

The Newsletter

Berkshire Military Museum

THE STORY: SIDNEY Q CURTISS

SIDNEY Q CURTISS WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1917 IN SHEFFIELD MA AND DIED ON JANUARY 24TH, 1994 IN LENOX MA. HE ATTENDED ST PAUL'S SCHOOL, AND GRADUATED FROM HARVARD IN 1940. CURTISS SERVED IN THE US ARMY DURING WWII, AND ON RETURNING HOME FROM THE WAR, ATTENDED AND GRADUATED FROM BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL.

MR CURTISS WAS THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM 1961-1971 AND MEMBER OF THE HOUSE REPRESENTING THE 6TH BERKSHIRE DISTRICT FROM 1949-1979. CURTISS ALSO HAD AN ACTIVE POLITICAL CAREER IN SHEFFIELD. HE WAS ON THE TOWN'S BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND WAS TOWN MODERATOR FOR QUITE SOME YEARS AS WELL AS RUNNING HIS OWN LAW OFFICE. HIS BAG FROM WWII IS ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM.

IMPORTANT DATES IN AUGUST

AUG. 1ST, 1914: GERMANY DECLARES WAR ON RUSSIA

AUG. 3RD, 1914: GERMANY DECLARES WAR ON FRANCE

AUG. 4TH, 1914: BRITAIN DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

AUG. 5TH 1914: FIRST SHOT FIRED BY ALLIES*

AUG. 8TH 1918; HUNDRED DAYS OFFENSIVE BEGINS

AUG. 23RD 1939: GERMANY AND SOVIET UNION SIGN NON-AGGRESSION PACT

AUG. 15TH 1944: ALLIED FORCES LAND IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

AUG. 25TH 1944: ALLIED SOLDIERS MARCH INTO PARIS

AUG. 6TH 1945: THE US DROPS THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB ON HIROSHIMA

AUG. 8TH 1945: THE SOVIET UNION DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN

AUG. 9TH 1945: THE US DROPS A SECOND ATOMIC BOMB ON NAGASAKI

*FIRST SHOT FIRED BY AUSTRALIANS AT A GERMAN STEAMER

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Museum**

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We're on the Web!

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www.berkshiremilitarymuseum.org

NEW ITEMS AT BMM:

ONE OF THE MOST RECENT ITEMS ACQUIRED BY THE BERKSHIRE MILITARY MUSEUM IS A WWI GERMAN BAYONET. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN USED ON A MAUSER, THE STANDARD ISSUE GERMAN GUN, AND IS NICKNAMED A "BUTCHER BLADE" BECAUSE OF THE 14" BLADE. IT WAS PICKED UP AS A BATTLEFIELD RELIC, AND AS A RESULT IS PRETTY CRUSTY. THE WOODEN HANDLE HAS DETERIORATED, THE BLADE IS SLIGHTLY BENT, AND THE BRACKET TO ATTACH THE KNIFE TO THE GUN IS MISSING. STILL AN OVERALL IMPRESSIVE ITEM AS WE KNOW ITS SEEN COMBAT.



OUR MISSION:

*TO PRESERVE HISTORY AND HONOR
THE SACRIFICES MADE BY ALL WHO
HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY.*