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# GI Collector's Guide: Army Service Forces Catalog, U.S. Army European Theater Of Operations



## Synopsis

This is spectacular new book from Europe's leading uniform and equipment publisher will follow in the footsteps as such classics from the past as From Doughboy to GI. Histoire and Collections has earned a reputation for producing the finest, incredibly detailed and sumptuously illustrated books. Their technique reaches a new level with this latest book. All the uniforms, insignia, badges, weapons and equipment of the ETO are described in detail and depicted in both photographs and full color graphics. This book is a must for any collector in the field.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 282 pages

Publisher: Casemate Publishers; 1st Edition edition (January 27, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 235250080X

ISBN-13: 978-2352500803

Product Dimensions: 12.5 x 9.3 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 51 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #772,098 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #117 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Military #928 in Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Conventional #984 in Books > History > Military > Intelligence & Espionage

## Customer Reviews

"This book must rate a perfect 10 for your reference library the heavyweight champion of reference books for anyone interested in modeling the World War II G.I.'s and their equipment! one resource book that can just about do it all...This treasure book even concludes with a selection of some trophies liberated from the other side. If you can only buy one book for your WWII G.I. references, buy Government Issue and see where the term 'G.I.' came from. Thank you, Mr. Enjames." (Historica Formus)

I purchased this book as a reference source-it did not disappoint. Loads and loads of top notch photos that showcase everything that any US Army officer, non com, or enlisted man/woman would have needed during the events that transpired in the European Theater during WW2.I will mention that a volume two exists (red and white) one book nicely compliments the other.Take a look on that other site you know, eB..! You can find both volumes one and two (new) for about \$35.00 per

volume.

Bought this for my husband, he was in the Marine Corps and now volunteers at the Illinois State Military Museum and does a time line history of Military events. He uses this book as a reference for earlier military time periods to verify what was issued to the U. S. soldier of what ever era he is representing, whether it is Korea, WWI, or WWII, meaning what he represents is what type of soap, gum, razors, or anything of that nature the soldier was issued when on base or during war, this is what he had to use. This book has proven to be quite helpful in finding these items and learning the history of what the soldier's life was like back then.

This book is an excellent reference guide for beginning collectors of militaria items issued during World War II to U.S. Army soldiers in the European of Theater Operation (ETO). This book is a must have if you are going to be purchasing your items from online sources such as EBAY and surplus stores. This book will absolutely help you identify authentic U.S. Army issued items. This is very important given the explosion of modern day reproduction of many of these same items now being sold commercially. This large (Literally) sized book is comprised of numerous detailed colored photographs accompanied with brief written descriptions of each article of issue. I very much liked the layout of this book; it is well organized in a logical manner starting with Insignia and Decorations, moving through to Uniforms, Equipment and Weapons. I especially liked the specialized sections for Armored Troops, Airborne Troops, Mountain Troops, Female Personnel, and Military Police. The author also included special sections for The Corps of Engineers and Signal Corp. I also enjoyed the (seldom seen) sections dealing with Army Rations, Army Publications and Personal Items. I found this format to be easily used to locate the items I was interested in and compare the large photographs in the book to items I was planning on purchasing online. This book is very reasonably priced compared to other military collector books such as "Doughboy to GI" and does not contained a lot of information I do not need anyway , but end up paying for with other military collectors books.

Many have called this the de facto USGI collectors catalog. It does cover a lot of equipment.. most general issue items are included. I did not see it as a collectors guide. It does not point out the things that make items unique. It shows a boot. Gives the name, and maybe a picture of the makers mark. Well.. how many companies produced that item? Which company name would be rare and the other common? Is there a stitch or eyelet type that would differentiate an early shoe vs a late shoe? Little of that information is in the book. Another example are the Handy-Talky radios (BC-611's) there

where at least 6 models (A-F) and the circuit components differed dramatically later in the war. This book shows a BC-611, and some other items and then moves on. The pictures are excellent quality, and the construction of the book is nice and heavy. But to call it anything more than an introduction to USGI equipment is an overstatement.

This large book is a museum. I remember a lot of this equipment from my childhood (I was an Air Force brat and was with my father in Europe during the early 1960's) and some of the World War Two equipment is still in service with today's US Army. One example, the RL-39 on page 147 hasn't been improved upon. The vintage canteen cup is still current issue--with a new "National Stock Number" instead of the WWII "Stock Number." The Browning .50 caliber heavy machine gun, despite many attempted replacements, still soldiers on in Iraq. Most of the items pictured are now memories, though. Mr. Enjames has assembled a fine collection between the covers of this book. In "real" museums, there are often glitches, errors, and substitutions in the displays. One World War One trench scene was littered with modern 7.62mm NATO brass (adopted by the US Army in 1956, but experimentally available earlier) instead of the correct 8mm Lebel shell casings--the museum was working with limited resources and couldn't get a bucket full of the French brass for the diorama of an American doughboy in action during 1918. Mr. Enjames appears to have used only vintage stuff in his photos. Many of the smaller, "common" items such as the K-rations, C-rations, pamphlets, hand tools, communications equipment, sewing and toilet kit contents, and chemical warfare gear won't be found in most museums. I will be using this book as reference when constructing miniature World War Two dioramas. If I were a re-enactor, this book would be a valuable resource. Collectors not only can use "Government Issue" to check the authenticity of a uniform item, but there's an under-exploited realm of collecting for those beginners on a tight budget--all those little items that make up "sets, kits, and outfits"--tool boxes for a tank or a jeep, medical clothing, field kitchens, field offices. Armies frequently have to take everything they might need with them because they operate beyond the frontiers of civilization--or because war has destroyed most of the things we take for granted, but need for routine, day-to-day operations. Ever run out of toilet paper?

The perfect reference for artist or historian, or anybody interested in accurate facts about WW2 American gear.

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