

## Jacobsburg Bolton Historic Site WWII Weekend Jacobsburg, Pennsylvania

On 29-30 June 2024, AGFA participated in the Bolton Historic Site's WWII Weekend program. AGFA member John Uhler was the event organizer for the Jacobsburg Historical Society (<http://www.jacobsburghistory.com/events/>).

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 30 June. Over 90 historians and reenactors and approximately eight vendors attended. Many diverse displays and exhibits were part of the event. Over the two days of the event over 500 visitors attended.

The members of AGFA who participated in the event were Callum Bujdos, Donna Cusano, Paul Cusano, Anne Lutkenhouse, Jerry Still, John Uhler, Gary Weaver, and Shawn Welch.

The educational objective for the attending AGFA members was to provide historic information on the Army's Chaplaincy during WWII, the Coast Artillery Corps, Chemical Warfare Service and Medical Department operations during World War II.

The photo below shows some of AGFA's participating membership on Saturday standing next to the fiberglass replica Mk-12 16-inch 2,400 lbs armor piercing seacoast artillery projectile. Members from left to right are LTC Welch, 2LT Still, TSG Weaver and CPL Bujdos.



Below TSG Weaver prepares the sign-in tent for historians/reenactors on Saturday morning.



At 0900 on Saturday, we held a flag raising ceremony to start the event. CPT(CH) Uhler, the event coordinator, is left foreground in khaki.



Below CPL Bujdos discusses chemical operations with a visitor.



CPL Bujdos' chemical warfare display is shown below.



Below CPL Bujdos discusses chemical systems with a fellow historian, CPT Tom Mellon of the Historic Military Interpreters (HMI).



Below is HMI's display.



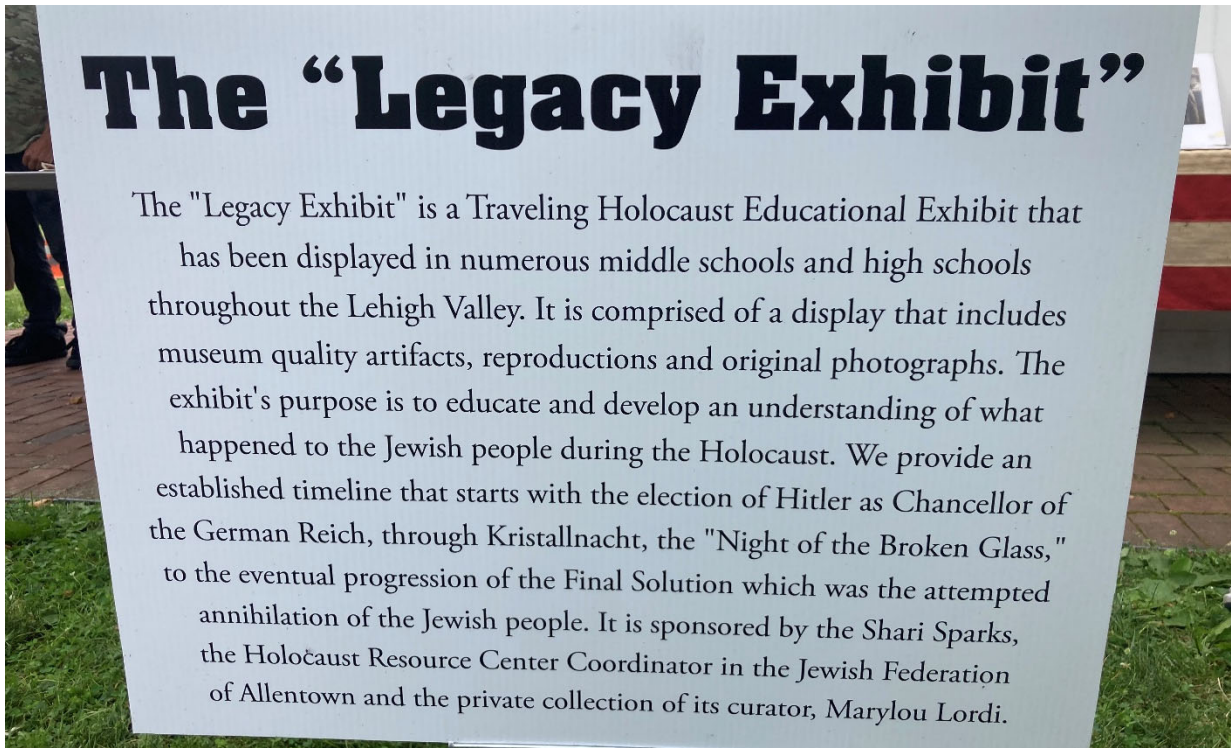
Part of HMI's weapons display with (top-bottom) an M1 Garand, M1 Carbine and T-38 Japanese Arisaka 6.5mm rifle.



On Saturday, a ceremony was held to honor Veterans and First Responders. Below, AGFA member 2LT Still (a retired Air Force Major General) speaks to our visitors and historians. Behind him is the Nazareth Area Community Band. They performed for the event from 1330 hours until 1500 hours.



This year's event hosted the "Legacy Exhibit" - well worth one's time to review and we hope they come back in 2025!!!



The photo below shows less than a quarter of the Legacy Exhibit.



Below is a view of about a quarter of the exhibit.



A very interesting section of the exhibit discusses how Jews were deported from other countries to France.

## Deportation to France

**The Deportation from Baden and the Palatinat to Gurs, So. France**  
*From the notes of Laure and Manfred Wildmann*

In the late afternoon of October 21, 1940, Mr. Moritz Neuberger, the head of the Jewish community of Philippsburg, was ordered to notify the Jews of the town, that on the following day they were forbidden to leave their homes. The next morning the police entered their houses and proclaimed that they had exactly one hour to pack and then would be brought to an undisclosed place. One hour later they were escorted to the main plaza where covered trucks were already waiting. All 21 Neuberger family were then driven to Bruchsal. This was the central collection point for all the Jews of the region. Late in the afternoon they were brought to a train and put on board. All night long the train progressed to the south as more and more Jews were added. Early the

**The Family's Tribulations in France**

Rivesaltes, is located at the foot of the eastern Pyrenees near the Mediterranean. It was far less muddy and crowded than the camp de Gurs, with cinder block barracks. Against her earlier desire to keep the family together, mother Rebekka Wildmann now felt it would be better for the children, to get them out of the camp. She succeeded in getting the 16 year old Hannalore, (the late Laura Kolb) on November 15, 1941, into a Swiss Red Cross children's home, the "colonne d'enfants" in Prigny, Haute Savoie, 40km south of Geneva. There she became a "mother" to about 10 small children and a kitchen helper. Just before she turned 15, on May 2, 1943, she as well as the three other Jewish girls managed to get forged French identification cards from an official who was with the underground and worked in the administration of the town. He gave her the name Huguette Lucie Vibert which would hide her Jewish identity.

In February 1942, 11 year old Manfred was accepted in the Chateau de Grammont, a French children's home. Many of the letters and some drawings exhibited are from there and provide insights into life during this period. In the middle of September 1942, Manfred was permitted to join his sister in Prigny where they stayed together until liberation.

Margot, the oldest of the four children, left Rivesaltes in April 1942 for a home operated by the Jewish Boy Scouts and later on took a position as a maid with a French family, where she stayed until the liberation in August 1944.

Their brother Hugo and their mother Rebekka were deported to Auschwitz on August 20, 1942. Their father, Heinrich, who had been in the Hospital St. Louis in Perpignan since 1942, was deported in October 1943, also to Auschwitz. None of the three survived.

The grandfather, Moritz Neuberger, survived and after the war he returned to Germany when a Jewish old peoples' home was opened in Heidelberg. He lived there until his death on March 9, 1964.

Suisse: Bâle

Manfred Wildmann

Gilling Bread by Rilik Audrieux

Rivesaltes

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There was a total of three weapons demonstrations during the weekend. Below Bret Dagnall starts the demonstration with the French M1886 Label Rifle which was a mainstay during WWI and used well into WWII. AGFA member TSG Weaver is on the left in Blue Denim and CPL Bujdos stands next to a stack of rifles carrying an M1918 BAR.



Below is the “automatic weapons” exhibit with a German crew served weapon and the US M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR).





Another view of the weapons demonstration team on Sunday with AGFA member SGT Cusano in khaki holding an M1903 rifle.



From left to right are the US Bazooka anti-tank rocket launcher, the larger German "Schreck" rocket launcher and AGFA member CPL Bujdos holding a disposable (one time use) "Panzer Faust" anti-tank rocket launcher.



The photo below shows the Coast Artillery exhibit including charts to explain how the US Army's Coast Artillery Corps would target and engage ships. The optical fire control instrument to the right is an M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



The photo below shows the German encampment through the telescope of the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



The encampment below is of the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and includes the Chaplain's tent and fly in the center.



Below is another view of the 45<sup>th</sup> ID encampment.



Below is a medical display from the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



Below is a field artillery display.



The field artillery display was focused on early WWII period as identified by the blue denim field uniform.



Below is the communications equipment displayed in the Field Artillery encampment.



One of the most enjoyable displays is the Salvation Army mobile Canteen. They always have hot coffee and doughnuts throughout the day.



The Salvation Army Canteen was also where we held our Sunday morning Church Service for the historians and reenactors before the public arrived.



Below 1LT Lutkenhouse chats with Robyn and John Welsh who own the Canteen trailer and a most appropriate truck to pull it!



Their wonderfully restored 1936 Dodge Panel van is below and is the “prime mover” for the Canteen Trailer.



There are many things to see at the Jacobsburg Historical Society (<https://www.jacobsburghistory.com/>). In addition to the WWII Weekend, we highly encourage a tour of the site's Henry House and the Long Rifle Museum.

Jacobsburg WWII weekend is well worth your time and we encourage you to attend in June 2025!