

MOTOR POOL MESSENGER

Military Transport Association of North Jersey

May 2003

Website: www.mtaofnj.org

Editor: Dave Steinert



Dover Under Siege

Observations of an Embedded Reporter

The date was March 22, 2003. The first of a much anticipated two-day military show. The drop zone was near the convergence of two major national interstates, 80 and 287, in northeastern New Jersey. Ground zero was a National Guard Armory in the culturally diversified town of Dover. Military vehicle owners anxious to get their "babies" back out on the road after a relentless winter, were all too eager to push the season. They threw tarps aside, topped off fluid levels, tested brakes and traveling lights, and brought their sleeping beasts to life. Like wayward sharks drawn in to a feeding frenzy they rumbled out onto the byways and headed into Dover. The lure was the **Second Annual Military Transport Association (MTA) Swap Meet and Vehicle Show**.

It turned out to be a spring weekend worthy of the record books. Early on Saturday morning as one meandered amongst the 50 plus vintage military vehicles put on display, you had to try hard to see your breath, temperatures were headed for the 70's. The low, throaty rumble of one or two idling transport trucks sent wispy little plumes of exhaust skyward as they were being briskly unloaded. Fortunately it was not munitions and combat ready soldiers, but food stuffs, and merchandise for sale.

Tucked off to the side, nestled in an alcove, stood the nicely dressed out oiled canvas mess tent. It was barely 8

AM as I reconnoitered the scene, yet the facility was already a beehive of activity. MTA member **Vinny Schwartz** had the grill fired up and was quickly preparing freshly made bacon, egg, and cheese sandwiches for many early arrivals. For MTA members, National Guardsmen and Civil Air Patrol cadets, food was on the house. The smell alone did me in, so I took my place in line. The chow line moved along methodically, and efficiently. I was quickly drawn into friendly banter with MTA members **Frank Eichenlaub** and **Linda Schwartz** who were enthusiastically working the mess tent. The friendly atmosphere of laughter and warm greetings barely gave me a chance to concentrate on the extensive menu of vittles to be offered up for sale. I am not sure I saw anything on it for more than \$1.50. *What's wrong with these guys?* Looks to me as though they just want to have fun and pass the enjoyment along to the visiting patrons.

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During the course of the two days and a few more visits to the mess tent, I noticed other MTA members such as **Jack and Esther White, Peter and Sally Berendsen** and **Eileen Eichenlaub** all cheerfully serving as cooks or servers. Later on Saturday afternoon, the second shift took over with **Mike Solomon, Ev Potvin, Jim Rutar and Al Mellini** all lending a hand in one way or another. I was told **George and Dorthy Wagner** spent all day Friday preparing the sausage and peppers for the two-day event. I'm sure there were other volunteers that I missed who put a lot of time and effort into the success of the mess tent area. Come to find out, when all was said and done, what they lost in cost they made up in volume and good will. Over 300 egg sandwiches, 1,200 hotdogs, 180 sausage sandwiches, and 15 pounds of chili were consumed!

Although there was ample table space at which to sit and eat in the mess tent, I usually chose to take my meal outside and eat while I strolled amongst the outside vendors. There were dozens of them, peddling just about everything that could be of interest to military fanatics and do-it-yourselfers, of all ages. I picked up several color coded hanks of high strength parachute cord, a 10th Mountain Division piton hammer, and an outstanding WW II German camouflaged parachute for starters. This was bad news in that I had come to the show with the hopes of generating some *positive* cash flow, not negative. But hey, it's an investment, right? I had a table *inside* covered with WWII artifacts that I was supposed to be selling. So, I headed indoors to concentrate on that task.

This was where the *real* action was. The expansive interior of the armory was wall to wall vendors encased in an excited matrix of eager buyers looking for that special something to make the visit all that more worthwhile. I excused and pardoned my way on to my table. Folks were already heading past me for the exits with newfound treasures and that special little smirk affixed to their upper lip that only appears when you *know* you got the buy of a lifetime. My table was still there, but not as cluttered as when I had left it. My "vending neighbor", a most pleasant chap who had come all the way down from central *Maine*, had sold 4 items for me and had a tidy little wad of greenbacks ready to hand me. He wouldn't hear of a tip for his efforts, so I bought some of his wares!

MTA members **Keith Adams** and **Ed Rue** spent most of the day on Saturday circulating indoors and out selling 50-50 tickets. Keith also was kind enough to donate several quality door prizes to the 50-50 campaign. The persistence and untiring efforts by Keith and Ed netted the MTA a nice contribution to its profits for the two-day event.

A \$3.00 donation was the requested admission to the entire event; unless you were fortunate enough to procure one of the innumerable "Get into the Show Free" passes dispersed throughout the neighboring communities. The funny thing is, many people still donated to the event even when they HAD passes. A couple of vendors, including myself, sold everything they brought and in their blinding euphoria saw fit to make an additional donation to the club towards next years highly anticipated show.

The local police force helped with traffic control and security and gave freely of their time for any support that was needed. The Cadets of the Civil Air Patrol generously helped with the parking situation at the armory. Two buses

continuously brought and took away cheerful show patrons that elected to park at the Rockaway Mall.

There was an addictive air of goodwill and camaraderie enveloping this 2-day event At the MTA Gun Truck project area, **Mark Jezewski, Ed Pavlick, Bob Macanga** and **Dan Muchmore** took turns selling 50-50 tickets and explaining the history of the Vietnam Gun Truck to any patron who was the least bit interested. By Sunday evening, the back of the Gun Truck would be filled with parts and accessories that were donated by generous vendors and MTA members.

On Saturday afternoon, a Parsippany based cable station, *Video-on-the-Go*, filmed an extensive segment on all that was there to offer. Jeeps, gun trucks, weapons carriers, ambulances, tanks, weapons, and munitions all made prime copy. From this, an hour-long educational video was produced. In the video, MTA President **Randy Emr**, represented the club magnificently with his history of the MTA and his knowledge of the different eras of equipment displayed. Other MTA members who participated in the video were **Brian Bancale, Dave Steinert, Bob Lefferts**, and **Harold Ratzburg**. All added their best presentation skills to the final cut. The MTA would like to thank, *Video-on-the-Go* Producer Jay Deutsch and Ron Foresio, who Co-hosted the video for their time and efforts. The video will remain always a part of the MTA archives.

Also on Saturday, local *Channel 12 News* interviewed **Brian Bancale**. That evening, on the channel's news broadcast, a segment was shown about the MTA Show and the interview with Brian as he demonstrated his driving skills with his M8 armored car on busy Route 15. Luckily no accidents occurred as a result of "*road rage*" from jealous road warriors.

Some MTA members like **John Eklund, Jack Bennett, Harvey Lawshe, Jack Pellington, Dave Young, Gary Schultz, John Headley** and **Art Swain** served as "roaming ambassadors" as they circulated throughout the show answering questions, keeping security and lending a helpful hand when needed.

Attendance was brisk throughout the day on Saturday with the show starting to wind down around 6 PM. Vendors and MTA members left for their respective overnight lodgings, while a few MTA members like **Bill Best, Dave Coward, Mark Jezewski, Jim and Ellen Moore** spent a sleepless Saturday night at the armory.

Sunday arrived as another beautiful spring day. The shuttle buses slowly began their rounds from the parking areas to the show. Some early bird patrons began meandering their way through the display and vendor areas. The smell of freshly brewed coffee attracted MTA members and vendors to the mess tent for another round of bacon, egg and cheese sandwiches. A few different military vehicles that were not at the show on Saturday arrived Sunday morning adding to the number and variety.

The National Guard, the Club's co-sponsor, offered off-road HUMMVEE rides to interested parties and entertained crowds of curious onlookers with ongoing demonstrations of weapons stripping and assembly. Vehicle owners stood by their prized possessions eager to educate curious onlookers and allow photos of young GI Joes to be taken

behind the wheel. The event was truly a reprieve from the hassles of everyday life.

As Sunday afternoon approached and the electricity of the event started to drain, the remaining patrons made their way to the last shuttle buses. Tired vendors could be seen slowly packing away their remaining wares. MTA members started busily taking down their displays, some bulky National Guardsmen and volunteers from the Civil Air Patrol quickly disassembled the mess tent. The infield area that was once a beehive of activity a few hours ago was slowly becoming void of display vehicles and interested on-lookers. As the sun slowly settled into the early spring sky, MTA members could be seen scouring the armory property for pieces of litter and lending a helping hand where needed.

With out a doubt, this is a show definitely worth inking in for next year.....and the next. The MTA of North Jersey, in conjunction with a highly motivated and spirited division of the New Jersey National Guard, have landed upon a winning formula. Show Chairman **Jim Moore** and his wife **Ellen** are already planning next year's festivities, which I am told will be better than this years. Towards that end, some vendors have *already* paid for their spaces next year. That's good enough for me. I have already begun to sort through some of my treasures to sell and have a call in to reserve two tables this time! See you in the spring!!

Note: The MTA thanks all its members who attended and participated in the planning and operation of the show. Special thanks to MTA President Randy Emr for his patience and professionalism during the entire event, also to Show Chairman Jim Moore and his wife Ellen for all their time and effort towards a very successful event. The MTA also thanks Bob Lefferts and the New Jersey National Guard for their support and a special thank you to the cadets of the Civil Air Patrol who volunteered to assist at the show. THANK YOU!



Minutes of the April 2003 MTA Meeting

The April 14th 2003 meeting of the Military Transport Association of North Jersey was called to order by President **Randy Emr** at 7:55 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by **Bob Lefferts**.

Treasury 0Report: Treasurer **Ellen Moore** gave the following treasury report for April 2003:: Starting balance: \$1600.23. Disbursements: Pizza 3/03 MTA meeting-\$60.00, dash plaques-\$259.50, postage for newsletters (1/03-3/03)-\$372.88, stamps (Treasurer)-\$7.40, Lifetime Membership Award-\$47.00, Microsoft Publisher Program-\$160.00, total disbursements:\$906.78. Deposits: Pizza-\$78.00, 50/50-\$54.00, shirts-\$10.00, jackets-\$110.00, sweatshirts-\$330.00, memberships-\$175.00, B Company-\$34.00, West

Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade-\$150.00, total deposits: \$941.00. Final Balance:\$1634.45.

Treasury report for 2003 Spring Swap Meet: Profits: Vendors-\$3800.00, admissions-\$1670.00, MTA sales-\$342.00, memberships-\$155.00, food-\$1387.01, 50/50-\$166.75. Total:\$7520.76. Costs: National Guard Donation-\$550.00, table rentals-\$1322.56, Food-\$938.00, State (location fee)-\$100.00, dash plaques-\$259.50, advertisements-\$351.00, signs and supplies-\$284.00, food (Thurs, Fri. and Mon. crews)-\$160.00, postage (Press releases and vendors)-\$29.00, printing costs-\$343.00, Bill Peaslee (vendor related charges)-\$125.00. Total:\$4462.66. **Net profit: \$3058.10.**

Gun Truck Committee Report: Co-chairman **Mark Jezewski** reports that the club web site will soon be updated with new photos of the gun truck progress toward restoration. In addition, the Gun Truck committee reports that the recent Dover show was a great success for their fund raising and equipment donation efforts. \$560 in cash were donated to the Gun Truck project, and if any of you had a chance to see the back of the truck by the end of the show you would have noticed that they collected many donated items that will come in handy as they approach completion.

Parade Committee: Co-chairman **Frank Eichenlaub** reports that this year is once again shaping up to be extremely busy with townships requesting our presence at holiday parades. As in previous years the Piccatinny Arsenal open house parade is on again for May 15th and the MTA is once again honored with a request for vehicles. Frank reminds all that want to participate that they must be officially signed up to the Piccatinny roster. For security reasons, only those vehicles that are on the signup sheet will be allowed to participate and get on post. We will form up at the Dover Armory at 9am and head over to the post with the NJ Guard. Frank also advises that we have a request from the Vietnam Memorial to put on a display on Wednesday May 7th. Any members with Vietnam era vehicles are strongly encouraged to participate. Frank is working on coordinating approximately 11 parades for the Memorial Day weekend. Check out the MTA website at www.mtaofnj.org for complete details. Help Frank out by giving him a call if you can support the club by attending a parade with your vehicle. **Mayor Gene Fely** of Denville stopped by our April meeting to put in an urgent request for the MTA to help out Denville this year. Due to scheduling conflicts their normal request for NJ Guard vehicles for the township Memorial Day parade could not be met by the Guard, therefore Denville is seeking any support that the MTA could offer for vehicles. Although a little late in the planning, Frank reports that he is doing his best to reshuffle some members to try and support Denville's request.

Newsletter and Membership Report: The March newsletter was one of our best yet and Editor **Dave Steinert** thanked all those who supported last month's newsletter with editorial contributions. Look for more MTA Veteran's Biography's that Dave has been doing in upcoming issues. On the membership side, Dave reports

that we have dropped 65 unpaid members from our mailing list. Our current membership roster stands at 284 active and paid up members. We will be on our way to 300 members soon!

Restoration Committee: Chairman **John Sabotka** reports that the club jeep project is still awaiting work, and currently is parked at Randy's house. "We are just waiting for the time and space to get it down to the Dover Armory so that work can commence" reports John.

Show Committee: Show Chairman **Jim Moore** thanked all that helped out with this year's MTA Dover Show. "The Support from the MTA members truly helped make this year's show such a success" commented Jim. All those who had been to the many Friday night meetings held at the Dover Armory over the last several months will also know that it was **Jim and Ellen Moore's** fantastic coordination and tireless work that really help make this show so much funGood job to the Moore's for heading up the show committee!! Jim also reports the many vendors and spectators commented how much they like our Dover show and that 24 spots have already been requested for next year's show. A show of hands supports our clubs efforts to run the event again for 2004. **Bob Lefferts** also was in attendance at the April meeting to give us his report on results from the show. Bob was honored recently by the NJ Guard for his recruiting efforts. Bob reports that Guard commanders were very impressed with our show and turn out but most important, they were very impressed with the results that we are having in helping to attract talented individuals to sign up. Bob says he received a total of 4 new enlisted Guard members as a result of our show with 3 more getting ready to sign up soon. Look for a show special report in an upcoming issue of the Motor Pool Messenger!

New Business:

President **Randy Emr** reminded all that a major convoy is in the planning for this year's East Coast MVPA show in Churchville Maryland. Several convoys are expected to link up in New Jersey with the hope in forming the largest private military vehicle convoy on record. There has even been talk of getting the event listed in the Guinness Book of World Records. Contact bruce@trackpads.com for more details on joining the convoy.

Frank Eichenlaub reports that we sold out of club shirts and hats at the Dover show and that we are placing an order for more apparel. See Frank if you want to place an order for a club sweatshirt as they are only available as special order items. Randy solicited any club input for a new design on our club hats or shirts.

Randy also read a notice of our pending application for tax exempt status which is now in progress. **John Sabotka** reports that he is still looking into the possibility of the NJ Guard donation of a train and other vehicles to the MTA, but that our tax exempt status must first be resolved.

Both **John Sabotka** and **Vinny Schwartz** asked if there is anything our MTA Club can do to support families of the Dover Armory staff that have or may soon be deployed to the Middle East. The Dover Armory has been very generous with support for the MTA and if there is anything we can do to support them or there families we will certainly be looking into it in the future.

New Members: **Jack McDevitt** from Warwick NY attended the meeting. Jack joins the club with his M715, **Pete Pagnia** joins the MTA with his 1987 Hummvee, Pete is looking for any help members can provide him on electrical issues he is experiencing with his Hummvee. **Anthony Gasparine** was also in attendance; Anthony is from Chester and has an M-37. Welcome aboard to all of our new members!

On a closing note: A big hand goes out to **Linda Schwartz** for dishing up a great meal for the April meeting. For a simple \$3 donation, Linda whipped up a great dinner of pasta, meatballs, bread, cake and coffee.....Thanks Linda.!

Meeting ended at 9:00 PM

Submitted by Gary Schultz

2003 MTA Officers and Staff

President.....Randy Emr, 973-770-6629
Vice President.....John Sobotka, 973-398-3692
Recording Secretary.....Gary Schultz, 908-852-4520
Corresponding Secretary.....Dave Ahl, 973-285-0716
Treasurer.....Ellen Moore, 973-514-1250
Sergeant at Arms.....Mark Jezewski, 973-228-7086
Parade/Events Coord....Frank Eichenlaub, 908-276-3412
Newsletter/Membership.....Dave Steinert, 973-347-9091
Web Master.....George Wagner, 973-927-7616
Dover Show Chairman.....Jim Moore, 973-514-1250

The MTA **Welcomes** the following new members:

Anthony Gasparine of Chester, NJ
William Fairgrieve of Jackson, NJ
Richard E. Michaluk of Chester, NJ
Ernest H. Mathewson of Wharton, NJ
Patrick Tamborro of Branchville, NJ
Andrew Torrieri and Family of Orangeburg, NY
Alex Stasenko of Scotch Plains, NJ
John Lamond of Saddlebrook, NJ

GUN TRUCK PROJECT UPDATE FIRST INSTALLMENT

By Mark Jezewski

Lastly reported was our acquisition of tires, we received 8 from club member Neil Dutton. Additionally, John Peterson donated two MX-6707 antenna bases and 5 gallons of oil. Since that time, Ed Pavlick and I have been traveling around picking up donations from generous club members and other people interested in this project.

Friday, March 14th Gun Truck committee members including myself, Ed Pavlick and Vinny Schwartz traveled to Great Meadows to pick up the steel we purchased to make the gun box on the rear of the truck. Following the steel pickup and delivery, Ed and I returned to Randy Emr's yard where the truck was stored to start the truck and make sure it was ready for the move to Chester. To our astonishment when we attempted to start the truck we found that the batteries were dead, once again. Based on previous discussions that Dave Coward had with Jude Meehan indicated the probable cause was that the batteries were being drained due to a short in the alternator charging system. Vinny indicated that he might have a source to exchange our broken alternator for a good one through a swap, so Ed and I removed the alternator.

March 15th, the Saturday preceding the club show and swap meet found the gun truck committee members up at Randys yard doing maintenance on the truck in preparation for a move to Vinny Schwartz's friend's yard, located in Chester, where the steel gun box was going to be installed and welded in place.

Members present included Mark and Kyle Jezewski, Randy and Jesse Emr, Col. Ed Pavlick, Jack Pellington, Dan Muchmore, Vinny Schwartz and Dave "The Wrench" Coward.

Vinni bought up an acquired set of batteries he scrounged from somewhere so we could attempt to diagnose the electrical problems on the truck. The morning started out with the removal of the bows, racks and seats as well as the (8) tires, which were stored in the rear of the truck. Jack and I did the removal of the rear bed hardware and tires assisted by Dan "Muscleman" Muchmore. Randy was kind enough to donate his 1 ¼ ton trailer to store the tires and other donated items we had previously acquired and had stored in the cab, tool boxes and rear bed.

While Ed, Vinny and I cleaned and loaded our treasures in the back of the trailer, Dave, Dan and Jack started on the problems we knew the truck had, mainly stuck throttle linkage, and electrical problems with the dash panel and lighting system.

Dave once again proved his worth by diagnosing the electrical system problems with the aid of a 24 volt tester and some spare wire. Although remembered to bring the tools, I had forgotten the M-series chart with the explanation of the wiring numbers. None the less, Dave "The Wrench" figured it out. In short order Dave, with Jack and Dan's assistance had repaired the dash lights and gauges, blackout light system, directionals and running lights. We were unable at this point to check the brake lights because the truck needed to be running and have air pressure built up in order to test the brake lights.

Then it was on to the throttle linkage, which was disassembled, cleaned and reassembled in short order. With these tasks completed, the next step appeared to be an attempt to start the vehicle. Argument and discussion ensued as to whether we could start and run the vehicle without the alternator in place without running the scrounged batteries down and breaking up the belts, which were still on the pulleys. Ultimately, mechanical knowledge and Dave and Vinny's insistence prevailed and the attempt was made. To the surprise of most of us involved the truck started with ease and purred like a kitten. Once the air pressure was up, the brake lights were tested and passed inspection.

At this juncture, things appeared to be looking pretty good. Other than the fact that we needed an alternator and some belts, the truck was ready to roll. Vinny advised that he would have an alternator by Monday night and would install it and new belts on Tuesday, March 17th.

It may seem that we were rushing somewhat, but we were trying to get the truck ready for display at the swap meet. Unfortunately for us, we had the weather and scheduling considerations to deal with.

On Monday, March 16th, I received a call from Ed reporting that Vinny couldn't acquire the alternator as planned. After many calls to find one, Dan mentioned that he had a spare and would loan it to us until we could replace the damaged one. With Dan and Ed's assistance, the alternator was installed and the truck was moved to Chester for the gun box installation.

Vinny and Ed and new member Dennis Kennedy completed the steel installation between the 17th and 20th and then the truck was moved to the Dover Armory for the show.

As we are well aware, the show was a big hit. During the show, the Truck was parked across from the mess tent. A display area was set up in front of the truck using some of the guns we had purchased. Vinny Schwartz painted up a sign identifying the "Truck" as an MTA project. Photographs acquired by Ed and Mark through friends in the gun truck community were displayed on the sign, which hung off the side of the gun box. Additional photographs and our gun truck book were displayed on the table along with our "Request for Donations" jar.

Throughout the course of the show, the table was manned chiefly by Bob Maganga and Russ Voight and were spelled at various times by the other committee members. Many "Gun Truck Pins" were sold which contributed to our war chest. Ed flitted around back and forth between his indoor table, and the gun truck display answering questions from curious spectators and soliciting donations via 50/50 drawings which he held at random times during the weekend. You never knew where he would pop up next.

Every organization has one member who is an adept at acquiring everything and anything, commonly called a "Scrounger" and I guess I'm it. Having never been afraid to ask anyone for anything, I spent my time moving amongst the vendors, club members and anyone who would listen, explaining the project and its historical value to the Military Vehicle Community and Public. I pleaded, begged and
(Vietnam Gun Truck Project continued on page 8)



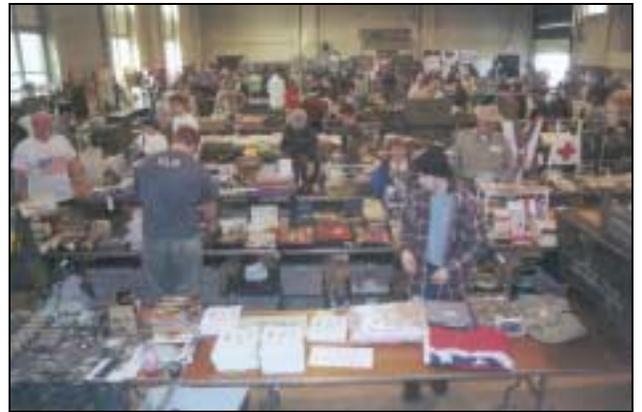
Jack White working in the mess tent



Ray Bentley's M16A1



Gary Schultz and his Dodge WC-12



Vendors selling inside the Armory



How 'bout a hot dog?



I just want to kick the tires



A nicely restored Dodge WC21



Outside vendor area



“Let me fix that pimple on your forehead”



Bob Rooke racing a Unimog



Outside vendors area before the crowds



Part of the clean-up crew



Down comes the mess tent



“Hey, how many guys can you fit in the cab of this truck?”

sometimes bought items which were needed for the gun truck project. Vendors and public alike were interested in the project and generous with their wares whether it was through donation or giving a break on the price of an item I was trying, (Hoping) to acquire. Often, I put the arm on my able bodied assistants Dave the wrench and Billie Best to move items I acquired from vendor locations to the back of the gun truck.



All in all, we had a very successful, constructive weekend. Through Ed's efforts running the 50/50 and Bob and Russ selling pins and manning the table we managed to end the weekend with monetary donations in the amount of \$560.00. My thanks go out to the all the committee and club members for their contributions of time and funding.

Through the efforts of the Gun Truck Committee and other club members, we will continue to pursue this project and hopefully have the truck finished and ready for parade season.

The following is a list of items donated to the project. If I missed your name, I apologize. Remind me and I will add it to the next article. Some donors wished to remain anonymous and although I truly wish to give credit where credit is due, I have conceded to their wishes. Monetary contributions made by Gun Truck committee members are not included in this list. Those members who have loaned or given so generously know who they are. Funding thus far has been handled by committee members, donations and pin sales without any cost to the club.

DONATIONS RECEIVED AT SWAP MEET:

MONETARY: Total **\$560.00**

- \$100.00** donation from club member Ollie Davis
- \$ 35.00** donation from the North West NJ Chapter 327 Vietnam Veterans of America
- \$425.00** received through 50/50 drawings, pin sales and cash donations

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS RECEIVED:

- ALTERNATOR-John Sobotka
- (6) 50 CAL CANS-Spruce Mountain Surplus
- (2) MX-6707 BASES-John Peterson
- (2) FUEL FILTERS-Unknown Donor
- 30 CAL AMMO CAN-Gary Schultz

- 5 TON MANUALS-Anonymous Donor
- (10) 50 CAL CANS-Anonymous Donor
- (2) 100X20 TIRES-Anonymous Donor
- (25) 30 CAL AMMO CANS-Anonymous Donor
- CANVAS CAB TOP-Jack Stewart
- PIONEER RACK-Jack Stewart
- 2ND "A" FRAME .50 MOUNT- Bruce
- CANVAS SEAT COVERS-COMplete SET-Bruce
- WINDSHIELD WASHER MOTOR-Jack Stewart
- WINDSH. WIPER BLADES W/ARMS-Jack Stewart
- (2) REPLACEMT WINDSLDS-Anony Donor
- DRIVER & PASS DOOR GLASS-Anony Donor
- (2) CANVAS SEATS FOR GUN BOX- Anony Donor
- 5 TON SERVICE MANUALS-Harold Ratzburg

50 CAL AMMO CANS (WE NOW HAVE A TOTAL OF 89 OUT OF 144)
 100x20 TIRES (WE HAVE A COMPLETELY NEW SET OF 10)

ITEMS PURCHASED FOR TRUCK:

- NOS-REAR CARCO CANVAS COVER
- NOS-FRONT AND REAR CARGO CURTAINS
- 50 CAL PEDESTAL GUN MOUNT
- RT-442 RADIO RECEIVER AND MOUNT
- (2) GLAD HAND(AIR LINE) COVERS
- (2) MX-2799 ANTENNA MATCHING UNITS
- (2) COMPLETE SETS OF ANTENNA ELEMENTS
- (2) SETS OF ANTENNA MOUNTING BRACKET

OTHER ITEMS WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- WINDSHIELD WEATHER STRIPPING
- RT-524 RADIO (WORKING)
- BOARDING LADDER
- EXHAUST STACK EXTENSION
- ROUND DRIVING LIGHTS



"I do not believe that the men who served in uniform in Vietnam have been given the credit they deserve. It was a difficult war against an unorthodox enemy." -William Westmoreland

THE MEMORIAL DAY POPPY

By David Steinert

As a boy growing up in Parsippany, NJ in the late 1950s, one of my fondest memories of Memorial Day was accompanying my mom, as she would sell "buddy poppies" at the local grocery store or shopping center. My dad had been a veteran of WWII and after the war he joined a local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in town. Of course my mom was required to be a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary and it was the responsibility of the Ladies Auxiliary to sell "buddy poppies" over the few weeks leading up to and including Memorial Day.

I was eight years old when my parents finally decided I was "mature" enough to accompany my mom on one of these excursions. I was really looking forward to making a nice income without doing much work. Standing in front of a busy store and selling these paper flowers would be easy money. Before driving off to the local shopping center we stopped at the local VFW meeting hall and picked-up the bouquets of "buddy poppies" and the white cylinder-shaped cardboard and tin donation cans. The bouquets of artificial poppies seemed so crisp and new and had the strong fragrance of the glue used to hold these "puppies" together.

We arrived early in the morning at the shopping center and my mom parked the family's white 1951 Ford Sedan in a convenient parking space where it would be accessible for additional supplies of poppies should they be needed. We chose our territory in front of the Rexall Drug Store's only exit. My mom handed me one of the donation cans and a hand-full of poppies. I was confident that I would have this can filled to capacity within a hour or so. Then we could go home and I would be able to watch "Leave it to Beaver" before lunch. *Easy Money!*

As the customers would exit the store...there I stood with the poppies in one hand and the donation can in the other with an innocent plea to, "Please help our disabled veterans". *What in the world were veterans?* I don't know...but the plea was working. A beautiful "clinking" sound could be heard each time a coin was dropped into the slot of the donation can. In the beginning business was brisk...my sales were booming...aaah...I could see me buying new baseball cards at five cents a pack, or maybe enough money to buy a new baseball bat...*Life was good!*

Then suddenly it seemed like the "clinking" of the coins became less frequent. Customers were beginning to ignore me. My eight-year-old legs were getting tired and I was quickly becoming bored. On top of all this...I was getting hungry. *"Hey mom...how much longer?"* *"What do you mean...we just got here?"* I want to go home. Besides I've been here a long time and my donation can is only half full. At this point the time dragged on and I didn't think I was going to survive.

Finally it seemed like days, but my mom finally said it was time to go. But first I was told we'd have to stop at the VFW meeting hall and drop off the donation cans. *Drop off the donation cans? You mean after we remove the money...then we drop off the empty donation cans?* No...we drop off the donation cans with the money. *We don't get to keep the money?* Nope. This was a real depressing day...not only did I miss "Leave it to Beaver", but I spent all day selling these stupid paper flowers and I couldn't keep any of the money. *Life was bad!*

That night my mom told my dad about our poppy sales and my disappointment in the day. My dad laughed, but said he wanted to take me somewhere that evening, but wouldn't tell me where we were going. After dinner we got in the Ford. We again stopped at the VFW meeting hall where my dad ran in and got the donation cans and placed them on the back seat of the car. After a short drive where neither of us said much, we arrived at the Veterans Home in Boonton, NJ. My dad asked me to help him carry the donation cans into the Veteran's Home. On the way in I noticed a few men my father's age in wheel chairs. Some were missing legs; others were sitting on benches just staring into space. Upon entering the home, I saw others missing arms or laying in beds, shaking or just staring up at the ceiling. We handed the donation cans over to the Veteran Home administrator.

On the way home my dad explained to me that the donation for the poppies went to the Veteran's Home. The money was used to take care of the soldier's who had suffered wounds and disabilities during WWI and WWII. Without this money these men would be left homeless and uncared for. It was a lesson I would never forget. Every Memorial Day I make sure I donate to our disabled veterans and I wear the poppy proudly in remembrance of those who have served this country unselfishly. Please remember to buy a poppy this Memorial Day and wear it proudly.



Calendar of Events

Meetings, grades, and events officially sanctioned by the MTA are listed in **BOLD UPPER-CASE TYPE**. Other events are listed in standard upper and lower case type

May 8-10th; 30th Annual East Coast Military Vehicle Rally Churchville, Maryland.

Monday, May 12th; MTA MEETING. American Legion Post, Whippany, NJ (7:00 PM eats & videos, 8:00 PM meeting)

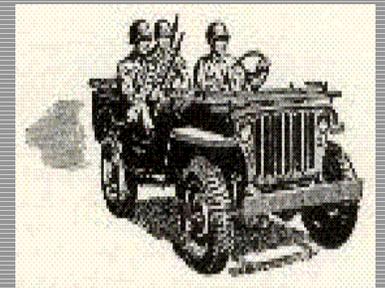
Wednesday, May 14th; B Company Meeting. Somerset National Guard Armory, 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset, NJ. (7:00 PM meeting)

Monday, June 9th; MTA MEETING. American Legion Post, Whippany, NJ (7:00 PM eats & videos, 8:00 PM meeting)

Wednesday, June 11th; B Company Meeting. Somerset National Guard Armory, 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset, NJ. (7:00 PM meeting)

Monday, July 14th MTA MEETING. American Legion Post, Whippany, NJ (7:00 PM eats & videos, 8:00 PM meeting)

Wednesday, July 16th; B Company Meeting. Somerset National Guard Armory, 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset, NJ. (7:00 PM meeting)



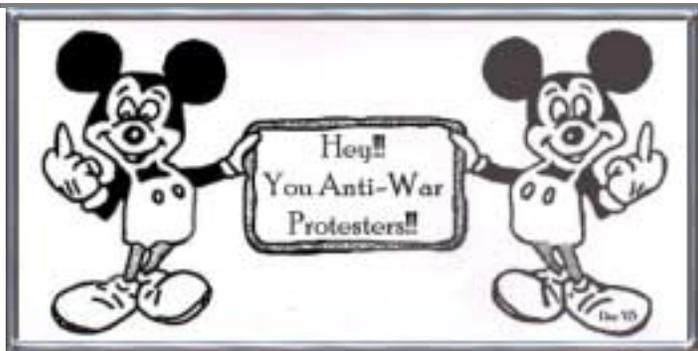
etc...

NOTE: Please refer to the insert for upcoming MTA parades, displays and other events. We welcome all MTA members to our events even if you do not own a vehicle. We are always looking for MTA members to ride "shotgun". If you attend an event even without a vehicle you will get credit towards your free membership. Please call Frank Eichenlaub at 908-276-3412 for questions related to MTA events.

The Motor Pool Messenger Top 20 List of Military "Truisms"

Submitted by Bob Rooke Jr.

1. When the pin is pulled...Mr. Grenade is NOT our friend.
2. If the enemy is in range...So are you.
3. When in doubt...Empty the magazine.
4. Try to look unimportant...they may be low on ammo.
5. Odd objects attract fire...never lurk behind one.
6. Incoming fire has the right on way.
7. Don't look conspicuous...it draws fire.
8. Who cares if a laser guided 500 pound bomb is accurate to within 9 feet!
9. The easy way.....is always mined.
10. Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything.
11. Bravery is being the only one who knows you are afraid.
12. If your attack is going well..... you've walked into an ambush.
13. Teamwork is essential.....It gives the enemy someone else to shoot at.
14. ANY ship can be a minesweeper.....once.
15. NEVER tell the platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.
16. Don't draw fire.....it irritates the people around you.
17. Friendly fire.....isn't.
18. When you are short of everything but the enemy.....you are in combat.
19. Mines are equal opportunity weapons.
20. If you find yourself in a fair fight....you didn't plan your mission properly.



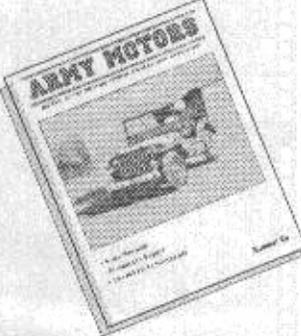
"A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle; and patriotism is loyalty to that principle."-- George William Curtis

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Classified Advertising--If you miss a meeting and want to post an item in the Classified Advertising column of the newsletter, please feel free to call Dave Steinert at 973-347-9091 or you can email him at: steinert@worldnet.att.net

For Sale-1954 Dodge M37-has winch, cab heater new batteries, good tires, troop seats. 47000 miles. Runs and in good condition. \$6500. Call John Sobotka 973-398-3692. Call 6-9 PM.

For Sale-1985 Chevy Blazer-6.2 liter diesel engine, 400 auto transmission, posi-rear, power steering, power brakes, factory camo paint, everything works, needs nothing, excellent condition, 77000 miles, has NJ title. Asking \$6000 or BO. Great vehicle for collector or everyday use. Call Steve 973-948-6170.

For Sale-1953 Dodge M37-All original, located in Bloomingdale, NJ. Asking \$4800. Call Glenn 973-838-1600 or 973-697-5315.

For Sale-M416 ¼-ton trailers, \$350 to \$400 depending upon condition. All are very good or better. US issue Artic "mummy sacks" sleeping bags \$35. 10 Kw 3-phase WWII generator w/Jeep power plant \$800 delivered, but you unload. ¾-ton comm. Container, empty \$150. Call Vinny Schwartz (973)-635-2404.

For Sale-1968 M35A2 Turbo, 22000 miles, 9 ton dump body, airshift front axle, air power steering and hard top, runs great, ready for work or play, \$5500. Call Don Covart (973)3354367 or cell (973) 390-4876.

For Sale-Manuals for your military vehicle(s). Save shipping, I can bring to MTA meetings. Call Dennis (973)-579-2886 or visit www.portrayal.com.

For Sale-Back issues of Military Vehicle Magazine. Running out of many back issue numbers, so get them while you can. For a complete list of remaining back issues go to www.SwapMeetDave.com

For Sale-Water Buffalo, \$750. Van Norman #12 Milling machine, 48" bed, w/attachments and 3-way vice, power feed, 220 VAC 3 PH \$3200. Call Art Swain (201)387-8961. Leave message.

For Sale- Western Snowplow setup, less undercarriage, with 7-foot blade, \$300. Vinyl cargo cover for 2 door HMMVEE \$25.00, Racks for M101A1 trailer \$250.00, Cargo bows for M1008 \$35.00, Spring ride seat bases \$15.00 - \$30.00, Sprag transfar case, less than 2000 miles on it \$300.00. Call John Peterson at (732)-3931959 or email at sandman9@optonline.net.

For Sale-1943 Ford Jeep-running, asking \$4000, 1967 Troop Carrier-excellent condition, asking \$2000, 1955 Jeep, running, military marked by private party, asking \$1000. Call Gene (973)-328-2000.

For Sale-Chain hoist, ½ ton rated, but old and probably will lift several times the ½ ton rating. Condition: Industrial quality heavy duty, buyer must pick-up, asking \$75. Call Peter Berendsen (973)-966-1862.

For Sale-M416 trailer-ex road dept, yellow, tailgate cut out and missing, body solid, no rust thru, overall good condition, \$200. Call Ron Northrup (908)-927-1092.

For Sale-1953 M43 Ambulance. Has all the bells & whistles, rear heater, includes all stretchers, plus 2 extras, good tires, all red crosses on rear door & roof. Interior complete with new front seat cushion covers. All good glass, decent paint with medical

caduceous, runs well \$6000 or best offer. M151A1/A2 Powerpacks (engine & transmission) takeouts, includes many engine accessories, 2 available \$300 each. Call John Headley (973)-479-3353.

For Sale-1963 DODGE M37B1 3/4 TON 4X4, CANVAS TOP, FRONT-MOUNTED, LU-4 BRADEN WINCH WITH NEW CABLE, NEW 900X16 MILITARY NDT TIRES, BED-MOUNTED 24 VOLT ELECTRIC WINCH FOR RECOVERY OPERATIONS, READY FOR YOUR TOUGHEST JOB, \$9500. Call (732)-341-5363 or Bill Peaslee at (732)-489-1012

For Sale-1944 Chevy 1 1/2 ton cargo truck with low mileage GMC 270 engine and 5spd OD transmission.; runs great; original cargo box in good condition; many original WWII markings. \$4,350 or BO. Can be seen at www.vehiclesofvictory.com or call (518)872-1352; email bmuller@vehiclesofvictory.com

MAJOR COMPONENT REPAIR (clutches, rears, engines, trans.) FOR 1 /4 ton, thru 5 TON TRUCKS- CALL! PA state inspection on any truck

M35A2- CARGO TRUCKS- shipment of 14 just in - Some with Hard tops, heaters, air shift fronts, air ride seat, winches, VOLUME DISCOUNTS OFFERED..**M291A2C- 5 Ton- Expansible Van truck**, FRONT PTO DRIVEN WINCH, truck is in EXCELLENT OVERALL CONDITION, Turbo diesel, 1,465 miles and 412 hours, Brand new soft top, Brand New personnel/cab heater, tires are ok (11.00 x 20.00),1972, Power steering, , lights and signals are working, rear ladder and body stabilizers included, Truck has been serviced: Engine oil & filters changed, fuel filters changed, chassis greased \$8950. **900 SERIES 5 TON ROLLING CHASSIS-** short wheel base (dump or tractor), frame is straight and very clean, both fuel tanks in place, pintle hook, steering box is operational, Intake & Exhaust stacks included, spare tire rack in place, good for parts or to build a truck on. \$1250 **M109A3 Shop Van Trucks-** 2 just in! Turbo, airshift, very nice800 series **5 ton Tractors- M818-** 5th wheels, cummins engines- call **DROPSIDE BEDS-** 14 feet long for 5 ton or 2 ½ ton **Ammo Trailers M332** 1 ½ ton- Nice selection, good paint, good 9.00 x 20 tires \$625 each **TIRES-** HUGE SELECTION JUST IN!- Mounted on rims 9.00 x 20.00 NDT 6 hole/ 11.00 x 20.00 Michelin XL on 6 hole/ 14.00 x 20.00 NDT on 10 hole- CALL **Tail gates/sides** for 2 ½ ton drop side beds- like new **M715 parts-** Springs, drive shafts, rear bumper only. **Dodge M880-** Rear bumper- very nice.**CUCV M1009-** 3/4 ton Blazer, 1985, GM diesel 6.2, good tires, lock-o ut hubs, 4 wheel drive, 71,000 miles, There is very little rust, dash top panel needs to be replaced, 2 new batteries, runs well, Desert Storm TAN \$4500 **M543A2 WRECKER:** 1 left Excellent condition, fresh paint, hard top, ready to go to work \$12,350 **MULTIFUEL ENGINES-** 27 engines for M35A2 trucks, Hercules & Continental, LD-465-1, LD-465-1C, LDT-465-1C, LDT-465-1D, in shipping container. Most are running take-outs, some are for parts, all have starter, air compressor, water pump (no alternators/generators) \$350-\$1,800 **Dump Kits & Winch kits** - for your M35 **-PICTURES-** <http://www.easternsurplus.net> **Contact: Dave Newman (215) 598-8227 or E-Mail: dave@astory.com**

Wanted-Vietnam militaria for re-enactment. We want to educate people on what life was like for soldiers in Vietnam. Items are not for resale. Ed Pavlick, (973)-347-3866, leave message.

Wanted-Korean War Veterans to join Lee J. McClellan Chapter 213. Contact Tom McHugh (908)-852-1964 or email TMMCHUGH@MSN.COM. National and Chapter dues are \$30.00. Help commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War and support all Korean War Veterans.

**Military Transport Association
Of North Jersey**
P.O. Box 393
Budd Lake, NJ 07828



Military Transport Association of North Jersey
A Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association

The Military Transport Association of North Jersey is a non-profit organization for people interested in collecting, restoring, displaying, and operating historic military vehicles. Members of the club participate in 15 to 20 parades every year as well as educational events, militaria and truck shows, rallies, trail rides and visits to veteran's homes.

Members also participate in projects such as restoring a jeep for the National Guard Museum, the National Night Out, USMC Toys for Tots campaign, fund raising for the National WWII and Korean War Memorials, Boy Scout projects, and National Guard recruiting campaigns.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at the Whippany American Legion Hall, Legion Place, Whippany, NJ. You can come between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. to eat pizza, sandwiches and enjoy other refreshments. Beer and wine is available from the Legion Hall. The meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. and is normally over by 9:00 p.m.

Join the MTA now and receive:

- 12 issues of the *Motor Pool Messenger* newsletter.
- FREE classified sales and want ads in the newsletter.
- Notices of parades and events in which you can participate.
- FREE annual picnic and FREE annual pizza party.
- FREE MTA embroidered patch (when you attend an event).

To join the Military Transport Association, send this form (or the same information on a blank sheet of paper) with \$20.00 annual membership dues to the address below. Dues are for the calendar year.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

Military vehicle(s) owned _____

Mail completed application with \$20.00 annual dues to:

Military Transport Ass'n of North Jersey
P.O. Box 393
Budd Lake, NJ 07828