

# THE EDGE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE



C. MOWAT



Dixon, Illinois 2017 Photos by Chrissy Mowat

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THE EDGE \* VOLUME 26 \* ISSUE 7 \* AUGUST 2017



**March with us back  
into WWII history!**

Dixon, Illinois 2017 Photos by Pete Mowat



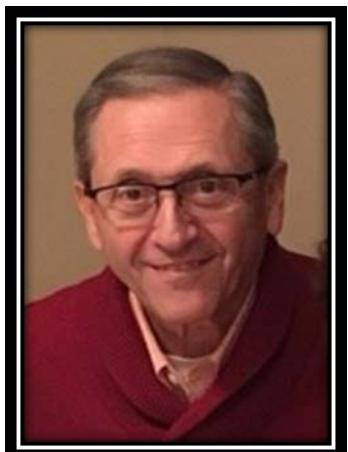
Best Re-enactor Food - Peoria, Illinois 2017 Photos by Chrissy Mowat



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## Jim Cervone Comrade in WWII Reenacting



I am very sad to report long time HRS member Jim Cervone died after a bout with lymphoma cancer on May 18. He was diagnosed in January of this year and had been undergoing treatment.

Jim was 69 and had over 20 years of service in the US Army and was longtime educator who helped improve young minds for over 30 years. In the public sector his was an educator at Triton College, worked at the Northlake Police Department, The State of Illinois, and Army Reserve. Education was one of the reasons he was involved with WWII reenacting and was a member of several WWII reenacting units including involvement with WW1 reenacting over the years.

Most recently he was a member of the 353<sup>rd</sup> Infanterie and 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Jim was always the first in line whenever the 9<sup>th</sup> was involved with a school display. He attended many events over the years and always brought his ubiquitous original WWII bicycle.

I first became acquainted with Jim after he asked me if I would be interested in getting a WWII event started in Dixon, IL. Eight years later we are still putting on this event. He also owned an R71 motorcycle and US Staff car. He was involved with the Dixon Veterans Memorial Park and the Italian American Veterans Museum.

Jim is survived by his wife Jeanmarie, his daughters Alessandra and Francesca, and son Jimmy.

Speaking for myself, all the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division members, and 353<sup>rd</sup> Infanterie, we will miss you Jim. Our sincere condolences to the Cervone family.

Jon Stevens,  
Unit Commander 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



Jim Cervone, Rockford 2014

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## Waffen SS Helmet Decals Post-1943: A Study

By SS-Oberschütze Rheinhard Müller (Matt LeMasters)  
Of 3./SS-Panzergrenadier Regiment. 21 "Frundsberg" WW2 HRS



This article deals with a topic that many German re-enactors go back and forth about: the use of helmet decals by combat troops in 1944/45, specifically by the Waffen SS.

### BACKGROUND

The German helmet is undoubtedly one of the most iconic pieces of World War II memorabilia. Between 1935-1945, the German helmet underwent several minor design changes, all of which were made to speed up production. The decals used on helmets also underwent several changes; not in design, but in application and usage. While many manufacturer variations exist on the decals, the designs all remained the same. At the beginning of the war, the Waffen SS utilized a double decal helmet with an SS runic shield on the right side and a Nazi Party decal on the left side. By the end of 1940, the party decal was deleted and no longer applied at the factory. In November 1943, an order was put forth that decals would no longer be applied at all.

Nonetheless, branch of service decals still appear to have been fairly common after the order to stop applying them at the factory. There are two main factors that explain this.

First and foremost, the November order was at the factory level only. This meant that any M40/42 helmets produced after November 1943 did not have a decal. The reason for the switch was not likely for any reasons of camouflage, but rather because it was more economical and less time consuming. However, there does not appear to have been any official order to remove the decals in the field.

Secondly, time played another factor. Millions of helmets had been produced between 1940-November 1943, all of which had decals, that had not yet been issued. Naturally, they were issued alongside any newer helmets that did not have decals, and would likely have outnumbered the helmets without decals for a certain period of time, if not until the end of the war. The only way these helmets would have lost their decals is either by heavy use or because they were re-serviced and re-painted at the depot level. Some soldiers appear to have scraped off their decals as well, but this seems to have been the exception rather than the norm. The branch of service decal was not extremely conspicuous, and considering a great deal of combat soldiers in the Waffen SS were issued helmet covers, there was no real need to get rid of the decal.

Within re-enacting, helmet decals are generally looked down upon and are seen as incorrect or rare for 1944-45 impressions. In many cases, this goes along with the train of thought that certain items (i.e. M35/40 helmets, M40 tunics, jackboots, etc.) were also uncommon later in the war. There is also the fact that refurbished helmets, when purchased from a vendor, often do not have a decal applied. Considering that most re-enactments are 1944-45 themed, perhaps it is seen that because decals were no longer applied after November 1943, it is totally correct to not have a decaled helmet for one's impression, and thus many re-enactors do not go out of their way to have one applied. While a helmet without a decal is indeed correct for 1944-45, decaled helmets do not seem to have been a rarity in actuality.

### PHOTO STUDY

To go along with everything said above, we pulled as many free photos available online as we could to see how common/uncommon decals were in 1944. This was not such an easy task as it may seem, mainly because many photos show helmet covers or the left side of helmets. As we portray 10th SS "Frundsberg," it would have been nice to only find photographs from the Western Front, but this was not entirely feasible. Any Waffen SS photographs from both the Eastern Front and Western Front that showed the right side of a helmet in 1944/45 was used.

For this study, we found a total of 16 photographs from both fronts that show decaled and plain helmets. 13 of the photographs showed a decal, while 3 did not. Of the 21 helmets examined, 16 (76%) of the helmets in the pictures showed a decal, while 5 (24%) did not. The photographs span from early 1944 all the way to the Ardennes, with one photo being from Hungary in 1945.



## IN CONCLUSION

This study only examines a handful of photographs, but it should give some insight into the use of decals after no longer being applied at the factory level. Of course, we recommend researching your own unit when possible, but this should serve as a good starting point regarding the use of decals later in the war. We hope this article sheds some light on a topic that is often overlooked or misunderstood.

## SOURCES

Photograph sources, when known, are posted with the photo.



<sup>57</sup>  
This photograph supposedly shows soldiers of Kampfgruppe Peiper during the Ardennes offensive.

Source: Pinterest



Date and location unknown, but this soldier is clearly wearing a "44 Dot" uniform and a single decal M42 helmet.  
Source: Unknown



Kampfgruppe Peiper during the Ardennes offensive. One soldier has an M42 helmet with a decal, while the other has an M40 helmet without a decal.

Source: WWII Pictures on Twitter



This photograph of 9th SS Hohenstaufen in September 1944 shows a worn decal on the man closest to the photo.

Source: Google



This photograph from early 1944 shows an M40 helmet with a worn decal.

Source: SS Kriegsberichter Archive



This photo from early 1944 shows a decal in use.

Source: SS Kriegsberichter Archive



A rather famous photograph of a 12th SS soldier in Normandy.

Source: WW2 in Color website



Waffen SS troops in Hungary, 1945.

Source: Pinterest

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A British paratrooper gives water to a Waffen SS soldier in September 1944. The helmet is an M42 without a decal.

Source: Pinterest



"Frundsberg" award ceremony. The man nearest the camera has a decal, the man to his left does not. It is not possible to tell whether or not the others have decals.

Source: Our website, [www.10thSS.com](http://www.10thSS.com)



A single decal M42 helmet being worn, likely in Normandy.  
Source: YouTube



Heinrich Himmler inspects the "Galizien" division in June 1944.  
Source: Pinterest



Narwa, early 1944. The soldier nearest the camera has a decal; the soldier to his right does not appear to have one.

Source: Estonian Legion website



A US medic tends to a wounded Waffen SS soldier. He wears an M40 without a decal.

Source: imgur



Narwa 1944. This photograph shows an M40 helmet without a decal.

Source: Pinterest



## Frank Buckles and his WWII connection

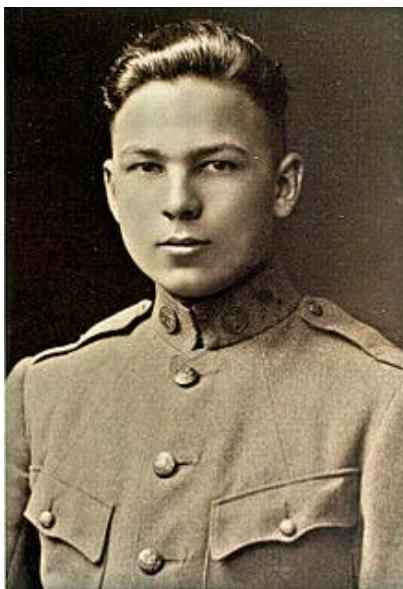
By Michael Krizsanitz, 70<sup>th</sup> Tank Btn Re-enactor, WW2 HRS

Self-styled as "Pershing's Last Patriot", Wood Buckles, was born on February 1, 1901 to James and Theresa Buckles on their farm in Bethany, Missouri. Buckles had two older brothers, and two older sisters. Several family members lived well into old age, and Buckles spoke of conversations he had with his grandmother who was born in 1817. Buckles lived through the first month of his 110<sup>th</sup> year, surpassing his father, who lived to be 94. Family also included soldiers of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Buckles and his brother Ashman contracted scarlet fever in 1903. Wood, at two years of age survived, but Ashman died from the disease at the age of four. 1911 found the Buckles family in Walker, Missouri. Buckles was an avid reader, enjoying keeping current with world affairs via newspapers. Buckles was also described as having an interest in amateur radio. In 1916 he and his family moved to Oakwood, Oklahoma, where school and a job at a bank occupied his time.

The United States resisted entry into the European War, which it had sought to avoid. Atrocities in Belgium, the sinking of the passenger liner RMS Lusitania in 1915, and unrestricted submarine warfare in 1917, colored the average American viewpoint, and support of American intervention grew.

After the interception of the Zimmermann Telegram by British Intelligence, in which Germany made a secret offer to Mexico concerning restoration of territories lost in the Mexican-American War, already outraged Americans watched as German U-boats then began sinking American merchant ships in the North Atlantic. President Wilson, who had been attempting for some two years to keep America uninvolved, asked for a war declaration in April, 1917.



Frank Buckles aged 16, in 1917

### WWI

After reading of the war, and watching the American public's viewpoint changing, Buckles attempted to enlist. His first choice, the United States Marine Corps, said he was too small. Then the Navy said he had flat feet. At the age of 16, Wood Buckles approached the United States Army. In his own words, "I was asked for a birth certificate. I told them that the public records were not made of births in Missouri at the time I was born, and my record would be in the family Bible". With a few minor suggestions by recruiting sergeants, such as one who told him to add a middle initial to his name to seem older, Wood changed his name to that of his uncle, Frank Woodruff Buckles. Frank continues, "They accepted this and I enlisted in the Army on 14 August 1917. Thirteen of us were accepted at the recruiting station and given rail tickets to Fort Logan, Colorado, where those who were accepted were sworn into the regular U. S. Army. My serial number was 15577".

Another helpful sergeant, having heard of Frank's desire to see action, suggested that volunteering to drive field ambulances would hasten his way to action on the front lines. Buckles was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, for training in trench casualty retrieval and ambulance operations. Several months later, Frank headed for England on the RMS Carpathia, rescue ship of Titanic fame, which was then a troop ship, prior to being torpedoed and sunk in July 1918.

Upon arrival in the old country, to Buckles' consternation, he was assigned to drive officers on a motorcycle with a side car, and was a warehouse clerk in Winchester, England. Later in France, this would be his first assignment as well. After several unsuccessful schemes to simply join a company and board a troop ship leaving for the continent, Frank started nagging every officer he met and eventually made it to France. As an ambulance driver, he was exposed to plenty of casualties, but never saw any actual combat. He said years later that the French and British soldiers welcomed them after their long stretch in the trenches, and US troops thought the war would soon be over after their own arrival – *"we were the typical, cocky Americans no one wants around, until they need help winning a war."*

After the surrender in November 1918, Buckles escorted prisoners of war back to Germany. One prisoner gave him a "Gott mit uns" belt buckle as a souvenir, which he kept for the rest of his life. Buckles was promoted to corporal on September 22, 1919, honorably discharged in November 1919, and returned home in 1920.



Frank Buckles in Uniform, Oklahoma City, 1921

Having returned to Oklahoma, Buckles met Gen. John Pershing, on November 1, 1921, at the dedication of the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, describing the meeting as one of the highlights of his life.

Buckles, was in uniform that day, though he had mustered out some two years earlier. *"After I'd given the general a snappy salute and passed on, he had his sergeant call me back. He said he wanted to talk to me,"* Buckles recalled. *"He knew about the four gold bars on my sleeve, which indicated I'd been in Europe two years. He asked me where I had served, what I had done. He probably also recognized my Missouri accent".* Then Pershing asked Buckles, *"Where were you born?"* Buckles replied, *"Harrison County, Missouri"*. Pershing answered, *"That's 43 miles as the crow flies from Linn County, where I was born."*

Buckles attended business school and got a job at the post office, working late afternoons for 60¢ an hour. Making enough money in one month, Buckles travelled to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where he worked in the freight soliciting office of the White Star Line Steamship Company, as well as working nights for the Great Northwest Telegraph Company.

Returning to New York in 1921, Buckles next worked for the Bankers Trust Company at 5th Avenue and 42nd Street. From 1922 to 1923, he served with the Seventh Regiment of the New York National Guard.

Finding that the steamship business better suited him, Buckles found that his stint with the White Star line was not sufficient, so he signed up to get some experience at sea. His first sea job was with the Munson Line as an assistant purser on the 'Western World', sailing to Buenos Aires. The next several years were spent with the W.R. Grace Line, in both cargo and passenger ships plying the trade to South America, and with the American President Lines in the Pacific.

In 1940, Buckles travelled to Manila, for the President Lines, to manage the movement of freight to the Philippines. As Buckles described it, "Unfortunately for me, my stay was extended by the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941".

#### WWII

Buckles became involved in the supply of troops in Manila, and was taken prisoner there by the Japanese in January, 1942.

After being declared a civilian internee, Buckles was taken to the Santo Tomas Internment Camp, also known as the Manila Internment Camp, which was located on the campus of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. In a compound, some 48 acres in size, the Japanese Army in Manila collected all enemy aliens, several thousand people, mostly Americans and British.



The "internees" established themselves and their families in the buildings of the University, while the Japanese essentially left the internees to fend for themselves, save for assigning room monitors and conducting a roll call nightly at 7:30.

Under Japanese direction, with business executive Earl Carroll as head of the internee government, internees created several governing committees, including their own police force, hospital, and food service providing morning and evening meals to more than 1,000 internees who had no food, nor funds to obtain any.

For a short time, until the Japanese put a stop to it, Filipinos, and foreigners from neutral countries passed food, money, letters, and other goods across the fence to the internees. Finally, two Englishmen and an Australian escaped from the camp. They were recaptured, beaten, tortured, and executed on February 15, 1942. After this incident, no more escapes from Santo Tomas occurred.



On May 9, 1943, the Japanese announced that the population in Santo Tomas approached 5,000. Accordingly, 800 men were moved by train on May 14<sup>th</sup>, to the Los Banos camp, about 40 miles away, at the University of the Philippines, College of Agriculture and at the College of Forestry.

Between this time, and February 23, 1945, when the camp was liberated, the population, including one Frank Buckles, grew to over 2100. In addition to the original internees there, and the 800 additional from May, 1943, an additional 200 internees arrived from the University of Santo Tomas Internment Camp in December, 1943, followed by another 500 in April 1944, and 150 following in December.

As the number of internees grew, and the course of the war turned against Japan in 1945, conditions rapidly deteriorated at Los Banos. Frank Buckles was quoted as saying he nearly starved to death, along with everyone else there. Internees were forced to exist on diminishing rations, limited clothing, poor housing with no sanitation, not to mention the atrocious conduct of the camp guards.

With growing reports by guerilla forces in the area, of heightened abuse by camp guards and officer staff, plans were made to rescue the internees from the camp, still 20 miles behind enemy lines. Initial plans were delayed by stubborn enemy action, and finally the raid was conducted Friday morning February 23, 1945 by Airborne forces assisted by local guerillas. The raid details are a story for another time.

#### After the war

Frank Buckles returned to marry Audrey Mayo in 1946, and the two settled down on a cattle farm in West Virginia, and began a family. Daughter Susannah was born in 1955. Buckles settled down to a life on the farm, and began to be involved in the community, eventually serving as president of the county historical society.

Audrey passed in 1999, and Susannah moved back to the farm to look after Frank, who was still driving a tractor at the age of 103.

When asked the secret of long life, Buckles put "the will to survive" above everything else. In another interview, Buckles quipped, "When you start to die ... don't."



Frank Buckles with President Bush in 2008

Upon the death of 108-year-old Harry Richard Landis in February 2008, Buckles became the last surviving American veteran of World War I. Among other accolades, Frank met the President and was installed as the Honorary Chairman of the World War I Memorial Foundation, dedicated to establishing and preserving a permanent World War I Monument. Ultimately a site was chosen and construction is slated to begin in 2018.

On February 1, 2011, Frank Buckles reached his 110th birthday. 26 days later, on February 27, 2011 Frank Woodruff "Wood" Buckles passed away due to natural causes at his home, at the age of 110 years, and 26 days, still a patriot.

*"If your country needs you, you should be right there, that is the way I felt when I was young, and that's the way I feel today." – Frank Buckles, Veterans' Day 2007*

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## The EDGE is the WW2 HRS's own publication.

This is where we promote what we do.

The EDGE promotes and features the work of WW2 HRS Members.

WW2 HRS Units are welcome to advertise their Events and Accomplishments in The Edge.

**ANY WW2 HRS Member can submit an item for publication here in The EDGE.**

### **HOW TO SUBMIT an item for Publication within The EDGE**

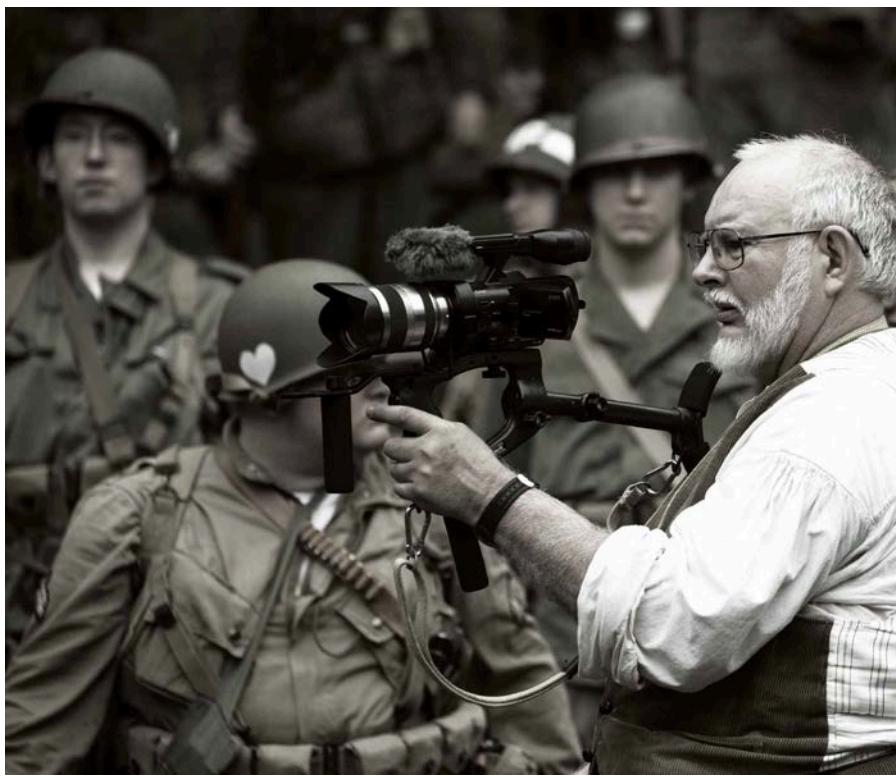
If your WW2 HRS unit has news it would like to publish in The EDGE,

Or if you are a WW2 HRS member and would like to submit an article or photo,

Then simply e-mail it to me and I will put it in The EDGE.

Heinz Thiel - WW2 HRS Press Corps

[GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com](mailto:GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com)



I am willing to spend a day with your unit to get photos and video.  
Please contact me if you would like some special coverage of your unit or event.

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Treasurer Wayne McCulley



## TREASURER'S REPORT

WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY

JULY 2017

## ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30TH, 2017

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$8,680.93
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$49,475.78
<b>Account Totals</b>	<b>\$58,156.71</b>

## INCOME FOR JUNE 2017

Membership Income	\$680.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$4.06
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$684.06</b>

## EXPENDITURES FOR JUNE 2017

Eventbrite Service Fees	\$81.52
Event Support for Kennekuk WW2 Days	\$355.00
Membership Card Supplies	\$41.62
Refund of Double Paid Memberships	\$8.51
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$499.45</b>

2017 Membership Income	\$10,140.00
2017 Interest Income	\$20.08
2017 Miscellaneous Income	\$300.00
<b>2017 Total Income</b>	<b>\$10,460.08</b>
<b>2017 Expenditures</b>	<b>\$12,337.35</b>
<b>2017 Income less 2017 Expenditures</b>	<b>(-\$1,877.35)</b>

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# EVENTS

August		August
<b>Aug</b>		No events listed.
September		September
<b>22-24</b>		<b>WALK BACK IN TIME 2017</b>  Loc: Audrain County Historical Society, 501 South Muldrow Street, Mexico, MO 65265 Dates: September 22-24, 2017 Event Times: Setup can occur from Thursday to Saturday. Friday is the school education day. The event runs from 10-4pm Saturday and Sunday, with Candlelight Tours on Saturday from 6-9pm Description: Walk Back in Time is the premier living history timeline event in the state of Missouri. It usually draws 300 participants in all time periods and 10-15,000 spectators. There is a WWII Battle on Saturday and Sunday. This year will feature the role of animals in support of the US military. Registration Times: Friday 1300-2100 and Saturday 0800-1000 in the Railsplitters Camp Pre-Registration: Contacting the event coordinator is required for reserving your display area. Fee: There is no fee for the event, and the organizers provide a Saturday night meal to all participants Contact: Chris Adams, 573-680-1244, <a href="mailto:cblackthorne@hotmail.com">cblackthorne@hotmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.audrain.org">http://www.audrain.org</a> and go to Walk Back in Time Authenticity Notes: WWIIHRS safety and authenticity rules apply Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No firing of weapons between 2200 and 0800 at night. Restrictions on Minors: WWIIHRS rules apply Other restrictions: None Sponsoring Unit(s): 84th Infantry Division Railsplitters and 29th Panzergrenadier Regiment

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October

October

<b>MISSOURI MILITARY HISTORY WEEKEND 2017</b>	
<b>14-15</b>	
<b>Oct</b>	<p>Loc: Missouri National Guard Headquarters, Missouri Military History Museum, 2405 Logistics Rd, Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dates: October 14-15, 2017 Event Times: Setup can occur starting on Friday afternoon. The event runs from 10-4pm Saturday and Sunday. Description: This is the 3rd year for this event central Missouri. This is a timeline event with displays from various time periods of Missouri's military history starting with the Civil War through the 20th century. Registration Times: Friday 1300-2100 and Saturday 0800-1000 Pre-Registration: Contacting the event coordinator is required for reserving your display area. Fee: There is no fee for the event, and the organizers provide a Saturday night meal to all participants Contact: Chris Adams, 573-680-1244, <a href="mailto:cblackthorne@hotmail.com">cblackthorne@hotmail.com</a> Authenticity Notes: WWI HRS safety and authenticity rules apply. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No firing of weapons except during designated demonstration times. Restrictions on Minors: WWII HRS rules apply Other restrictions: This is a military installation so no alcohol is allowed. Sponsoring Unit(s): 29th Panzergrenadier Regiment</p>
<b>WWII BATTLE FOR COW CREEK</b>	
<b>21</b>	
<b>Oct</b>	<p>Loc: CRAWFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM 651 S HWY 69 PITTSBURG, KS 66762 Dates: SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2017 Event Times: 8:00 am TO 5:00 pm Registration Times: Friday 10/20/2017 after 5:00 pm Saturday 8:00am til 9:30 then again from 11:00 til 1:30pm Pre-Registration: N/A Fee: NO FEES BUT VOLUNTARY DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED Contact: JOHN COLYER AT <a href="mailto:nordland1@cox.net">nordland1@cox.net</a> Amanda Minton <a href="mailto:ccomuseum@gmail.com">ccomuseum@gmail.com</a> Website: They may have information posted on the Museum Facebook page (<a href="#">click here</a>) Authenticity Notes: WWII HRS Authenticity and Safety rules will be enforced Prohibited Vehicles/Items: Please no Alcoholic beverages in event display areas during the times the Public is there. WWII Vehicles are welcome ALL WWII Impressions are welcome Restrictions on Minors: we prefer no one under 18 carry a weapon but will honor WWII HRS rules on minors Other restrictions: No live ammo in display area or battle area Sponsoring Unit(s): 11th SS NORDLAND &amp; 250th Ski Company</p>

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# *Open House*



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 974  
9757 PACIFIC AVE, FRANKLIN PARK, IL  
HTTP://WWW.LEGIONPOST974.WEBS.COM/**

# Calling ALL Reenactors

**American Legion 974 of Franklin Park** is doing an open house your help is needed to tell our story.

one day event living history display wanted  
WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam Era wanted.

11 to 5 Sunday set up Sunday morning  
you can do displays set up indoor or out door

## Lunch Served

# Sunday August 27, 2017 11AM-5PM

For more information call or email

Ken Bishop

847.774.8356

americanlegion974@yahoo.com

# all or email Veterans, and their Families Still Serving the Community



INDIANA MILITARY MUSEUM  
hosts its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Salute to the Veterans**  
of  
**WWII**  
**72nd Anniversary**  
of the end of WWII  
**SEPTEMBER 2ND & 3RD**



## History Comes Alive!

Join us as we commemorate the  
**72nd Anniversary**  
of the end of WWII.

**Sept. 2nd & 3rd**

Sat: 9 a.m.—5 p.m. • Sun: 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$5 Adults • \$3 Children

Seniors and Veterans \$1.00 discount

WWII Veterans—Free admission

Parking \$2.00 per vehicle

**Indiana Military Museum**  
715 S. 6th Street, Vincennes, Indiana

## Free Admission to Outdoor Events



- Special Exhibits
- Speakers and Presentations
- WWII Aircraft Flyover
- WWII Music



**HELP SAY THANK YOU  
TO OUR WWII VETERANS**

Reenactors and special exhibitors wishing to participate should contact  
the Indiana Military Museum at: (812) 882-1941 or email:  
[sianoil@hotmail.com](mailto:sianoil@hotmail.com)



Visit our website: [indianamilitarymuseum.org](http://indianamilitarymuseum.org)



## LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT'S WORLD WAR II EVENT SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change

DELLWOOD PARK

Rte. 171 & Woods Drive  
Lockport, IL

**SAT., SEPT. 9<sup>TH</sup>**

- 9:30 a.m. - Park Opens
- 10:15 a.m. - WWII Weapons Demonstration (Performing Arts Center)
- 11:30 a.m. - Battle (Battlefield)
- 1:00 p.m. - Sweet Reminder, formerly the Legacy Girls, covering the Andrew Sisters, '50s and '60s classics
- 3:00 p.m. - Battle (Battlefield)  
Field Hospital Demo at German Camps following Battle
- 4:00 p.m. - Music & Dance Lessons of the Era featuring Grand Avenue Big Band
- 6:30 p.m. - Bridge skirmish
- 8:00 p.m. - USO Show featuring The Chicago Experience
- 10:30 p.m. - Park Closes

**SUN., SEPT. 10<sup>TH</sup>**

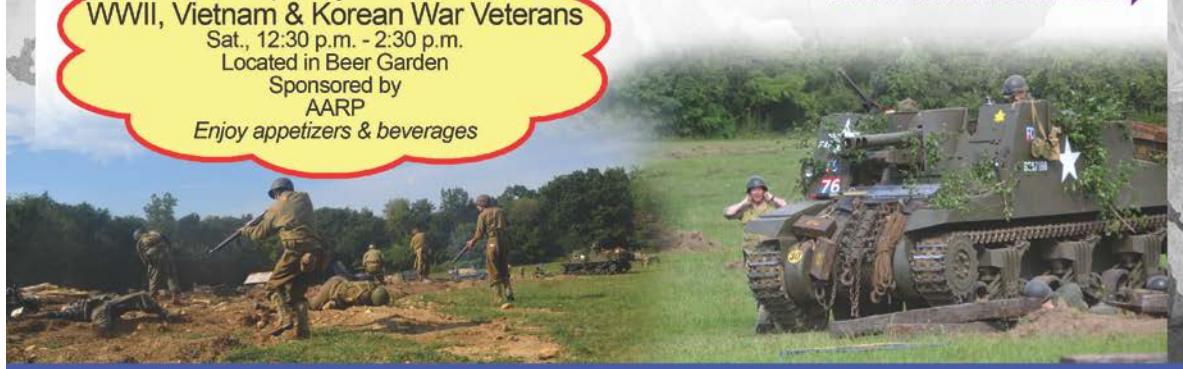
- 9:30 a.m. - Park Opens
- 10:15 a.m. - WWII Weapons Demonstration (Performing Arts Center)
- 11:30 a.m. - Battle (Battlefield)  
Field Hospital Demo at German Camps following Battle
- 12:30 p.m. - WWII Girls Baseball Living History Demo Meet the Rockford Peaches! (Baseball Field)
- 1:00 p.m. - Sweet Reminder, formerly the Legacy Girls, covering the Andrew Sisters, '50s and '60s classics
- 3:00 p.m. - Battle (Battlefield)
- 5:00 p.m. - Camp Closes

Food Court &  
Beer Garden  
available



Hospitality Tent for  
WWII, Vietnam & Korean War Veterans  
Sat., 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Located in Beer Garden  
Sponsored by  
AARP  
Enjoy appetizers & beverages

**First Midwest Bank**  
BANK WITH MOMENTUM



**815-838-3621**

**WWW.LOCKPORTWWII.COM**



Presenting: Trooper Tyree's September 10-15, 2017

## GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN *Trooping the Colors CONVOY*

*History & Scenery-It's what we are about!*

Designed for 1, 2, 3, or 6 days-it's your choice

This 334 mile, figure-8, round-trip convoy begins from Townsend, TN. It will include; the Great Smoky Mountains Natl. Park, Newfound Gap, Clingmans Dome, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Wheels Through Time Museum, Cataloochee Valley, Cades Cove, the Tail of the Dragon Road, Fontana Lake, Oconaluftee Indian Village, and the Great Smoky Mt. Railroad!



*Panorama from Cades Cove*

Our memorable adventures are for those who love to drive their HM vehicles, who want more than a day outing but are unable to strap on a cross-continental expedition. Furthermore, our tours return to the starting point so there is little need for escort vehicles. We go to all the best places and take the back roads (both paved and unpaved). You'll overnight in unique accommodations where you have the option of staying in a cabin, lodge, motel, or camp out. Best of all, our tours are limited to 20 vehicles so there is little need for regimentation.

Contact Trooper Tyree at [halftrackjohns@att.net](mailto:halftrackjohns@att.net). Have a look at our past convoys on YouTube by viewing the 2014 Missouri Convoy, the 2015 Santa Fe Trail Convoy or the 2016 Black Hills Convoy.

Note: The farthest point (Dellwood, NC) from our base at Tally Ho Inn is only 78 miles. This means that should you have a total breakdown you can have your vehicle towed back to base, if you have AAA's 100 mile towing for free.

Contact: Terry Johns at [halftrackjohns@att.net](mailto:halftrackjohns@att.net) for more Information

\*



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Discounted Admission  
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# WWII DAYS

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Free Parking (see map on reverse side)

**Saturday** | **Sunday**  
**September 23rd** | **September 24th**  
**10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** | **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

★ Over 60 Authentic Military Vehicles  
★ Over 1,200 Reenactors  
★ Battles with Pyrotechnics  
★ Skirmishes, Demos & Displays  
★ Andrews Sisters Live Musical Performance  
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★ Tour General Patton's Command Center  
★ Affordable Food

Admission:  
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★ \$12 Veterans and Active Duty Military Personal  
★ WWII Veterans FREE  
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\* Registered wristbanded re-enactors are the ONLY guests admitted into the event in vintage military uniform.  
Visitors to the event may dress in 1940s civilian costume if they wish as long as the Visitor sticker is worn prominently.



## **World War2 Items For Sale**

Contact Ed Fahrner, WWII HRS, 34<sup>th</sup> ID

630-858-8567

fahrnerlsa@aol.com

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| M1 Carbine Magazine Pouches – Belt                                  | \$25.00 Each |
| Officer's Summer Tans – 1944 Issue Shirt Size 16, Pant Size 40 x 30 | \$125.00     |
| Officer's Wool Shirts – Sizes 15 & 16                               | \$50.00 Each |
| Officer's Service Trousers – Size 38x36, Repro Pinks                | \$50.00      |
| Officer's Service Trousers - Size 40x28, Repro Pinks                | \$50.00      |
| Officer's Service Trousers - Size 42x30, Repro Pinks                | \$50.00      |
| Officer Rank Insignia – BG, LTC, MAJ, CPT, 1LT                      | \$ 7.50 Each |
| Officer Branch Insignia – INF, CAV, TANK                            | \$10.00 Each |
| Shoulder Patch – 1ID, 30ID, 45ID, 84ID, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ranger      | \$3.00 Each  |
| M1943 Field Jacket – Size 48, 1944 Issue                            | \$100.00     |
| M1941 Field Jacket – Size 46 Reproduction                           | \$100.00     |
| Double Buckle Boots – Size 10D, Repro                               | \$75.00      |
| M1938 Leggings – Size 3R  | \$20.00      |
| M1936 Pistol Belt   | \$50.00      |
| M1916 Shoulder Holster – 1944                                       | \$45.00      |
| 45 ACP Magazine Pouch   | \$25.00      |
| First Aid Pouch / Bandage   | \$15.00      |
| Canteen & Cover   | \$50.00      |
| Jeep Cap – Reproduction   | \$30.00      |
| Practice Grenades   | \$10.00 Each |
| Musette Bag – 1943 Issue  | \$50.00      |



## WWII HRS Board of Directors and Staff

Please send any correspondence to:  
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Champaign, IL 61824

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### Vehicle Coordinator

Jim Schouten, 90th Infantry Division

### HOW TO ATTEND a Board Meeting:

Monthly teleconference Board meetings are open to all members. Members do not need to register for the meetings nor do they need to contact the president or any board members.

They need to contact their unit commander for the call information to include phone number and password. This creates less of a choke point and gets the information out to more with less hassle.

The monthly board meeting time/dates will change to accommodate the board members time schedules.

\*



## About Us



The World War Two Historical Re-enactment Society is an organization of over 1200 men and women members from coast to coast, as well as Canada and Europe. Our mission is to bring the history of World War Two to life with public displays, simulated battles, participation in parades, and a variety of other community activities.

The society strives to honor and preserve the memory of those who served in World War Two, as well as preserve the artifacts of that period.

Our members carry out a wide range of historical impressions, including those of The United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Poland, and Germany.

Our focus is entirely on the military history of World War Two. We have no sympathy for the ideology of Nazism or fascism. Such beliefs are not welcome here.

If this exciting and rewarding hobby appeals to you, please consider joining us. Our hobby is dependent upon the talents and enthusiasm of its members and there is always room for new interest! Please contact any of our board members today for more information.

**[www.WorldWarTwoHRS.Org](http://www.WorldWarTwoHRS.Org)**

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# MEETING MINUTES

## Minutes of the Board Meeting of the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society

27 June 2017

**Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

Board Members:	President: Jon Stevens
	Vice President: Charles Bolanis
	Treasurer: Wayne McCulley
	Secretary: Ron Kapustka
	American Rep: Corey Vaughan
	Axis Rep: Dave Fornell
	Commonwealth Rep: Brian Jones

Other Members Present: Matt Rademacher, Jim Schouten

### Approval of Agenda

A motion to accept the Agenda, as amended by Jon Stevens, was made by Jon Stevens, seconded by Ron Kapustka, and after a Board vote, were accepted.

### Reading of May Meeting Minutes

The May, 2017 Minutes, were read by Ron Kapustka. RK motioned that the minutes be approved. Wayne and Corey seconded. The Minutes were approved by a majority vote of board.

### Officer Reports:

#### Vice President:

#### New Charters:

Das Reich Aufklarung: CB has nothing to report on this Unit. They are working on it still. This will be tabled for now.

33rd Armored Regt: CB has nothing to report on this Unit. They are working on it still. This will be tabled for now.

B Company, 117th Infantry, 30th ID: CV reported that this unit was put on probation because they did not have the required number of members. They now have the proper number of members. CV made a motion to remove them from Probationary Status, which was seconded by RK. A vote was taken and they will be removed from Probationary Status and returned to Active Unit Status.

CB reported that the Units still on probation due to not meeting membership requirements are:

#10 Commandos  
2nd Infantry Div., 23rd Inf. Rgt., Co. I  
4th Armored Div, 704th Tank Destroyer Batt.  
F/2/5 USMC  
1st Canadian Parachute Battalion  
250th Infanterie Div, Azul; Ski Company

CB reported that he has received only one request for the scholarship award. CB asked that the deadline for the HRS deadline for the scholarship be extended from July 1, 2017 until August 1, 2017. A motion was made by CB and seconded by RK. A vote was taken and the deadline for scholarship submissions was extended. CB will update the HRS FB page and will add something to The Edge about the extension. DF advised that it can be also posted on the Rockford FB page.

#### Treasurer Report By Wayne McCulley

SEE The Treasures Report Section in The EDGE.

Secretary RK reported we have 980 Members so far for 2017. Jon Stevens has mailed the member cards.

Commonwealth Rep BJ reported that Carl Bogar asked for the membership info again. His Unit will be given one more month to get the membership up to date.

**Allied Rep** CV reported that he is working on the Allied Units that are understaffed. He also spoke with Rachel Brown about her civilian unit.

**Axis Rep** DF reported that he is prepping for Rockford and will be taking reservations for camping spots next month. JS asked about the smoking ban. DF reported that the Park District has approved the ability to make a waiver for smoking and will report further on this. A change in the Ordinance would have to be made in order to approve smoking. How and what they do will be reported when it happens. It will likely be "smoking areas" and not a general "open smoking" waiver.

### Staff Reports

**Membership Coordinator** – Jeff Skender not present. His report was tabled.

### Committee Reports:

**S&A** CB reported that there was nothing new to report and the eyewear conversation was just to give suggestions on correct eyewear.

**Unit Commanders** JS reported that the usual membership info was sent out. Nothing else new.

**Vehicle Committee** – Jim Schouten was present. Jim reported that there was a great deal of discussion about the general vehicle safety issues. Once that is handled and approved, he will move on to other issues like battlefield guidelines.

**Civilian Committee** – Nicole Fornell not present. DF thought there was nothing new.

### Old Business:

**Event Support Payout** – The Dundas, MN event requested \$300.00 for porta-potties. They submitted an Invoice for \$440.00 and they have not yet seen the waivers. DF made a motion to approve the payout at \$440.00. Dave than amended the motion to approve the original amount they requested, of \$300.00. CB seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to pay out \$300.00 was approved.

**New Business:** Salute to Veterans Event, New Carlisle, IN. CB reported that this is the "new" event to replace the event from 2016 that was held in Bristol, IN. Last year, the Bristol event was NOT an HRS event, but they have asked that be an HRS Event this year. There were no questions about the Event Request. CB further reported that about the event such as following HRS guidelines for Safety & Authenticity, etc. The Event further submitted a Funding Request for \$400.00 to go towards the cost of transportation for armored cars. A motion was made by RK to approve the funding request, which was seconded by CV. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**2018 National HRS Event:** JS mentioned that 2018 would be the year to have a National Event. CB suggested that an article be put in The Edge for Units to submit bids regarding the National Event. DF led a discussion on how to get Units to apply for the event and possible locations for the event. DF and JS suggested we try for Joliet Training Facility again. BJ suggested that we try to have the event on Columbus Day Weekend, October 5-7, 2018 to give guys a three day weekend for travel, etc. DF suggested that while we target that weekend, we should remain open to alternatives. Matt Rademacher mentioned the Marseilles Training Site as a possible location. CB mentioned a possible issue with the event being held at an Army base as they can cancel with very little notice.

**Open Comments:** None

**Announcements:** The next meeting will be July 18th, 2018.

**Adjourn** RK made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Wayne. A vote was taken and passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

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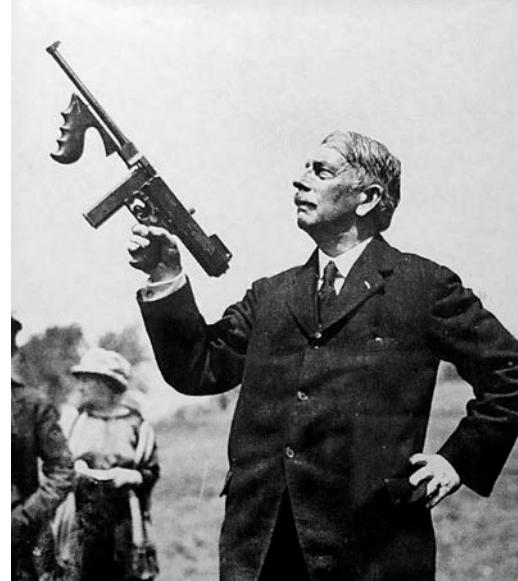


## The Thompson Submachine Gun

By Kerwin Law July 2017



The Thompson submachine gun (SMG) is one of, if not the most recognizable domestic firearms in American history. It was known by many names, such as "Tommy Gun", "Trench Broom", "Chicago Typewriter", or simply "Thompson". And while it was a tool originally envisioned to help defend our country during times of war, unfortunately its criminal misuse is what made it famous initially (or infamous). It took WWII before the Thompson SMG was able to fill its intended role on a wide scale and prove its worth.



John Thompson, the principle man responsible for the firearm, had been an officer in the US Army Ordnance Department. His resume included having had a hand in the development of the M1903 Springfield rifle, the conversion of the British Pattern 14 rifle to our specifications and the 45ACPs adoption. With WWI raging, John Thompson had seen a need for a new portable automatic weapon. Initially he had envisioned making a blowback operated light machine rifle chambered for the standard .30-06 cartridge. With financial help from a wealthy individual named Thomas Fortune Ryan, the Auto Ordnance Corporation was formed in 1916 to pursue his goal of making a new military firearm. It's important to note, that while John Thompson was instrumental in making the SMG that bears his name a reality, two men by the name of Theodore Eickhoff and George Goll were the principal designers. Another notable is Oscar Payne who was brought on board sometime later, which as the design started to take shape, was able to provide several ideas to insure the firearms success.



One of the first problems to overcome with Thompson's concept, was the fact that because blowback designs generally rely on a spring and the bulk of the breech to keep the action closed until chamber pressures drop to safe levels, they therefore tend to not be well suited to rifle cartridges. That is, unless some sort of breech locking mechanism is used. After some research, Thompson contacted John Blish whose patented locking mechanism for firearms was able to be incorporated into the weapons design. After the creation and testing of a prototype blow back .30-06 weapon utilizing the "Blish Lock", it was determined by the latter half of 1917 that even with this locking mechanism, the cartridge was just too powerful for this particular design. It was felt that the only US military cartridge that would work with the current prototype weapon was the 45ACP. This realization was pivotal and likely kept Thompson's dream from going into the dust bin of history and forgotten. Instead, as fate would have it, the design team plowed ahead and was ultimately able to create one of the most iconic firearms ever. With the change to a pistol cartridge, Thompson felt the name machinegun was no longer a fitting description of the design. After some further discussion at Auto Ordnance as to what to call their new

creation, the term "Submachine gun" was coined. Ironically, while they technically came up with the name first, they didn't actually invent the first submachine gun. At least not by what was later considered to be in this class of weaponry. The German MP18 (Machine Pistol) among others indeed predate the Thompson submachine gun.



After successful in house testing of the fully automatic prototype called "The Annihilator", they felt by the latter half of 1918 that it was time to send some to Europe to see how they would hold up in the "Great War". As fate would have it, WWI was to end before any could be sent. While this was fortunate for Mankind, it was not so fortunate for the project. While later demonstrations proved quite impressive and helped get a relative few into the hands of our military, the new weapon did not garner any widespread US or foreign military interest for several years after the end of WWI. This remained the case even after veteran military contractor Colt was partnered with to help manufacture the first official Thompson submachine gun the "Model of 1921". This caused a change in marketing strategy in which Auto Ordnance tried to interest law enforcement agencies and even US citizenry. While there were some sales to police departments and the public, sales remained disappointing. It was around this time that the firearm started to gain some unwanted "fame" from criminal elements. Because I'm not into glorifying the criminal misuse of firearms, I won't waste any more space on this subject that necessary. Let's just suffice it to say that these scumbags were the cause of the arguably unconstitutional National Firearms Act of 1934 (yes, you may now call me an extremist, absolutist, etc.)



The M1921 was followed by the more obscure M1923 (modified cartridge) and the M1927 (semi-auto). Then in 1928, the US Navy warmed up to the design and after mandating a slower rate of fire and deletion of the pistol grip, decided to officially adopt it as the "US Navy Model of 1928". Some of the existing M1921 models on hand were modified and over stamped 1928 to help fill the Navy's orders. The US Army was to follow a few years later in 1932 with a more limited standardized usage targeted at its fledgling mechanized forces, but it wasn't until 1938 that the Army fully standardized the Thompson with its adoption of the most common variant, the M1928A1. Because the Thompson was a quality piece, it was always expensive (\$200+) and time consuming to manufacture. In order to keep up with the increase in demand, the Auto Ordnance engineers started to simplify certain parts like the overly complicated rear sight and to eventually eliminate others such as the barrel cooling fins. These and several other modifications certainly helped, but by the time we were fully embroiled in WWII, it wasn't enough. It was at this point that the weapon was totally reevaluated so as to determine exactly what was absolutely necessary in which to provide an acceptable product.

It was Savage Arms, who had been brought in to help Auto Ordnance with production that made major headway in dealing with this problem. They determined that the much fussed about Blish Lock wasn't necessary after all. So, with the incorporation of the previous streamlining modifications, the elimination of the Blish Lock and Cutts Compensator, plus relocation of the cocking handle and other modifications, the Submachine Gun, Caliber .45, M1 was accepted into service by mid-1942. Even more refinements got us the M1A1 model in late 1942 coming in at a cost of about \$45 each.



It was around this time that the under \$20 M3 Submachine gun hit the scene. The M3/M3A1 "Grease Gun" proved to be a very good weapon and would eventually officially replace the Thompson as WWII drew to a close. While it was "officially" supplanted, it still soldiered on for many decades after WWII. It even remained in some police department inventories into the 80s. In spite of the Thompson being, expensive, heavy and fairly hard to control, no other firearm in its class ever approached the mystic and cool factor that it ultimately enjoyed.



Kerwin Law July 2017



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