



**BITS & PIECES NEWSLETTER**  
MAY 2014

**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT!**

**National WWII Museum, New Orleans, LA**



**The National WWII Museum began life as the National D-Day Museum devoted to the history of that memorable event. The centerpiece of the museum at the time was a fully functional Higgins landing boat (LCVP) that had been reproduced using original plans, materials, techniques and equipment. The Supreme Commander of Allied Forces, Dwight D. Eisenhower once stated that,**

**"Andrew Higgins ... is the man who won the war for us. ... If Higgins had not designed and built those LCVPs, we never could have landed over an open beach. The whole strategy of the war would have been different."**

**The museum is located in New Orleans owing to the fact that the designer/builder of the boat, Andrew Higgins, hailed from the area. In fact, his original designs were tested on Lake Ponchartrain which bounds the city on the North side. The reproduction Higgins boat now on display was actually tested in Lake Ponchartrain.**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LCVP\\_\(United\\_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LCVP_(United_States))



**Author Stephen Ambrose, famous for his historical researches and books on WWII, in particular "Band of Brothers," and his collaboration on the Stephen Spielberg movie, "Saving Private Ryan," is the founder founder of the museum. Ambrose inspired and guided the development of The National WWII Museum. He dreamt of a museum that reflected his deep regard for our nation's citizen soldiers, the workers on the Home Front and the sacrifices and hardships they endured to achieve victory. When The National D-Day Museum opened on June 6, 2000, Ambrose's dream was realized, but it represented only the first stage of the truly comprehensive institution he envisioned. On September 25, 2003, the United States Congress awarded the Museum the designation of "America's National World War II Museum."**

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/about-the-museum/about-the-founder.html>

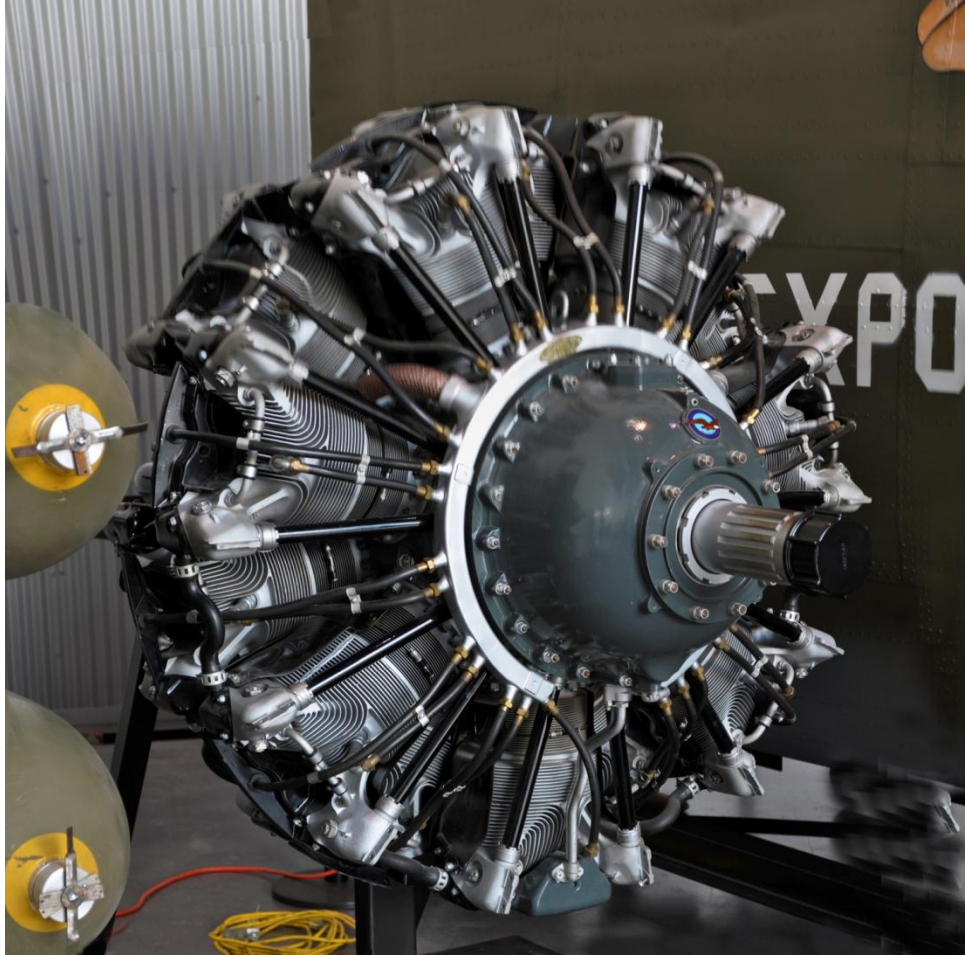


**Your peripatetic editor inside an individual above-ground air raid shelter from WWII Berlin. It was pretty cramped in there. Just imagine being shut in behind a steel blast door (obviously missing) with only small view ports to let in air and light. Believe me, it was a tight squeeze!**

















Dodge Ambulance details...the museum docent was all too happy to let me photograph the interior. I should have asked him to raise the hood to photograph the engine.

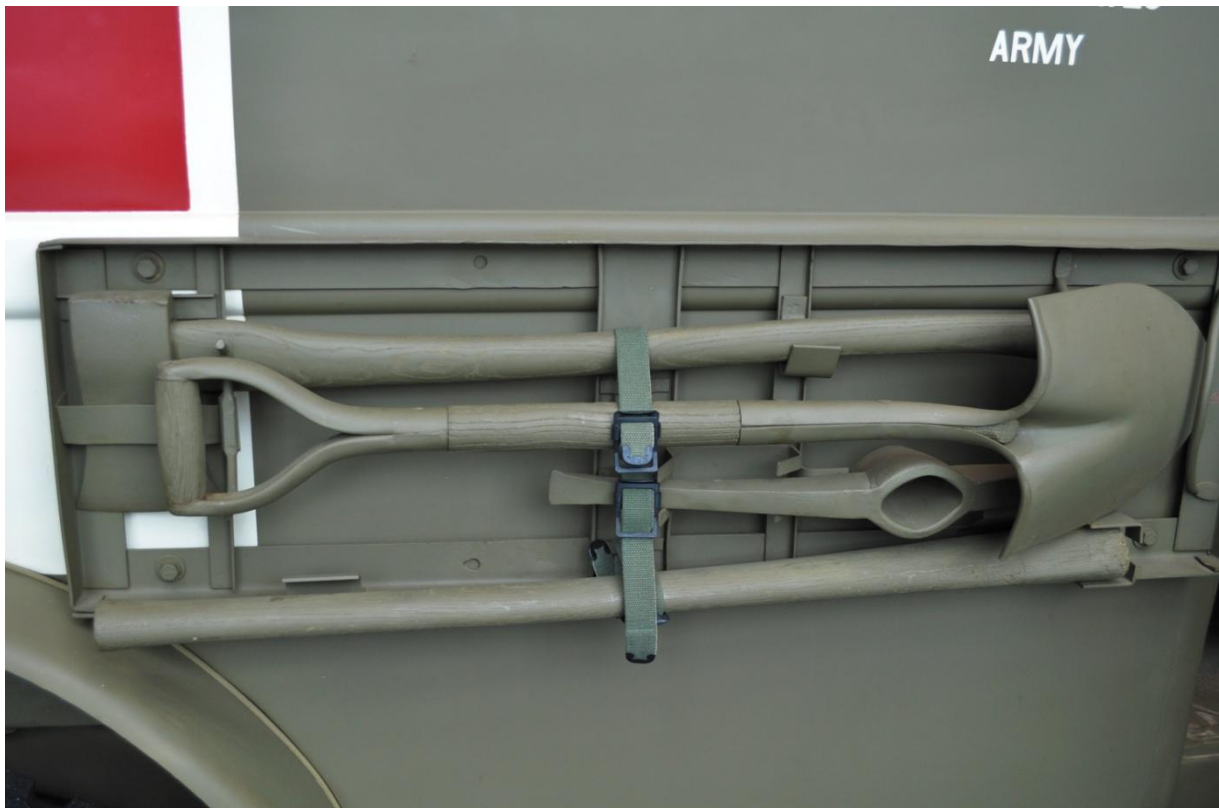








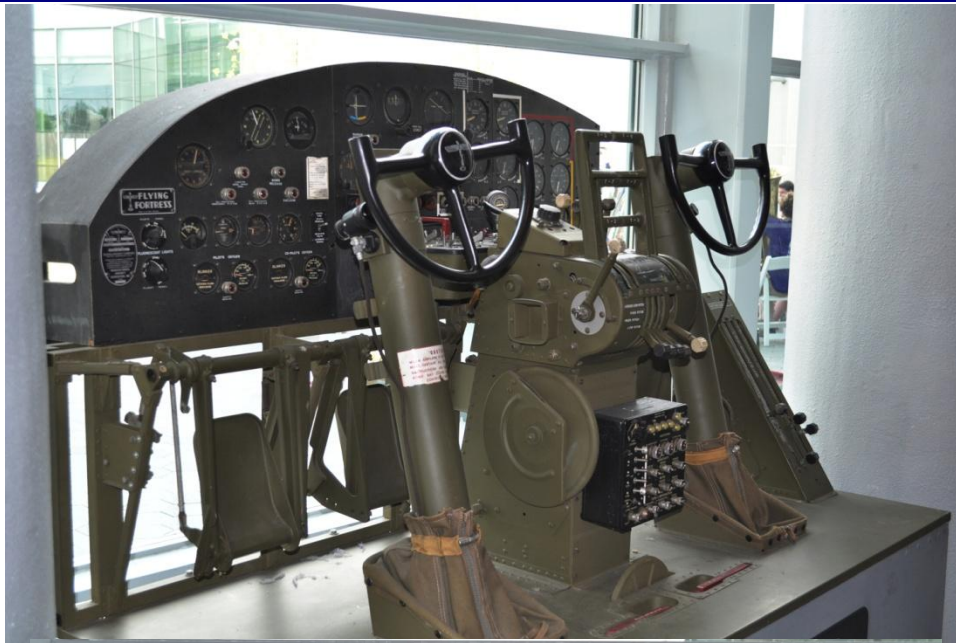


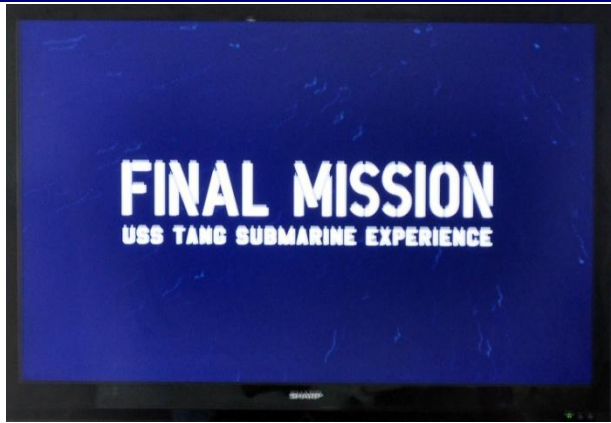












The Museum is chock full of interactive exhibits such as the Final Mission of the USS Tang in which visitors man various battle stations as the Tang attacks a convoy. There is a large placard commemorating the men who lost their lives in the Silent Service during WWII.



Nasser Sae, Alvin Leroy Shaw, James Earl Snyder, Jarrod Clovis Taylor, John Clyde Turner, Paul Arthur Vest, James Frank Vogt, Lucius Polk Wall, James Edgar Westmoreland U.S.S. Galeb  
 Earle, Willard Archie Edwards, LeRoy Leo Germann, Herbert C. Goetz, George Leonard Garmley, Joseph Frederick Greenhalgh, Stanley Erwin Grumet, Oliver Clark Guest, Jr., Robert Edw  
 McCaulough, Jr., Harry Bland McLaughlin, Jr., Ernest Wade Miller, Gilbert Lee Milhouse, Peter Paul Milus, Solomon Joseph Numair, Michael Parry, Malvin Lars Peterson, George Anthony Pinter,  
 Wilson Swartzback, Alfred Horatio Tarr, Roland Morris Thompson, Raymond Beverly Tinker, Alexander Scammel Wadsworth, III, Raymond Robert Walz, John Harris Wesley, Joseph Stanley  
 Leroy Chaffin, Thomas Robert Collins, Thomas Lewis Conley, Eugene Field Corder, Richard Ernest Corum, John Rich Craig, Robert Lee Dexter, Jesse Hugh Dunnovant, Orville Franklin Fanning,  
 Henry Nash, Edward Roger O'Connor, David Edward Oleza, James Wesley O'Neal, Charles Woodrow Patrick, George Francis Phelps, Howard Cooper Pillsbury, Thomas Earl Poyner, Louis  
 Tuttle, Roy Vander Rayden, Grant Albert Vedder, Wendell Maxwell Walters, Norman Eugene Wilson, U.S.S. Grayback (SS-208): Stanley Henry Bangert, Harold Xen Barbour, James B  
 Ferry, Jr., Clifton Eugene Faber, Carleton Francis Fielding, Joseph R. Forsythe, Jr., Kenneth Winfield Fox, Jr., Milton Lawrence Francis, Charles Bernard Gavlak, Marshall Lee George, Bernard  
 Alton Koller, Raymond Edward LaRiviere, Leslie Harold Leaf, Robert Orval Littlejohn, Douglas Henry Norman Lockyer, Raymond Leon Mayo, Franklin Hitchkiss McKelvey, Frederick William H  
 Saloman, August Henry Southern, Lee Carroll Stanford, Jesse Hamilton Stewart, Robert Edward Stockman, Stanley Joseph Waliszewski, John Clinton Wyatt, U.S.S. Grayling (SS-209): D  
 Ellis, David Ignatius Fontaine, Jerry Calvert Goodnight, Carl Avis Grimes, Jr., Theodore John Gurasko, Robert Eugene Harbauer, Joseph Kirby Harper, Clarence Harry Hawkins, Frank John Hick  
 Gerald Oliver, Anthony Joseph Parrino, John Thomas Pawloski, Merlin Justice Quesenberry, Albert Louis Rainault, Jose Chargualaf Santos, Alexander Smith Sawerbrey, Carl Edward Schmid  
 Otis Whitcomb, James Hanger Wilson, Marvin Andrew Wolf, John Henry Young, Robert Lockie Zabs, U.S.S. Grenadier (SS-210): Charles Doyle, Justiniano Garcia Guico, Charles Fie  
 Darby, Gilbert Pryor Daughtrey, Ferdinand Edison Dawson, Alexander Louis Durand, Jr., Roland DeWitt Erikson, Alexander Ferrario, Willie Flippens, Clarence Edwin Freedman, Jr., Albert Jos  
 Jr., Malvin Putman Levellie, Ernest Peter Lorio, Garrett Lynch, Jr., John Hobert Maddox, Lloyd Bronzia Maness, Wallace Seth Manning, Richard Keeble Mason, Jr., John Joseph McLaughlin, L  
 Rhodes, Eugene Wilson Rothenberger, Kurt George Schultz, Paul Sebestyen, Jr., Clark Oliver Shay, David Garrett Simmons, Walter Donald Smith, Walter Lewis Smith, Nicola Luca Stevanovich,  
 Joseph Arvan, Paul Edward Barnes, Leo Joseph Isais Bedard, Wesley Hope Blinston, Nicholas Richard Bonadies, Robert Francis Boo, Chester Lewis Bouvia, George Earl Caldwell, Richard Harri  
 Jr., Edward Earl Knowles, Jr., Lawrence Richard Kockler, William Gregory Kornahrens, Moore Julius Ledford, Woodrow Wilson Lehman, Sidney Arthur Los, Samuel Eldon Lunford, Jr., James V  
 Sr., Elmer Taylor Schumann, Paul Patrick Sullivan, Steven Surochek, David Nathaniel Swartwood, Samuel Artist Templeton, Millener Weaver Thomas, Byron Allen Travis, Albert Ullmann, Mar  
 Christian, James William Sylvester Coghlan, Robert Cope Collins, Charles Brocher Copeland, Jr., Glenn Estal Crandall, Ben Willis Dickinson, Everett Harold Dodson, Jeremiah Patrick Donovan, J  
 Albert Langdale, George William Lefferts, Jr., Rodney John Lewis, David Bennett McCornquodale, John Richard McKenna, James William McLallen, Wallace Frank McNical, Lester Lavern Mies  
 Semnevold, Milton AuMont Sewell, Lynnwood Shults, Robert Paul Simon, William Harold Sporheimer, Owen Joseph Sullivan, Paul Wesley Swinson, Robert Hansen Taylor, Samuel Henry Taylor, C  
 Aloysius Blum, Sumter Bourg, Wayne Allen Brastrom, Thomas Woodlridge Buckner, Calvin Arthur Bull, Vivian Jewell Cash, Roland Raymond Chenard, Wilbur Lee Clark, John Chester Conley,  
 Richard James, Roy Edward Jones, Roland Wilbur Keckler, James Hubbell Kelllogg, George William Lakey, Joseph Melvin Lane, Henry Wilfred Lawson, George Bernard Levin, Sylvester Benja  
 Opisso, Freeman Paquet, Jr., Elroy Rufus Peck, Richard Sempke Pick, Ralph Edson Pratt, Robert Peter Przybilla, Max Myrval Rogers, Mervin M. Rogers, Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Philip Thomas S  
 Balestrieri, Jack Lee Blair, J. T. Blevins, Leo Joseph Boucher, James Joseph Brennan, John Jack Bronder, Weldon Junior Brown, Timothy Burkett, Charles E. Burton, Nathaniel Campbell, Malcolm D  
 Alois Guerra, Paul Blaney Harper, Robert Gerald Haskell, Billy Glen Hill, William Anthony Hofman, Lawrence Harvey Isbell, John Martin Johnson, Laurel Kenneth Johnson, Samuel Iay Johns  
 Pepera, James Gordon Perkins, Carl Eugene Poland, Omer Paul Potvin, William Bright Pressnall, Sone Harbert Price, Charles Edward Riley, Donald Leroy Robbins, Emerson Everett Rockwell, Da  
 U.S.S. Kate (SS-369): LeRoy Albert Abis, Edward Ackerman, John Clouse Adams, Jr., John David Apking, Donald Lee Bergadine, Leonard Eugene Blodgett, Francis William Braniger, Carl B  
 Friesen, Robert Stephan Fuller, John Francis Glyn, Jr., Fred Joseph Griswold, Joseph Henry Gunzinger, Elmer Elsworth Gwin, Jr., Bernard Henry Haag, Robert Arthur Hart, Glenn Edwin H  
 McLendon, Grant Richard Messenger, Samuel Arnold Maccabee, Charleton L. Moore, Henry Fredrick Morrison, Archie Vernon Newton, Joseph Albert O'Brien, Mark Angella O'Connor, Georg  
 VanDam, Salomon Hernandez Villalba, James Stanley Waggoner, Russel Andrew Wallick, Floyd Stewart Walling, Joseph Allen Westphall, Gordon Weaver Wilson, Galen Irvin Woodward, U  
 Fisher, John Joseph Franze, Oakley Raymond Frasch, James Northrup Gerlach, Richard Fox Grace, William Graves, Dennis Jerome Gray, Robert Green, Richard Lewis Gregorik, James Paul Gra  
 Vere Latta, Noah Blackman Lee, Jr., Russell Willie Lee, Robert Julian Lewis, Louis Jerome Lynch, William Tucker Mabin, Jay McDowell Marriott, Jr., James Henry McDonald, Justin Michael McGee,  
 Root, Robert Theodore Ruble, Walter Jackson Rutledge, Wesley Clay Shackelford, Ralph Eugene Simmerman, Robert Bruce Spalding, Ulysses McKinley St. John, Jr., John Edward Stehn, Donald C  
 Apazy, Edward Newton Ayer, Kenneth Herschel Baumeister, Leslie Duane Boys, Joseph A. R. Beaugerard, Robert Glen Beck, Julius John Bergman, Walter Earl Blylock, Robert Evans Brownell, D





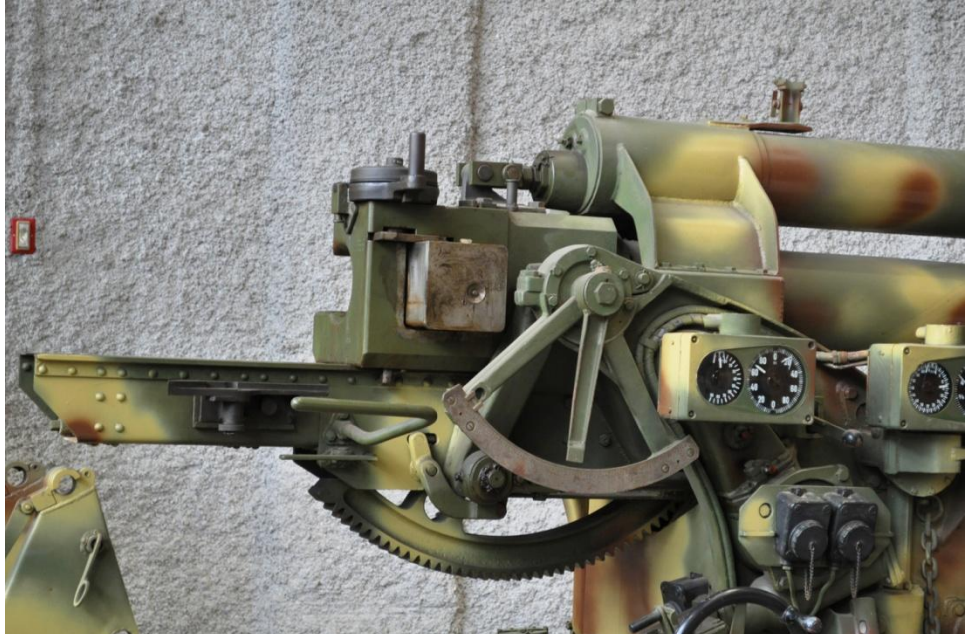
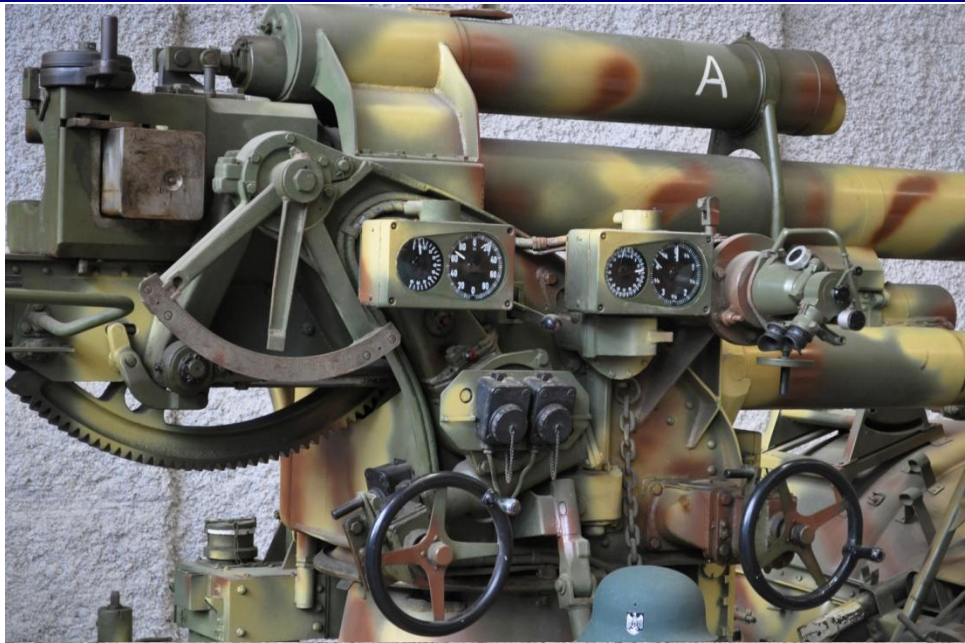
Of course, throughout the museum, each visitor is treated to displays of various equipment and items of historical interest. Yours truly took advantage of the unique viewpoints to grab some unique shots. The one thing that vexes me about hanging aircraft are the bothersome and eye distracting suspension cables, so I painted them all out.



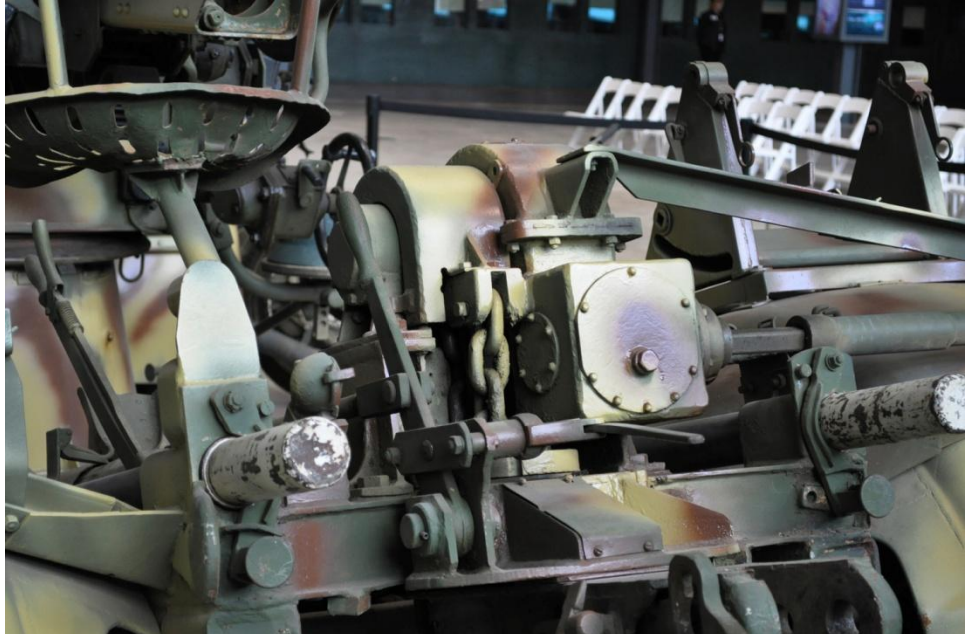




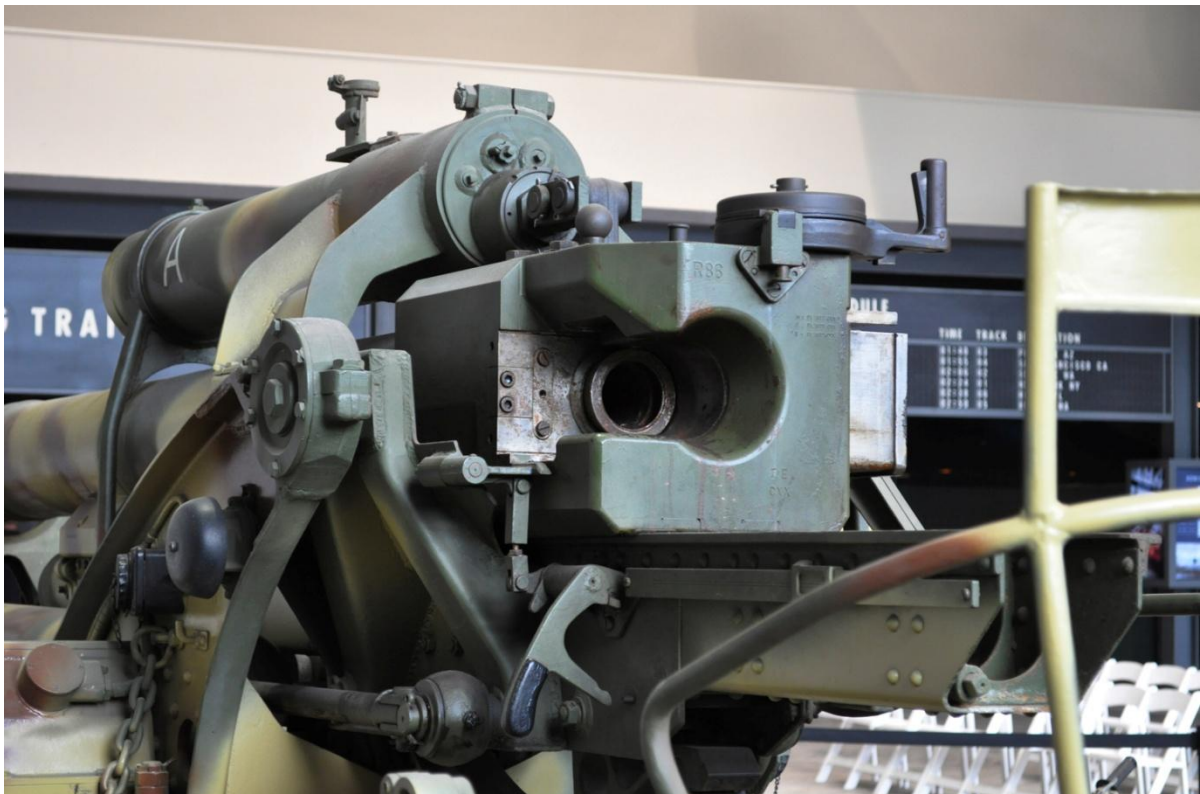
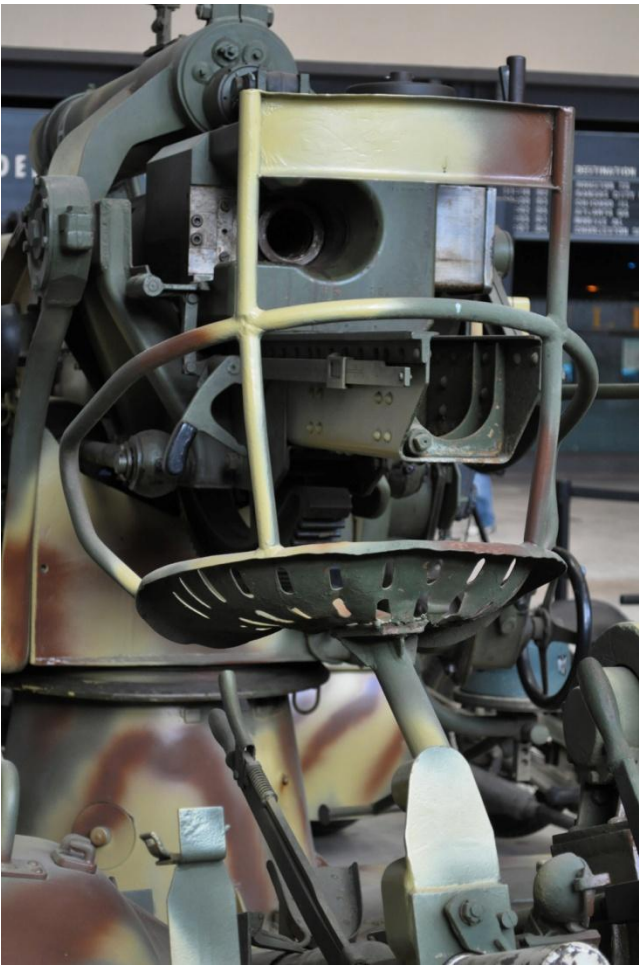


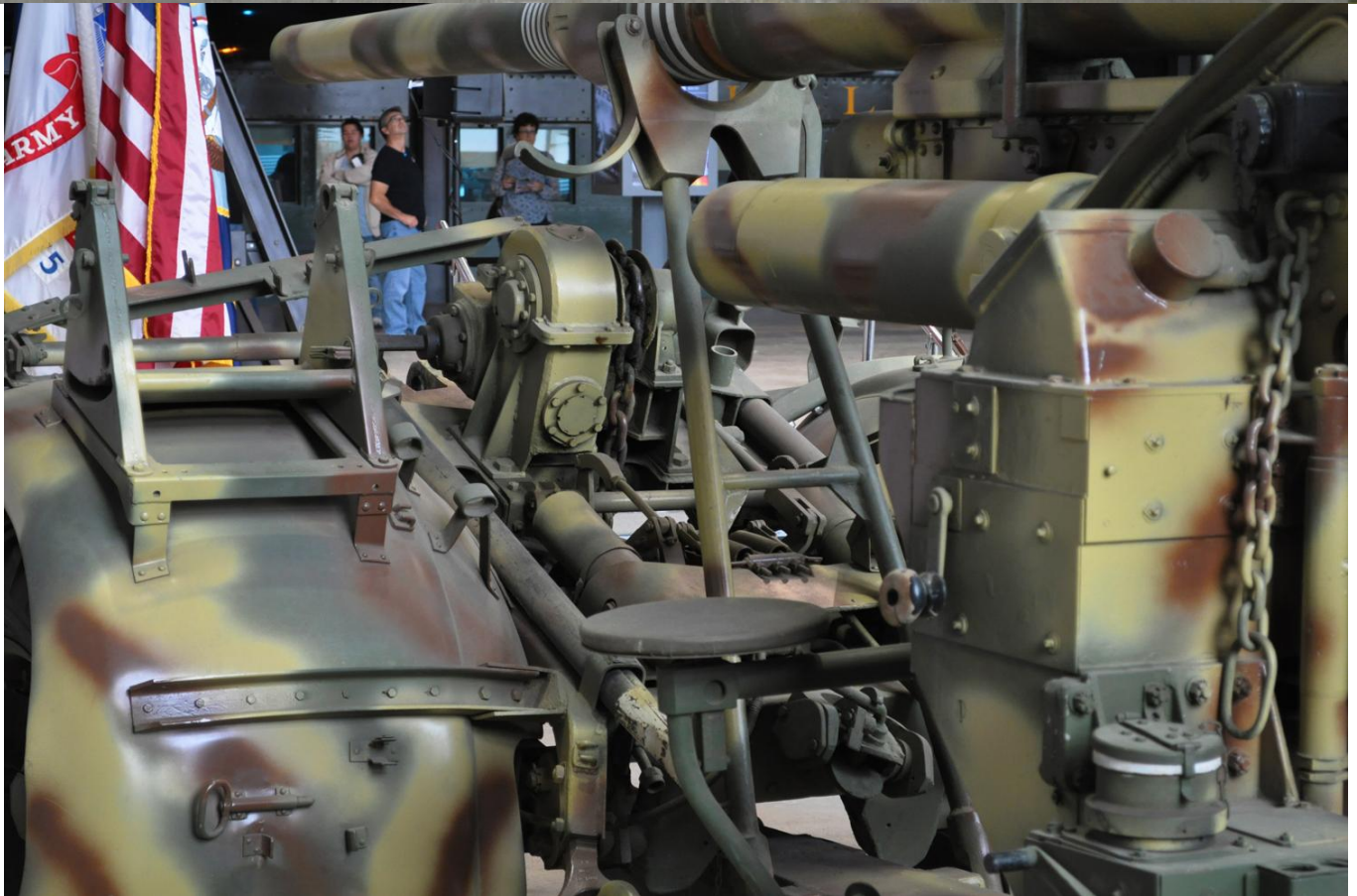




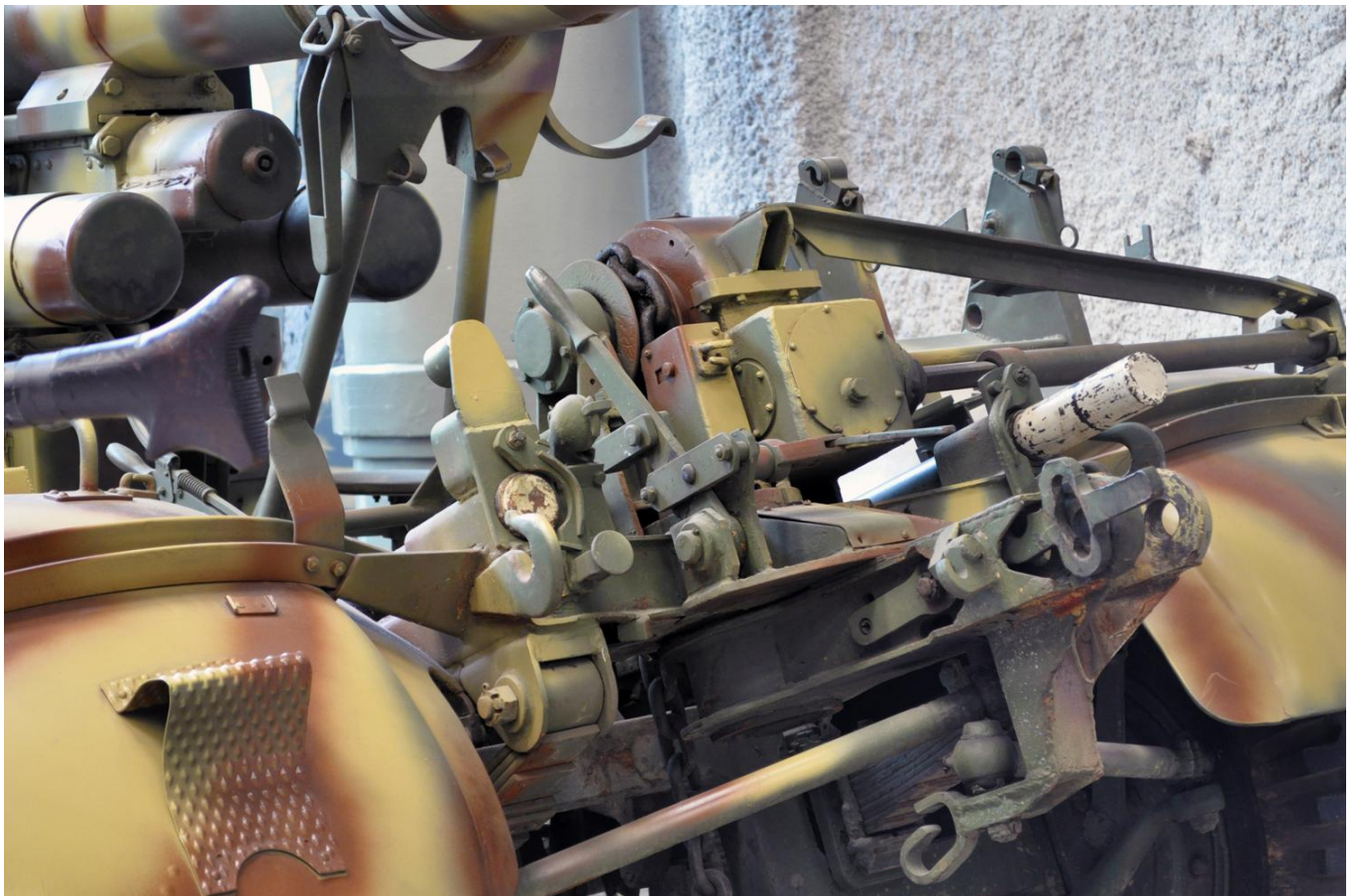
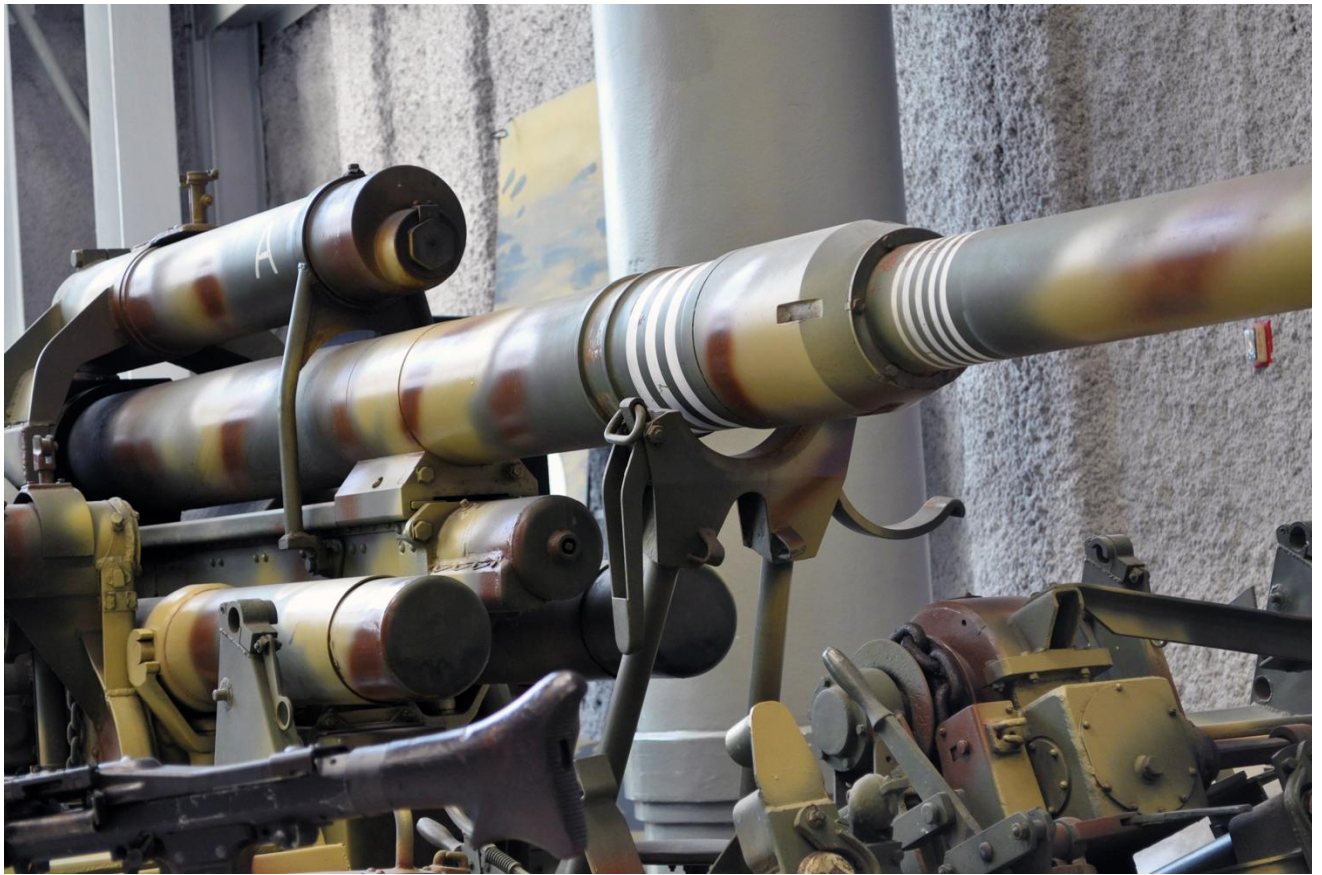


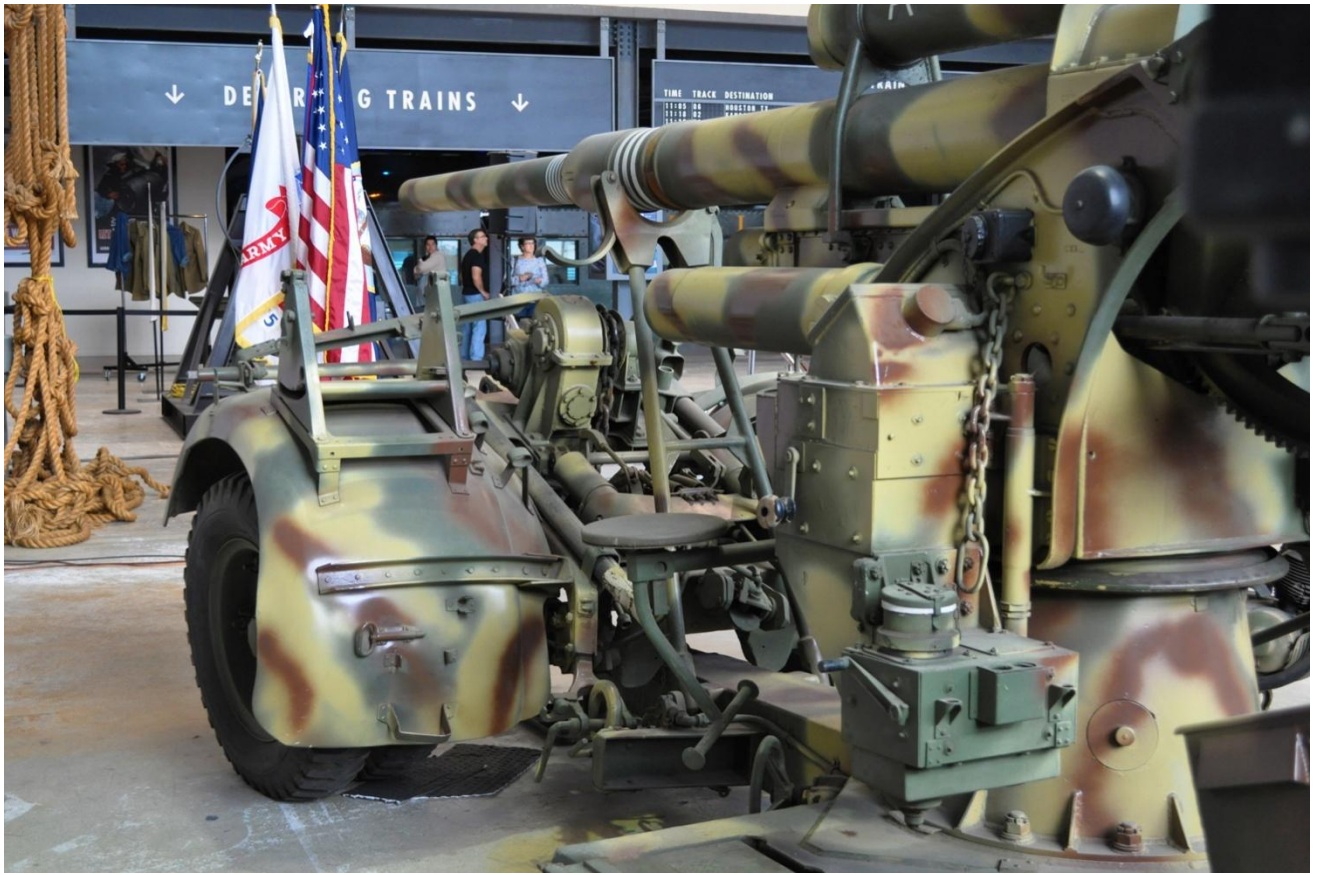
The museum has an excellent example of the German 8.8cm Flak 18 Anti-Aircraft Gun, the dreaded 88mm. Your editor thought there might be a few modelers interested in the fine details.



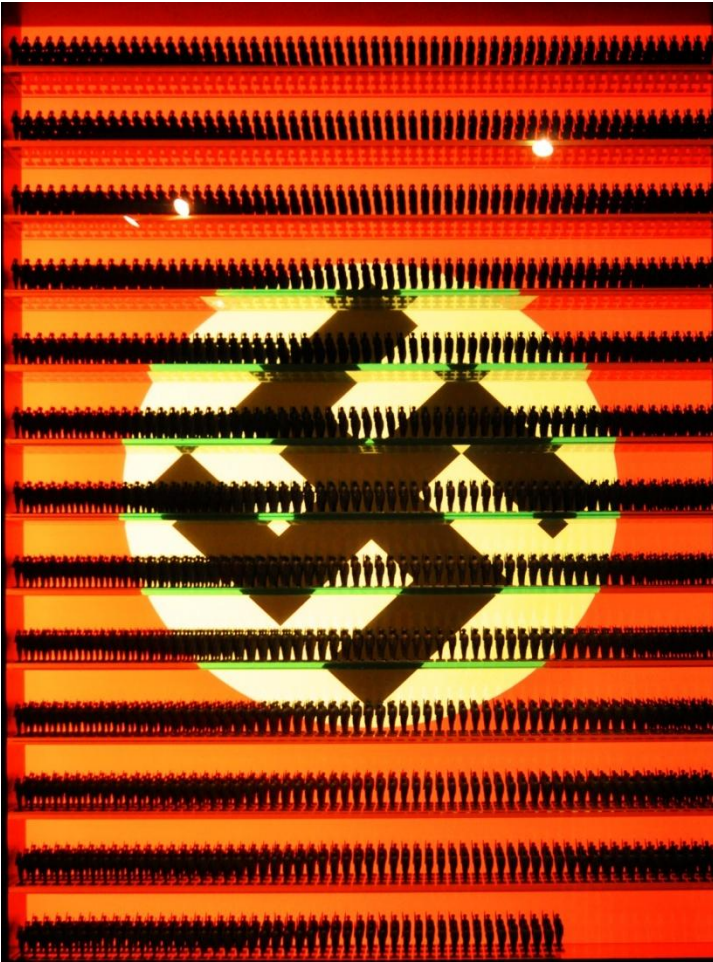






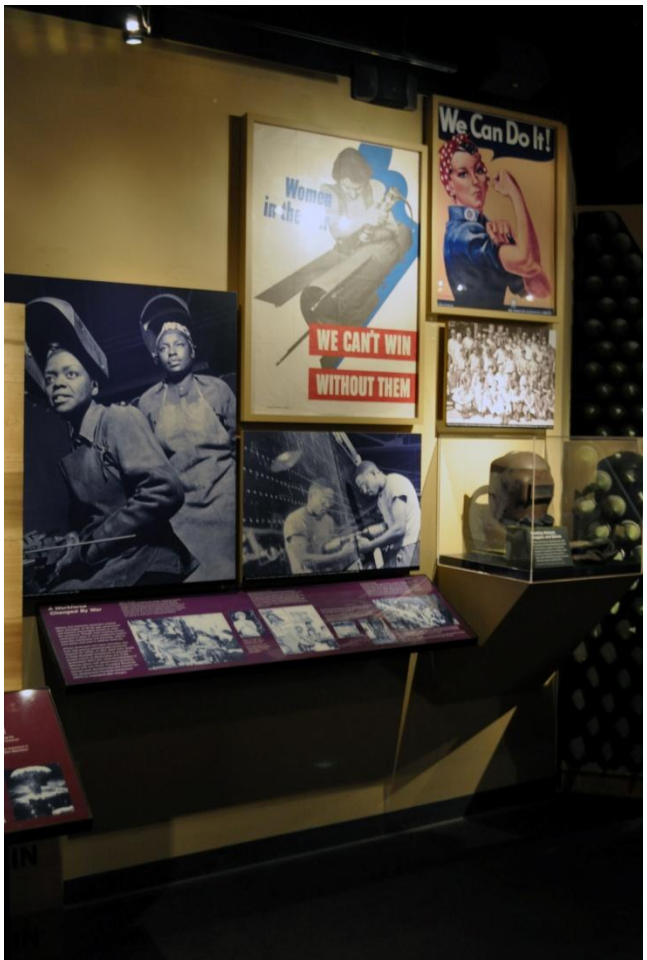


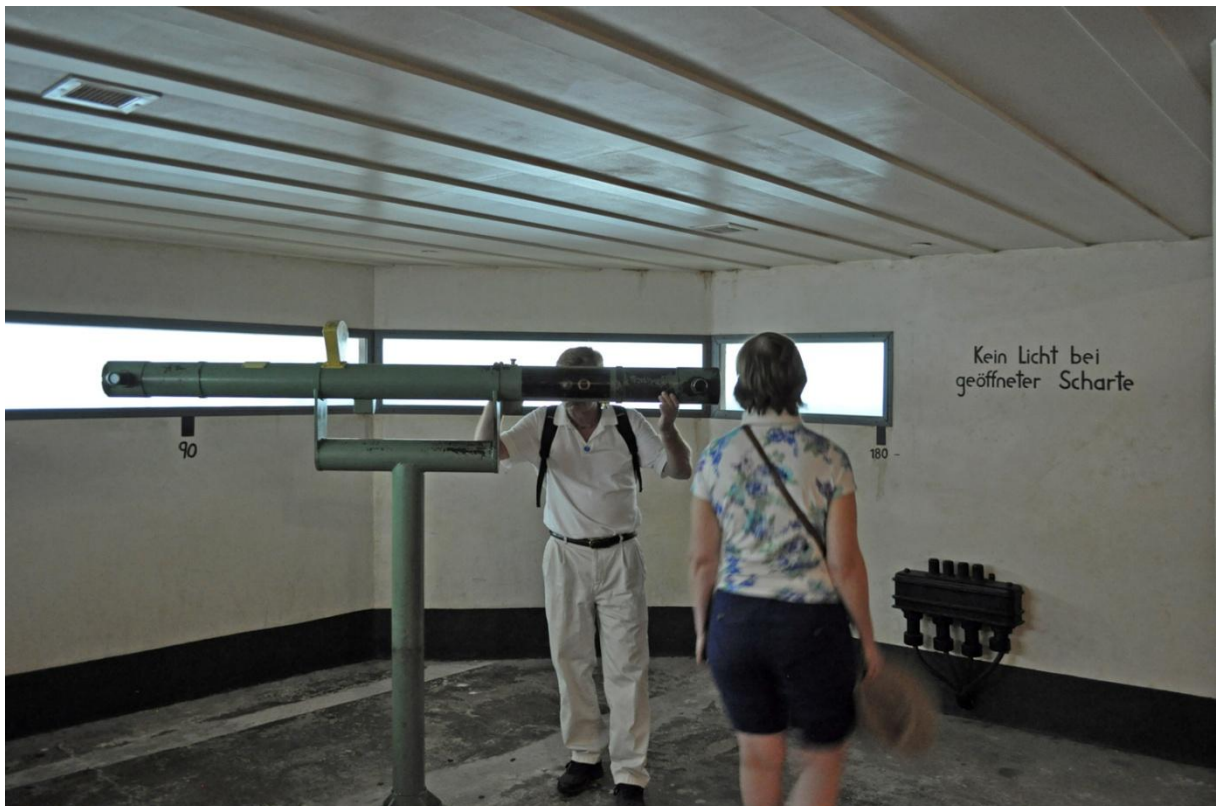




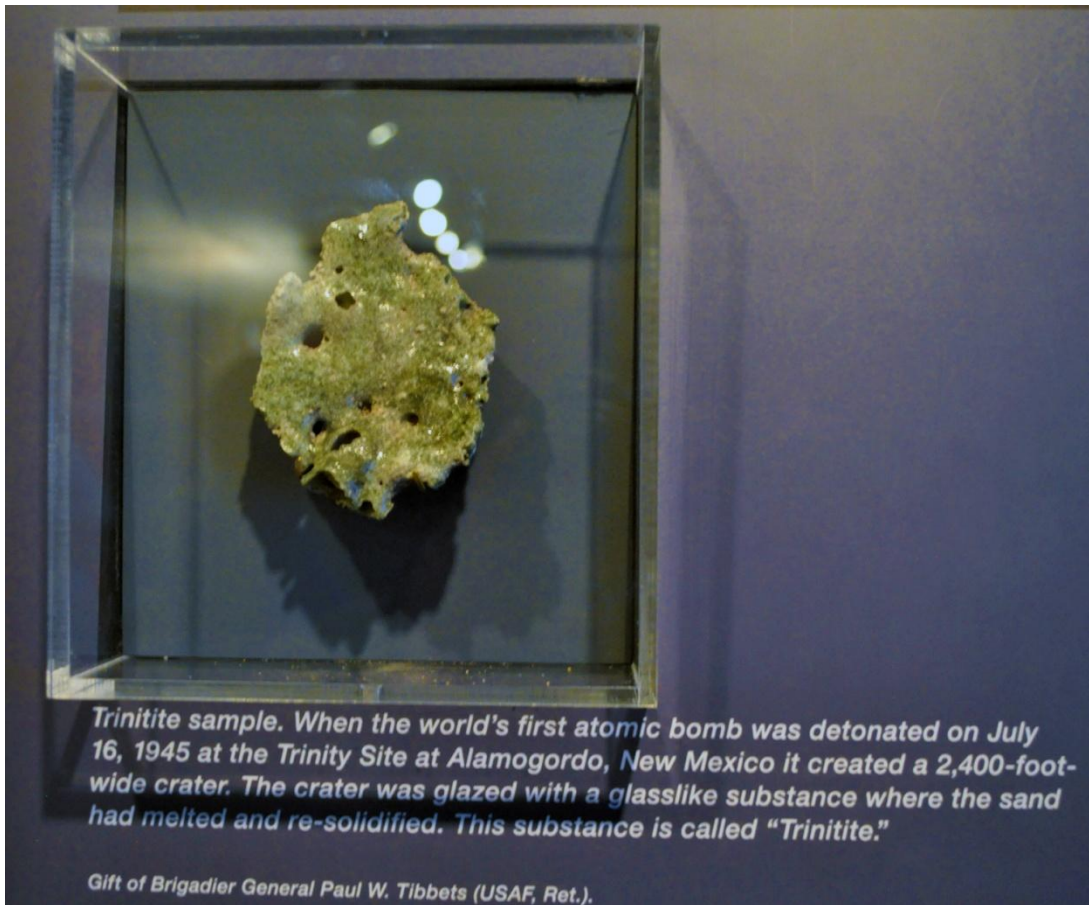
One of the many interesting displays uses toy soldiers to demonstrate the relative sizes of the American vs. Axis armies at the beginning of the US involvement in the war.







This display is a replica of an artillery direction tower such as the ones constructed in Normandy, part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall. Visitors can view the ocean through a rangefinder and imagine what it must have been like to bear witness to the Allied invasion fleet!

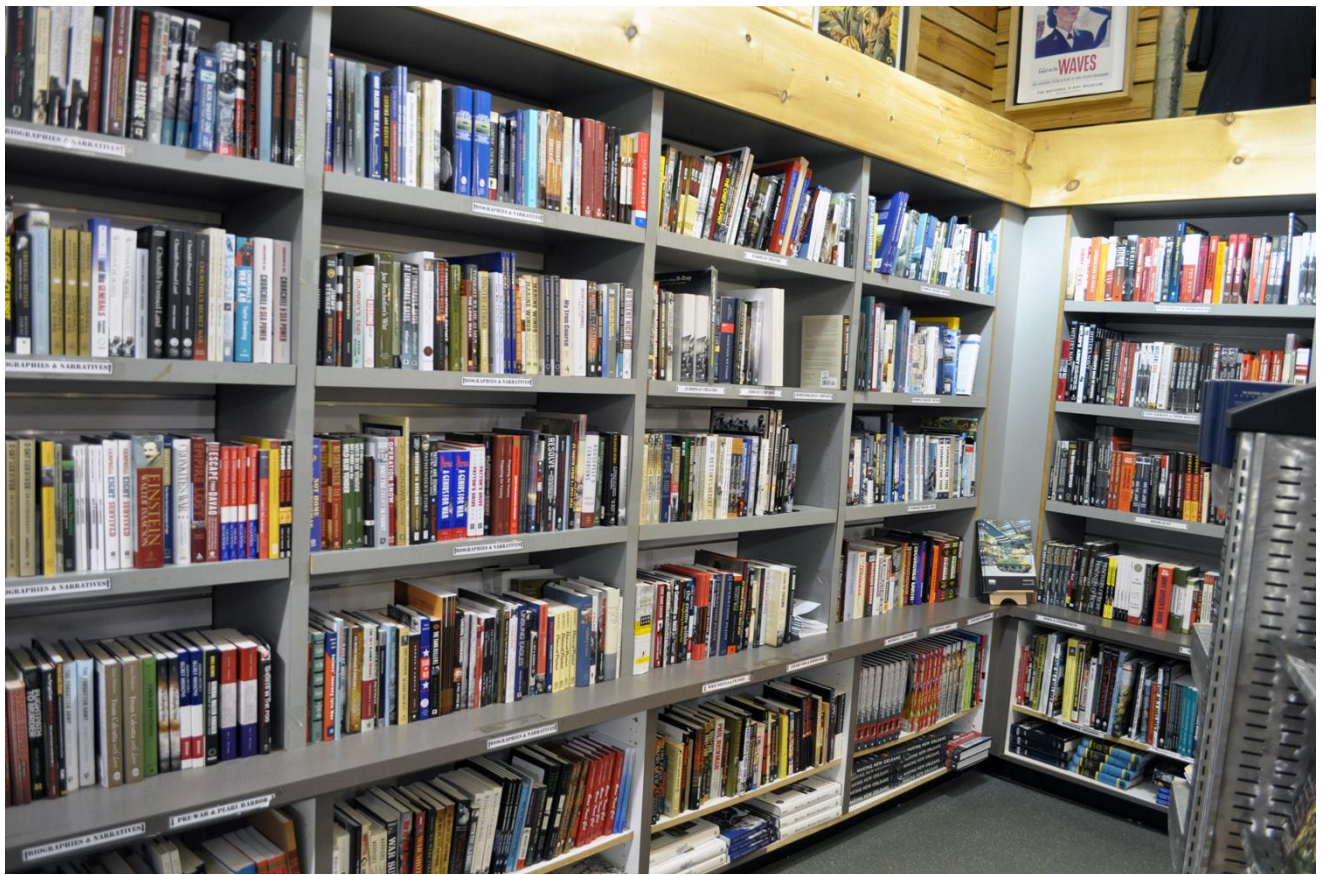


From the beginning to the very end, the museum's exhibits chronicle America's contribution to the Allied war effort. Above is a Trinitite sample donated by the late BGen Paul Tibbets, pilot of the Enola Gay.



You can take a simulated train ride on a Pullman car and experience what rail travel was like during the war. The interior features individual video stations.





Any good museum has a well-stocked gift shop with a selection of titles for the history buff/enthusiast. In the case of the WWII Museum, the book selection is one of the best I have ever seen with an excellent range of new and OOP titles.









*"That's all Folks!"*