

## Jacobsburg Bolton Historic Site WWII Weekend Jacobsburg, Pennsylvania

On 24-25 June 2023, 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 Callum Bujdos, Donna Cusano, Paul Cusano, Dan Fortak, Anne Lutkenhouse, Jerry Still, John Uhler, Gary Weaver, Shawn Welch and our guests John Dwyer and Rochelle Vollmerding.

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

AGFA assisted the Jacobsburg Historical Society in managing the registration and reception for all historians for the event. This work began weeks before the event with attendance registration and confirmations and ended with the last registered participant signing in on Sunday 25 June.

The photo below shows the participating membership on Sunday, 25 June 2023.



Friday night and Sunday morning were wet days with much rain and heavy dew. In the photo below, T-3 Dwyer brings his medical jeep in for the event. The big yellow shell in the foreground is a 16-inch Mk-XII 2,240 pound armor piercing shell (fiberglass).



Early Saturday morning the 30<sup>th</sup> Division MPs began cooking their breakfast. The heavy moisture in the air is noticeable.



The photo below shows the registration fly for participants. TSG Weaver and 2LT Still are in discussion inside the fly.



The photo below from Saturday shows the Coast Artillery displays (left) and the registration tent (right). Public parking is in the background.



The photo below shows T-3 Dwyer's medical jeep and fly (right) and the registration fly (center).



1LT Lutkenhouse is in discussion with T-3 Dwyer and a member of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Below the "Salvation Army Canteen Trailer" exhibit is taking shape on Saturday morning. This is our source of hot coffee and donuts throughout the weekend!



Below is a good view of the trailer proper as the team takes a break during setup on early Saturday morning.



On Saturday the event conducted a “weapons demonstration” of many of the weapons used during WWII. TSG Weaver (left) stands ready with his M1 Garand.



The photo below shows a German Army “Pioneer” (combat engineer) demonstrating his K-98 Mauser carbine.



Another photo of the weapons demonstration - in the center is a German "Panzer Schreck" or "bazooka".



Next to the Salvation Army Canteen is the Chaplain's Tent.



On Sunday, the Jacobsburg Historic Society (<https://www.jacobsburghistory.com/>) provided a hot breakfast to all the historians and other participants at the WWII Weekend.



Sunday breakfast was a welcome event - below historians get in line for chow.





The Jacobsburg Historical Society's breakfast was a real hit with participants.



After Sunday breakfast we attended a non-denominational church service. The officiant for the service was an ordained minister. This brings a very special touch to the service as we get the Word of God delivered with a period historical view.



During the service, TSG Weaver and 2LT Still pay close attention to the Chaplain's message.



As the service ended, GEN Eisenhower (Norm Harbison) is seated to the left and 2LT Still takes their bibles over to the Chaplain.



There were many organizations represented at Jacobsburg. Below an Allied infantry camp of the 45<sup>th</sup> ID was nestled into the woodline.



Below is German/Italian medical encampment.



One of the major aspects of the German encampment area is a very extensive rifle exhibit covering most of the WWII period axis weapons.



Another German medical exhibit was right next to the Axis weapons display.



Airborne operations are always a hit. Below is a British Airborne jeep that has a "Bren Gun" on the side.



Below the British Airborne jeep (left), a section of a C-47 aircraft fuselage that includes the "Jump Door" on the side with a paratroop "ready to jump", and a US airborne jeep with a "drop package" on the bumper.



The 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division on New Guinea encampment is shown below.



Below is the encampment for GEN Eisenhower.



Below is a very significant airborne equipment display that covered weaponry, mobility, communications and supplies delivery.



The small cart below, carrying an M1919A1 air cooled .30 caliber machinegun, was a specific airborne system.



Important to all airborne operations is communications. The radios below represent the main methods of communications for airborne operations.



Below is more signal equipment, to include BC-611 "handie-talkie" and a box of "crystals" to set the channels. Another communications item on the tripod is a signal light used to directly focus a light signal. The large three section bag is a air-drop supply bag.





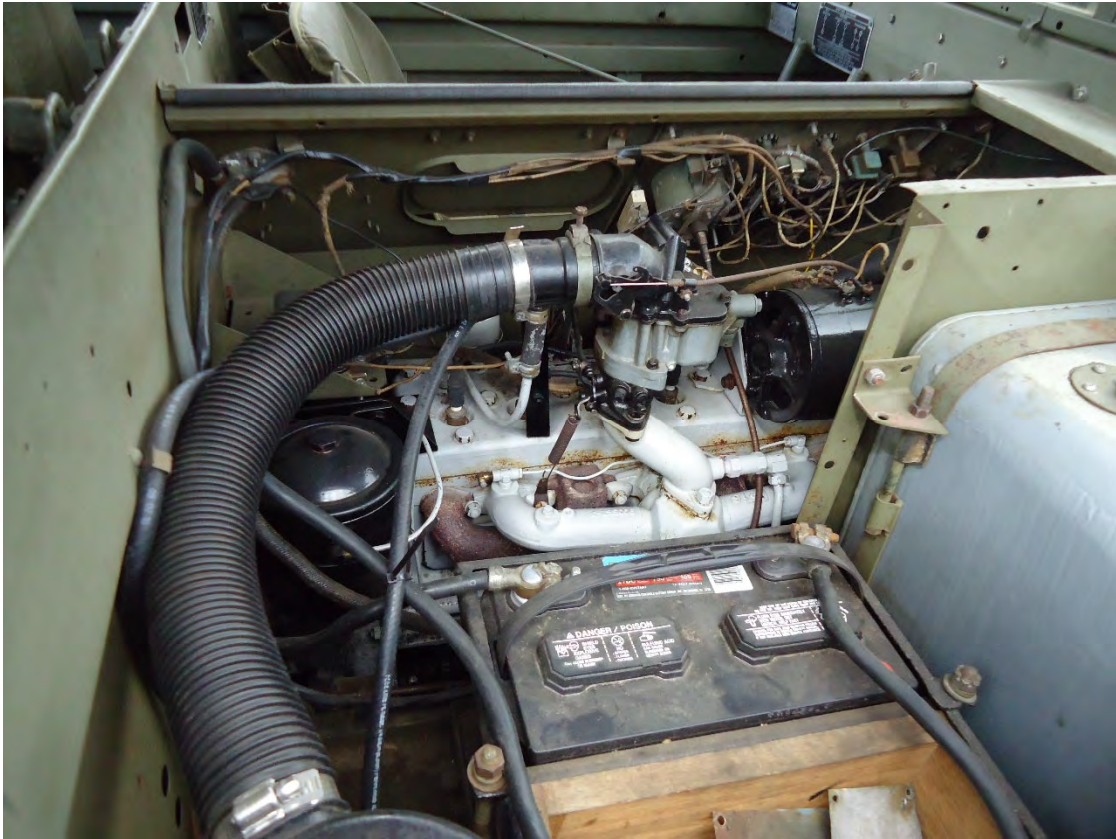
Below is a Weasel tractor - a very common piece of equipment used by many units in the 1943-45 time period.



Below is another view of the Weasel.



Below is the Weasel's engine.



Looking from the back towards the driver's seat is a radio with a speaker to the left.



The photo below shows the British Airborne encampment and their jeep.



Another view of the British Airborne displays with public visitors asking questions.



Another view of the British Airborne camp with a “tripod” of “stacked” Enfield rifles and the public receiving answers to their questions.



Below is a Field Artillery forwards observer encampment. To the right is a Battery Commander's Observation Telescope - a key component of Field Artillery command and control.



The display in directly in the center of the picture is a large collection of small arms, to include a machinegun emplacement.



On Sunday afternoon was another weapons demonstration. CPL Cusano and TSG Weaver are to the left, prepared to demonstrate the M1903 and the M1 rifles.



Below two German and one Italian interpreters demonstrate the Mauser rifles.



At the photo below CPL Cusano and another participant demonstrate the M1903 Springfield Rifle.



Below TSG Weaver loads his M1 Garand with a clip of blanks.



In the photo below he is prepared to fire his blanks.



The photo below shows the Coast Artillery fire control display featuring an M1901A1 Azimuth Instrument.



Below is the Coast Artillery display from another angle. The charts are used to describe the various aspects of Coast Artillery Fire Control.





The photo below is taken through the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument and is focused on the German/Italian medical camp.



The photo below shows the AGFA medical table display.



At the end of the day the packing began. Below 2LT Cusano packs up her medical display as 2LT Still and CPL Cusano fold the various tarps used to protect our materials from the rain.



End of event shenanigans are always welcome - lifting 2,240 pound 16-inch shells demonstrate our physical prowess!



Jacobsburg WWII weekend is well worth your time and we encourage you to attend in June 2024!