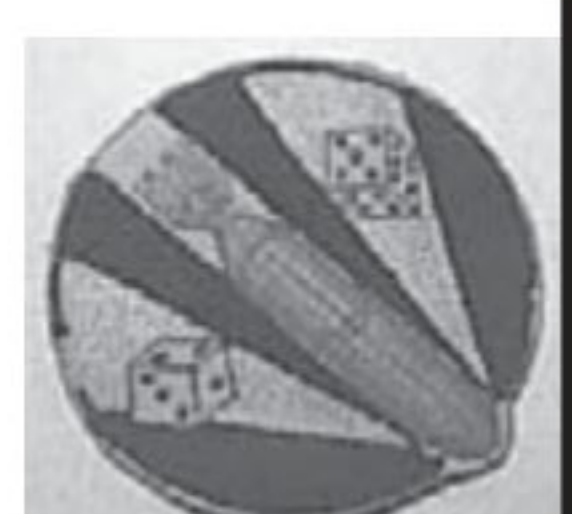
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April 21-23, PA, Denver. Firearms Auction, Morphy Auctions, 2000 N. Reading Road. Info: 877-968-8880; www.MorphyAuctions.com

April 22, ENGLAND, Warwick. World Coins, Medals, Orders, and Militaria Auction, Court House Ballroom, Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EW. Info: Warwick & Warwick, www.warwickandwarwick.com

April 24-26, IL, Rock Island. Premier Fine, Historic, & Investment Grade Firearms Auction, Rock Island Auction Company, 7819 42nd Street West, Rock Island Auction Company phone: (800) 238-8022 fax: (309) 797-1655 7819 42nd Street West Rock Island, IL. 61201 info@rockislandauction.com www.rockislandauction.com

June 7, TX, Dallas. Arms, Armor, and Civil War Auction, Heritage Auctions, 3500 Maple Avenue, Dallas, TX 75219; 1-877-HERITAGE (437-4824); Bid@HA.com; www.HA.com

REENACTMENTS / LIVING HISTORY

Feb 21-23, FL, Mt Dora. MVPA's First Florida Chapter Winter Rally, Reenactment, and Swap Meet, Renninger's Antique Center and Flea Market, 20651 US Highway 441. Info: Stan Kinmonth (Rally Registrar), (904) 276-1418, stantr6@comcast.net; or Dave Thomas (President), (352) 817-1087, halftrackdave@yahoo.com; www.flmvpa.org

March 7, IN, Indianapolis. Eastern Front Reenactment, Ft Harrison State Park, 5753 Glenn Rd., (46216) enter at N Post Rd. & E 59th St. Presented by the Museum of 20th Century Warfare and Ft Harrison State Park.

March 7-8, FL, Bushnell. WWII Weekend, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, 7200 Battlefield Dr., Bushnell, FL 33513; 352.793.4781; www.dadebattlefield.com

March 7-8, TX, Austin. Battleground 1863, Texas Military Force

Museum at Camp Mabry, 2200 W 35th St. info: www.texasmilitary-forcesmuseum.org

March 21, CA, Chino. Hangar Dance 2020 & Warbird Party, Plane of Fame Air Museum, 14998 Cal Aero Drive. <https://plane-soffame.org/events-calendar/Hangar-Dance-2020>

March 21-22, IN, Vincennes. Annual WWI Living History & Reenactment. Indiana Military Museum, 715 S. 6th St. Info: 812.882.1941; sianoil@hotmail.com

March 27-29, MO, St Charles. Weldonkrieg 2020 (non-public event), Weldon Spring Training Site, 7301 Highway 94 (South). Info: <http://soldierboy440.wixsite.com/weldonkriegofficial>

March 28-29, TX, College Station. WWI and WWII Living History Weekend, Museum of the American G.I., 19124 Highway 6 South. Info: info@americangimuseum.org; www.americangimuseum.org

April 3-4, KY, West Point. America's Largest Machine Gun Shoot and Military Gun Show, Knob Creek Gun Range, 690 Ritchey Lane. Info: 502.922.4457; www.knobbcreekrange.com

April 3-5, IL, Rockford. The Great War World War I at Midway Village, 6799 Guilford Rd. www.midwayvillage.com

April 17-19, PA, Newville. Spring Tactical (GWA Event), Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site. Info: www.great-war-assoc.org/

May 2-3, GA, Peachtree City. 16th Annual WWII Heritage Days hosted by the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Dixie Wing CAF Dixie Wing Historical Airpower Facility, Falcon Field. Info: CAF Dixie Wing, 1200 Echo Ct., Peachtree City, GA 30269; (678) 364-1110; wwiimd@wwiidays.org; www.wwiidays.org/

May 14-16, OH, Findlay. 45th Annual MVPA Convention in conjunction with the Findlay Show, Hancock County Fairgrounds, 1017 E Sandusky St. For vendor information, and to reserve space contact: John Cheney II; (419) 349-4795, m2hbcrazy@yahoo.com, for non-vendor information contact: MVPA-HQ; (816) 833-MVPA, (800) 365-5798, or hq@mvpa.org; www.mvpa.org

May 23, KY, Elizabethtown. World War II Battle Reenactment. 1900 Ring Road. Info: Larry Vance; 270-763-3223;

June 5-7, PA, Reading. 30th Annual World War II Weekend. Reading Regional Airport. Info: Russell A. Strine, 610.372.7333; maam@maam.org; www.maam.org/maamwwii.html

June 6, IN, Indianapolis. D-Day Display, Ft Harrison State Park, 5753 Glenn Rd., (46216) enter at N Post Rd. & E 59th St. Presented by the Museum of 20th Century Warfare and Ft Harrison State Park.

June 20-21, WI, Menomonee Falls. WWII Days, Old Falls Village, N96 W15791 County Line Rd. Info: 262-250-3901

June 20-21, PA, Nazareth. World War II Living History Weekend – Jacobsburg Historical Society.

July 11-12, IN, Indianapolis. Korean War Weekend, Ft Harrison State Park, 5753 Glenn Rd., (46216) enter at N Post Rd. & E 59th St. Presented by the Museum of 20th Century Warfare & Ft Harrison State Park.

July 18-19, PA, Berwick. Berwick WWII Weekend, 2020, Riverfront Test Track Park, South Eaton Street. Info: Kristen Bogash, STMA Event Coordinator; 570.956.3630; kristen.bogash@gmail.com; www.bringstuiehome.org

Aug 15-16, July 11-12, IN, Indianapolis. Pacific War Weekend, Ft Harrison State Park, 5753 Glenn Rd., (46216) enter at N Post Rd. & E 59th St. Presented by the Museum of 20th Century Warfare and Ft Harrison State Park.

Aug 13-15, WI, Aniwa. Central Wisconsin Military Show. Motorama Auto Museum Ltd, 4381 Stradale Lane. (18 miles east of Wausau) Info: Alfa Heaven, 4381 Stradale Lane, Aniwa, WI 54408; (715) 449-2141; www.centralwisconsinmilitaryshow.com

*For complete schedule of shows and auctions,
log onto www.MilitaryTrader.com.*



MILESTONE'S NOVEMBER PREMIER SALE

WILLOUGHBY, Ohio – Milestone Auctions continues to increase its bidder base and market share, as evidenced most recently by their successful and well-attended November 2 Premier Firearms sale. There was strong international interest in the 830 lots of high-quality modern-era handguns and long arms, as well as big-caliber and antique guns and rifles, many from the Civil War-era.

“There wasn’t any one particular ‘top gun’ in this auction — there were highlights in all of the various categories,” said Milestone Auctions co-owner Chris Sammet. “For this event, we focused on accessibility and offered as wide a variety of clean, desirable firearms as possible. There were some great Colt models and the largest selection of Winchesters ever cataloged in a single Milestone sale. It seemed to us that very few collectors, if any, left the auction disappointed.”

Leading the list of prices realized was a near-mint unissued Whitney Model 1861 US Navy rifle. The .69-caliber gun featuring a large eagle-and-flag motif on its lock and “1863” on its barrel came with a bayonet made by Collins & Co., of Hartford, Connecticut. It reached its pre-sale estimate range, settling at \$6,000.

A high-condition Smith & Wesson 2nd Model Schofield .45-caliber revolver, US-issued during the Indian Wars era, was one of fewer than 6,000 of its type produced in 1876 and 1877. “The survival rate of original Schofield revolvers remains very low, given a large majority were purchased from the government by Wells Fargo. They had the barrels shortened and stamped each with the company’s logo,” said Sammet. The auction’s scarce, original-state gun sold for an above-estimate \$5,760.

The highest-priced Colt in the sale was a high-condition Model 1878 six-shot double-action revolver designed to use a .44-.40 cartridge. Although the double-action revolver had been popular in England since before the Civil War, it was a novel idea in America, and gun makers feared the public would not like the change. “But they were wrong,” Sammet said. “Both the small-frame Model 1877 and large-frame Model 1878 went on to become very popular out west and in the east, as well.” The example in Milestone’s auction, which was made in 1893, sold at the midpoint of its estimate range for \$4,560.

A high-quality .223-caliber Israeli Galil semi-automatic rifle, which was imported into the United States prior to the permanent ban effected in 1989, came with a magazine and cleaning kit. After 15 bids, it sold within estimate for \$2,880.

Several novelty firearms caught the attention of bidders, including a circa-1850s E.M. Reilly (London) .32-caliber air-powered cane gun designed to shoot lead balls. Presented in its original felt-lined, partitioned oak case with the dealer’s trade label affixed inside the lid, it surpassed expectations at \$3,120. Another intriguing item was an 1850s wood sewing case with a pincushion top that opened to reveal what was in actuality a false bottom. Hidden away in the cavity below was a 4-inch-long, .22-caliber Derringer. Accompanied by a partial cardboard box of Clinton .22 short ammunition, the Derringer sewing case sold for \$1,920, nearly four times the high estimate.

Yet another unusual firearm was a US-made Model FP-45 Liberator .45-caliber single-shot pistol. Produced solely in 1942, it was cheap and easy to mass-produce because it had only 23 mostly



High-condition Smith & Wesson 2nd Model Schofield .45-caliber revolver, US-issued Indian Wars era, 1877. Sold for \$5,760



Huge Winchester cardboard triptych ad, 1924, framed, 37½ x 55 inches (sight), bright and clean. Sold within estimate for \$2,340



Near-mint, unissued Whitney Model 1861 US Navy rifle, barrel dated 1863, .69 caliber, eagle-and-flag motif on lock. Bayonet made by Collins & Co. (Hartford, Conn.). Sold within estimate for \$6,000

stamped and turned steel parts. “The Liberator pistol, which could accommodate five extra rounds of ammunition in its pistol grip, was intended for use behind enemy lines by resistance fighters wanting to quickly overtake an enemy and seize his gun. It was not intended for long-term use,” Sammet explained. Estimated at \$800-\$1,200, the gun offered by Milestone sold for \$2,040.

Winchester collectors were charmed by a huge (37½- by 55-inch) cardboard three-panel ad produced in 1924, following the competitive shooting season of 1923. Richly colorful, it depicts shooters in military garb, trap shooters armed with Winchester’s Model 12 slide-action shotgun, deer hunters with a Model 1894 rifle in a canoe, and a display of dozens of Winchester ammunition boxes. Bright and clean, the sign sold within estimate for \$2,340.

All prices quoted are inclusive of buyer’s premium as specified on Milestone Auctions’ website. Milestone Auctions is now accepting consignments for their 2020 firearms auctions. All enquiries will be kept strictly confidential. Contact Milestone’s firearms expert Dave Bushing by calling 440-527-8060 or email info@milestoneauctions.com. Visit Milestone online at www.milestoneauctions.com 📧



Circa-1850s E.M. Reilly (London) .32-caliber air-powered cane gun in original oak partitioned case with dealer's trade label inside lid. Shoots lead balls. Sold above estimate for \$3,120



Pre-1989 importation band Israeli Galil semi-automatic rifle, .223 caliber, 16-inch barrel. Sold for \$2,880



High-condition Colt Model 1878 .44-.40 cartridge double-action revolver, made in 1893. Sold within estimate at \$4,560



US-made Model FP-45 Liberator .45-caliber single-shot pistol, produced solely in 1942, intended for use behind enemy lines by resistance fighters. Sold for \$2,040 against an estimate of \$800-\$1,200



Novel 1850s wood sewing case with pincushion top that opens to reveal in its false bottom a 4-inch-long, .22-caliber Derringer. Sold for \$1,920, nearly four times the high estimate.

A long ride home

These two Guardsmen used their heads

by Alexander F. Barnes

One of the strengths of National Guard units has always been their ability to react to unexpected circumstances and adjust the “plan” accordingly. This was never better exemplified than in 1960 by two Virginia Army National Guard aviators from the 29th Aviation Company, 29th Infantry Division. First Lieutenant Lowell Roberts and Sergeant Henry Sours received what appeared on the surface to be a fairly simple and straight forward mission: Take a commercial flight from Richmond to Tucson, pick up a new aircraft being assigned the unit and fly it home.

At the time Roberts, was what today is known as a “traditional Guardsman.” That meant he drilled a few days each month and two weeks during the summer. Roberts’ civilian job was as an advertising account executive. Sours, on the other hand, was a full-time National Guard maintenance NCO.

When the requirement for the mission was determined, and the aircraft in question turned out to be a Bell 47G helicopter (later also known as the H-13 Sioux), Roberts was the only qualified pilot available in the unit. Therefore, he was tasked with the mission. Sergeant Sours was detailed to accompany him.

Lieutenant Roberts told his civilian boss he needed two days off in addition to the weekend. This wasn’t a problem for the civilian company, and so, the sergeant and lieutenant took a commercial flight to Tucson.

They made a test flight in the Plexiglas-canopy “soap bubble” Bell 47G helicopter the next day and were comfortable with the aircraft. They did, however, make two modifications to the helicopter before departure.

The two men fitted some boards to the metal frame behind the cockpit so they could lash their suitcases securely to the aircraft. Because of the expected summer heat, they also removed the two doors on the cockpit and had them shipped by truck back to Virginia.

THEY DIDN’T PLAN ON THIS

The first sign that the trip might be a little more than they had planned came almost immediately after they took off en route for their first destination, El Paso, Texas. A strong, cold front blew into the area. Although the weather remained dry, the 30 to 40 knot winds not only slowed their progress, it made them regret having removed the doors!

As they flew near El Paso, they also had to contend with some of the nearly 8,000-foot-high peaks in the Franklin Mountain range. Besides the cold air in the now door-less cockpit, the biggest impact of the high altitude and head winds was that the helicopter’s normal two-hour cruising range was greatly reduced. They had frequently land at gas stations or ranches to purchase gasoline along their route.

Not being able to pull their aircraft right up to the gas pumps, and tired of having to carry gas to their helicopter in the usual one-gallon cans available at the gas stations, they wisely purchased and filled two five-gallon gas cans. With the extra fuel and now flying over flatter terrain in south and central Texas, they were able to extend the time between gas station refueling stops to three hours.



Sergeant Henry Sours (standing) and 1st Lieutenant Lowell Roberts (seated) pose with their Bell helicopter during one of the stops they made on their week-long journey from Arizona to Virginia. One of the 5-gallon gas cans purchased along the way to extend flight time can be seen next to a tied-down suitcase! Courtesy Virginia National Guard Historical Photo Collection and National Guard Magazine

As they flew near Waco, it became apparent that their tachometer wasn’t working. Measuring engine speed in revolutions per minute (RPMs), the tachometer was an important tool in maintaining power settings for the most efficient use of the engine.

This wasn’t a problem for the Guardsmen. they simply diverted from their planned route and followed the road north to Fort Worth. There, they located and landed at the nearby Bell Helicopter plant.

After getting a replacement gauge installed, they checked their engine carefully and realized that the civilian automobile gasoline they were purchasing along the route was fouling the spark plugs. They replaced the plugs with a complete new set. Every night after that, they cleaned the fouled set and replaced them in the morning. By alternating the sets like this, they had a clean set of plugs at the start of each day.

After they crossed out of Texas, they continued on their journey, flying along at altitudes between two hundred and five hundred feet. Following the main highways on their road maps, they flew eastward. By this point, they had the gas station refueling and spark plug exchange procedures down pat. There were no further issues.

When they landed at the 29th Aviation Company’s facility in Richmond, they had covered 2,500 miles in six and half days. Perhaps, almost as importantly, Lieutenant Lowell was only four days late in getting back to his civilian job!

Alexander F. Barnes is a former Marine and retired Army Warrant Officer. His most recent book “Play Ball! Doughboys and Baseball During the Great War” with Peter Belmonte and Samuel Barnes was released March 2019. He currently serves as the Virginia National Guard Historian. ★

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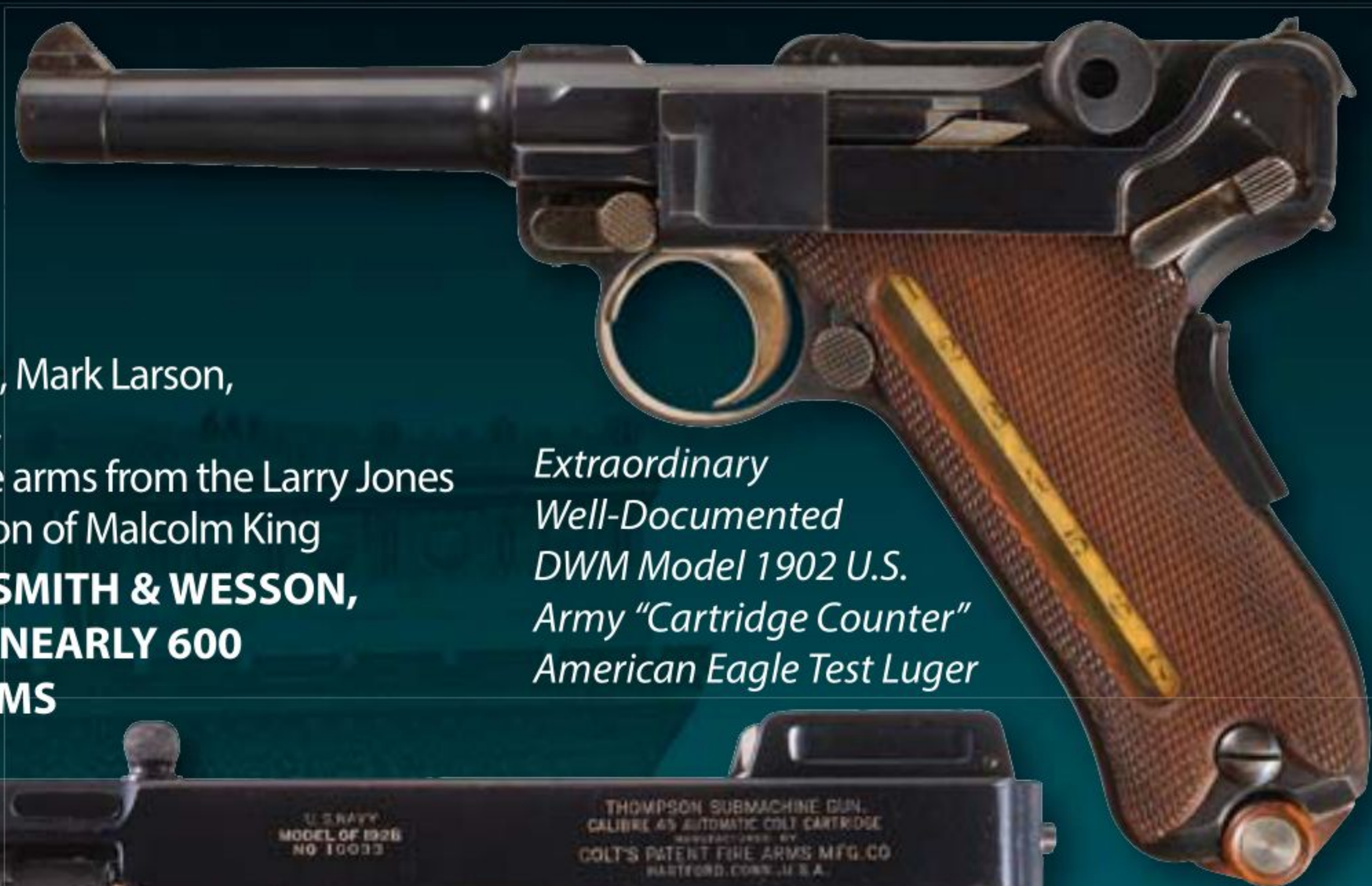
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