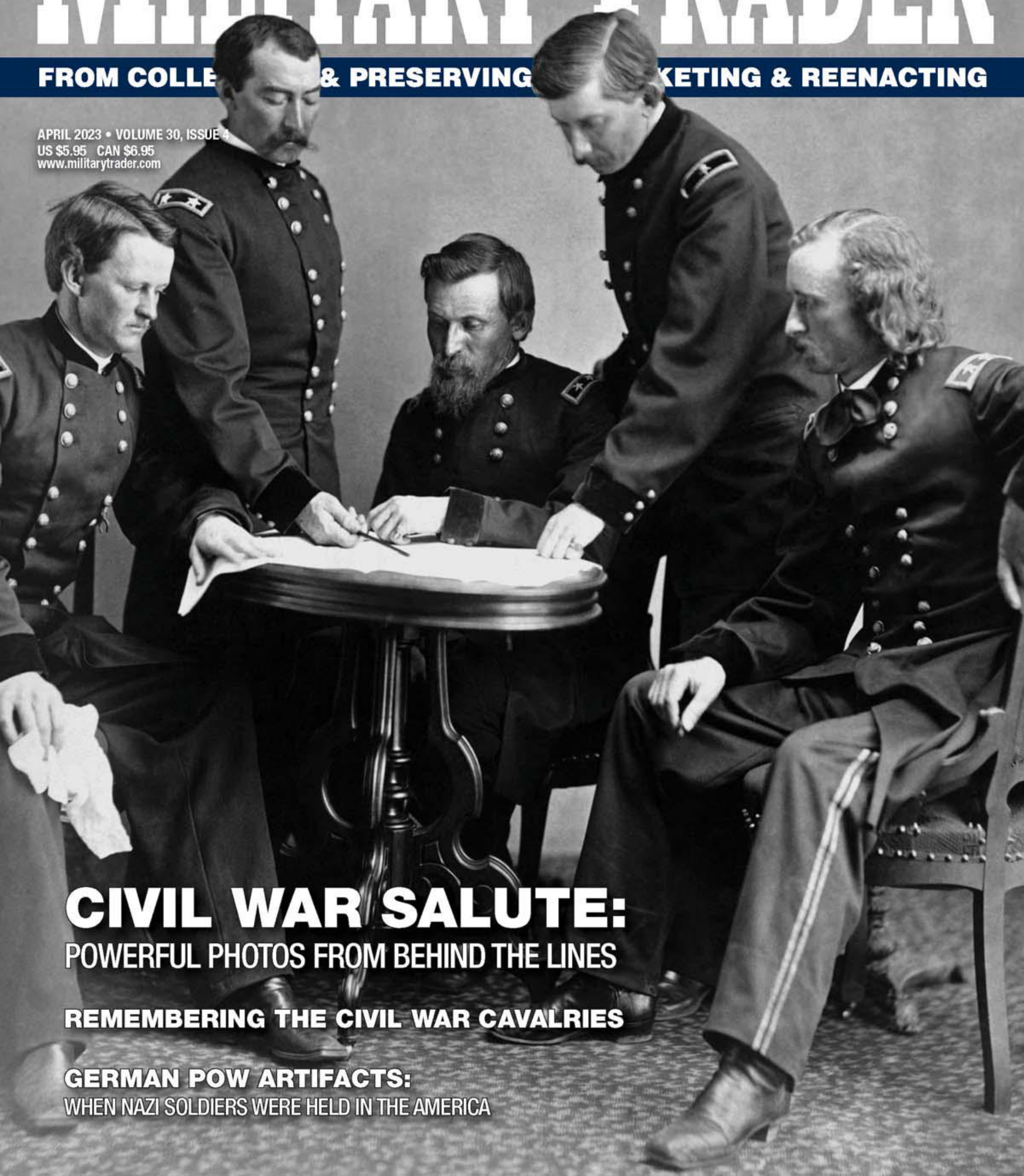


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ABOUT THE COVER: Vintage Civil War photograph of Gen. Philip Sheridan and his staff. Pictured from left to right are: Wesley Merritt, Philip Sheridan, George Crook, James William Forsyth, and George Armstrong Custer.

(Getty Images)

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- Late-breaking military hobby headlines!
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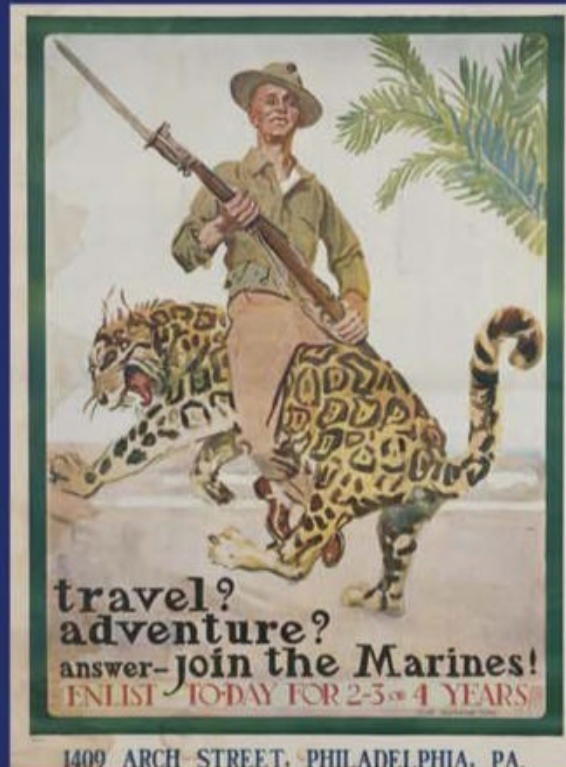
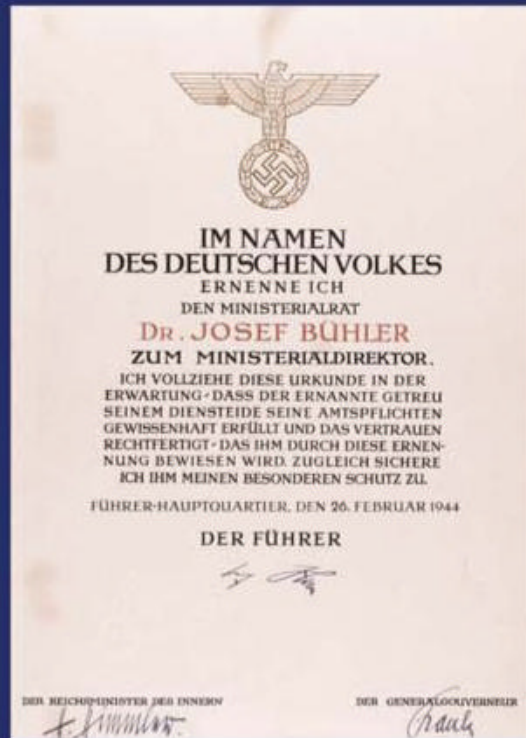
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Vietnam hero finally receives Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 60 years after he was recommended for the nation's highest military award, retired Col. Paris Davis, one of the first Black officers to lead a Special Forces team in combat, received the Medal of Honor March 3 for his bravery in the Vietnam War.

After a crowded White House ceremony, a grateful Davis emphasized the positive of the honor rather than negative of the delay, saying, "It is in the best interests of America that we do things like this."

Thanking President Joe Biden, who draped a ribbon with the medal around his neck, he said, "God bless you, God bless all, God bless America."

The belated recognition for the 83-year-old Virginia resident came after the recommendation for his medal was lost, resubmitted — and then lost again.

It wasn't until 2016 — half a century after Davis risked his life to save some of his men under fire — that advocates painstakingly recreated and resubmitted the paperwork.

Biden described Davis as a "true hero" for risking his life amid heavy enemy fire to haul injured soldiers under his command to safety. When a superior ordered him to safety, according to Biden, Davis replied, "Sir, I'm just not going to leave. I still have an American out there." He went back into the firefight to retrieve an injured medic. "You are everything this medal means," Biden told Davis. "You're everything our nation is at our best. Brave and big hearted, determined and devoted, selfless and steadfast."

Biden said Davis should have received the honor years ago, describing segregation in the U.S. when he returned home and questioning the delay in awarding him the medal. "Somehow the paperwork was never processed," Biden said. "Not just once. But twice."

Davis doesn't dwell on the delayed honor and says he doesn't know why decades had to pass before it finally arrived. "Right now I'm overwhelmed," he told The Associated Press on the eve of the medal ceremony.

"When you're fighting, you're not thinking about this moment," Davis said. "You're just trying to get through that moment."

"That moment" stretched over nearly 19 hours and two days in mid-June 1965. Davis, then a captain and commander with the 5th Special Forces Group, engaged in nearly continuous combat during a pre-dawn raid on a North Vietnamese army camp in the village of Bong Son in Binh Dinh province.

He engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the North Vietnamese, called for precision artillery fire and thwarted the capture of three American soldiers — all while suffering wounds from gunshots and grenade fragments. He used his pinkie finger to fire his rifle after his hand was shattered by an enemy grenade, according to reports.

Davis repeatedly sprinted into an open rice paddy to rescue members of his team, according to the *ArmyTimes*. His entire team survived.

"That word 'gallantry' is not much used these days," Biden said. "But I can think of no better word to describe Paris."

Davis, from Cleveland, retired in 1985 at the rank of colonel



Special Forces soldier Paris Davis receives his Congressional Medal of Honor from President Biden nearly 60 years after a harrowing Vietnam firefight.

and now lives in Alexandria, Va., just outside Washington. Biden called him several weeks ago to deliver the news.

He says the wait in no way lessens the honor.

"It heightens the thing, if you've got to wait that long," he said. "It's like someone promised you an ice cream cone. You know what it looks like, what it smells like. You just haven't licked it."

Davis' commanding officer recommended him for the military's top honor, but the paperwork disappeared. He eventually was awarded a Silver Star, the military's third-highest combat medal, but members of Davis' team have argued that his skin color was a factor in the disappearance of his Medal of Honor recommendation.

"I believe that someone purposely lost the paperwork," Ron Deis, a junior member of Davis' team in Bong Son, told the AP in a separate interview.

Deis, now 79, helped compile the recommendation that was submitted in 2016. He said he knew Davis had been recommended for the Medal of Honor shortly after the battle in 1965, and he spent years wondering why it hadn't been awarded. Nine years ago he learned that a second nomination had been submitted "and that also was somehow, quote, lost."

"But I don't believe they were lost," Deis said. "I believe they were intentionally discarded. They were discarded because he was Black, and that's the only conclusion that I can come to." Army officials say there is no evidence of racism in Davis' case.

"We're here to celebrate the fact that he got the award, long time coming," Maj. Gen. Patrick Roberson, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, told the AP. "We, the Army, you know, we haven't been able to see anything that would say, 'Hey, this is racism.'"

"We can't know that," Roberson said.

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In early 2021, Christopher Miller, then the acting defense secretary, ordered an expedited review of Davis' case. He argued in an opinion column later that year that awarding Davis the Medal of Honor would address an injustice.

"Some issues in our nation rise above partisanship," Miller wrote. "The Davis case meets that standard."

Pilot who survived Pearl Harbor passes at age 101

PHOENIX (AP) — Jack Holder, a Pearl Harbor survivor who went on to become a decorated World War II flyer who flew over 100 missions in the Pacific and European theaters, has died in Arizona. He was 101.

Darlene Tryon, a close friend and the executor of Holder's estate, said he died March 3 at a hospital in the Phoenix suburb of Chandler. The Pearl Harbor National Memorial also announced the death.

Born to a farming family in Gunter, Texas, Holder joined the Navy in 1940 when he was 18. He was on duty at Ford Island within Oahu's Pearl Harbor when Japanese aircraft bombed the U.S. naval base on Dec. 7, 1941.

"The first bomb that fell on Pearl Harbor was about 100 yards from me," Holder said, adding that he "saw guys swimming through burning oil in the water."

Holder recalled diving into a ditch to avoid gunfire. Hunkered down behind a fortress of sandbags, "I wondered if this was the day I would die," Holder told the Arizona Republic in a 2016 interview. "That morning I watched as Japanese dive bombers devastated Pearl Harbor. I knew that we would no longer sit on the sidelines of the war ravaging Europe."

Holder said he spent three harrowing days manning a make-shift machine gun pit, a ditch lined with sandbags, in the aftermath of the attack.

About 2,400 servicemen were killed in the Pearl Harbor attack, which launched the U.S. into World War II. The USS Arizona alone lost 1,177 sailors and Marines, nearly half the death toll.

Holder went on to fight in the Battle of Midway and flew missions over Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands before being transferred to England and flying missions along the French coast and the English Channel.

The Pearl Harbor National Memorial said Holder was awarded two distinguished flying cross medals, six air medals, a presidential citation and six commendation medals in his Navy career before being honorably discharged in 1948.

Holder then flew for 25 years as a corporate and commercial pilot, took up golf and moved to an Arizona retirement community. He also became an avid WWII educator and became a regular at Pearl Harbor commemorations and museums and schools, according to Tryon.

In December 2021, a nonprofit company took Holder on an honor flight out of Mesa's Falcon Field to celebrate his 100th birthday. Asked at the event to tell his secret to a long life, Holder said "good heart exercise and two scotch and sodas every night."

Tryon said an early April memorial service is planned for Holder in Phoenix and he will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery near the nation's capital at a later date. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs doesn't have statistics for

how many Pearl Harbor survivors are still living.

Two Pearl Harbor sailors return home for burials

A sailor from Marietta, Ga., who died during the Pearl Harbor attack was buried Feb. 9, more than 82 years after he was killed. Shipfitter 3rd Class John Donald was one of the 429 sailors lost on the *USS Oklahoma*.

The vast majority of those lost sailors were laid to rest in caskets, marked as unidentified. The USS Oklahoma Project by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, has been working with genealogists to track down relatives of those killed. So far, they have been able to identify all but 33 of the remains.

Donald, a 28-year-old from Georgia, was identified on April 11, 2018.

The DPAA also recently identified another *Oklahoma* crewman lost in Pearl Harbor. Navy Seaman 1st Class Donald A. Stott, of Monticello, Iowa was 19 years old when he died. Stott is expected to be buried on March 25 in Monticello.

Coast Guard chief takes college president post

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — William G. Kelly, superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard, will become the next president of Christopher Newport University. Kelly will retire from his 36-year career and begin his new position on July 1.

Kelly, 57, has served as Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Ct., since 2019. He is a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a degree in government. He later earned a master's degree in instructional systems design from Florida State University. He is a native of Yonkers, N.Y.

Navy cruiser to be renamed after ex-slave Smalls

An American guided-missile cruiser that was named after a Confederate Civil War battle will be renamed in honor of a former slave who stole a Confederate States Navy ship in South Carolina and delivered it to the Union. The *USS Chancellorsville* (CG-62) will be renamed after Robert Smalls, a former slave who was conscripted into Confederate service in 1862.

According to a story at www.usni.org, Smalls took the wheel of the steamer *CSS Planter* and escaped from Charleston on May 13, 1862, with his family, rescuing enslaved people and capturing military material. He then turned the ship over to the U.S. Navy.

"Smalls had been a member of the Planter's crew since before the Civil War," according to a story in *Naval History* magazine. "He started his maritime work as a stevedore and worked his way up the trades to become a trusted pilot and the rough equivalent of a noncommissioned officer as wheelman of the Planter."

Smalls remained in the Union Navy following the Civil War and later served in the U.S. House as a representative from South Carolina. The *Chancellorsville* (CG-62) and oceanographic survey ship *USNS Maury* (T-AGS-66) are ticketed to receive new names. The *Chancellorsville* was named for an 1863 Confederate victory of the Army of Northern Virginia, led by Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson. 🇺🇸

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The Web's effect can't be overstated

Life requires balance. Too much of anything – including militaria – likely isn't good for anyone, even as some of us might not like to admit it. There is more to life than just adding to the collection, a fact that has become increasingly clear to me as so many of my old friends are no longer here for me to share this passion. I've previously noted that at the large shows, I made sure to collect memories with my friends as much as to acquire new items.

In addition, I've also recently been critical of those who rely on the internet as the primary source of information – rather than having shelves filled with books.

These two seemingly unrelated topics took on new meaning to me earlier this year when I received news that my very good friend and colleague Stuart Bates had passed away. It was sudden and quite unexpected, even as he had some lingering health problems. It is a significant loss as Stuart and I worked together on three books on military headgear, along with countless articles on the subject. He was so much more than a close friend; he was a confidant who I could turn to when I wasn't sure about an item or needed assistance with research.

What has surprised many of my other friends is that despite our nearly 20-year friendship, we sadly never actually met in person. Stuart lived in Australia and only on one occasion during our friendship had he left the country. Unfortunately, I was unable to meet up with him in Europe when he went on his extended holiday. Other plans to visit him were scuttled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Over the years we often exchanged emails many times a day when we worked on our books, while Skype allowed us to have "face to face" chats. The digital age allowed us to connect despite the physical distance.

Friendship in the social media era

These facts are important to note because just as I have argued that some collectors need to use more than Facebook as a platform for their research, and should look beyond eBay as a primary source for items to add to their collections, there are those in the hobby who care only to see the dark side of the Worldwide Web. I have heard more than a few collectors bemoan what Facebook has done for the hobby, with some suggesting it was even "destroying Western civilization." There is no denying that social media has its share of problems – and I say this wearing my freelance reporter hat as one who covers all aspects of Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, Telegram and platforms many readers may have never heard of. Social media can be a problem at times.

Yet, we shouldn't dismiss the opportunities it has

provided in bringing collectors from around the world together. As someone who was bitten by the collecting bug at a young age, thanks to my great-uncle buying me my first helmet way back in 1981, I am now old enough to remember a time when collectors had to communicate via first class USPS letters and the occasional long-distance phone call.

The Internet allowed me to befriend Stuart and countless others. In one of our final conversations before his passing, Stuart remarked that he was happy we had connected first via email when I reached out to him to research an article for this publication on British Home Service helmets nearly 20 years ago. That sparked a friendship that led to Stuart joining online forums, and along the way, he made other friends throughout the world. We had become part of a small community of collectors who regularly now stay in touch despite being literally oceans apart.

I know I'm not alone in having made collector friends around the globe by connecting with them online. The hobby has grown so significantly thanks to the ability to type a few words on a computer or even a smartphone. The world of militaria isn't alone in benefiting from this magic, but it is a hobby of a unique sort of people that don't really have a ton of opportunities to meet up in person.

This is, of course, what makes large shows including the Show Of Shows (SOS) so very special. It may be where military history meets collecting, but it is also where internet friends can shake hands and share a meal together while also seeking new items for their respective collection. And based on the efforts of the Ohio Valley Military Society (OVMS) to promote its events online via Facebook, Instagram, and various forums, the gate at this year's SOS was greater than ever. It provided me an opportunity to collect more of those precious memories with my friends and colleagues.

Remembering Stuart Bates

A collector of British and Australian headgear for more than 30 years, Stuart Bates wrote extensively on the subject of Victorian helmets and uniforms. His research has proven invaluable to the hobby. He was always ready and more than willing to aid new collectors and share his knowledge of tropical headgear and British military history, while being just a very friendly individual.

Stuart was born in England and lived until his passing in Australia. He will be missed by the collecting community and by his friends around the world. R.I.P. Stuart.



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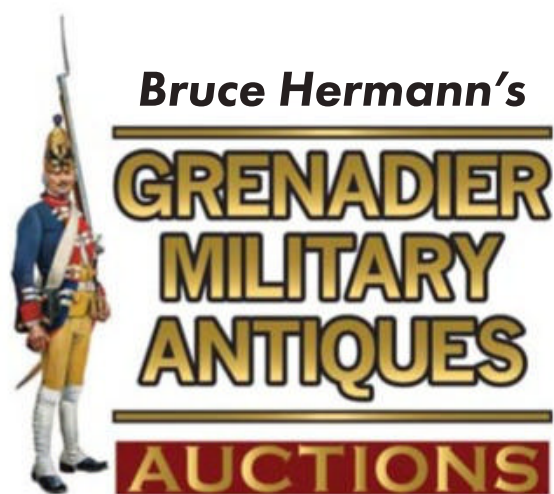


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This amazing photo of a Union engineer camp, 8th N.Y. State Militia, has been spectacularly restored and shows great clarity.



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In Black and White

Photography was still in its infancy in the 1860s, but there were many amazing photos taken during the Civil War, both on the battlefield and off. These historic images still hit hard more than 150 years later.



Old engraved illustration shows Commander John L. Worden (middle row, second from right) and the officers of the U.S.S. *Monitor*. A total of 49 men served on the ship, and all were volunteers. The famous iron ship sank in a storm near Cape Hatterus in December 1862 with 16 crewmen lost.



This old engraved illustration shows French officers of McClellan's at Yorktown in May 1862.



Officers from the 5th U.S. Cavalry Regiment sitting outside their tent. This is another authentic image that has been rescued and improved with digital technology.



This famous image shows President Abraham Lincoln engaged in a discussion with Gen. George McClellan, commander of the Northern Forces on the Battlefield of Antietam, in 1862.

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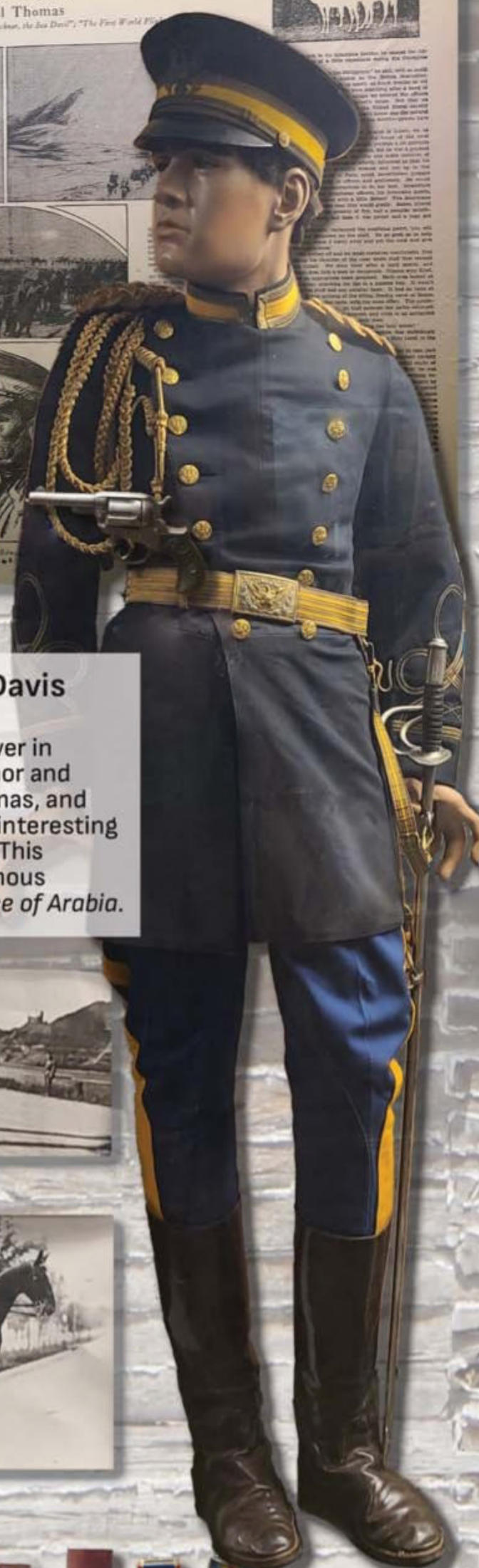
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Union soldiers are assembled in an artillery bunker at Fort Richardson in Arlington, Va., in 1961.



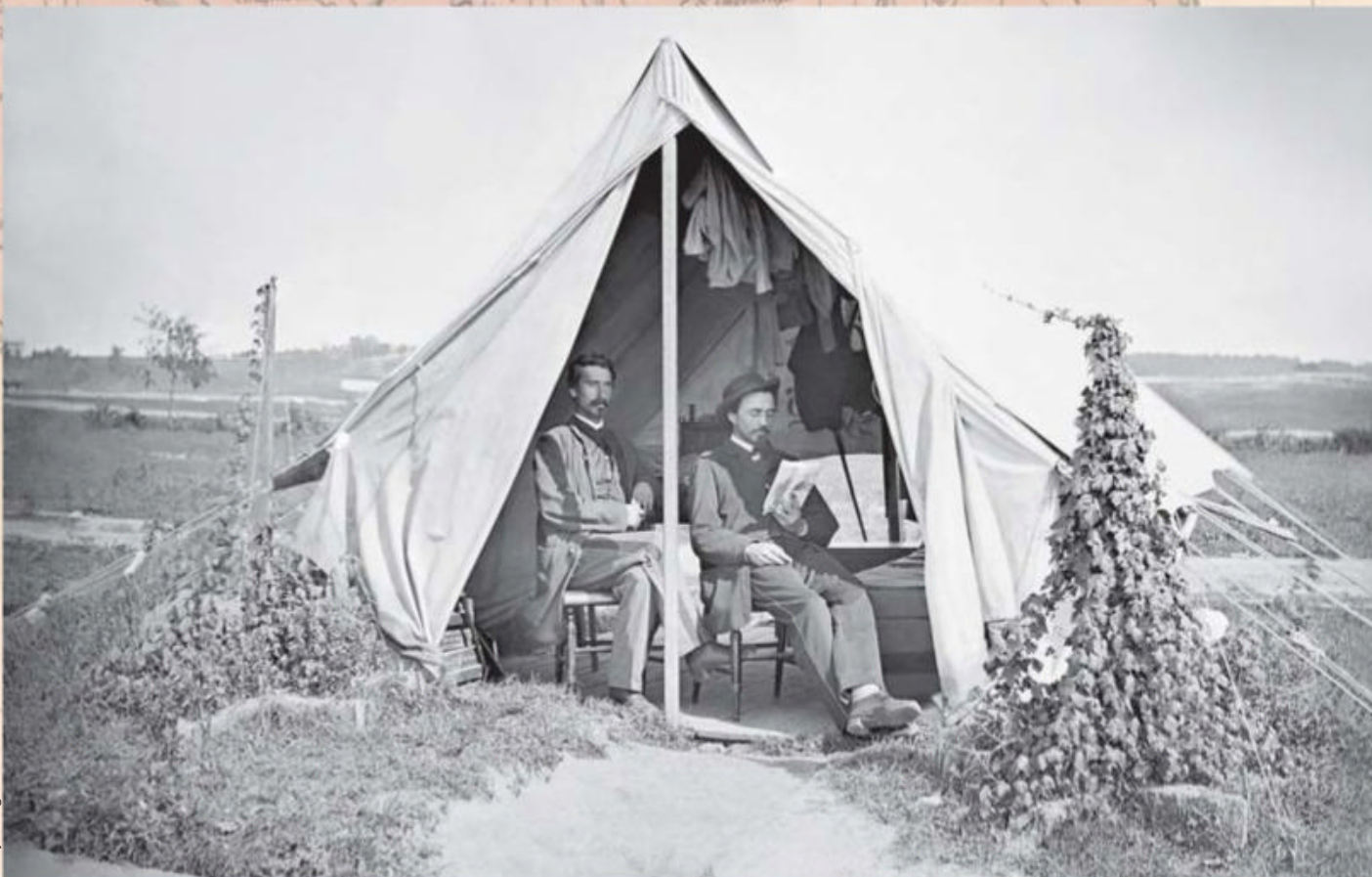
This stunning photo was taken on the deck of gunboat *USS Hunchback* on the James River in Virginia. The *USS Hunchback* was built in New York City in 1852 for civilian use as a ferry. United States Navy later purchased the boat and commissioned it for use in the war. The vessel survived the war and eventually wound up back in New York.



These scene shows a deserted camp and a wounded Zouave soldier. The Union army had more than 70 volunteer Zouave regiments throughout the conflict, while the Confederates fielded about 25 Zouave companies.



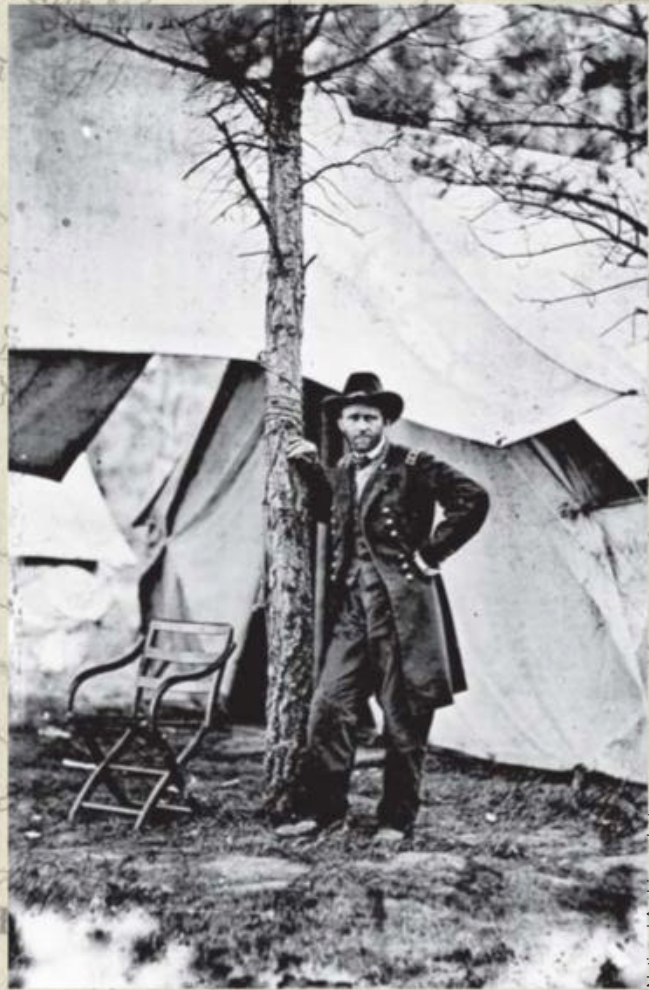
Uoldiers at their encampment enjoy some peace and down time together. They were all dressed sharply and clean shaven for this photo op!



Officers of the 8th Pennsylvania Infantry share some tent space to get out of sun.



This early camp scene shows Union soldiers guarding Confederate prisoners.



Gen. Ulysses S. Grant Grant standing by a tree in front of a tent in Cold Harbor, Va.



This well-known image is titled “Ringgold Battery on drill” and comes from early 1862. It was taken before these men ever saw combat. They are still wearing the dark blue infantry trowsers they were issued at Camp Lacey in Doylestown, Pa.

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Three days of fighting at Gettysburg ended in some 51,000 casualties, making it the deadliest battle of the Civil War.



A soldier stands near a Union grave while the corpse of a Confederate soldier remains unburied where he fell.



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This Civil War print depicts the Union Army's capture of Fort Fisher. Fort Fisher was referred to as the "Gibraltar of the South" and was the last major coastal stronghold of the Confederacy. The battle took place Jan. 13-15, 1865 outside of Wilmington, N.C.



Getty Images

Charging into history

Life in the Cavalry in the American Civil War

■ By Chris William

The American Civil War, which prevented the permanent seceding of 11 Confederate states from those of the Union, saw some of the deadliest fighting in areas which now make up the eastern and southern United States. Thousands perished from wounds received in combat, or the deadly diseases brought about by harsh and unsanitary living conditions.

Through this time of bitter fighting and deprivation, one group stands out as dramatized in later tales of their reckless charges across the fields of battle. Calvarymen on both the Union and Confederate sides have been held in high regard for their heroics while fighting in the bloodiest battles that had taken place on American soil.

American Calvary came into existence with Congress authorizing the first (Leavenworth, KS) and second (Jefferson) regiments in 1855 in order to have more mounted

troops capable of quickly traveling across vast territories following the war with Mexico. These mounted soldiers, who primarily fought on horseback, joined the existing army dragoons, who had been organized in 1833, likewise riding horses into battle, but then dismounting to fight on foot.

Though viewed by American politicians as expensive (one regiment at the time cost in excess of \$300,000 to organize — \$11,000,000 today), calvary was preferred to mounted infantry. In the latter, 25% of the combatants could not fight, as one soldier was required to hold three other soldiers' horses in addition to his own whenever the unit stopped for battle. By 1861, the combination of dragoon, calvary and mounted rifle infantry had been formed into five calvary regiments of 1,200 men each, commanded by 176 officers. Of these 176 officers who had been instrumental in turning these green recruits with inadequate equipment into a deadly fighting force, 104 would later side with the Southern cause, giving a distinct advantage to Confederate cal-

vary training and tactics during the first two years of war.

In addition to more qualified leadership, Confederate cavalrymen were known for their greater level of skills as both horsemen and marksmen. These traits were due for two reasons: the love of equestrianism in the South and the poor roads that made horseback riding more prevalent than in the North, and the southern agrarian culture which meant that men would more regularly hunt in order to provide food for their families, giving them more expertise with firearm use in the field.

During the four bloody years that followed, the Union would raise 272 full-time cavalry regiments and the Confederacy 137, ranging in size from 800 to 1,200 men each. Besides the actual fighting men in these regiments, troops consisting of blacksmiths, farriers, saddlers, medical stewards, musicians and other support personnel accompanied them in each campaign. In addition, horse-drawn artillery was often attached to a cavalry regiment, followed by its own support group of supplies and ammunition.

Both Union and Confederate cavalrymen rode into battle well-armed, with pistols (often carrying two or more), sabers, rifles, carbines or shotguns. Experienced soldiers traveled lightly with little equipment or supplies to increase their mobility and lessen a horse's load. Union soldiers were provided with one or two government procured mounts, while southern cavalrymen needed to use their own horses, then being paid a monthly stipend to defer the costs.

The most important duty of cavalry soldiers was that of reconnaissance. Their invaluable "eyes" kept commanders informed of

enemy troop movements, armaments, strengths and places of fortification. Mounted soldiers on patrol were also tasked with destroying rival reconnaissance patrols in order to keep the enemy officers from knowing about their movements. Offensive head-on mounted charges against enemy infantry positions were often fatal and rarely done (as rifled long guns and repeating rifles caused devastation among cavalry troops, and horses often refused to gallop into masses of infantry soldiers). Attacks mostly involved quick, surprise assaults and withdraws, shocking the enemy soldiers with flashing sword blades and blazing pistols. This was done to test their lines for weaknesses to be later exploited by the main infantry forces. Able to be rapidly deployed to cover an army's flanks or retreats made cavalrymen invaluable to their officers commanding the hectic and ever-changing fields of battle. Screening, the riding of long lines in front of troop movements, provided essential cover to hide soldiers' activities from the enemy while on the frontline.

As the war raged on, many cavalry units began to ride onto the battlefield, dismount and fight on foot, just as the dragoons before them had done. Others were sent on missions that involved long-distance harassment raids, which had little strategic value, but were done to antagonize the enemy soldiers and keep them on edge.

By the time the bloody conflicts hit their midpoint in 1863, the superiority of Confederate cavalry began to lessen as experienced men, adequate materials and available horses dwindled. In addition to the lack of southern supplies and manpower, cavalry



One of the 300,000 Model 1860 cavalry sabers used by Union forces in the American Civil War. At 41 inches long with a 35 x 1-inch blade, and weighing 3 lbs., 10 oz. in its scabbard, this lighter version replaced the larger and more cumbersome Model 1840 saber, nicknamed the "old wrist breaker". The brass guard and leather-covered handle made this a durable and formidable weapon on the field of battle.



When carried by a cavalryman, the double-ringed, iron-scabbard could be secured to the horse saddle with a leather harness. The obverse ricasso is stamped with a "US", a "J H" inspector's mark and the "1862" year of manufacture. The reverse ricasso bares the maker, Ames Mfg. Co., and place of origin, Chicopee, Mass.

tactics in the Union became more finely honed as increased experience provided the men and their commanders with needed combat skills. Among the first great Union cavalry commanders to emerge was Brigadier General John Buford, whose men fought valiantly at Gettysburg, using dragoon methods, screening, reconnaissance and flank protection to help turn the tide of battle.

In 1865, hostilities came to an end, and so did the need for the large cavalry formations in the reunited nation. The United States would see a resurgence of cavalry use, but on a much smaller scale, during the Spanish-American war, and again during World War I. By then, modern weaponry, vehicles and equipment made horseback cavalry an obsolete, yet romantic relic from our nation's past.





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18. VN War Law Rocket Tube with original Sling with end caps. Exc Cond.....\$495.
19. Original VN War Vet Bring back So. Vietnamese Beer Bottle with writing. Exc. Have three\$20. each
20. VN War NVA Canvas Back Pack. Nice Condition. Scarce to find\$150.
22. WW1 Rimmed Eagle Snap Mill's 45 auto Magazine Pouch. Nice Cond. ...\$225.
23. WW1 .45 Auto US Army Squad Cleaning Rod set with brass oil can, grease/patch can, 10 brass roads, 10 blued screw drivers, brushes. Blued Metal case\$850.
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25. US 1880 Iron Guard Hunting Knife with Varney Swivel Scabbard, Very Rare\$1250.
26. WW1 Mill's .45 Auto US Army Swivel Holster. Exc Condition.....\$950.
27. WW1 US Army Officer's Mill's Woven Pistol/Saber belt with the interlocking Eagle Buckle with wreath, & complete with Web Saber Hanger for M1902 Officer's Sword. Exc Cond\$750.
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4. Red cross bevo sleeve eagle. \$110
5. Red cross triangular sleeve eagle with town. \$116
6. Red cross enameled pin..... \$41
7. Red cross painted pin. \$60
8. Red cross HELFERIN personal Ausweis. Personal picture in uniform. Nice clean and superior condition..... \$140
9. Red cross medal enameled, long ribbon. Rare. \$650
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11. Officer police visor cap, orange piping and early quality..... \$725
12. HERMANN GORING enlisted visor cap by ROBERTLUBSTEIN. Named and unit marked. Very rare with white piping. \$3000
13. Luftwaffe enlisted medic visor cap, dark blue piping. Liner shows some age. \$600
14. Fire police enlisted visor cap, blue wool body, pink piping. Maker marked. \$400
15. Army administration enlisted visor cap by WAGNER. Green piping and liner shows light age..... \$525
16. M42 army single decal helmet, complete liner in nice condition. Chin strap. Untouched. \$825
17. Hitler youth pennant, rare..... \$200
18. Hitler youth overseas cap, green HBT. RZM tag, front insignia sewn. Rare..... \$450
19. Student league armband, red body and Bevo insignia. \$125
20. Hitler youth school fork and spoon, officer grade. Well-marked "MEHLEM". High quality. Rare. \$426
21. Luftwaffe sports shirt eagle, mint. \$61
22. Adolf Hitler 6x4 plaque. Nice finish. \$130
23. Officer police sleeve eagle. Silver bullion embroidered. Rare. \$265
24. Army belt buckle, steel and silver finish. \$180
25. Luftwaffe mint steel belt buckle, blue paint. Steel in the factory wrapping paper. \$160
26. Police enlisted aluminum buckle with black leather tab, 1941 dated. \$160
27. Police shako front eagle, aluminum. Mint. \$125
28. Ring battle of Britain. "GEGEN ENGELAND" \$166
29. Army shooting lanyard, 2nd pattern..... \$100
30. NSDAP flag, double sided and multipiece construction. Early 8x5. Rare. \$81
31. JAEGER side cap badge. Steel, 3 prongs not broken. \$41
32. NSDAP leader belt buckle, mint. RZM tag. \$250
33. Officer cloth cap eagle, mint. \$60
34. Early railroad enlisted sleeve eagle. \$120
35. Late war enlisted breast eagle army combat tunic. Mint. \$61
36. Luftwaffe field division breast eagle for the camo jacket. \$120
37. Luftwaffe Hermann Goring breast eagle, black/gray..... \$210
38. Social welfare medal, early and nice ribbon. \$110
39. Railroad sleeve eagle. KOLN. \$61
40. Railroad sleeve eagle, DNJEPROPE-TROWSK. \$120
41. Helmet M35 dark green combat, complete. Shows combat wear but not damaged. Rare. \$650
42. Helmet net, green with large gap pattern. Complete. \$200
43. Photo album, mint with iron cross on the front. Many pages of propaganda at the beginning. Complete..... \$180
44. Photo album, black cover and army eagle silver on the front. "Souvenir of my service". Never used..... \$190
45. ZEPPELIN cigarette card album. Rare and complete. \$160
46. Red cross combat bevo armband. \$61
47. Luftwaffe wrist compass with issued case, mint. \$226
48. Luftwaffe cased round box officer dress belt and buckle (Brocade) and Aiguillettes. Mint. \$650
49. NSKK dagger with 3-piece vertical hangers, black leather. Rare. PAUL WEYERSBERG blade marked. \$800
50. SA dagger RZM M7/13. Very nice. \$750
51. Army dagger by WMW Waffen. Orange grip and early silver finish. \$405
52. Luftwaffe paratrooper badge, nice finish. Rare. \$450
53. Luftwaffe aluminum coffee cup. FL.UV marked with eagle. Rare..... \$51
54. Luftwaffe small plate, FL.UV marked with eagle. \$41
55. Luftwaffe large plate, FL.UV marked with eagle. \$61
56. Luftwaffe mess knife, FL.UV marked with eagle. \$42

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- 57. Army small spoon, aluminum, eagle.\$38
- 58. DAF fork, stainless steel, marked MDA.SCH. DA.\$60
- 59. Luftwaffe BAKELITE whistle, combat with gray lanyard.\$82
- 60. Luftwaffe belt buckle alu with brown leather tab, 1940 marked. Superb.....\$180
- 61. Luftwaffe belt and buckle, brown belt. Mint. 1940 dated and maker marked. Mint alu belt buckle. Rare.....\$315
- 62. Hitler youth knife by REHWAPPEN. Very nice.\$600
- 63. Hitler youth knife RZM/M7/13. Very nice.\$595
- 64. Hitler youth knife double marked. RZM/M7/30 dated 1936. G. GRAFRATH, extremely rare.\$650
- 65. SA dagger RZM/M7/62/39. Average condition and nice blade.....\$800
- 66. K98 dress bayonet by PUMA. 8" long blade with black frog and knot.\$280
- 67. Hunting dagger, ivory grip with 3 acorns. WKC blade, double etched with hunting scenes. Clamshell guard.\$1100
- 68. RLB belt and buckle, 1st pattern and black leather. Very nice and unit marked.\$300
- 69. DER STAHLHELM brass door plate with unit and town marking. Rare.\$250
- 70. SS fork, officer mess, SS REICH marked. Heavy quality.\$260
- 71. Brass plaque heavy/thick. Soldier head with helmet and eagle.\$240
- 72. NSBO brass belt buckle, never cleaned.\$250
- 73. NSKK eagle for the crash helmet, 2nd pattern.....\$220
- 74. Black wound badge, LDO envelope. Mint.\$61
- 75. Silver wound badge, titled envelope. Mint\$105
- 76. Gold wound badge, LDO case.\$215
- 77. Hitler youth golden badge of Honor 1934. Nice enamel, 4-digit personal number. Very rare.\$385
- 78. NURNBERG rally plate with wall hook in the back, pewter.\$175
- 79. SA small size belt buckle, brass.\$150
- 80. Luftwaffe chevron sleeve rank patch.....\$21
- 81. Kriegsmarine minesweeper badge, near mint.\$305

**** MISCELLANEOUS**

- 82. US - WWI helmet, complete. Rough type finish, camo paint war time.\$165
- 83. US - Victory WWI medal, framed. Mint. France clasp. Named.\$90

WWI Victory medal are with their issued ribbon

- 84. Belgium.\$125
- 85. Greece.\$225
- 86. South Africa.\$180
- 87. Portugal.....\$275
- 88. Czechoslovakia.\$215
- 89. Romania.\$300
- 90. FINLAND- WWII combat helmet, German shell M40 shell. Complete and used during Russian war in 1940.\$136
- 91. Spain - WWII combat helmet, complete with chin strap. Very nice condition. 90% paint.\$131
- 92. US - Marine sword, nice condition and bright finish.....\$200
- 93. US - Officer sword 1902 pattern by Wolf Brown.....\$140
- 94. US - Women's air force service pilot (WASP) cap badge. Small size, silver.\$200
- 95. US - group of 45 WWII service sleeve patches. All different, air force, division, corps and more.....\$112
- 96. US - WWII poster swastika on top. Do not talk about secret weapon. Dated.....\$100
- 97. US - WWII tropical officer visor cap, supreme quality and New York maker. Tan color, clean and not damaged.....\$186
- 98. US-WWII officer visor cap, leather visor and named to air force major. Rare.....\$250
- 99. US - knife PAL mint condition. RH 35. US Navy mark 1.\$210
- 100. US - CATTARAUGUS 225Q fighting knife. Mint condition.\$250
- 101. US - knife PAL mint condition. RH 50, wood pomel. Hard to find.\$160
- 102. US - fighting knife by ROBESON USA. Mint condition.....\$180
- 103. US - fighting knife by KINFOLKS. MK1 COLAS 3. Mint condition. Rare.....\$220
- 104. US - WWII pilot wings, silver nice grayish tone.....\$64
- 105. US - Rare WWII squadron leather patch, 439th bombardment. They were all over Europe. Superb condition.....\$375

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Table rent \$60 for 8' tables, **must** be paid in advance. Reservations and payment must be made by February 15th. Display tables are \$30. Display tables shall have relevant displays during public hours. Ghost tables for Friday ONLY; \$60. Normal admission applies to ghost table holders on Saturday and Sunday. Tables will be \$75 each if not in advance of February 15th. Veteran organizations are welcome and will receive a table at no cost. 2 Table badges will be allowed for the tables. Helpers will be allowed for set up and take down. Please do not share extra table passes with non-vendors or people not intending to help for the entire show.

Dealer set up will begin on Friday, July 22nd at 1200 hours. The doors will open to vendors at 0700 on Saturday and Sunday.

Admittance \$10 per person (Children 14 and under are free with adult admission)

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**WWII German
Kriegsmarine Leather
Jacket**

Repro Stuff



**German SS M35
Normandy Camo Combat
Helmet Single Decal**



**SS Totenkopf SLB Walter
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Honor Ring**



**WWII German 1937
Luftwaffe Paratrooper
Helmet**



**German WWII M40
Fallschirmjager Green
Jump Smock**



**US M2 Helmet
506TH Parachutist - 2ND
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Still The Best

Show of Shows again lives up to its name

This Bavarian Jäger was ready for a hunt in the Kentucky Expo Center for the annual Show of Shows military collecting extravaganza.



By Peter Suci

This February marked the 30th annual Show of Shows – a fact that didn’t need the extra hype, because every single year the Ohio Valley Military Society (OVMS) pulls out all the stops when it comes to putting on the largest military collectible event in North America. However, this year felt a little special, perhaps a sign of a return to normalcy after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Every SOS is the yearly chance to connect with old colleagues, make new friends and of course bring home sought-after treasure. This year there was no shortage of things to buy, and based on the long lines plenty of networking

opportunities.

One fact was for certain in Louisville: the international collectors are back. There had been a lingering sentiment in the United States that perhaps online marketplaces like eBay would take over as travel has become a little more taxing. Yet, those fears were certainly put aside this year as a variety of accents could be heard throughout the Kentucky Expo Center. And based on a quick sampling, some international travelers came with rare goods to sell, while others went home with newfound items for their collections. ★

The Kentucky Expo Center is practically hallowed ground for the military collecting community.



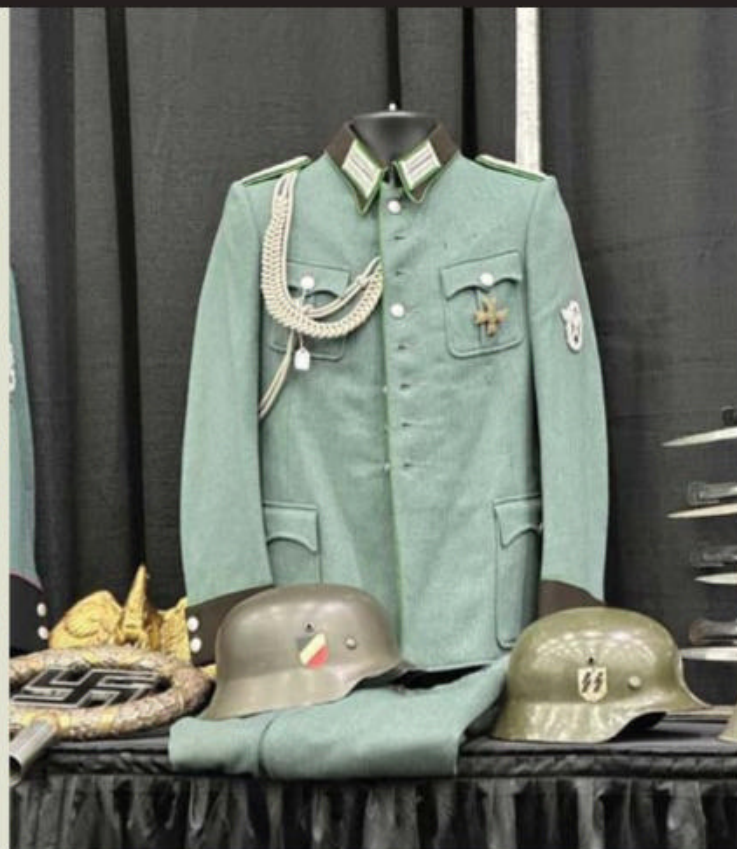
Ivor Lough of Phoenix Military in London made his return to SOS after missing the last shows due to Covid-19 restrictions. “I look forward to this show every year,” he explained and showed the NSDAP second model flag pole top made by Otto Gahr.



Norway-based Jan Meland was present with the revised edition of his book German Helmets: 1916-45. Said Meland, “SOS is always worth coming to, and there is always so much stuff for sale that I can never find in Norway. And I’m happy to come this year with copies of my book.”

There is always something you never expect to see at SOS – like this Pearl Harbor WAVES shirt. How many of those could have survived?





ABOVE LEFT: This mannequin was a bit creepy looking, but it certainly fit well with this early WWII-era Soviet gymnastyorka and side cap. It would have been perfect for an early Stalingrad display.

ABOVE: Jason Burmesiter Military Antiques always has something truly special to offer for sale at SOS.

LEFT: All Quiet on the Western Front indeed! An extremely rare German M1910 field gray tunic.



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A British parachute container – many collectors likely would have been ready to dash across a field to pick this up (like in “A Bridge Too Far”). And by chance there was even a British Airbourne tunic to go with the parachute container!



This young collector was on the hunt for treasure. He had just picked up the ammo box and was looking for items to fill it.



This teenager dressed the part of a hardcore collector.

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These two young fellows were dressed for success, from head to toe



Above, there is some irony to see this young man's "freedom" shirt contrasted with the East German border guard cap – but in the end freedom is what allowed items like that to be sold in the open!

Left, a pair of future "officers" were all smiles after purchasing their visor caps!

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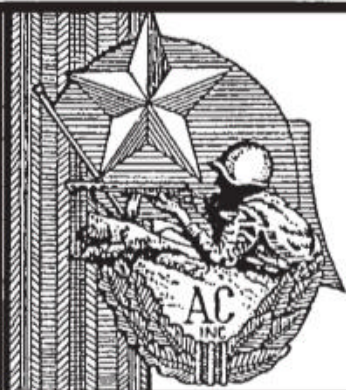
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German POWs in America

*Remembering a captive
work force — Part 1*



Getty Images

German prisoners at Camp Carson in Colorado march to the camp laundry back in 1943. There were 48 POW camps in Colorado between 1943-45. Three were large camps capable of handling large numbers of prisoners. The remainder were mainly smaller agriculture-related camps.

■ By Alexander F. Barnes

There are many little-known aspects of World War II on the homefront in America. Perhaps one of the most interesting is the story of the enemy prisoners of war (POWs) who waited out the end of the war in prison camps across the country. Beginning with the defeat of Rommel's Afrika Korps in mid-1943, a steady stream of German and Italian soldiers, sailors, and airmen were dispatched to the United States. After arrival, they were moved to prison camps around the country, many of them refurbished Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) sites.

In 1943, the military made public that 72 camps were

being established nationwide, with the great majority in the South and Southwest. Two camps were announced for Virginia and one each for North Carolina and West Virginia. In Virginia, the first two camps were located on existing military facilities: Camp Pickett near the town of Blackstone, and Camp Lee near Petersburg. By April 1944, there were more than 3,000 German and Italian POWs in the state.

In spite of the logistics of transporting them across the Atlantic via ship, moving the enemy soldiers captured in North Africa, Italy, and France to America made perfect sense. Most America-bound vessels were sailing nearly empty



Five of the German POWs at Camp Pickett, Virginia, take time out from their work in the motor pool to pose for a photograph.

anyway as the stream of soldiers and equipment flowed the other direction. In effect, the North American continent became one big prison. Captured Allied soldiers in Europe could attempt escapes from their German prisons knowing they might receive some help from the citizens of occupied countries to reach safe haven in neutral Switzerland or Sweden. German POWs had no such sanctuaries. Mexico and Canada were both engaged in the war on the Allied side. And while the local populations around the camps were generally congenial, they would not help escapees.

Italy's surrender on Sept. 3, 1943 and its subsequent support to Allied forces created an awkward situation for a while. Italian prisoners had been captured as members of an enemy army, but post-surrender became citizens of a semi-allied country. Eventually, almost half of the Italian POWs were released to become members of Italian Service Units (ISUs), who were dressed in U.S. Army uniforms and paid as low-ranking American soldiers. Most of these men were given duties in the various ports of embarkation or military depots around the country, while others were allowed to join



With Italy's surrender, many Italian POWs were offered the opportunity to become part of the U.S. war effort. Italian Service Unit (ISU) personnel wore the large oval patch on American uniforms and the smaller round patch on their hats while working in the ports of embarkation and military depots.



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the U.S. military and dispatched to serve in the Pacific.

Meanwhile, the POWs began to fill another labor need. By the end of 1943, with the United States fully engaged in fighting on many fronts as well as providing support to other Allies, American industry, while production boomed, had reached the bottom of the manpower barrel. Even with a large influx of women into the workforce, many industries, agricultural areas, and military posts were feeling the labor pinch. Very quickly, and sometimes with little supervision, the POWs were employed in forestry and agricultural jobs and even in some military factories. Some military leaders and private citizens were hesitant at first to use the POWs in the field and factories, but the quality of their work and their generally good behavior changed many minds. Before long, German POWs dressed in salvaged uniforms marked with large letters “P” and “W” were a common sight in the areas near the camps.

Using the prisoners had a two-fold purpose: it replaced American workers who had already left to join the military, and it freed up others to go and do likewise. In return, the POWs received a daily salary which was entered into their personal accounts in their camps. Employers — farmers and factory managers—who “hired” the POWs — were required by the



Typical of the salvaged clothing provided to the POWs, this was originally a U.S. Army khaki-colored four-pocket enlisted man's coat. Dyed a medium blue and painted with the letters “PW,” it became a POW's work uniform. The reverse side of the jacket shows the hurriedly applied “PW” marking applied across the back. This pair of trousers worn by a POW at Camp Pickett had extremely small waist — a sign of the diminutive size of some of the prisoners.



United States government to pay the equivalent salary that would have been earned by a regular citizen in that job. However, the POWs themselves only received 80 cents daily pay regardless of the job, the rest taken by the government to defray the cost of the camps and prisoners. This proved to be an extremely profitable program, and by mid-1945 it had generated over \$22 million for the U.S. Treasury. And the profit was not all one-sided: those POWs who saved their salary in the camp accounts were able to redeem it for dollars when the war ended and they were repatriated to Germany.

The POW work program was a success for the war effort. Major General Russel B. Reynolds, Commander of the

Sixth Service Command, reported: "Working in a variety of shops...they are conserving a vast quantity of manpower, doing jobs in which either soldiers or civilians would have to be used." And while not all of the POW workers were skilled at the jobs they were assigned, notably in the pulp-wood industry and in harvesting cotton, they were steady workers. Through their efforts, many home-front industries and farms managed to remain productive throughout the war.

In the second part of this article, we will look specifically at two of the camps in Virginia. ⚙

{Alexander F. Barnes is a former Marine and retired Army Warrant Officer. His most recent book, "United States Army Depot Brigades in World War I", with Peter Belmonte was released December 2021. He currently serves as the Virginia National Guard Command Historian.}



A Camp Pickett POW unloads what appears to be metal pipes or conduit from the back of a U.S. Army truck. A closer look at the truck bumper in the previous photo reveals the symbol for the U.S. Third Service Command. All of the POW camps in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania fell under the command and control of the Third Service Command.

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A seldom seen POW document; the letter sent in September 1944 to a POW's family home in Mainz-Gustavsburg, a town in the German state of Hesse. At the time, the writer, Feldwebel Hans Ulrich, was being held in Camp Brady, Texas. All of the instructions on how to use this POW form are in German, Italian, and Japanese, the three languages of the prisoners in U.S. camps.

Tuskegee Airmen remembered in metal

■ By Sophia Mattimiro

On Sept. 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, thus marking the start of World War II. There was much debate on whether or not the United States should aid the Allied powers, but the U.S. remained neutral for the first two years. Then on Dec. 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service executed a surprise strike on the U.S.'s naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu. Their intention was to prevent the U.S. Pacific Fleet from interfering with military actions in Southeast Asia. Unfortunately for them, this had the opposite effect.

On Dec. 8, 1941, the U.S. declared war on Japan, and then three days later on Dec. 11, declared war on Germany and Italy. The U.S. had officially joined the global war. This brought about a massive effort to rally the American citizens to fight overseas and at home. Everyone was expected to do their part, which brought about The

Home Front. While the young, able-bodied men were sent overseas, the people left behind quickly filled in the gaps. The American people worked together to keep production running smoothly, creating uniforms, guns, tanks, ships, planes and more. Amid this patriotism rose phrases such as "Make it do, or do without," "Do with less, so they'll have more" and "Don't you know there's a war on?" All geared towards encouraging citizens to contribute towards the war efforts and make the sacrifices needed to ensure victory. This also saw the creation of Rosie the Riveter, the iconic poster of a female factory worker telling her fellow women, "We Can Do It!"

Despite the rallying cry for everyone to do their part, not everyone was welcome to join the efforts. Black Americans still faced segregation, and the military forces were for whites only. However, there were already a few things in motion that allowed for every man to serve, regardless of the color of their skin.

In December of 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced an experimental civilian pilot training program. By the time the program was made permanent in June of 1939, a provision had been added to the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) Act that called for the program not to exclude

anyone based on race. Six Black colleges took part in the program. In September of 1940, President Roosevelt signed into law the Selective Service and Training Service Act. This was the first peace-time draft in U.S. history. Two provisions (section 3a and section 4a) allowed anyone to volunteer, no matter their race or color. Not long after, the War Department announced that the Civil Aeronautics Authority would begin the development of "colored personnel" for the aviation service in cooperation with the U.S. Army. All these

actions allowed for the first Black Americans to join the war efforts in the form of airmen.

With the first aviation class of 13 cadets starting in July 1941, the Tuskegee Airmen were born. Tuskegee University had participated in the CPT program since 1938 and rose to the forefront when First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt came for an inspection in 1941. With her



Eight of the famed Tuskegee Airmen with one of their planes. (Image courtesy Wikimedia Commons.)

influence, a large loan was given to help finance building Moton Field. Moton Field was the only primary flight facility for African American pilot candidates. From 1941-1946, approximately 1,000 Black pilots were trained at Tuskegee.

The 332nd Fighter Group was originally made up of four fighter squadrons, the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd. The 99th Squadron was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations between 1943-1944 for outstanding tactical air support and aerial combat in the 12th Air Force in Italy before they joined the 332nd Fighter Group.

In March 1945, the 332nd Fighter Group, known as the "Red Tails" at the time, was recognized for its longest bomber escort mission to Berlin where the Tuskegee Airmen destroyed three German ME-262 jet fighters and damaged five additional jet fighters. These are just a few of the many feats the Airmen accomplished and were awarded for.

These airmen weren't the only Black Americans paving the way for equality during WWII. In 1942, Camp Montford Point was established with the first African Americans to serve as Marines since the American Revolution. President Roosevelt's executive order 8802 in 1941 banned government agencies from discriminating against employing workers due to their race. The Marine Corps, which had held out on their



Several Tuskegee Airmen attending a briefing in Ramitelli, Italy, dated March 1945. (Image courtesy Wikimedia Commons.)



The Tuskegee Airmen Bronze medal was made in recognition of the airmen's unique military record. (Images courtesy United States Mint.)



discrimination policies longer than any other U.S. military branch, was forced to comply.

In 1941, Black Marines were sent to North Carolina to train at Camp Lejeune. Then, in 1942, the Marine Corps started construction on its segregated training facility, which was eventually named Montford Point. The training facility offered harsh environment conditions such as swamps and drastic temperatures in the summer and winter. Two-thirds of the African Americans who served were sent overseas. At first, they were viewed as inferior to their white counterparts and were given mostly supporting roles such as guard duty on islands that had already been secured in the Pacific.

The Marines coming from Montford Point that saw the most combat ended



The 2021-dated quarter is the last quarter released in the U.S. Mint's America the Beautiful program.

(Images courtesy United States Mint)



This bronze medal is a duplicate of the Congressional Gold Medal honoring the Montford Point Marines. (Images courtesy United States Mint)



up being groups that were given the least combat training. Their support roles were meant to keep the frontline troops advancing by stocking ammunition and removing the dead and wounded. They learned their expert combat skills under the pressure of battle.

In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order No. 9981, which called for equality of treatment and opportunity in all the U.S. armed forces. This ultimately led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military.

In 2006, the Congressional Gold Medal honoring the Tuskegee Airmen was authorized and then presented in March 2007. The obverse design features three Tuskegee Airmen, an officer, a mechanic and a pilot, as designated by their headgear. Underneath, an eagle flies with wings outstretched, symbolizing flight, nobility and the highest ideals of the nation with the inscriptions "Tuskegee Airmen," "1941" and "1949." On the reverse are the three types of aircraft the Tuskegee Airmen flew in World War II. The aircraft depicted are the P-40, P-51 and the B-25. "Act of Congress" is inscribed in a banner above the aircraft, and the date of 2006 sits just below. Underneath the planes reads "Outstanding combat record inspired revolutionary reform in the armed forces." The U.S. Mint offers a bronze duplicate of the medal for collectors.

In 2021, the U.S. Mint released the final addition to its America the Beautiful quarters program. The reverse design depicts a Tuskegee Airman pilot suiting up, with the Moton Field control tower in the background. The pilot looks upward as two P-51 Mustangs fly overhead. The inscription "They fought two wars" references the dual battles the Tuskegee Airmen fought, the physical enemies abroad and

racial discrimination at home. Inscriptions around the outer rim are "Tuskegee Airmen," "Alabama," "2021," and "E PLURIBUS UNUM."

Congress authorized the Congressional Gold Medal for the Montford Point Marines in 2011, and it was presented in 2012. The obverse shows three Montford Point Marines in varying uniforms with an action scene from training just below. The inscriptions on the outer rim are "Montford Point Marines," "1942" and "1949." The reverse depicts the marines in formation during training, with the signature water tower, a notable feature to all Montford Point Marines, in the background. The inscription "For outstanding perseverance and courage that inspired social change in the Marine Corps," sits in the space above the marines. "2011" and "Act of Congress" line the lower rim.

These brave men took on the prejudices at home, facing adversity before, during and after the war. But this didn't stop them from joining the fight against their country's enemies overseas. Everyone did their part, and Black Americans were no exception, paving the way for a brighter future and desegregation. 🌟

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Apr 14-15 CA, Pomona. West Coast Historical Militaria Collectors Show. Fairplex Park, Building 9 - 1101 W. McKinley Ave. Cactus Productions, www.militariashow.com, 602-380-1424, casalt1@yahoo.com

Apr 15-16 MN, Cannon Falls. SE MN Military Show. The Grand O2 Center - 32057 64th Ave. Sat. 8am-3pm, Sun. 8am-2pm. Tables \$30 in advance. \$75 if not advance. info@nc-mca.com, John@jopheim.com,

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Apr 22, 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). Show info: acmemilexpo.com or 210-843-6012

Apr 22-23 NC, Denton. Military Vehicle, Gun & Collector Show (Machine Gun Shoot & Helicopter Rides too) Denton Farm Park - 1072 Cranford Road. Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-4pm. Vend Tommy McLendon 910-571-2358, Gun show Joseph Massey 336-460-7350, Camping reservations 336-859-2755, www.dentonfarm-park.com, www.dmvgs.net

Apr 23 IL, Loves Park. Greater Rockford Military/Train show. Forest Hills Lodge Banquet Hall - 1601 West Lane Road. 80 + tables, dealer setup 6 am till 2 pm. Jeff bries 815-218-0228

Apr 29-30 GA, Marietta. Atlanta Antique Gun & Antique Gun and International Military Show. IMAW Local 709 Union - 1032 S. Marietta Parkway. Fri. 12-5pm, Sat. 9am-4pm. 704-282-1339, www.thecarolinatrader.com

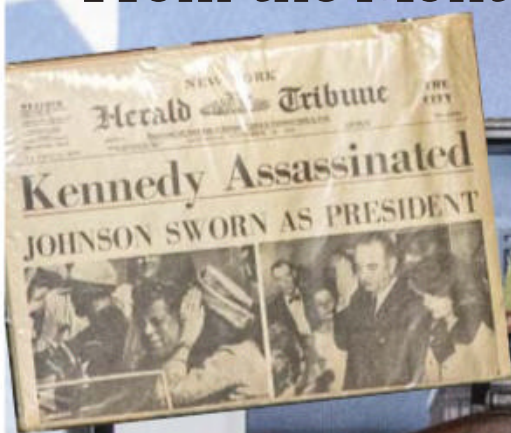
May 3 IN, Newburgh. Evansville Military Collectors Club 1st Wednesday Swap & Sale. American Legion - 711 State Street. 812-483-3064 or 270-827-8394

May 6 KS, Overland Park. Military Collectors Show. American Legion Hall #370 - 7500 W. 75th St., 9am-3pm. Jeff Barthol 816-550-8095 or Gary Young 913-945-0285

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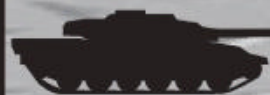
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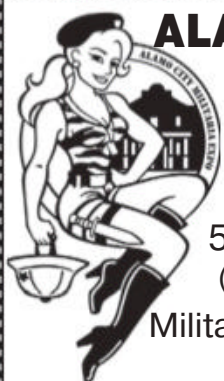
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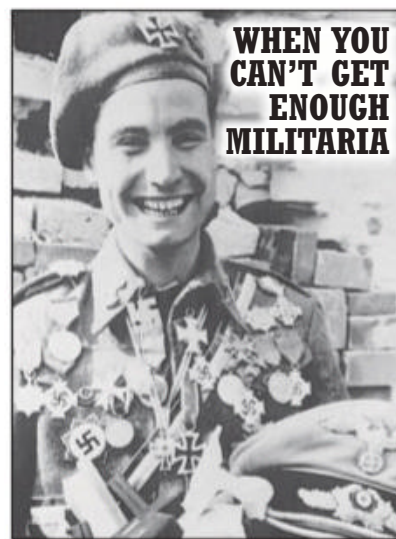
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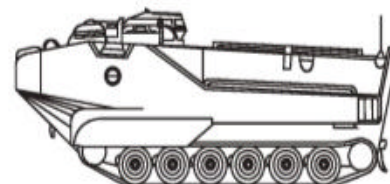
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