

Jacobsburg Bolton Historic Site WWII Weekend Jacobsburg, Pennsylvania

On 25-26 June 2022, AGFA participated in the Bolton Historic Site's WWII Weekend program. AGFA member John Uhler was the event organizer in direct support of the Jacobsburg Historical Society (<http://www.jacobsburghistory.com/events/>).

The members of AGFA who participated in the event were Donna Cusano, Paul Cusano, Anne Lutkenhouse, Jerry Still, John Uhler, Gary Weaver and Shawn Welch. Members Ron and Yvonne Brodzinski were vendors during this event. One of the really nice things about this event is the area for vendors. This makes the event a very good opportunity to locate historic equipment and uniforms to add to one's displays.

The educational objective was to provide historic information on Coast Artillery Corps and medical department operations during World War II.

AGFA also assisted the Jacobsburg Historical Society in managing the registration and reception for all historians for the event.

The photo below shows the participating membership on Saturday, 26 June 2022.



The photo below shows the registration tent with CPT(CH) Uhler discussing opening operations with one of the event staff. The focus of the registration tent was to secure all key information for registered historians and reenactors as they arrived at the event. This tent was in operation throughout both days.



TSG Weaver sits in the Registration Tent ready to receive participants as they arrived.



Morning display setup took about an hour both days. Below 2LT Cusano sets up one of the medical display tables.



Below is a view of the display site showing the Coast Artillery materials on the left starting with the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument, the fiberglass 16-inch Armor Piercing shell, CPL Cusano and 2LT Cusano and the medical displays. The Chaplain's jeep is at the far right corner.



In the photo below 2LT Jerry Still stands by the Chaplain's Jeep.



Below is a good view of the Coast Artillery Displays to include instructional charts on wooden backing boards. These charts help explain the function of a Seacoast Artillery battery.



Below is a closer look at the Coast Artillery displays. In the photo on both sides are two EE-91 fire control telephones, an MC-153 Time Interval Bell and an M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument. In the background are several historian's camp sites. Many event attendees stayed overnight on both Friday and Saturday.



The photo below shows the Italian Army campsite with one of the Italian soldiers explaining his equipment to visitors.



Public visitation was steady throughout the day. Below 1LT Lutkenhouse speaks with visitors next to the Chaplain's jeep.



1LT Lutkenhouse just finished a discussion at the medical exhibits as CPT(CH) Uhler leans against the 16-inch AP shell. The uniform she wears is a WWII seersucker WAC (Women's Army Corps) physical training uniform from about 1943.



Below 1LT Lutkenhouse and 2LT Cusano get a short break between public visitors.



The break was short - they are now fully engaged with visitors.



Below CPL Cusano explains the basics of how the Coast Artillery fires on ships.



Throughout the encampment are various historians representing many different countries. Below is the Italian Army site with visitors learning about the Italian military during WWII.



Below is a Polish Army (1939) encampment.



The tent below is full of historic WWII weaponry to include demolition and anti-tank rockets.



There were several medical displays to include the one below.



Below is a closer look at the historic medical items that were on display - these are most all vintage and "new old stock" in outstanding condition.



Below is the Administrative Tent for the 128th Evacuation Hospital. Our friend the company clerk (Ed Ludemann) has the full administrative components to include the correct personnel forms and a vintage (working) typewriter to fill them out with!



A closer look at the “working desk” complete with “IN” box and table light.



One of the best displays is the Salvation Army "Mobile Canteen" trailer. This is a true vintage item well equipped to serve coffee and doughnuts!!!



Other vintage vehicles were on display to include this 1920s pickup truck.



There were many historic weapons displays at the event. Below two historians compare their "Bren Guns". These are British squad automatic weapons of the WWII period.



Below is a better look at the two very rare weapons.



The AGFA weapons display included an M1903A1 Springfield Rifle, an M1 Garand rifle and an M1918A3 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR).



Below is a closer look at one of the Airborne tent displays. On the table to the right is a “ten cap blasting machine” being used as an initiator for a Bazooka rocket.



Each day we conducted a Weapons Demonstration that included blank firing of historic weapons. Below many of the historians who participated line up in preparation for the demonstration.



The public gathered around the demonstration site. Leaning against the chair below is an M1918 BAR. Also on the chair is a WWII period "bull horn" or public address system that helped us greatly to conduct the demonstrations.



Below two German Soldiers demonstrate the K-98 Mauser carbine rifle. The soldier on the left is using the microphone for the Bull Horn. Th microphone was connected to the Bull Horn with a 25 foot cable.



Below a pair of Ukrainian historians demonstrate the M1891 Mosin-Nagant rifle - standard issue of the Soviet Army in WWII.



In the photo below more historians are awaiting their turn in the demonstration.



Below our Australian Infantry Sergeant demonstrates his Bren Gun. This particular weapon is semi-automatic but the ones used in WWII were both semi and fully automatic. The Bren Gun was the squad automatic weapon of WWII for most all British and Commonwealth forces. The US Army's equivalent was the M1918 BAR.



Below a heavy machinegun team stand by with their M1917A1 Browning water-cooled .30 caliber machinegun.



Below the team begins to set up their M1917A1 for the public. In this photo the assistant gunner is placing the ammunition box on the gun.



In this photo the gunner is feeding the belt of blanks into the gun.



In the photo below the team finishing up loading.



After the crew fired the M1917A1, the soldier to the right came out to give the very last demonstration - the Rifle Grenade.



Below two US soldiers demonstrate firing the Rifle Grenade from an M1 Garand rifle. These grenades traveled about 100 yards and about six were fired for the public.



After the weapons demonstration, many historians cleaned their weapons. Below our Australian Infantry friend, Tim Kuntz, cleans his Bren Gun. All of these weapons are privately owned and their owners take very good care of them. Many of these weapons are very valuable and care is required to maintain their value.



At the end of the day the hijinks begin - below the Ladies of AGFA prepare to launch the 16-inch shell against a target!!!



At the end of the day on Sunday we packed up all the displays and headed out for dinner before our respective drives home.



Below several of us look at a garden at the restaurant we visited after the event. A great meal is a good way to end a weekend historical event!



Jacobsburg WWII weekend is well worth your time and we encourage you to attend in June 2023!