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November 24, 2019
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Hauptmann Josef Schmidt -
a Grand Cross, decorations
and documents

A visor cap for generals

Further information:

www.hermann-historica.com
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Political leaders of the Third Reich, by Chris William

26 Man the Torpedoes!
Navy reestablishes Torpedoman’s Rate

28 MAX Out!
The final OVMS Monroeville Show, by Peter Suciu

32 The PIAT Gun
British tank killer, by Peter Suciu

38 Awarded for Combat
Assault badges of the Wehrmacht, by Chris William

52 The Great Adventure
Little Leage coach was a WWI Aviator, by Ron Norman

ABOUT THE COVER: Introduced in 2004, the Universal Camouflage Pattern (UCP, also known as ACUPAT or “digi cam”) had been developed as a “universal camouflage.” It promised to be a one-time issue to soldiers who would deploy to different geographical areas. UCP camo, however, was not well-received: It didn’t blend in with the surroundings!

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JTAC NCO RECEIVES AIR FORCE CROSS

Sgt. Daniel Keller, a combat controller in the Kentucky Air National Guard’s 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, received the Air Force Cross from Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein on Sept. 13. The Air Force Cross is second only to the Medal of Honor among USAF military decorations.

Keller earned the decoration for his actions on Aug. 16, 2017, when he was a joint terminal attack controller in Afghanistan. Then a staff sergeant, Keller was part of a mission in Nangarhar province to clear the area of some 350 Islamic State group fighters. After 15 hours of sustained battle, the assault force was hit by an improvised explosive device that detonated inside a house, instantly killing four troops and wounding 31 others. Only 10 feet from the blast, Keller suffered a traumatic brain injury, but nonetheless orchestrated airstrikes on the opposing force while simultaneously repelling them with his M4 rifle. The enemy was less than 150 meters away at the time.

He then helped 13 wounded troops reach a landing zone for medical evacuation, all the while taking enemy fire. When the medevac helicopters couldn’t find the landing zone, Keller ran into the open to flag them down, “exposing himself to enemy fire in order to marshal in both aircraft and aid in loading casualties,” according to the citation.

After the wounded were removed and as remaining US forces were leaving the area, Keller volunteered to make the 2.5-kilometer walk back to a combat outpost, escorting other wounded troops. Along the way, he fought off a three-sided enemy attack by returning fire and passing information to another JTAC. When he finally reached the outpost, Keller was evacuated for medical treatment.

SSgt. Pete Dinich, an Active-Duty pararescueman assigned to the 24th Special Operations Wing, was decorated with the Silver Star for the same operation on Sept. 6.

WWII NAVY VET AWARDED MEDALS 75 YEARS LATER

Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer awarded a WWII sailor two high-level combat decorations in recognition of his meritorious service as an aircrewman in the European theater, in a Sept. 10, 2019, Pentagon ceremony.

At age 17, Bernard Bartusiak of Chicago, now 95, joined the Navy in May 1941. He eventually served as an aviation machinist’s mate 1st class on the aircrew of a PB4Y Liberator in the European theater. After the war, Bartusiak became a corporate accountant and married Dolores, his wife of 65 years.

Spencer presented Bartusiak the Distinguished Flying Cross with gold star (in lieu of second award) and the Air Medal, second through eight strike flight awards, in recognition of 20 combat missions Bartusiak completed from April 1943 to August 1944.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded for Bartusiak’s “extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.” The Air Medal recognizes “single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement” in flight.

CIVIL WAR REGIMENTAL FLAG SELLS FOR $196K

An 1864 hand-painted flag that was carried into battle by the 127th Regiment, one of 11 African-American regiments from Pennsylvania that fought for the Union during the Civil War, has sold at auction on June 13, 2019, for $196,800.

Dan Morphy, president of Morphy Auctions in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, confirmed that the flag was purchased by an institutional buyer bidding by phone.

Believed to be the only survivor from the original 11 flags hand-painted by David Bustill Bowser, son of a fugitive slave, its distinctive artwork features the image of a Black troop bidding farewell to Columbia, the Goddess of Liberty. Above the artwork is a motto reads: “WE WILL PROVE OURSELVES MEN.”

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE US ARMY

The U.S. Army announced that the National Museum of the United States Army will open to the public at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on June 4, 2020. Don’t book your travel plans yet though!

Admission to the Museum will be free of charge, though tickets must be requested through an online reservation system for a specific date and time. A limited number of tickets will be available for each reservation time to help ensure a quality experience for everyone. Due to the expected demand, please do not make your travel plans until you have received your ticket, confirming the date and time of your visit.

More information about online ticketing will be available early next year. www.armyhistory.org/opening-day/
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- German WW2 Aluminum
  SS EM/NCO Buckle and
  Belt Marked RZM 36/40 SS
- German WW2 Luftwaffe
  First Model Dagger
- US WWII Airborne Officer's
  Combined Glider Parachute
  Cap Patch
- German WW2 Police
  Em/Nco's Aluminium
  Belt Buckle
- German WW2 M40 Medic
  Helmet Winter Camouflage
- German WW2 Wehrmacht
  Canteen Silver Skull Ring

Repro Stuff

- German SS Shield
  Metal Sign 14" x 16"
- SS Standarte 3 DER
  Fuhrer - SS Regiment
  MUSIKKORPS CD
- German WW2 M38
  Fallschirmjager Helmet
  Leather Liner And
  Aluminum Band
- SS Totenkopf SLB Walter
  9-11-41 H Himmler
  Honor Ring
- German Waffen SS Officer
  Visor Cap: Field Grey
- German WW2 Bulk Food
  Sack With Maker Marks
- German Nazi Party Flag
  Cotton (3x5)

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PEACE MADE IN A RAILWAY CAR

While most recognize November 11 as Veterans Day, this year, the day will mark the 101st Anniversary of the Armistice of 1918. This important agreement provided the foundation for ending WWI. Signed to go into effect on “the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the armistice guaranteed no more fighting on land, sea, and air between the Allies and their opponent, Germany. Previous armistices had eliminated Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Although not a formal surrender, the Armistice marked an Allied victory and a complete defeat of Germany.

After Hitler invaded France in 1940, the “Armistice car” was pulled out of retirement. Hitler insisted that it be used for a second armistice, this time subjugating France to German forces. As his generals handed armistice terms to the defeated, dispirited French, he sat at the same table in the same position as Foch but said nothing. Twelve minutes after the French arrived, Hitler stood up, saluted stiffly, and alighted from the car. The whole surrender ceremony was over in fifteen minutes. Seen here in front of the Armistice car in 1940 (left to right): Joachim von Ribbentrop, Wilhelm Keitel, Hermann Göring, Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler, Erich Raeder partially obscured and Walther von Brauchitsch.

The carriage (CIWL #2419D) had been built in 1914 in Saint-Denis as a dining car—a function it served until August 1918. After Marshal Foch requisitioned it, workers converted the car into an office for the commander of the Allied forces, who used it from the end of October 1918 to September 1919. Within only a couple of weeks of Foch taking possession of the car, however, it would serve its greatest role as the location for signing the Armistice on November 11. From then on, it was known as the “Wagon of Compiègne.”

Sometime after the signing, CIWL 2419D briefly resumed service as a dining car before being donated to the Musée de l’Armée, in Paris in September 1919. The historic car was on display in the Cour des Invalides from 1921 to 1927, when it was returned to Compiègne at the request of the city’s Mayor.

Back at Compiègne, CIWL 2419D took up residence in a specially created museum building as part of the “Glade of the Armistice” historic monument at the site of the signing ceremony. It would remain here as a monument to the end of the Great War for the next 13 years.

The car’s history, however, was not complete. After Germany’s invasion and conquest of France in 1940, Adolf Hitler ordered that the rail car be returned to exactly the same location for the signing of the second “Armistice at Compiègne.” This time Germany was emerging as victorious, and on June 22, 1940, signatories met in CIWL 2419D. The Germans had moved the carriage out of its protective building and, as Hitler instructed, returned it to the exact spot of the 1918 signing—several yards away from the protected covering it had occupied since 1927.

After the signing, Germany transported the car to Berlin where they displayed it at the Berlin Cathedral. In 1944, the Germans sent CIWL 2419 to Thuringia, in central Germany, and later to Ruhla, then to Gotha Crawinkel, near a huge tunnel system. It was at Gotha Crawinkel where CIWL 2419’s history closes. In the face of the advancing U.S. Army in March 1945, SS troops used fire and/or dynamite to destroy the historic train carriage. While some SS veterans and civilians claim to have seen the carriage destroyed earlier by air attacks near Ohrdruf in April 1944, when the car was still in Thuringia, most historians believe it survived until 1945, when SS soldiers destroyed it.

RECREATED FOR POSTERITY

Following WWII, the French government restored the Compiègne site. It wasn’t until Armistice Day in 1950, though, when a replacement carriage was returned to the site. Correct in every detail, an identical Compagnie des Wagons-Lits carriage, no. 2439 was built in 1913 in the same batch as the original and was present in 1918. This car was renumbered no. 2419D and re-dedicated as a permanent reminder of the end of the “War to End All Wars.”

Preserve the Memories – JAG
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>WW2 All original M1 Steel helmet w/ fixed loops, Khaki chin strap, brass buckle with Khaki HBT Lining, orig, sweatband &amp; nape strap, chin strap w/ OD finish and helmet net. All original and as period assembled and not a put together. VF/Exc Cond.</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>WW2 Orig. Hitler Youth Knife w/ Scab. Maker Marking on Blade. Leather belt loop and closing strap soft and supple. Used but in VG or better Cond.</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.</td>
<td>Rare WW2 USMC marked Stock Pouch for M1 Carbine. Mint Cond.</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.</td>
<td>Original WW2 Khaki 1943 First Aid Pouch. Mint cond. Dated 1943.</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58.</td>
<td>Orig. WW2 10 Pocket Khaki Cartridge belt. Dated 1943. Mint cond.</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.</td>
<td>WW2 US Embossed M1916 Holster for .45 auto marked &amp; dated Boyt 1942. Exc.</td>
<td>$145.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>WW2 Baker’s Dozen (13 patches) of the US Army of WW2. Assorted. Exc. the lot</td>
<td>$36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48A.</td>
<td>Early WW2 Russian Helmet w/comb on top. Full liner and Chin Strap. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48B.</td>
<td>WW2 Russian M1940 Steel helmet w/Liner &amp; chin strap. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48C.</td>
<td>WW2 German M1934 Turban Helmet with Field Net. Exc. the lot</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>WW1 British 1917 Trench Helmet with full liner and soft pliable Leather Chin strap and orig. label in crown. VG condition. VF liner and chin strap.</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>WW1 US Army M1916 Steel Pot w/85% orig. brown paint. No liner or chin Strap. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Rare WW1 M1917 M1 Carbine in the Original Black Cardboard Tube of issue. Exc. Getting hard to find.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Rare Marlin model 1893 Remington Model 1861 Special Model .58 Caliber Pocket Pistol w/ orig. Gutta Percha Grips. VG condition. This was Remington’s very first revolver made just after the Civil War.</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>WW1 German M1861 Special Model .58 Cal. War officers Presentation Pouch for Model 1861 Special Model Revolver. Mint Cond.</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>CW Union Cavalry 2 1/2 inch wide Carbine Sling w/ brass buckle, tip &amp; Carbine Snaphook, VG Cond.</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>French WW1 M1914 Sperical Ball Grenade w/ orig brass &amp; wood fuze. VG Cond.</td>
<td>$245.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Rare WW2 British Helmet w/ interlocking steel plate, two Springfield clip Pouches &amp; bayonet Slide. Mint</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>Very Rare M1912 all Leather Shovel Carrier for the M1912 Detachable Shovel blade for use with the M1912 Entrenching Tool. Mint. Could be strapped to Patton Sword or carried separately.</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>WW1 US Army Medical Litter. A must for the Combat Medic’s display. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>WW1 US Army Medical Litter. A must for the Combat Medic’s display. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>WW1 US Army Medical Litter. A must for the Combat Medic’s display. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>WW2 US Army Medical Litter. A must for the Combat Medic’s display. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>WW2 US Army Medical Litter. A must for the Combat Medic’s display. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>WW2 US Army Medical Litter. A must for the Combat Medic’s display. Exc cond.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Vietnam War M31 Rifle Grenade in the Original Black Cardboard Tube of issue. Exc. Getting hard to find.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>WW2 Carl Brandt w/ combo Snaphook. ... $350.00 ea. or two for $650.00.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USN LOGO ONLINE RESTRICTIONS

In September 2017, I emailed you about the US Navy’s Office of Logo Enforcement forcing Etsy (and presumably Ebay, etc.) to remove all listings involving “US Navy” because of supposed trademark infringement.

Recently, that very office established an account on Etsy. This, in and of itself, is fraudulent. Accounts are for buyers and sellers, not for sneaky investigators. They recently sent me a warning e-mail about an item related to the US Navy: a Blue Angels coffee mug!

This is a complete waste of taxpayers money, especially considering that factories in China are turning out counterfeit items by the ship load every day, making pure profit as they do not have to pay royalties or license fees.

— Steve in Arizona

SIMULATION ISN’T THE SAME

I enjoyed your JAG File in the October issue about of taking your grandson to the range, “Simulation Just Isn’t the Same.” I feel where your grandson is coming from, however. I’ll stick to video games (not that I play much these days). I don’t care for going to the range. I get bored quickly. It is loud and messy, and then I have to clean the guns. I think the other part of it is that shooting at a target doesn’t do it for me.

Now needless to say, I haven’t been in combat and I’m sure it is terrifying without any fun, but I enjoyed paintball and I enjoyed shooter games on the computer. So, target shooting is just dull, and honestly, I’m not a good shot. I’ll be the first to admit it.

— Peter in Michigan

BAND TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE HOBBY

In Military Trader, I have found the Mail Call section and The JAG File very interesting — maybe, even the most interesting sections in the magazine.

In addition to militaria, I am also into antique radios. The topic of the September JAG File (“Is our Collecting Economy ‘Good’?”) addressed something we go over and over in the radio community, with no strong, clear conclusion. Regardless, the concern is there.

One of our neighboring cities used to hold a “hobbies exposition.” They displayed everything from surf shops and equipment to quilting groups, stained glass, along with all the collecting hobbies, too. It got the interest and possibilities out in front of people’s eyes and their imagination.

— Hubert in Oregon

I wonder if it isn’t time to go back to the roots of hobby where militaria and guns occupied the same show? After all, there is strength in numbers.

— Jeff in North Dakota
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Conceived as part of a Top Secret project to disrupt Nazi Germany’s atomic bomb program, the hastily developed Studebaker Weasel went on to one of, if not THE most successful of the wartime all-terrain vehicles. Designed with light weight to facilitate both air-dropping and efficient, high-speed operation in the snow, the vehicles were soon found to have excellent performance in the mud.

Always amphibious, the later models were equipped with flotation tanks on each end and dual rudders in the rear for even more efficient operation in the water. Weasels were used on numerous fronts during WWII, were once again deployed in Korea, by the French in Vietnam, and numerous outposts during the Cold War.

These pages provide an overview of the development, and a detailed look at the deployment and the machines themselves, of these iconic, all-terrain vehicles. For Weasel enthusiasts, there has always been a lack of printed references. Finally, this book is a major step in filling that gap in military vehicle history. It combines expert, well-vetted commentary and captions with historic images and color photos of restored examples of T15/M24s, T24/M29s, and M29Cs.
FOR SALE: Collection of WWII GERMAN MILITARIA

1. Cased Luftwaffe air gunner badge by BNL. Nice blue case and motto on top in gold letters. .......................................................... $380
2. STAHLEHLM flag bearer gorget, superb silver finish. Multi-piece construction. Complete chain, never repaired. Rare. .......................................................... $985
3. SS dagger RZM M7/80, Gustav Spitzer. Black leather hanger and grip not damaged. Superb blade. .......................................................... $1,850
4. Customs officer dagger by CLEMEN/JUNG. Silver knot and hangers in superb condition. .......................................................... $1,650
5. Customs officer cuff title. .......................................................... $149
6. Customs sleeve shield on an armband from an officer. Green felt ad gold shield with personal ID number. .......................................................... $250
7. DLV car pennant early, tag of the maker sewn on. Rope and metal hook and double sided. Embroidered. .......................................................... $285
8. DLV enamel round plaque, color not faded. .......................................................... $205
9. WWI cased WURTTEMBERG fire service award 25 years service. Black case gold shield. Multipiece construction award. Maker marked. Rare. .......................................................... $110
10. DAF enlisted belt buckle. .......................................................... $98
11. Hitler youth alu belt buckle. RZM.......................................................... $92
12. Hitler youth nickel belt buckle. RZM.......................................................... $94
13. Kriegsmarine enlisted belt buckle. Blue print, marked. .......................................................... $110
14. Army steel light green belt buckle. .......................................................... $91
15. Army alu belt buckle, combat. Marked. .......................................................... $82
16. WEIMAR belt buckle, heavy and great quality. .......................................................... $70
17. SA brass belt buckle, never cleaned. .......................................................... $89
18. Small size early PEBBLED belt buckle. .......................................................... $71

** FOREIGN VOLUNTEER arm shield. Silk printed and nice condition.**

19. TERECK COSSACKS TB. .......................................................... $119
20. DON COSSACKS. .......................................................... $116
21. TURKISTAN. .......................................................... $90
22. IDEL-URAL. .......................................................... $92
23. KROATIEN. .......................................................... $120
24. GEORGien. .......................................................... $86
25. BERGKAUKASIEN. .......................................................... $89
26. 1957 re-issued black wound badge/war merit cross, no swords. Both for. .......................................................... $71
27. WERKSCHUTZ factory guard arm badge enlisted. Rare... .......................................................... $125
28. SA district sports shirt breast emblem, bevo. Brown NS. $110 – Dark green KP.......................................................... $104
29. DJ proficiency badge, personal ID. .......................................................... $89
30. Hitler youth proficiency badge, personal ID. .......................................................... $116
31. Hitler youth proficiency badge, B letter in the back. .......................................................... $105
32. Y straps, black leather, RB number. Soft leather and light weight. .......................................................... $250
33. SS propaganda booklet 1944 dated. .......................................................... $81
34. Color painting 7x9. WEHRMACHT soldier combat tunic. .......................................................... $39
35. Color painting 7x9, Kriegsmarine soldier in uniform. .......................................................... $41
36. SS HOLLAND volunteer sleeve shield, embroidered. .......................................................... $121
37. Photo album, iron cross front cover, never used and black cover. .......................................................... $110
38. RAD gold neck brooch for STABSFUHREIN, this is the highest rank. .......................................................... $141
39. Cuff links with swastika large size. .......................................................... $110
40. RLB bevo armband, WUPPERTAL. .......................................................... $114
41. NSDAP bronze long service 10 years cross, long ribbon. .......................................................... $149
42. Army officer dagger hangers, DRGM marked. Deluxe with oak leaves. .......................................................... $160
43. Army officer dagger hangers, nice condition. .......................................................... $136
44. DDAC officer grade bullion embroidered cap badge. .......................................................... $120
45. Army enlisted M43 cap insignia, BEVO. 2 of them different pattern. .......................................................... $92
46. Small silk flag Italian/German flags intercalated. .......................................................... $150
47. SKI-JAGER cap badge, prongs not broken. Very rare. Worn on the side of the M43 cap. .......................................................... $160
48. Unit emblem worn on the side of the cap for the 116th division. Metal insignia. Very rare... .......................................................... $129
49. BDM triangle District insignia. RUHR. .......................................................... $114
50. Army infantry enlisted overcoat, superb. Shoulder boards with white piping. .......................................................... $375
51. Army infantry visor cap, white piping, marked and nice condition. .......................................................... $445
52. Luftwaffe flak enlisted visor cap, well-marked, dated and red piping. Near mint. .......................................................... $465
53. Army breast eagle, silver wire bullion and light green backing. .......................................................... $46
54. Luftwaffe officer dagger 1st pattern, nice blue leather and blade by JULIUS KREBBS. Chains never repaired. .......................................................... $825
55. Kriegsmarine office dagger, gold knot and hangers complete. Nice blade and maker marked. .......................................................... $985
56. Luftwaffe summer visor cap, white top and yellow piping. Very nice condition. .......................................................... $795
57. Red Cross officer visor cap by PEKURO. Very nice condition, well-marked. Early. .......................................................... $675
58. Customs rabbit fur hat, sewn one eagle and nice brown fur. Near mint... .......................................................... $485
59. Customs officer visor cap by REUHER. Great condition, untouched and shows light wear only. .......................................................... $545

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>103.</td>
<td>France – Legion of Honor with large presentation case.</td>
<td>$94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104.</td>
<td>British – WWI Victory Medal and Massive Bronze Commemorative Table Medal.</td>
<td>$119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105.</td>
<td>US – WWI Victory Medal, Miniature and Large Size. Also Comes with Massive General Pershing Bronze Table Medal.</td>
<td>$117</td>
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<tr>
<td>106.</td>
<td>France – WWI Victory Medal and Large Bronze Table Medal. Commemoration of First World War.</td>
<td>$121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107.</td>
<td>Belgium – WWI Victory Meal and Large Bronze Table Medal, Dated. Rare.</td>
<td>$114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Hope Hodge Seck began a eulogy for the Army’s pixelated Universal Camouflage Pattern (UCP also known as ACUPAT or “digicam”) uniform in Military.com: “It blended in well with grandma’s couch, but had its drawbacks in the combat zone.”

As of October 1, 2019, UCP is officially a thing of the past. Going forward, all US Army soldiers are required to possess and wear the green-and-brown Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform (OCP).

Introduced in 2004, the UCP had been developed as a “universal camouflage” that promised to work equally well in all environments including desert, woodland/jungle, and urban. It promised to be a one-time issue to soldiers who would deploy to different geographical areas. The slate gray, desert sand, and foliage green pixel pattern becomes darker or lighter depending on exposure to sunlight.

UCP camo, however, was not well-received. The most common complaint was that it failed in the purpose of camouflage: It didn’t blend in with the surroundings! In fact, when the United States Army came to the conclusion that UCP did not adequately meet all of the concealment needs for Afghanistan’s multiple regions, it began searching for a replacement.

In 2010, the United States Army Camouflage Improvement Effort considered twenty-two different patterns to replace UCP. The finalists in the Army’s Phase IV camouflage testing were: Crye Precision, ADS Inc., Hyperstealth Inc., Brookwood Companies Inc., and Kryptek Inc.

Initially, the Army’s first pattern choice was the MultiCam pattern developed by Crye Precision, but allegedly due to “printing fees,” procurement discussions broke down. Crye Precision developed the original Scorpion pattern under a government contract in 2002. The United States Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center modified the pattern in 2009, and code-named it the “Scorpion W2” pattern. The Army owns the licensing rights for Scorpion W2, which lowers the overall cost and allows the Army the option to restrict the pattern to service members only.

It took five years of testing and evaluations to determine that Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP — the official name of Scorpion W2) would become the successor to UCP. During a transition period that began in July 2015, soldiers were permitted to wear UCPs with sand-colored T-shirt, belt and boots.

As of October 1, 2019, all soldiers are required to possess and wear the OCP with T-shirt and belt in “Tan 499” and boots in coyote brown. And with that, UCP has been relegated to closets, thrift stores, and dealer’s tables.

CURRENT UCP PRICES*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flame Resistant Army Jacket</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirt</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trousers (specification FQ/PD 07-14A)</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boonie Hat</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*as of October 2, 2019
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Historically, every country’s ruling political party has appointed its own members to the highest positions of government. In multi-party republics, this one-sidedness is kept under control by a series of checks and balances. But in a dictatorship, members of the ruling leader’s circle are placed in key spots to insure complete control. Such was the case when Adolf Hitler and the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeitspartei (NSDAP — Nazi Party) took over the government of Germany in 1933.

Nazi party members had been included in one of the 46 groups vying for power in the post-WWI Weimar Republic. But rather than being just members of a political organization, many National Socialists became completely mesmerized by the “mystical cult” of Hitler and his dreams of an Aryan utopia. These ardent members were willing to go to any extreme to further the unethical ambitions of Hitler and his Führerprinzip (Leader’s principal). Hitler’s declarations became laws, rubber-stamped by the Nazi-controlled Reichstag (parliament) thus bypassing normal parliamentary procedure. To keep this idea of an ongoing, fanatical revolution alive among the German people and to enforce the stream of ever changing decrees flowing from Berlin, Hitler depended on his corps of political leaders.

As the Weimar Republic was dismantled, Nazi political leaders were assigned to watch over areas of the new Third Reich, working in conjunction with the existing civil positions to enforce the doctrines of the party. Their long-term goal was to create Gleichschaltung (coordination) of the Nazi party and the civil service, eventually eliminating any person not favorable to the Nazi cause. When civil officials were deemed to be “disloyal” to the Hitler government, party officials were assigned to take their place. The old servants were detained in political camps for “re-education.”

Many non-party member governmental workers rushed to join the NSDAP. They hoped to insure that their careers would not be destroyed, nor their lives put into jeopardy. In situations where existing civil servants had been forced out, zealous Nazi members, or Alte Kämpfer (old fighters — those who had been early party members during Hitler’s rise to power) were given preference for the newly vacated positions.

ORGANIZING THE POLITICAL DISTRICTS

After 1933, Germany (and, eventually, its reclaimed lands) was divided into multiple party controlled areas. These consisted of Ortsgruppen (local levels — the smallest areas consisting of large city blocks, towns or small villages), Kreisleitungen (districts — equivalent to a county), Gauleitungen (regional — an area the size of a state or province), and Reichsleitung (National — the entire country).

Following Hitler’s organizational instruction that members of the government should not be allowed to accumulate too much individual power (due to his mistrust), political leaders within these sections acted independently from leaders of the other levels. This caused ongoing internal strife and animosity...
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between the various sections as they competed for resources, prestige and control.

To provide a hierarchy governing each level, 31 different political leader ranks were established. These ranged from the lowest of Anwärter (political leader candidate) to Reichsleiter (a national political leader second only to Adolf Hitler).

When political leaders were not engaged in the duties of civil servants (such as a Burgermeister — local mayor), they worked to educate the public concerning the doctrines of the Nazi Party. National Socialist dogma was repeated in countless public speeches. These included gratitude for past veterans’ services, German national pride, crediting the Führer for any good news, and continued harassment for those minorities whom the NSDAP deemed unacceptable. Special attention was paid to the German youth, as Hitler understood that it was imperative to sway young people into the National Socialist train of thought.

Besides education, leaders worked through the existing civil administration to enforce new laws dictated from the central government. This became especially prevalent as the war progressed, and leaders took a more active part in organizing support for the war effort.

Fund raising was another important aspect of the political leaders’ roles. The Nazi party, like all political machines, needed vast amounts of cash to operate the many facets of its organization, and to provide public assistance to its constituents if required. Political leaders coordinated with other groups, such as the Nationalsozialistische Volkswohlfahrt (NSV — Nazi People’s Welfare organization) to help promote the Hitler Youth driven Winterhilfswerk (WHW — Winter Relief of the German People). This was a fund raiser to provide warm clothing and heating coal for the poor.

Other public and private donation drives, lotteries and fund raising events were pushed along by leaders who bathed the events in a patriotic fervor in order to extract as many funds as possible from the common man. Small placards and tokens were given and displayed for each donation to show which “good citizens” had dutifully donated to the current cause — and to single out those who had not.

Besides the educational, charitable and administrative duties of political leaders, they acted on behalf of the central Nazi administration by monitoring the public temperament towards the economic, social, political, and warfare involvement in their respective areas. In addition, political leaders worked with other paramilitary groups, the local police, and the Gestapo (secret state police) to ferret out and punish opponents of Hitler’s dictatorship.

DISTINGUISHING THE POLITICAL LEADERS

During the Nazi regime, political leaders dressed in a variety of uniforms that became more elaborate over time. This level of personal adornment earned them the nickname of Goldfasanen (golden pheasants).

At first, political leaders wore simple brown shirts (akin to
those of the Sturmabteilung — SA. These were worn with collar tabs designating the rank and section of the wearer. In addition, a series of armbands were developed that also showed the rank and level of the leader.

Later, political leaders adopted a brown tunic with piping and rank- and section-colored collar tabs. These collar tabs were constructed of colored cloth fields (golden, red, brown, etc.). Bullion thread or metal rank devices were attached to the face of the tabs. Piping denoted the wearer's section.

Various colored tunic piping denoted the wearer’s section: Light blue for Ortsgruppen, white (originally, black) for Kreisleitung, dark red for Gauleitung, and golden yellow for Reichsleitung.

Ironically, tunic piping and collar insignia were not always used by the both highest political ranks of the party. Hitler, Bormann, Goebbels, and other top Nazis were considered above the highest level of political leadership. Conversely, the lowest leaders sometimes could not afford complete insignia (or it was not made available), so those at the lowest ranks may not have piped tunics or collar insignia.

Each leader wore an armband was worn on the left sleeve of the tunic. Any military or paramilitary awards were attached at their proper places on the tunic front. A brown leather (or brocade) belt with either a guild double claw or a more elaborate, round buckle with a gold wreath enclosing a spread-winged eagle was worn around the tunic waist. In inclement weather, a political leader could wear a long, brown wool overcoat with a belt and buckle.

For formal occasions, political flag bearers could wear magnificent, gold-colored gorgets. These beautiful shields contained a spread-winged eagle on a plain background surrounded by an oak leaf border. They hung by a gold toned chain of alternating swastikas and eagle-embossed links.

The tunic was worn over a brown shirt and tie. Riding pants or trousers were worn for more formal occasions and adminis-
Armband of a mid level administrative leader at the Gau (county) level.

Garish flags, banners and podium banners could be used during political leaders’ speeches. This example is constructed of silver thread with matching bottom fringe sewn to a red and black background.
An Ortsgruppe visor with 1939 eagle and wreath. Light blue piping designates the Ortsgruppe level.

A flag bearer's gorget with alternating eagle and swastika hanging chain.

Many political leaders would have worn a 10 year NSDAP service award in one of the forms shown.

Tractive wear.

Political leaders could carry small-caliber sidearms (usually 7.65mm) in brown leather holsters. Some more elaborate holster rigs featured golden eagles on the suspension rings (attached to a brown shoulder strap) and a large eagle on the closure flap.

Initially, political leaders typically wore light brown visor caps, each decorated with a short-winged political eagle mounted on the front above an enameled roundel of canted black swastika in a silver circle surrounded by a blood-red enamel ring. By 1939, the eagle had changed to a larger winged gilt device over the enameled roundel surrounded by a large bundle of outstretched, golden oak leaves. Two gold-toned buttons held the gold, woven chinstrap. The cap band was wrapped with a Havana brown strip. The sectional colored piping of the peaked visor caps ran along the top and bottom of the center hat band, and around the cap top rim.

At public meetings, the pomp and prestige of the political leaders' offices were on constant display. They would often have their podiums and back walls adorned with eagle and swastika banners and national swastika flags.

As the war progressed and Germany's fate became more dire, political leaders intensified their efforts to help the military, paramilitary and civilian groups in support of the war efforts. When the Allies ran across the borders of the Reich, political leaders reported losses of civilian lives and infrastructures to administrative departments of the spiraling central government.

By the spring of 1945, the political leaders' inspiring speeches and blatant threats had lost their effect on the demoralized people of the Third Reich. When Adolf Hitler died by his own hand, the party and positions of the political leaders suddenly came to an end. Not believing that their lives could continue without National Socialism, many political leaders took their own lives. Those who remained, were held accountable for the crimes and chaos they and the Nazi Party had committed while flamboyantly ruling over the people of Germany.
The US Navy announced the re-establishment of the Torpedoman’s Mate (TM) rating (NAVADMIN 225/19, released Sept. 30, 2019). According to the naval message, re-establishing the rating will renew the heritage and pride of the submarine TM.

“The Torpedoman’s Mate rating was disestablished in 1995, but based on feedback from the fleet we are bringing it back,” said Capt. Angela Katson, branch head of Enlisted Force Shaping Plans and Policies. “In the spirit of heritage, and Sailor 2025 initiatives, we are returning to the use of the original Torpedoman’s Mate rating badge.”

During an All Hands Call that took place at Naval Base Kitsap in Bangor, Washington, then-Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson fielded questions from sailors on the possibility of re-establishing the TM rate in April. Shortly after, the Navy began the process to approve re-naming the Machinist’s Mate (Non-nuclear, Submarine Weapons) (MMW) rating to Torpedoman’s Mate.

“I think the Navy bringing back the TM rating is going to pay incredible dividends,” said MMWCS Heath Mangrum the force torpedoman at Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic. “The excitement level among the sailors is through the roof. It’s the right time for a change like this to light the fire under our sailors, and embrace the heritage in the rating.”

The Torpedoman rating was established in 1921 and renamed Torpedoman’s Mate in 1942. Following the success of the submarine force in WWII, the rate remained until 1995 when it was merged into the Machinist’s Mate rating.

“Although there are similarities between a Machinist’s Mate and a Torpedoman’s Mate, the TM’s main focus at sea is weapons handing, force protection and maintaining an incredible level of proficiency in ordnance, small arms, and the upkeep of those systems,” said Mangrum.

TMs are responsible for all phases of weapons loading, unloading and storage on all classes of submarines. This includes torpedoes, Tomahawk missiles and countermeasure devices. A TM works on high pressure air and hydraulic systems to maintain loading and launching capabilities for torpedo and vertical launch tubes.

The re-establishment of the general rating is solely administrative in nature, but will require a rating badge change for affected sailors. The TM rating badge will be the same one in use when the rating was disestablished in 1995.

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To many it marked the end of an era. With warm temperatures, no rain and often clear blue skies late September in Monroeville, Penn., felt like summer – and it made for a great backdrop for the “final” MAX Show to be held in the Monroeville Convention Center. But there was also a little uncertainty, even sadness as folks said goodbye to what has been the show’s home for more than a decade.

This wasn’t the first time MAX has said farewell to this location. The show began in St. Louis, and has been held in Baltimore, Charlotte, and even Indianapolis at various times.

The Pittsburgh suburb has been the show’s “home” for much of its run. The MAX is simply associated with Monroeville — even if the show’s return to the town meant it being held in a new building.

LOOKING FORWARD

However, instead of lamenting the move, as Bill Combs, business manager for the Ohio Valley Military Society, suggested, “This isn’t the end of the era, but rather the beginning of a new era next year with the move to York, Penn. The MAX will be bigger and better than ever.”

Not all dealers believed it. Those from the Midwest and beyond complained about the added time on the PA Turnpike and the unfamiliarity of York. There were also rumblings that a move is never good for a show — despite the fact that this one has packed up more times than an “Army Brat” and has actually continued to improve, notably since OVMS acquired the show. Those from the Northeast however, were quick to welcome the idea of a show that is a few hours closer. And some dealers and attendees agreed that a new location will bring new possibilities and opportunities for the MAX.

Truth be told, Monroeville was always a mixed bag for a show that is the second largest militaria event in the country. On the
plus, it is close to the Ohio Turnpike (but that just means un-
avoidable tolls) and it has plenty of restaurants of varying qual-
ity. However, it really doesn’t offer enough hotel rooms and most
could be fairly described as having a middling quality at best.

Then there was the 100,000 square foot elephant – the build-
ing itself, one that is a “convention center” in name only.

Not actually designed from the ground-up with trade or col-
lectible shows in mind, the Monroeville Convention Center has
meant that dealers have been spread out across three rooms (tech-
nically, two halls). It created an atmosphere that was like “two
shows in one,” but never in what could be described as being in
a good way.

Loading in and out was always a trying experience. And those
who flew into the city had to endure an hour long odyssey through
the winding roads of Western Pennsylvania.

Simply put, dealers and collectors really just liked Monro-
eville for the nostalgia, the familiarity and not for what the venue
— or to be blunt — what this suburban town had to offer.

What attendees ever thought the parking lot was adequate, the
roads easy to navigate or again that this town had truly inviting
hotels? If anything Monroeville has become a stark reminder of
the decline of the traditional shopping mall, an overbuilt main
drag of strip malls with vacant store fronts and roads in need of
repair! Simply put, the Ohio Valley Military Society should be
lauded for its efforts to find the MAX the home it deserves!

THE SHOW DID GO ON

As noted the weather didn’t really seem like the beginning
of the fall “show season” but that didn’t stop the collectors from
coming out strong. The MAX again drew in collectors and deal-
ers from around the world. In addition, this year included the
Friday night seminar from noted author Kenneth Alford, “Jim
Atwood: Army Officer, Charmer, Entrepreneur, Collector, Risk-
Taker, Rogue & Con-Artist;” chronicling the early “wild west”
days of militaria collecting.

This might have been the final time that Monroeville played
host to the MAX, but it was still a great time with plenty to see
and buy! ✪

The MAX is still the place to find quality German helmets.

(opposite, top and
right) Noted sculptor
David Paul Venell
was at the MAX Show
to demonstrate his
skills. Venell showed
how he creates his
“snapshot” in time!
This was just another
“day at the office” for
him.

As noted by this display, the Prussians/Germans didn’t have a
monopoly on dress helmets with plumes and spikes.

A uniform to the 93rd
Infantry Division,
which was a “colored”
segregated unit of the
United States Army during
the First World War. It
was never fully formed,
except for the infantry
units that included
the 369th Infantry
Regiment (“The Harlem
Hellfighters”) and the
370th Infantry Regiment
(“The Black Devils”),
which fought under
French command. The
unit earned the nickname
“Blue Helmets” as a
result as the troops were
issued blue French Adrian
helmets, and this became
the shoulder patch.

www.militarytrader.com

November 2019 / Military Trader
A Boxer Rebellion-era German banner shows how for a brief period the “Great Powers” found common cause in China.

Field gear, patches and so much more can be found. If you don’t take the time to look you might miss it

Anyone who says, “The MAX Show is just a Third Reich event” clearly hasn’t been to it. There was a great mix of militaria from across the world covering the last three centuries and more!

On display this year was the presidential military uniform that was once worn by Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein.

One of the show’s standout pieces wasn’t for sale — a tunic and cap of the Russian Liberation Army (POA), which in 1944, became known as the Armed Forces of the Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia.
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The PIAT Gun
Britain’s tank killer
by Peter Suciu

During the First World War, the British looked to break the stalemate through the “landship program,” headed by First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill. The program considered creating massive vehicles — weighing as much as 300 tons or more — that could cross the trench system. Though it was deemed impractical, it did lead to the development of the first tanks.

But as the tank solved the problem of mobility on the battlefield, it created a new problem. Namely, how to stop enemy tanks in their tracks. By the outbreak of WWII, the British had such a firearm that could just that: The Boys Anti-Tank Rifle.

Officially known as “The Rifle, Anti-Tank, .55in, Boys,” it was nicknamed the “elephant gun” because of its massive size and large bore. The gun was developed by Captain H.C. Boys, the assistant superintendent of design at the Enfield Royal Small Arms Factory and a member of the British Small Arms Committee. Originally called the “Stanchion,” when Captain Boys died a few days before the rifle was approved for service in November 1937, it was renamed in his honor.

The Boys Anti-Tank Rifle fed from a five-shot magazine, and due to its size was fitted with a large bipod at the front and grip below the padded buttplate. It actually proved adequate against the German light tanks used at the outset of WWII, but was gradually phased out as the thickness of enemy armor increased.

The Boys was also used alongside the No. 68 anti-tank rifle grenade, officially known as the “Grenade, Rifle No. 68/AT.” Developed in 1940 as an alternative anti-tank weapon for infantry soldiers, it is believed to be the first true “High Explosive, Anti Tank” (HEAT) device to see use in combat. It could be fired from the standard British SMLE rifle and was capable of penetrating armor up to two-inches thick.

BLACKE R'S BOMBARD MORTAR

Prior to the defeat of the French Army and the British escape from the continent via the so-called “miracle of Dunkirk” in early 1940, the British Army had found that neither the Boys Anti-Tank Rifle nor the No. 68 AT Rifle Grenade were effective as anti-tank weapons. The Boys was quite large and unwieldy, and yet only effective against light tanks at short ranges. The No. 68 grenade was also too light to deal any serious damage to any armored vehicle.

Clearly, a different weapon was required if British infantry was going to stop German armor. Designers looked to create a weapon that could launch larger projectiles with greater range than that of the No. 68. While a number of concepts were considered, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart Blacker of the Royal Artillery submitted a design that the Army adopted.
Blacker had originally sought to create a lightweight platoon mortar that relied on the “spigot” discharge system. This works without the barrel being used to actually launch the projectile. Instead the projectile is fired from the spigot — usually a heavy steel rod — that is driven into the shallow tail of said projectile. In this design the spring hits the charge of the projectile. The pressure of the ignited powder launches the projectile off the spigot.

Blacker had envisioned his weapon as something that could be used as a dual purpose launcher — either for high explosives in indirect fire like that of a mortar or in direct fire as an anti-tank weapon. His concept led to the creation of the 29mm Spigot Mortar that earned the nickname, “Blacker Bombard.” Though the mortar couldn’t actually penetrate armor, Home Guard and Airfield Defence units employed the weapon.

The Spigot Mortar simply could not fire a powerful enough bomb. The solution was found, however, in utilizing hollow-charge ammunition. This concept had existed since the second half of the 19th century when American inventor Charles Edward Munroe discovered that an explosive could yield more damage if there was a recess in it facing a target. This was known as the “Munroe Effect.” It essentially provided — and still does — a way for infantry to present a serious threat to armored vehicles.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Blacker attempted to develop a portable anti-tank version of the Spigot Mortar, which he dubbed the “Baby Bombard,” but he found it was still unsatisfactory due to the round. When Blacker was posted to other duties, Major Millis Jeffers took up the project. Jeffers rebuilt the prototype, combining it with a hollow-charge mortar bomb. The so-called “Jeffers Shoulder Gun” impressed the Ordnance Board of the Small Arms School. In August 1942, they put the weapon into production.

Renamed “Projector, Infantry, Anti Tank” (“PIAT” for short), the Ordnance Board ordered that it be issued to infantry units as a hand-held anti-tank weapon. Beginning in 1942, Imperial Chemical Industries manufactured the PIAT in significant numbers. By 1945, a total of 115,000 were produced with several thousand more manufactured by the start of the Korean War.

British and Commonwealth forces began using the PIAT in mid-1943, and reportedly it was first used in action by Canadian forces during the Allied invasion of Sicily where it under performed. The bomb failed to detonate if didn’t hit the target squarely. By the time of the invasion of the Italian mainland, the problem was remedied.

Confidence in the weapon was still lacking, however. During the invasion of France a year later, refined ammunition made the weapon much more effective. Seven percent of all German tanks destroyed by British/Commonwealth forces in the Normandy Campaign were reportedly knocked out of action by PIATs. That was better than the six percent destroyed by aircraft! But, just as the British looked to create a more powerful anti-tank weapon, so, too, did the Germans look for ways to defeat
those weapons. Increasingly, German tanks came equipped with armored skirts that could deflect hollow-charge ammunition from the PIAT as well as the American bazookas.

The PIAT was used in all theaters of WWII. Various resistance forces used the weapon. The British even managed to have PIATs smuggled into occupied Poland where it was used during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Through the Lend Lease program, the British supplied 1,000 PIATs and 100,000 rounds to the Soviet Union. Six British and Commonwealth soldiers were awarded the Victoria Cross in WWII for actions that involved the PIAT.

The PIAT remained in use until the early 1950s. The Australian Army even used the PIATs during the Korean War, and the Israeli Haganah employed them against Arab tanks during the 1948 Israeli War of Independence.

**Characteristics and Operation**

The PIAT was 39 inches long and weighed a backbreaking 32 pounds, empty. It had an effective direct fire range of 115 yards (105 meters). It was capable of penetrating 75mm of armor and could do substantial damage to buildings or other defenses even at its maximum range.

While not intended to be an indirect weapon, the spigot system did allow it to be used as a makeshift mortar by rotating the T-shaped shoulder stock 90 degrees and supporting it against a soldier’s foundation. In this role, it had a maximum indirect fire range of 350 yards During WWII, the French resistance lacked mortars or other artillery, so they often used the PIAT in that capacity.

A single soldier could carry the PIAT, but typically it was assigned to a two-man team. The second soldier carried the ammunition and acted as the loader.

Loading and initial firing remained a complicated matter. While the PIAT could be fired from a prone or kneeling position, it all but required the user to stand to cock it. This was accomplished by unlatching the shoulder pad and then standing on it while pulling the rest of the gun up. By doing this, the spigot and spring were latched into the firing position. The body was then slid back to the shoulder pad and latched. Then, the loader could place projectile — or “bomb” — in the tray at the front of the PIAT.

This complicated method of cocking the gun was only required for the first cocking before firing. It would automatically be re-cock with each discharge — at
least in theory. Because of the weight of the PIAT, the operator usually fired it from the ground where he could utilize the integral folding support that also served as a front grip. Aiming was achieved by using the folding aperture sights along with two or three apertures in the rear sight blade with ranges from 50 to 100 yards.

The shooter had to use at least two fingers to pull the trigger. With each shot, there was a slight delay as the projectile ignited. An inexperienced operator may not hold the trigger long enough, resulting in the spring not fully re-cocking. In addition to the charge from the projectile, the spring’s movement shifted the weight of the PIAT forcing the operator to adjust accordingly.

Three types of PIAT projectiles (“bombs”) were available: HEAT (high explosive anti-tank), White Phosphor, and inert (for practice use). The bombs were supplied pre-loaded with launching cartridge in cardboard containers for transport.

As with many small arms the PIAT had its share of supporters and detractors. Those who liked it, they considered the weapon to be effective and simple to operate. It produced no dangerous back-blast or muzzle flash and was capable of defeating the armor of most tanks of the late WWII-era. However, it was also heavy, especially when compared to U.S.-made bazookas. Moreover, it had a rather unusual and uncomfortable cocking procedure. And when fired, it produced a very heavy recoil.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

The PIAT was actually involved in a battle that didn’t involve shooting at tanks. Rather, it was a fight over the name and compensation. In 1944, a press report actually credited the PIAT, as well as the Spigot Mortar, to British Army Major Millis Jefferis. Lieutenant Colonel Stewart Blacker of the Royal Artillery, who conceived the original design, took exception to this. According to the book, Britain’s War Machine: Weapons, Resources, and Experts in the Second World War, Blacker received £25,000 from the Inventions Board for his contribution to the PIAT gun — a sum that would be worth nearly one million pounds today.

As for the name, even Prime Minister Winston Churchill asked why the name was changed from the Jefferis Shoulder Gun to PIAT. In the end, the military-style nomenclature won out and the weapon is still referred to as the “PIAT.”

COLLECTING THE PIAT

While the weapon was replaced by the American bazooka as the main anti-tank weapon used by British and Commonwealth forces, the PIAT remains a fascinating part of the history of the British arsenal of small arms. With more than 115,000 built, the PIAT is not exactly rare, though it is far from a common WWII small arm. With thousands sold off as military surplus, most major museums have examples and collectors who want one can usually find one for sale.

And while the projectiles would rightfully be considered destructive devices in the United States today, the PIAT actually appeared on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’s Curio & Relics list for many years. Dealers and collectors can sell PIATs with inert projectiles, with original examples in good condition fetching $1,000 or more.
“Snapshots” acknowledges that period photos can be the best form of primary information for collectors. Military Trader welcomes photo submissions from its readers of any soldiers displaying interesting uniforms, equipment, medals, or insignia. Send photos with a brief description to: Military Trader, Attn: Snapshots, 5225 Joerns Dr., Suite 2, Stevens Point, WI 54481. If possible, send clear copy prints or high resolution scans. All submissions become property of Active Interest Media and may be considered for inclusion (with proper credit) in other features.

Rear Admiral Victor Blue, Chief of Operations, U.S. Navy, reviews some of 200 Naval Reserve Yoewomen attached to his bureau in Washington, March 1919.

170th MP Co training in Panama, ca. 1990-1992, courtesy of Terrence Brimmer.

George Brigham saw this postcard of a young lady in a German WWI uniform in an antique mall, and just had to have it. The message on the reverse is date April 4, 1914, and was sent to a soldier in the Württemburg Infantry Regiment No. 479.

Andy Albatys shared this image, writing, “There was an enthusiastic crowd on hand to meet WWII Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams at the 2019 Kentucky State Fair. He spoke of his concerns in regard to issues that divide our great nation as of late and gave a reminder that we are the “United” States of America. He paid homage to all the men and woman that have served this country and the sacrifices made by them and their families.
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In the fatal years of Adolf Hitler’s merciless war of power and greed, thousands of battles pitted men and machines against each other in the skies and on the waters surrounding Europe. But none of these conflicts could compare to the daily deprivations and sheer terror that was experienced by the millions of ground troops that fought for the Nazi regime in the fields, woods and cities across the continents. To acknowledge the hardships and bravery of these men, a series of assault badges were produced to be worn by members of the Wehrmacht’s Heer (Army), Waffen Schutzstaffel (armed SS), and Luftwaffe (Air Force).

INFANTRY ASSAULT BADGE

The first of these badges produced was the Infanterie-Sturmabzeichen (infantry assault badge), designed by C.E. Junker of Berlin, and instituted in December 1939. The silver-toned 62 mm x by 47 mm award (with some variations in size due to the dozens of manufacturers) took the form of an open oval oak leaf wreath with a closed winged eagle clutching a canted swastika on the top. Across the front was mounted a diagonal K98 rifle with attached bayonet and hanging sling. On the reverse was a pin and catch device, with or without the manufacturer’s logo embossed on the surface.

Materials used in production included nickel silver, tombak, or zinc, formed into solid or hollow back designs. Later badges were hastily made of polished alloys that turned matt grey over time.

The badge was presented in a paper packet with the name of the award sprinted on the center front and accompanied by a certificate made out to the recipient. Criteria for the award consisted of participating in three separate days of armed combat against front line enemy troops.

In June 1940, a bronze colored version of the badge was awarded for combat.

ASSAULT BADGE VALUES

The following are some current market prices for basic assault badges:

- Silver infantry assault badge: 125.00 – 200.00
- Bronze infantry assault badge: 175.00 – 275.00
- Silver Panzer badge: 225.00 – 375.00
- Bronze Panzer badge: 250.00 – 350.00
- General assault badge: 95.00 – 225.00
- Luftwaffe ground assault badge: 275.00 – 375.00
Bronze Panzer Assault Badges were given to assault gun drivers, commanders, gunners and radio operators.

The bronze Infantry Badge was not a lesser grade, but given to motorized troops.

A tombak silver Tank Assault Badge shows a menacing Panzer in motion.

The basic silver Infantry Assault Badge was awarded for three days combat against the enemy.

produced to be awarded to motorized troops with the same criteria of three days participation in battle. Awards of either silver or bronze badges were given to both the Army, Waffen SS, Luftwaffe ground troops, and later, the Ordnungspolizei (order police). Each soldier wore the badge on the lower left breast of their respective tunics. Miniature versions could be privately purchased for wear on civilian clothing when out of uniform.

PANZER ASSAULT BADGE

In December 1939, another new badge was also introduced for
wear by members of tank crews. The Panzerkampfabzeichen (tank battle badge) was designed by Ernst Peekhaus in Berlin.

Members of tank crews who fought the enemy during three separate assaults over three different days were given the new badge. This award consisted of a silver toned oak leaf oval with a closed winged eagle on top clutching a canted swastika. In the oval center was an oncoming tank with the turret barrel pointed to the right. The reverse bore a pin and catch system along with, or without a maker’s mark on the surface.

With the increasing number of tank battles, the standard tank badge was no longer deemed adequate to reflect the accomplishments of the battle-hardened veterans. In June 1943, four new tank badges were introduced. These followed the same design of the original, but were larger in size, and had the added numbers “25,” “50,” “75,” or “100” contained in a small blackened rectangle at the base of the wreaths. In addition, the oak leaf borders of the first two were silvered, while those of the last two were gilded. The badge numbers signified the increasing engagements made by the wearers on the battlefields.

In June 1940, a new version of the tank badge was introduced which was modeled after the basic Panzer badge, but had a bronze finish over an alloy base metal. This award was given to Panzergrenadier, assault gun crews, and other armored units who participated in the same three assault criteria as those required for the silver Panzer badge.

**THE GENERAL ASSAULT BADGE**

Since many soldiers were not in the actual infantry assault groups, but rather supported the attacks (such as engineers, artillery, medical and others), a badge was introduced for their service...
in June 1940. The Allgemeines Sturmabzeichen (general assault badge) took the form of a silver oak leaf oval surrounding a closed wing eagle clutching a canted swastika. Below the swastika, and overlapping the edges of the wreath were a crossed grenade and bayonet. The reverse of the award contained a pin and catch assembly, with or without the maker’s mark on the surface. General assault badges were produced in solid and hollow back designs using numerous materials by dozens of manufacturers.

As with the tank badges, the length of the war made additional grades of badges for increased achievements necessary beginning in June 1943. At that time, small size variations were introduced along with adding the numbers “50,” “75,” or “100” in boxes at the bottom of the surrounding wreaths. The first two awards had blackened eagles and crossed grenades/bayonets, while the highest award had a gilded wreath. Credits for the higher-grade awards were based on the number and durations of active combat campaigns. These were worn on the lower left side of Army, Waffen SS, Luftwaffe, or order police tunics.

THE LUFTWAFFE GROUND COMBAT BADGE

As Hermann Göring turned out to be a better WW1 air ace and later, Nazi leader, then head of the Luftwaffe. Many of his airmen found themselves with little in the way of flight equipment as the Allies destroyed their planes and airfields. These soldiers were then pressed into service as land fighters to offset the mounting casualties on both fronts.

With twenty-two land divisions of men serving under Göring’s command, a new Luftwaffe badge, the Erdkampfabzeichen der Luftwaffe” (Ground Combat badge of the Luftwaffe), was designed by Professor von Weech and instituted in March 1942. This 56 mm x 43 mm badge consisted of a silvered oval oak leaf wreath overlaid by a darkened, flying Luftwaffe eagle clutching a canted swastika. Behind the eagle was a dark cloud emitting a downward lightning bolt ending in a flash at the base of the wreath. As with the basic assault badges utilized by the other forces, three days of combat or support were required for a soldier to be given the Luftwaffe award.

Badges were accompanied by a paper document, and presented in either a paper packet or leatherette, hard-body, hinged case. An airman who had previously been awarded any of the other infantry or general assault badges was required to replace them with the new Luftwaffe badge.

By November 1944, the Luftwaffe followed the other branches by authorizing Luftwaffe ground assault badges bearing a “25,” “50,” “75,” or “100” to indicate the wearer’s increased time in battle. Embroidered versions of the Luftwaffe ground assault badge (in bullion for officers and cotton thread for enlisted men) were available to be sewn onto the recipient’s tunics instead of their wearing the metal awards.

With Hitler’s war coming to its disastrous end in the spring of 1945, members of the German armed services laid down their weapons for the last time. Soldiers turned in their uniforms and consigned their military awards (including assault badges) to dresser drawers, “turn-in” sites, or burn piles following the allied occupation of the former Third Reich.

With a new free democracy in mind, they began the long process of rebuilding what was left of their once proud fatherland.

Many miniature versions of the assault badges could be purchased to wear on civilian clothing.

A paper packet was the most common item issued with Assault Badges.

The Luftwaffe Ground Assault Badge featured a “death from above” lightning strike.
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Oct 19-20, PA, Allentown. Forks of the Delaware Historical Antique and Modern Arms Show, Agricultural Hall, 17th St. & Chew St. Info: Forks of the Delaware, 2060 Northampton St., Unit I Easton, PA 18042; 610.436.9006; www.allentownshow.net

Oct 19-20, PA, Monroeville. Pittsburgh Gun Show, Monroeville Convention Center. Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blackburg, VA 25062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com

Oct 19-20, 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.showmastersgunshows.com

Oct 25-26, OH, Toledo (Perrysburg). Military Collectibles Show and Sale, Graystone K of C Hall 29101 Hufford Rd. Friday 5-8 PM, Sat., 9-3 PM. Info including local hotels: 586.549.3150; www.michmilitaryhistory.com

Oct 26, 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

Oct 26, KS, Shawnee. Military Collectors Show, American Legion, 6521 Nieman Road, 8-3PM. Info Jeff Barthol, K.C.M.C.C., 500 W. 119th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64145, 816-560-0439; jeffbarthol@yahoo.com


Oct 27, ENGLAND, Bridgefoot, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6YY. Mark Carter Militaria & Medal Fair. Stratford Leisure & Visitor Centre, Info: (01753) 534777; markgcarter6@gmail.com; www.milweb.net/dealers/trader/markcarter.htm


Nov 2, AZ, Mesa. Mesa Antique Gun & Militaria Show, Holiday Inn & Suites, 1600 S. Country Club Drive. Info: www.stewartsbritishantiques.com for details and map

Nov 2, CANADA, Toronto, Ontario. Toronto Military Show, General Sikorski Hall, 1551 Stevenson Road North, Oshawa Ontario L1H 7K4. Info: Angela, 416-427-8379; cmhctoronto@hotmail.com; www.torontomilitaryshow.com


Nov 3, NY, Mattydale (Syracuse area). NFG Shows Military Collectible Show, 2000 Lemonye Ave. (VFW Post 3146), 8:30-2PM. Info: 716-542-9929; guns@nfgshows.com; www.NFGShows.com

Nov 3, IL, Loves Park, Greater Rockford Military Show, 8-4pm Forest Hills Lodge Banquet 1601 West Land Rd. Info: Jeff, 815-543-6631

Nov 3, VA, Woodbridge. Bridge Tower Militaria Show sponsored by American Society of Military Insignia Collectors (ASMIC), Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton VFD Fire Hall Station 2, 1306 F Street (just off of I-95). Info: Dave Johnson email: area2@asmic.org

Nov 6, IN, Evansville. 1st Wednesday Gun/Military Swap, VFW, 1800 Pollack Ave. Info: Neil Johnson, 812.483.3064, EVMCC@gmail.com; www.IrishHitmanPromotions.com

Nov 8-9, 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@thecarolinatraderc.com; www.TheCarolinaTrader.com

Nov 8-10, IN, Indianapolis. Indy 1500 Gun & Knife Show. Indianapolis Indiana State Fairgrounds. World Class Gun Shows, PO Box 14194, Oklahoma City, OK, 73113. PH: 405-340-1333 FAX: 405-478-0700. or www.indy1500.com.

Nov 9, FL, Bradenton. Military Collectors Swap Meet, American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24, 2000 75th Street West, Bradenton, FL, 9am - 4pm, Info: Call Jerry Mathis 941-545-4974 or email endfield1918@gmail.com

Nov 9-10, 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


Nov 15-16, OH, Wilmington. OVMS 400-Table Militaria Show. Roberts Centre, I-71 at U.S. Route 68 (Exit 50). Info: Ohio Valley Military Society, Inc., P.O. Box 30436, Cincinnati, OH 45230-0436; 513.245.9540; ovms@fuse.net; www.osovms.com

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Feb 28-March 1, NV, Las Vegas. Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, 300 Paradise Rd. www.antiquearmsshow.com
March 21-22, VA, Roanoke. Roanoke Valley Gun Show, Berglund Center, 710 Williamson Rd. Info: Showmasters Inc., PO Box 10277, Blacksburg, VA 24062; 540.951.1344; info@showmastersgunshows.com; www.showmastersgunshows.com
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Aug 14-16, WI, Eagle. The Wisconsin Military Show, 401 Markham Rd. Info: Daniel Stiglitz, 414.305.1670; stigy44@gmail.com; Facebook: The Wisconsin Military Show


Nov 2, TX, Ft. Bliss. Ft Bliss Living History Kids Day, Old Fort Bliss Museum.

Nov 8-11, PA, Wilkes-Barre. Huertgen Forest Re-enactment, Bear Creek Lutheran Camp. Info: www.northernlightsoperations.com/huertingtenwald-44.html f

Nov 9-10, TN, Johnson City. A Walk in Their Boots 2019 Military Timeline and Living History Event, Tipton-Haynes Historic Site, 2620 South Tipton Road. Info: events@militarywalk.us; www.militarywalk.us/


Dec 14, NJ, Lambertville. Revolutionary War Pub Crawl, Lambertville Station Restaurant +4 pubs. Info: www.mountaintopmarketing.net/


Back in 1949, a gentleman by the name of J.T. Pierce who was the Juvenile Probation Officer in the town of Sarasota, Fla., had heard about the relatively new “Little League Baseball” program that had begun a few years before. Mr. Pierce thought it could be a great youth program for the community that could give lots of the kids activity and direction. So, he started the league. Tryouts were held for several weeks at the local schools and parks. Each of the sponsored 12 teams were allowed to take turns picking 18 players for their team. I was chosen to be on the “Sports Committee” team.

On the first day of our official practice, I met our coach and his assistants. Our coach introduced himself and directed the young players to call him “Pappy.”

That year — and for the next two — we were one of the top teams, taking second place. Since we continued to be one of the top teams in the league, our coach, Pappy, was selected to be one of the All Star team coaches. I played on each of his three All Star teams, so, needless to say, I was one of his favorite players. We became lifelong friends until his death on May 2, 1968.

Edwin Charles Parsons (also know as “Ted” Parsons) had been a WWI flying Ace, a USN Rear Admiral, Hollywood technical advisor, FBI Special Agent, and the author of *I Flew with the Lafayette Escadrille* (originally published as, *The Great Adventure*).

At this point, allow me to tell you a bit more about Pappy.

A MAN SEEKING ADVENTURE

Born in Holyoke, Mass., Parsons graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1910. After attending the University of Pennsylvania, he moved to California where he learned to fly at Dominguez Field in 1912.

Seeking further adventures, he went to Mexico in 1913, where he joined the Mexican Army’s Aviation Corps. Pancho Villa wanted him to train airmen and brevetted him a captain.

In 1949, Edwin Parsons became the coach of Sarasota, Florida’s Little League Sports Association team. He is at the far right of the top row. The author, who was embarking on his own “Great Adventure,” is in the middle of the front row, kneeling with a bat in hand.
with a salary of $200 a month, payable in gold. Parsons attempted to teach some of Villa’s troops to fly, but he was not successful. They lacked the mechanical ability necessary to become pilots. When the Mexican Revolutionary movement split between Villa and Venustiano Carranza in 1915, Parsons left Mexico.

After war broke out in Europe, he signed on as an assistant veterinarian on a boat load of horses being sent to France. Shortly after his arrival in France in late 1915, he joined the United States Ambulance service before enlisting in the French Foreign Legion. In 1916, he became a pilot in the *Aéronautique Militaire* (French Air Service). Beginning in January 1917, he flew with the famed Lafayette Escadrille. He was credited with one aerial victory on September 5, 1917, when he shot down a German Rumpler re-rated a radio series about his experiences, called, “Heroes of the Lafayette Escadrille.”

Described as a Rear Admiral.

HIS “WAR WOUND”

One of the stories that Pappy told me was about the top half of his middle finger on his right hand. It was missing. Most thought it had been shot off during WWI.

As a kid, Pappy told me that he and his friends would jump up and slap the awnings hanging from the businesses. On one such jump, his finger entered and stuck in the pipe at the end of the awning. When he fell back down, the pipe completely severed the top half of his finger. Those who didn’t know the story assumed it was his “war wound.”

AFTER LITTLE LEAGUE

After three years, Parsons left his coaching position at the end of the same year I became too old for Little League. In the years that followed, Parsons would drop into my family’s office supply business for a brief visit on his way to post office. This continued for several years.

Then the time came that I had not seen him for several months, and I got a call from his wife, Kitty. She told me that “Ted” was very ill and dying from lung cancer. He did not have long to live. She was trying to keep him happy in his last days, so she asked me if I would come and visit him as I was always his favorite, and he often spoke highly of me. I agreed. The next day, I drove to his home and spent the afternoon visiting and reminiscing. It became our last visit — he passed away a few days later.

About three months later, Kitty called again. She asked me to help her with Ted’s things that he had promised to donate to the Smithsonian Institution at their request.

It was my privilege to select all of the aviation-related items, including his complete Lafayette Escadrille uniform, headgear, medals, photos, and miscellaneous items. We carefully packed them to ship to the Museum where they are shown today.

It was also my privilege to have been a “favorite” of one of the “great Americans” who honored and served this country during his very active lifetime. Though I was involved for a very small — but important — part of his life, I remember it as my “Great Adventure.”

![Wartime photo shows Parsons holding his helmet in front of his Escadrille plane.](image-url)
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