

★★ **THE BUGGLE** ★★

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Stuart Tank Reflected Obsolete Thinking

by Richard H. Zeitlin

The U.S. M3 Stuart light tank participated in all theaters of operation during the Second World War. More than 20,000 were manufactured; some 2,500 in Racine, Wisconsin. The M3 started its service life as a "combat car," an armored vehicle designed to accompany horse cavalry. Army leaders in the early 1930s considered Mexico to be a possible military opponent, and American operations in the southern republic, they believed, would require horse soldiers.

Named for the famed Confederate cavalry leader J.E.B. Stuart, M3s manufactured during the 1930s had no cannon. They mounted three

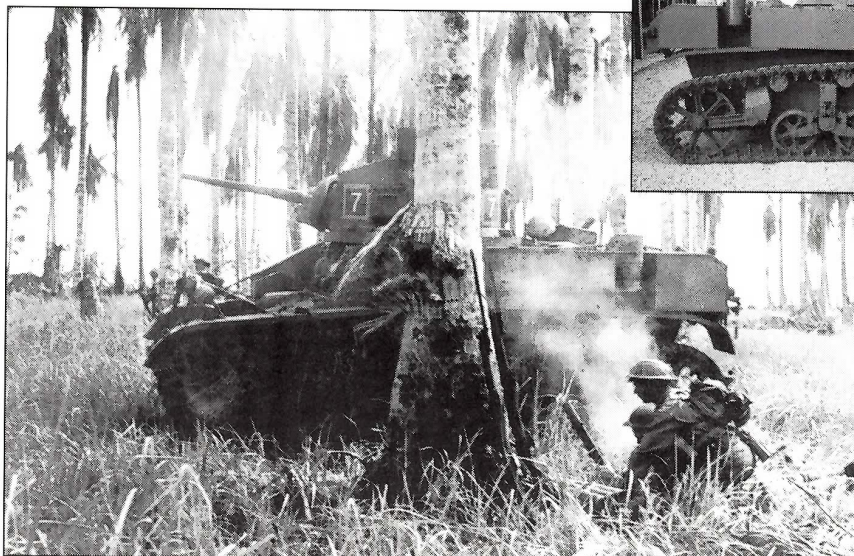
machine guns, and had "pistol ports," or armored hatch covers, on the sides of the turret through which crew members could fire. Stuarts were lightweight, extremely fast (most were fitted with aircraft engines), and highly reliable. The Stuart also proved to be upgradable and additional armor as well as a cannon were added without sacrificing performance. But the most important characteristic of the Stuart revolved around the fact that it was in production when the Second World War broke out. More Stuart tanks flowed out of American factories

each month by 1942, than had been produced during the preceding decade.

Thousands of American tanks were shipped to allied powers through the Lend Lease program. The English and Australians greatly appreciated the speed and reliability of Stuarts as contrasted to the lumbering and mechanically cantankerous British tanks. Stuarts distinguished themselves in the British campaigns against the Germans in North Africa's desert. The British nicknamed them "Honey" for their pleasant handling characteristics. Stuart tanks began to sport modifications based on battle experience gained against the Germans.

But the basic inferiority of the Stuart's armor and armament also became evident. The Stuart's armor, for example, could not protect its crew from any cannon in Germany's inventory while its own 37mm gun

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Australian manned Stuart tanks in final assault on Buna, 1943. Inset, WVM's Stuart tank undergoing conservation, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1992.

Tank *from page 1*

could not penetrate the armor of any German tank except at very close range. The Stuart was antiquated and Americans rushed to put the Sherman medium tanks into rapid production.

Many Stuart tanks served in the Pacific. Defense of the Philippines relied on the Stuarts, for instance, some of which belonged to the Wisconsin National Guard tank battalion from Janesville. After the fall of the Philippines, some Stuarts became incorporated into the Japanese army. In the jungles of the Pacific, the diminutive speedster could not make use of its mobility. Yet, small size and lightweight—highly limiting factors in Europe—made the Stuart readily transportable aboard landing craft and American invasions of Japanese islands were frequently backed by Stuart tanks. Australian manned Stuarts supported the Buna campaign in New Guinea, in which Wisconsin's 32nd Division played such an important role.

Even in Europe, Stuarts continued to serve in scouting roles. They operated as escorts for columns of American supply trucks which formed the basic logistical support mechanism in the campaign for France and Germany. In Europe, Stuarts became sort of like armor plated jeeps. When German tanks appeared, Stuarts circled the trucks and called for help. As medium tanks became available, they began to be included in light tank units.

American officials quickly rid themselves of Stuart tanks after the war. Most were transferred to various allied nations. Some wound up in Latin America, where they continued to serve into the 1970s. The military value of the obsolete Stuart tank was nil after the war. They are rarely encountered in the United States.

When the Wisconsin Veterans Museum began construction, the size,



Governor Thompson, Diane Carlson Evans (right), and Annabelle Wegele (left) signing into legislation donations of \$10,000 each to the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington DC and the Women in Service to America's Memorial at Arlington Cemetery. Nearly 150 people attended the signing at the Veterans Museum on April 19. Governor Thompson also signed two bills relating to veterans benefits.

WWI Veterans Club Provides Accommodations in New York City

The Soldier's, Sailor's, and Airmen's Club of New York, New York was founded in 1918 by wealthy public-spirited citizens to provide affordable hotel accommodations to veterans. Located in the fashionable Murray Hill section of Manhattan and very close to the Empire State Building, the Soldier's, Sailor's, and Airmen's Club still provides accom-

modations for veterans, active as well as reserve military service personnel, members of the National Guard, dependents, widows, and children of veterans. For those planning to visit New York and seek to avail themselves of this unique benefit please call (212) 683-4353. Room costs range from \$20 to \$40 per night.

weight, and historical value of the Stuart tank was immediately recognized. A tank collector from Indianapolis was contacted. He was in the process of importing three Stuarts from Brazil. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum acquired one of them and had it repainted for use in its exhibits. The Wisconsin National Guard moved the Stuart into the Veterans Museum when the tank appeared in Madison. The modern tank mover dwarfed the 1942 Stuart.

THE BUGLE Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

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Curator's Chronicles

by William Brewster

Welcome to another edition of the Curator's Chronicles. In this issue, we will consider the various types of historical information we can derive from donated objects. Potential donors often find it surprising that a military museum maintains such diverse collections. It is not uncommon for donors to ask, "do you really want this old thing?" In many instances the answer is a definite yes. What makes an army blanket, a tin cup, an old tooth brush, or a broken watch of interest to the Veterans Museum lies in the historical context relating to construction and use rather than its overall condition.

Donated objects associated with a person or occurrences are more than visual remains. These artifacts are physical evidence that document information and create a tangible link to written history. They can act as reference points to history and trigger memories for individuals and groups of past events. For the researcher, objects may provide information about specific historic periods, industrial technology, and cultural development. Every piece that we accept for the collection has histories that can add to our understanding of the past. It is the curator's job to develop this information, and make it available. The following paragraphs describe some of the methods related to this process.

When examining an object during the cataloging process, we first consider the means of fabrication. This involves identification of manufacturing data for mass produced items or the method used to construct a handcrafted object. Specific concerns include country of origin, date of manufacture, and construction materials. For historical perspective it is important to determine if an

object's production was representative of the industrial standards for the day or an innovation. We also consider the user's perception of an object, its acceptance, and whether the object created a significant impact. After examining these factors a picture of development appears that will help in the understanding of a particular artifact or group of objects and their relationship to history. Consider the army blanket described in the last issue of the *Bugle*.

The Weissert blanket contains a high percentage of shoddy or reprocessed material. For the general public and government during the nineteenth century, as well as today, the term shoddy was synonymous with poor quality. The government's dissatisfaction with, and fear of, reprocessed material was so great that the 1889 specifications for army blankets required the wool to be free of "shoddy, re-worked wool or cotton, or any impure materials." Yet for the textile industry the development of a process that made old fabric available for reuse was a

technological advancement that resulted in financial savings. During the Civil War, textile manufacturers imported over twenty-two million pounds of shoddy wool to the United States. Reprocessed fibers are still in use in textiles, produced using virtually the same methods perfected during the nineteenth century. Today we consider "recycled" goods an environmental asset and not an industrial shortcoming.

Shoddy content is only one factor in the manufacturing history of issue blankets. To create a complete history we also examine the other wool used, dyeing processes, yarn spinning, and the methods employed in manufacture. Of course each manufactured object presents a different set of criteria for consideration. It remains for the curator to research this information, record, and make it available for use in exhibits and to researchers. In the next issue we will examine the personal history that we develop from objects. Until next time....



Members of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association donate \$1,200 to support the conservation of the 1863 Tiffany-made Iron Brigade flag on March 15. To date, various donors have contributed \$48,467.15 toward the conservation of Wisconsin's Civil War battle flag collection held at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

The Wisconsin Veterans Oral History Project has seen a few firsts since the beginning of 1996. On February 14, 100-year-old Ray H. Fuller of Oshkosh became the first World War I veteran to participate in the project. Fuller served in the Mexican border mobilization of 1916-1917 and saw combat in France as part of the 32nd Infantry Division during the Great War. On March 22, William Pitcher of McFarland became the first participant to have served exclusively in a foreign military force. A native of London, England, Pitcher served as a medic in the British commandos before, during, and after World War II. His career included service in North-western India, North Africa, Central

Europe, and Malaysia. He immigrated to this country in the 1960s.

On March 7, American Legion Post 304 in Palmyra turned over a treasure of valuable archival materials to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. In addition to records from their own post, the donation also included the records of the Grand Army of the Republic's Joseph Bailey Post 138. The legionnaires found the GAR records in the basement of their clubhouse. In the days after World War I, it was not uncommon for young American Legion posts to take over the facilities of the older GAR organizations. I suggest that Wisconsin veterans look into the basements, attics, or other secluded places in their local posts. You might unearth

something of great value to history!

Finally, information about the WVM's archives and library program now appears on the Internet. A subsection of the museum's World Wide Web home page, the archives page contains information on the scope and content of the museum's manuscript holdings, usage guidelines, and information on how to make donations. Also included is a listing of manuscript record groups, allowing researchers to learn of individual collections on their home computers anywhere in the world. The Internet will be of great value in promoting the WVM as a research institute. The address is: <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva/museum/archive.html>

IN MEMORIAM

Ray H. Fuller

Ray H. Fuller, one of Wisconsin's best known veterans, died February 16 at his home in Oshkosh at the age of 100.

Fuller began his military service in the Wisconsin National Guard in 1916, serving on the Mexican border. He continued his service and became part of the Red Arrow Division during World War I. He saw combat in the major actions in which the 32nd Division participated.

Fuller was a charter member of the Veterans of World War I of the USA when it formed in 1948. He rose to the post of national commander. He later served as state commander of the World War I veterans and represented the organization on the Council on Veterans Programs.

Ray Fuller was a life member of many veterans' organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart, 32nd Red Arrow Division, and the National Order of Trench Rats as well as an honorary member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. For his decades of service, he was awarded an Army Commander's Award for Public Service by the Wisconsin National Guard.

Ralph Pope

Ralph Pope died at his home in Edgerton on April 12, 1996. He was 79.

Pope entered the Army in 1937 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He was assigned to the Philippine Islands. In

1941, he was put in charge of water transportation in the Manila area. Pope surrendered to the Japanese on Corregidor in 1942. He endured 43 months as a prisoner of war, being liberated at Hanawa, Japan in 1945. He remained in service and retired in 1958.

Pope was a life member of the American Ex-POWs and served as Commander of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter in 1983. Ralph was also a life member of VFW Post #1621 in Janesville, VFW Post #2708 in Edgerton, DAV Chapter #2, Madison, and the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. He donated thousands of hours to the Veterans Hospital in Madison and also donated a major specialized collection of POW narratives to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's library.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Enters Cyberspace

by Mark D. Van Ells

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has entered cyberspace. The first segments of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's home page on the World Wide Web went on-line this past February. The WVM's Internet address is: <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva/museum/wvmmain.html>. Work on the page is ongoing, but at present it contains several sections. Electronic visitors can take a tour of the exhibit galleries and view some of the exhibits, as well as a featured ship model (at present, the U.S.S. *Wisconsin*). The archives and library section has information about WVM's books and manuscripts (see *Archivist's Corner* for more information). The gift shop area has information about various WVM specialty items, as well as a list of the top ten selling book titles in the store for the previous quarter. Finally, a section of "links" allows web users to connect to the web pages of other museums, historical agencies, and veterans' organizations. Future sections of the WVM web page will include information on artifact collections, public programs, and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation.

Below is a list of military history and veterans' resources on the Internet. Links to these sites from the WVM page already exist or will be added as soon as possible. From time to time new sites will be listed in the *Bugle*. If you come across an interesting site, send the address to: museum@mail.state.wi.us. Happy surfing!

- American Civil War Home Page**
<http://cobweb.utcc.utk.edu/~hoemann/cwarhp.html>
- American Civil War, 1861-1865 World Wide Web Information Archive**
[~bdboyle/cw.html](http://bdboyle/cw.html)
- American Legion**
<http://www.legion.org>
- Baudo's Vets Links**
<http://www.teleport.com/~baudo/>
- Carroll College Civil War Institute**
<http://carroll1.cc.edu:80/civilwar>
- E-Hawk Cadre Home Page**
<http://www.olcommerce.com/cadre/index.html>
- First Division Museum at Cantigny**
<http://www.xnet.com/~fdmuseum>
- Fort Duffield, Kentucky World Wide Web Site**
<http://unix.adept.net/members/louis/home.html>
- From Green Bay to the Persian Gulf**
http://www.execpc.com/~pvmiii/gulfwar/432_indx.html
- Great Republic Homepage: Grand Army of the Republic**
<http://pages.prodigy.com/MI/gar/gar.html>
- Guide to Museum and Cultural Resources on the Web**
<http://www.usc.edu/lacmnh/webmuseums>
- H-Net: Humanities On-Line Home Page**
<http://h-net.msu.edu>
- Horus: World Wide Web Links to History Resources**
<http://www.kaiwan.com/~lucknow/horus/horuslinks.html>
- Immigration History Research Center**
<http://www.umn.edu/ihr>
- Korean War Project**
<http://www.onramp.net:80/~hbarker>
- Medal of Honor Museum**
<http://bertha.chattanooga.net/honor/>
- Milwaukee Public Museum**
<http://www.mei.com/other/mpm/welcome.html>
- National Archives and Records Administration**
<http://www.nara.gov:80>
- National Park Service**
<http://www.nps.gov>
- Organization of American Historians**
<http://www.indiana.edu/~oah>
- Smithsonian Institution**
<http://www.si.edu>
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**
<http://suvchw.org/>
- State Historical Society of Wisconsin—Archives Division**
<http://www.wisc.edu/shs-archives>
- Stone and Stone Second World War**
<http://www.sonic.net/~bstone/>
- Tim O'Brien, Novelist**
<http://www.mcs.net/~mkl/tobhp.html>
- United States Army Center for Military History**
<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg>
- United States Army Military History Institute**
<http://144.192.240/usahmi/>
- United States Civil War Center**
<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu>
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**
<http://www.ushmm.org>
- United States Library of Congress**
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/homepage>
- Valley of the Shadow Project**
<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vshadow2/>
- Vietnam Casualty Search**
<http://sersoft.clever.net/vietnam/>
- Vietnam Vets Archive**
<http://home.earthlink.net/~beerborn/index.html>

New Volunteers

The museum welcomes five new volunteers to its tour program. The volunteers provide guided tours of the exhibits to Wisconsin's schools and other groups. The museum could not carry out its tour program without the knowledge and expertise of its volunteer staff.

New volunteer staff members this year include Clifford Bowers, U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II

and Korea; Frank Freese, 84th Infantry Division, World War II veteran; John Icke, veteran of the Coast Guard; V.G. Rowley, World War II Army veteran; and Sterling Schallert, World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy.

If you would like to volunteer in the tour program, please contact Karen Gulbrandsen, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 W. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 266-1854.

THE WISCONSIN
VETERANS MUSEUM
FOUNDATION
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Help keep the history of Wisconsin's veterans alive by contributing to the educational exhibits and programs of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.



\$10 \$25 \$50 Other

Send your name, address, and contribution to:

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation,
30 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703

In the Gift Shop...

AUGIE WEISSERT'S BLANKET

A federal issue blanket copied from the original that was issued in November of 1864. Our reproduction blanket will be available in June. Write for more information.

Don't wait until it's too late!



The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Gift Shop presents Civil War battle flag mugs. The mugs feature the flags of the Iron Brigade's Second, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin regiments. Mugs are available for \$10.00 each. Write to us at: Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703 or call 608-267-1799.

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