

Jacobsburg Bolton Historic Site WWII Weekend
Jacobsburg, Pennsylvania

On 27-28 June 2026, AGFA supported and participated in the Bolton Historic Site's WWII Weekend program. (<http://www.jacobsburghistory.com/events/>)

AGFA assisted the Jacobsburg Historical Society in managing the registration and reception for all historians attending and displaying at the event. This work began months before the event with attendance registration and confirmations and ended with the last registered participant signing in on Sunday 28 June.

There were many historians, reenactors and exhibitors at the event. Many different aspects of World War Two were represented and this provided many opportunities for the public to learn and experience something new.

The members of AGFA who participated in the event were Donna Cusano, Paul Cusano, Anne Lutkenhouse, 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 and Medical Department operations during World War II.

The photo below from Sunday afternoon at the end of the event shows all of the participating historians and reenactors from many different groups and organizations. This photo was taken by <https://www.facebook.com/LightsPhotoz98/>.



Below is the AGFA Team, L-R - LTC Welch, SGT Cusano, TSG Weaver, CPT(CH) Uhler, 2LT Cusano and 1LT Lutkenhouse.



Saturday morning's check-in was "in the rain". Below 1LT Lutkenhouse and 2LT Cusano are conducting check-in of historians as they arrive in the rain.



Below the members of the 45th ID chat under a fly as the rain picks up in mid-morning.



Below the 6th Cavalry has covered all their vehicles and are chatting under their fly and inside their tents.



Below is the 6th Cavalry during a break in the rain around 1300 hours. Rain on Saturday had breaks of 20 minutes or so followed by about an hour of rain throughout the day.



The Salvation Army Canteen Trailer was a popular location through the day. Hot coffee and doughnuts were available all day.



Another look at the Salvation Army Canteen with historians and public alike enjoying a respite from the rain.



One of the major features of the Jacobsburg Historical Society is the Nicholas Hawk Gunsmith building (below).



Inside the gunsmith shop is actually a full-service gunsmithing capability for Pennsylvania Long Rifles (flint and percussion muzzle loaders). The "Shop" conducts classes on how to assemble the Long Rifles at various times during the year (<https://www.jacobsburghistory.com/society-collections/nicholas-hawk-gun-shop/>).



Below is a view of period files and tools used to make Pennsylvania Long Rifles.



The German contingent spent much of the day visiting encampments and honing their skills in small unit operations. Below are four German reenactors in a selection of uniforms of the WWII period.



In addition to Germans, the Italian Army was also represented. Two Italians chat with a US paratrooper from the 82nd Airborne Division.



Below are two important WWII weapons. On the left is the Sturmgewehr 44 - the first "assault rifle". This particular weapon is made from parts and is semi-auto only. The weapon on the right is the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle.



Historian Mike Delcin's exhibits of various radio systems is very educational. Mike's focus is on radios and communications devices heavily used by the Airborne community.



Another view of Mike's radio displays.



Saturday mid-afternoon was the perfect time for a performance by the Swingtime Dolls (<https://www.swingtimedolls.com/>).



We were very blessed as the rain tapered off during the performance. Many attendees watched either from their exhibit locations or brought chairs over to watch them from the field in front of the “stage”.



Hailing from Connecticut is BHistorical (<https://bhistorical.com/>) which provided an outstanding “signal corps communications center” for the event.



Below is part of their exhibit with a telephone switchboard, “Headquarters Clock” and connections board that would be seen in messages centers during WWII.



Another great exhibit is British Air Raid personnel. During 1940-41, England was subject to extensive and ongoing air attacks by Germany that focused on destroying English cities and capacity to wage war. The exhibit below outlines the actions taken by Britain to mitigate this onslaught.



Sunday morning started with a Church Service at the Salvation Army Canteen.



With Sunday having no rain, the Vendors that attended the event were out in full. Many great WWII period items were available for sale.



The "Happy Tummy" truck was present all weekend and provided excellent breakfasts and lunches throughout the day.



Below is part of the Coast Artillery "Fire Control Station" with an M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument, two EE-91 telephones, MC-153 Time Interval Bell and binders about our work at Fort Hancock.



TSG Weaver speaks with a visitor on Sunday about the exhibit.



Below a visitor helps his son see through the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



Below is what our visitor sees - the 6th Cav maneuvering their M3A1 37mm Anti-Tank gun in preparation for the Weapons Demonstration.



Sunday was a great day for all vehicles and equipment to be "uncovered". The tarps are drying on the right. The items in the picture (front to back) are M3A1 37mm Anti-Tank gun, M29 Weasel (tracked transport), M3A1 Scout Car, Dodge ¾-ton truck and a Jeep.



Below is a selection of various types of 37mm ammunition which included armor piercing, high explosive and canister.



Below is a closer look at the M3A1 Scout Car with a M1917 .30 caliber water cooled machinegun and a M2 .50 caliber machinegun.



Below is a closer look at the M3A1 37mm Anti-Tank Gun. This particular gun was manufactured in Pennsylvania in 1943.



During the Weapons Demonstration, the members of the 6th Cavalry fired five blank rounds in very quick succession as would have been done in combat.



Below is another view of the gun firing.



Below is another view of Mike Delcin's Airborne equipment displays - with a sunny day this was a perfect time to see all of his equipment.



And then the day ends! Below the 6th Cavalry has loaded the M29 Weasel and M3A1 37mm ATG for the trip home.



Jacobsburg WWII weekend is well worth your time and we encourage you to attend in June 2027! To learn more about the Jacobsburg Historical Society, visit <https://www.jacobsburghistory.com/>. To learn more about Army Ground Forces Association, visit www.armygroundforces.org.