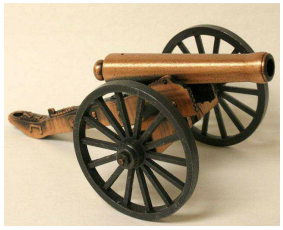

The Cannon Report

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"A Vet is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs." *Ernie Pyle*

"Absence of evidence is not absence of evidence." *Donald Rumsfeld commenting on Saddam Hussein's contention that he has no WMDs.*

"Gentlemen don't read other gentlemen's mail." *Henry L. Stinson, 1929, President Herbert Hoover's Secretary of State, who shut down the office in the U.S. State Department responsible for breaking codes to read messages sent between embassies of other countries and their capitals. An event that forced the military to create their own intelligence agencies during a time of Congressional cutbacks.*

Our speaker this month will be Dr. Grosenbaugh, an Army replacement, who entered service in November, 1943. He was captured, and became a POW until the end of the end of hostilities in Europe, May, 1945.

MEETINGS *take place the second Monday of every month at the* ***Riverfront Hotel Grand Rapids Riverfront*** *270 Ann St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 363-9001. Socializing begins at 6:00 (1800), dinner at 7:00 (1900), business meeting 7:15 (1915), and program at 8:00 (2000).*

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You will notice that some words or phrases in the articles are highlighted in blue. That means they are connected to a hyperlink. If you click on it with your mouse, you will be taken to a site that further describes that item. A feature that enables you to gather additional information.

21st Century Warfare

Military history is not just a recitation of events centered around combat. It involves more than describing the actions of men under arms nor does it conclude with the cessation of hostilities. There are four areas, distinct yet interrelated that define my perception of military history. The first is **Intelligence**, how information is gathered and disseminated. The second is **Force Description**, what men and matériel are used and how are they applied. Thirdly is the **Aftermath**, the situation after the conclusion of combat operations. Lastly there is what I call **Justice and Retribution**. This period of accountability, where the victors confront the vanquished and seek redress. The activities in these four areas have evolved over the years and it is not only what has transpired in these areas but how they have changed over time that make military history such an interesting study. Every act of war can be examined separately in any of these four ways. Sources are important, so much so that although the victors write the first history, the vanquished often present their own case after a while. Oftentimes a clearer perception of events is afforded when one not only reads both sides but seeks out a third or neutral party who can deliver an unbiased version of events.

The intelligence phase contains the historic events that may have contributed to the onset of combat. This period is often ongoing and may have its roots buried hundreds of years prior to events that impact us today. One example is the East India Company. In 1600 it was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth to conduct trade in India, a strictly commercial venture dealing in products produced in the sub-continent; such as cotton, silk, indigo dye, salt, saltpeter, tea and opium. The Company created their own armies, known as the Presidency Armies, one for each of the regions in India, the Bengal Army, the Madras Army and the Bombay Army. Only Europeans served as commissioned or non-commissioned officers. An accompanying cadre of Englishmen insinuated themselves into the general population of the various regions to keep the managers of the EIC suitably informed. These early intelligence agents became experts in the language and culture of the native inhabitants and nurtured alliances among the various factions. However, centuries of misrule and unbridled arrogance led to the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and the consequent abolition of the East India Company; its regiments were amalgamated in 1860 with the British Army. The resulting situation set the stage for events that continue up to the present day. The Great Game, was a term for the strategic rivalry and conflict between the British Empire and the Russian Empire for supremacy in Central Asia, usually attributed to Arthur Conolly (1807–1842), an intelligence officer of the British East India Company's Sixth Bengal Light Cavalry. From the British perspective, the Russian Empire's expansion into Central Asia threatened to destroy the "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire, British India. The British feared that the Emirate of Afghanistan would become a staging post for a Russian invasion of India. In the Middle East there was also a direct conflict of interest, in the 19th century the oil rich territories of present day Iran and Iraq. The British were determined to check Russia in the Eastern Mediterranean, Turkey and Persia, since their commercial and military communications ran through those areas. For more than half a century there seemed little chance of compromise and many conflicts erupted, most notably the Crimean War (1853-56).

In order to assess a potential belligerent's capabilities and intentions the British used an intelligence gathering organization employing overt and covert techniques to uncover what they believed others wanted to hide. Such information gathering was deemed essential for two reasons: first, to give diplomats the advantage of critical information while negotiations were taking place; and if diplomacy failed, to give military commanders an accurate assessment of what they can expect when diplomacy failed. To defend their interests, the British employed an armory of policies: competition for political influence at the courts of the Sultan of Turkey, the Shah of Persia and the Amir of Afghanistan; trade and investment for political ends; strategic railways, military expeditions; and perhaps most important of all, allies in Europe. This nascent, loose, intelligence organization of embedded Englishmen was formalized into the Secret Intelligence Service

in 1909 and became the Foreign Section of the Secret Service Bureau. Under RNR Commander Sir Mansfield Cumming, and they were responsible for gathering intelligence overseas. By 1922 Cumming's section had become a separate Service, commonly known as MI6. Cumming signed himself 'C'; his successors have done so ever since (later immortalized in Ian Fleming's James Bond series).

Before the formal establishment of MI6 the British had developed extraordinary skills in spycraft, acclaimed by Rudyard Kipling who labeled it the Great Game in his novel Kim. They managed with minimal manpower and expense to control vast tracts of territory without sending citizen armies to their deaths. Ascertaining potential, emerging trouble spots they apprised diplomats of impeding crises who would them employ the assets they had planted and maintained over the years. These British citizens were immersed in the cultures of the countries they inhabited and through their vast web of contacts, nurtured over years, were able to achieve resolutions of many conflicts without a great loss of life.

It wasn't until 1947 that the United States realized the importance of having an organization similar to MI6. In that year Congress and President Truman passed the National Security Act which in part created the Central Intelligence Agency. It was given four functions: to collect, analyze, and disseminate intelligence of vital interest to the United States. The fourth function, which has proven to be quite problematical, was a vaguely worded passage that allowed the CIA to perform "..other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the President saw fit." The first three functions were skills finely honed by the British over centuries of practice. The most important lesson learned was that the dissemination of information was not forwarded until it was determined to be an accurate and verifiable assessment of facts as known. Outcomes were offered as to the various consequences that would result if a variety of responses were elected. To their credit, up until the 1990's, MI6 acted without political interference, that is, their analysis did not play to any political bias shared by the ruling party. Facts were reported as they were observed, there was no direction given to verify certain political preconceptions.

The Art of Betrayal, Pegasus Books, 2012, by Gordon Corera is a book that centers on Britain's overseas intelligence service and its transatlantic cousin, the CIA, from the end of WWII to the present day. It is not *the* history but a history of events that resonate to this very day. Its discusses the rise of American intelligence where money replaced the development of spycraft; where the vacuum created by the departure of British intelligence operatives was replaced by CIA installed governments that did not reflect the will of the native populations but our incessant desire to conquer the Soviet Union by whatever means. We fought a godless dictatorship with proxy, religious dictatorships. Our fight was ideological, overturn Communism, but our most damaging traitors were motivated by money, Aldrich Ames, Robert Hassen and John Walker, to name but a few. Britain's traitors had seen the perils of Capitalism and their motivation was principle, the Cambridge Five. Our combined intelligence communities suffered a series of crippling blows. The juxtaposition of Athens (MI6) and Rome (CIA) provides a lesson in how we view the world outside of our respective borders. The situation in Central Asia and the Middle East today aptly demonstrates this country's lack of an endgame and a failure to understand and heed the lessons the British have learned over the centuries from practicing Imperialism. We have failed to see ourselves as the successors to Britain's 19th century ideology and its subsequent failures.

Accurate intelligence is vital and its value to honest interpretation cannot be compromised by any political agenda. To better understand how our intelligence agencies have been manipulated and maligned by elected officials with secret motives makes for interesting history. The seeds of present conflicts were planted years ago, the history of their growth deserves our attention. Gordon Corera sets the stage for a performance that should be viewed by everyone. Take the time to enlighten yourself because the true strength of his book lies in his bibliography, other books that will leave you more informed because of the questions he raises. I guarantee you weeks of interesting reading.

Bunker Hill - the true story

The last stop on Boston's Freedom Trail is a shrine to the fog of war. "Breed's Hill," a plaque reads. "Site of the Battle of Bunker Hill." Another plaque bears the famous order given American troops as the British charged up not-Bunker Hill. "Don't fire 'til you see the whites of their eyes." Except, park rangers will quickly tell you, these words weren't spoken here. The patriotic obelisk atop the hill also confuses visitors. Most don't realize it's the rare American monument to an American defeat. In short, the nation's memory of Bunker Hill is mostly bunk. "Johnny Tremain, Paul Revere's Ride, today's Tea Partiers—you have to tune all that out to get at the real story," Boston in 1775 was much smaller, hillier and more watery than it appears today. The Back Bay was still a bay and the South End was likewise underwater; hills were later leveled to fill in almost 1,000 acres. Boston was virtually an island, reachable by land only via a narrow neck. And though founded by Puritans, the city wasn't puritanical. One rise near Beacon Hill, known for its prostitutes, was marked on maps as "Mount Whoredom." Nor was Boston a "cradle of liberty"; one in five families, including those of leading patriots, owned slaves. And the city's inhabitants were viciously divided. At Copp's Hill, in Boston's North End, there is the grave of Daniel Malcom, an early agitator against the British identified on his headstone as "a true son of Liberty." British troops used the patriot headstone for target practice. Yet Malcom's brother, John, was a noted loyalist, so hated by rebels that they tarred and feathered him and paraded him in a cart.

Nathaniel Philbrick, a noted Revolutionary historian writes in his new book, *Bunker Hill*, revisits the beginnings of the American Revolution, "a subject freighted with more myth, pride and politics than any other in our national narrative." He is blunt and impassioned about the brutishness of the 1770s and the need to challenge patriotic stereotypes. "There's an ugly civil war side to revolutionary Boston that we don't often talk about," he says, "and a lot of thuggish, vigilante behavior by groups like the Sons of Liberty." He doesn't romanticize the Minutemen of Lexington and Concord, either. The "freedoms" they fought for, he notes, weren't intended to extend to slaves, Indians, women or Catholics. Their cause was also "profoundly conservative." Most sought a return to

the Crown's "salutary neglect" of colonists prior to the 1760s, before Britain began imposing taxes and responding to American resistance with coercion and troops. "They wanted the liberties of British subjects, not American independence."

That began to change once blood was shed, which is why the Bunker Hill battle is pivotal. The chaotic skirmishing at Lexington and Concord in April 1775 left the British holed up in Boston and hostile colonists occupying the city's surrounds. But it remained unclear whether the ill-equipped rebels were willing or able to engage the British Army in pitched battle. Leaders on both sides also thought the conflict might yet be settled without full-scale war. This tense, two-month stalemate broke on the night of June 16, in a confused manner that marks much of the Revolution's start. Over a thousand colonials marched east from Cambridge with orders to fortify Bunker Hill, a 110-foot rise on the Charlestown peninsula jutting into Boston Harbor. But the Americans bypassed Bunker Hill in the dark and instead began fortifying Breed's Hill, a smaller rise much closer to Boston and almost in the face of the British. The reasons for this maneuver are murky. But Philbrick believes it was a "purposeful act, a provocation and not the smartest move militarily." Short on cannons, and the know-how to fire those they had with accuracy, the rebels couldn't do much damage from Breed's Hill. But their threatening position, on high ground just across the water from Boston, forced the British to try to dislodge the Americans before they were reinforced or fully entrenched.

On the morning of June 17, as the rebels frantically threw up breastworks of earth, fence posts and stone, the British bombarded the hill. One cannonball decapitated a man as his comrades worked on, "fatigued by our Labour, having no sleep the night before, very little to eat, no drink but rum," a private wrote. "The danger we were in made us think there was treachery, and that we were brought there to be slain." Exhausted and exposed, the Americans were also a motley collection of militia from different colonies, with little coordination and no clear chain of command. By contrast, the British, who at midday began disembarking from boats near the American position, were among the best-trained troops in Europe. And they were led by seasoned commanders, one of whom marched confidently at the head of his men accompanied by a servant carrying a bottle of wine. The British also torched Charlestown, at the base of Breed's Hill, turning church steeples into "great pyramids of fire" and adding ferocious heat to what was already a warm June afternoon. All this was clearly visible to the many spectators crowded on hills, rooftops and steeples in and around Boston, including Abigail Adams and her young son, John Quincy, who cried at the flames and the "thunders" of British cannons. Another observer was British Gen. John Burgoyne, who watched from Copp's Hill. "And now ensued one of the greatest scenes of war that can be conceived," he wrote of the blazing town, the roaring cannons and the sight of red-coated troops ascending Breed's Hill.

However, the seemingly open pasture proved to be an obstacle course. The high, unmown hay obscured rocks, holes and other hazards. Fences and stone walls also slowed the British. The Americans, meanwhile, were ordered to hold their fire until the attackers closed to 50 yards or less. The wave of British "advanced towards us in order to swallow us up," wrote Pvt. Peter Brown, "but they found a Choaky mouthful of us." When the rebels opened fire, the close-packed British fell in clumps. In some spots, the British lines became jumbled, making them even easier targets. The Americans added to the chaos by aiming at officers, distinguished by their fine uniforms. The attackers, repulsed at every point, were forced to withdraw. "The dead lay as thick as sheep in a fold," wrote an American officer. The disciplined British quickly re-formed their ranks and advanced again, with much the same result. One British officer was moved to quote Falstaff: "They make us here but food for gunpowder." But the American powder was running very low. And the British, having failed twice, devised a new plan. They repositioned their artillery and raked the rebel defenses with grapeshot. And when the infantrymen marched forward, a third time, they came in well-spaced columns rather than a broad line.

As the Americans' ammunition expired, their firing sputtered and "went out like an old candle," wrote William Prescott, who commanded the hilltop redoubt. His men resorted to throwing rocks, then swung their muskets at the bayonet-wielding British pouring over the rampart. "Nothing could be more shocking than the carnage that followed the storming [of] this work," wrote a royal marine. "We tumbled over the dead to get at the living," with "soldiers stabbing some and dashing out the brains of others." The surviving defenders fled, bringing the battle to an end. In just two hours of fighting, 1,054 British soldiers—almost half of all those engaged—had been killed or wounded, including many officers. American losses totaled over 400. The first true battle of the Revolutionary War was to prove the bloodiest of the entire conflict. Though the British had achieved their aim in capturing the hill, it was a truly Pyrrhic victory. "The success is too dearly bought," wrote Gen. William Howe, who lost every member of his staff (as well as the bottle of wine his servant carried into battle). Badly depleted, the besieged British abandoned plans to seize another high point near the city and ultimately evacuated Boston. The battle also demonstrated American resolve and dispelled hopes that the rebels might relent without a protracted conflict. "Our three generals," a British officer wrote of his commanders in Boston, had "expected rather to punish a mob than fight with troops that would look them in the face."

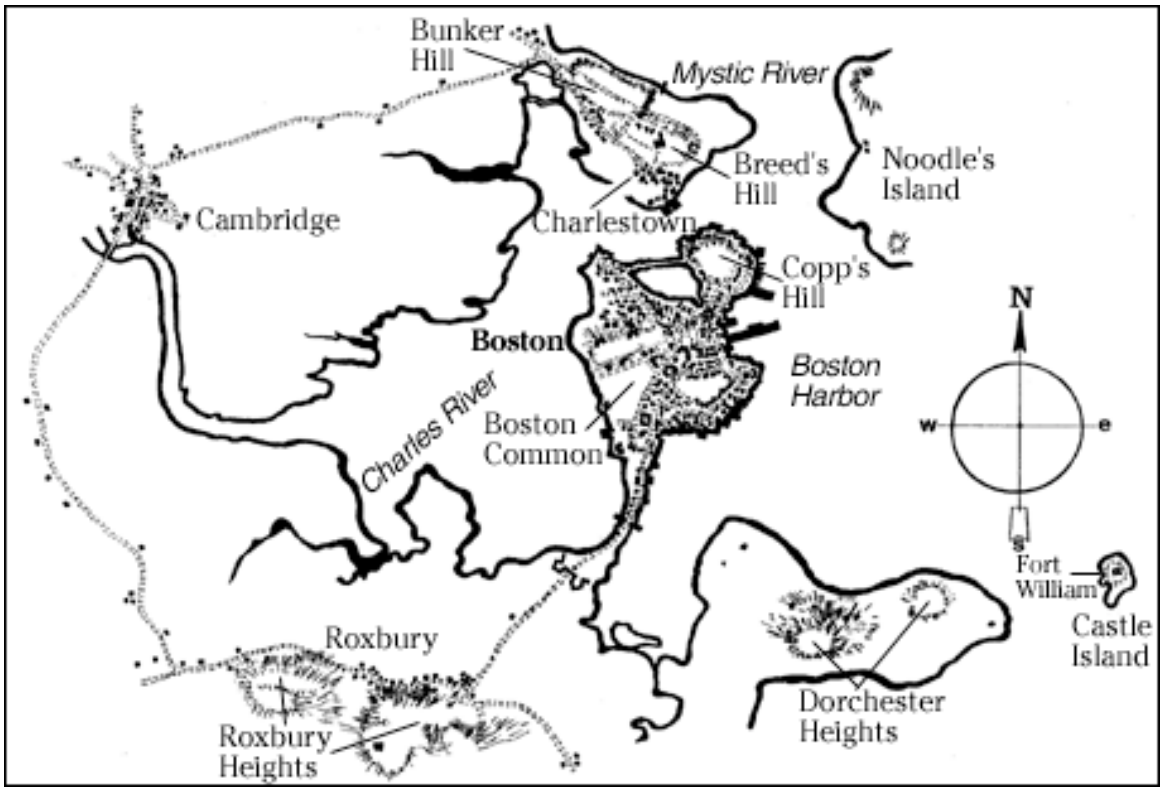
The intimate ferocity of this face-to-face combat is even more striking today, in an era of drones, tanks and long-range missiles. At the Bunker Hill Museum, Philbrick studies a diorama of the battle alongside Patrick Jennings, a park ranger who served as an infantryman and combat historian for the U.S. Army in Iraq and Afghanistan. "This was almost a pool-table battlefield," Jennings observes of the miniature soldiers crowded on a verdant field. "The British were boxed in by the terrain and the Americans didn't have much maneuverability, either. It's a close-range brawl." However, there's no evidence that Col. Israel Putnam told his men to hold their fire until they saw "the whites" of the enemies' eyes. The writer Parson Weems invented this incident decades later, along with other fictions such as George Washington chopping down a cherry tree. In reality, the Americans opened fire at about 50 yards, much too distant to see anyone's eyes. One colonel did tell his men to wait until they could see the splash guards—called half-gaiters—that British soldiers wore around their calves. But as Philbrick notes, "'Don't fire until you see the whites of their half-gaiters' just doesn't have the same ring." So the Weems version endured, making it into textbooks and even into the video game Assassin's Creed.

The Bunker Hill Monument also has an odd history. The cornerstone was laid in 1825, with Daniel Webster addressing a crowd of 100,000. Backers built one of the first railways in the nation to tote eight-ton granite blocks from a quarry south of Boston. But money ran out. So Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor and author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," rescued the project by organizing a "Ladies' Fair" that raised $30,000. The monument was finally dedicated in 1843, with the now-aged Daniel Webster returning to speak again. Over time, Brahmin Charlestown turned Irish and working class, and the monument featured in gritty crime movies like The Town, directed by Ben Affleck (who has also acquired the movie rights to Philbrick's book). But today the obelisk stands amid renovated townhouses, and the small park surrounding it is popular with exercise classes and leisure-seekers. "You'll be talking to visitors about the horrible battle that took place here," says park ranger Merrill Kohlhofer, "and all around you are sunbathers and Frisbee players and people walking their dogs." Firemen also visit, to train for climbing tall buildings by scaling the 221-foot monument.

Philbrick is drawn to a different feature of the park: a statue of what he calls the "wild man" and neglected hero of revolutionary Boston, Dr. Joseph Warren. The physician led the rebel underground and became major general of the colonial army in the lead-up to Bunker Hill. A flamboyant man, he addressed 5,000 Bostonians clad in a toga and went into the Bunker Hill battle wearing a silk-fringed waistcoat and silver buttons, "like Lord Falkland, in his wedding suit." But he refused to assume command, fighting as an ordinary soldier and dying from a bullet in the face during the final assault. Warren's stripped body was later identified on the basis of his false teeth, which had been crafted by

Paul Revere. He left behind a fiancée (one of his patients) and a mistress he'd recently impregnated. "Warren was young, charismatic, a risk-taker—a man made for revolution," Philbrick says. "Things were changing by the day and he embraced that." In death, Warren became the Revolution's first martyr, though he's little remembered by most Americans today.

In 1775, when Americans marched past Bunker Hill and fortified Breed's instead, a British map compounded the confusion by mixing up the two hills as well. Over time, the name Breed's melted away and the battle became indelibly linked to Bunker. But what of the hill that originally bore that name? It's visible from the Bunker Hill Monument: a taller, steeper hill 600 yards away. It's now crowned by a church, on Bunker Hill Street, and a sign says the church was established in 1859, "On the Top of Bunker Hill." The church's business manager, Joan Rae, says the same. "This is Bunker Hill. That other hill's not. It's Breed's." To locals like Rae, perhaps, but not to visitors or even to Google Maps. Tap in "Bunker Hill Charlestown" and you'll be directed to..that other hill. This enduring confusion is emblematic of the Bunker Hill story. "The whole thing's a screw-up," he says. "The Americans fortify the wrong hill, this forces a fight no one planned, the battle itself is an ugly and confused mess. And it ends with a British victory that's also a defeat."



Just a square mile in area, with a mere sliver of land connecting it to the mainland to the south, this tadpole-shaped island was dominated by three towering, lightly settled hills and a virtual forest of steeples. From Boston's highest perch, the 138-foot Beacon Hill, it was possible to see that the town was just one in a huge amphitheater of humped and jagged islands that extended more than eight and a half miles to Point Allerton to the southeast. Whether it was from a hill, a steeple, or a cupola, Bostonians could plainly see that they were surrounded by two deep and endless wildernesses: the ocean to the east and the country to the west. *Excerpted from Smithsonian.com*

Read more: http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/The-Worst-Parade-to-Ever-Hit-the-Streets-of-Boston-200889461.html#ixzz2STkLQgah The rest of the story concerning the Loyalist John Malcom and the circumstances that led to his tar and feathering.

To our readers: the first article was written in 13 pt type, the second in 14 pt type (both were Times New Roman). Please drop me a note if you prefer one over the over, or if it made no difference.

The Lewis Gun

"If you want to make a pile of money, invent something that will enable these Europeans to cut each others' throats with greater facility," so said one American to another American, Hiram Stevens Maxim at an industrial exposition in Europe, 1882. As a child in Maine, Maxim had been knocked over by a rifle's recoil, and this inspired him to use that recoil force to automatically operate a gun. Between 1883 and 1885 Maxim patented gas, recoil and blow-back methods of operation. After emigrating to England he founded an armaments company with financial backing from Edward Vickers to produce his machine gun in 1887. It became the weapon most associated with British imperial conquest, and after becoming a British citizen he was knighted by King Edward VII for his efforts. The weapon was manufactured in several variants with the initial cartridge being the .577/450, the same bullet used in the Martini-Henry rifle, then employed by the British Army. The weapon was water-cooled and crew served with a minimum of four men required for operation with the optimum being ten. It was heavy at almost 150 pounds, fired at the rate of 500 rounds per minute (rpm) from a 250 round, belt-fed ammo can. It was used extensively in Africa where once the natives saw the effects of its awesome firepower the mere fact of setting up the weapon was often enough to rein in any attacks. The firepower of one Maxim machine gun was equivalent to sixty riflemen. No other instrument has demonstrated the fickleness of mankind more than the machine gun. It was a weapon some claimed would end warfare because no one would want to see the continuing carnage caused by such a device.

Vickers realized that the Maxim was just too wieldy and required too many men for efficient combat operations. They made modifications and came up with a lighter, 33-51 pound, water-cooled gun that fired 450-500 rpm of .303 bullets from a 250 round belt. It was still crew served but only needed three men. It was a vast improvement for the infantry but soon another American appeared who would revolutionize the industry by designing an even better killing machine. Isaac Newton Lewis was a colonel in the US Army in 1911. He had perfected the initial designs of Samuel Maclean, an engineer, and had a weapon that was air-cooled, light-weight, and could be operated by one man. He had the skill and enthusiasm to make his project a reality, except for one item. Like Maxim before him, the Army Ordnance Department was run by hide-bound, unimaginative, petty, officer bureaucrats who valued saving ammunition over delivering effective firepower downrange. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary Ordnance chief General William Crozier used his considerable influence to see that the Lewis gun was rejected at every level. These two men had been involved in a long-standing feud that may have resulted from Crozier's period as an instructor at West Point while Lewis was a cadet.

In 1913 Lewis resigned his commission and went to the United Kingdom and contracted with the Birmingham Small Arms Company (BSA) to produce his gun using the British .303 cartridge. In 1915 it was officially adopted by both the Belgian and British Armies and Lewis became a millionaire. The Belgians were the first army to use the weapon in combat against the Germans where it quickly achieved a reputation for being

able to make advancing infantrymen turn and run as their steady stream of fire decimated the enemy's ranks; soon it was nicknamed "The Belgian Rattlesnake." BSA could not keep up with the orders so the Savage Arms Company of Utica, New York made the gun both in the .303 caliber for the Europeans and in the .30-06 caliber for the US Navy and Coast Guard. Those armed forces did not fall under Army Ordnance mandates and it was used extensively in sub-chasers, landing craft and coastal patrol boats in both world wars. This very reliable, light machine gun with a pan-type ammo carrier, containing either 47 or 97 rounds, with a barrel mounted bipod became much beloved by the European allies. However, Crozier's hatred for Lewis was so pervasive that when US Marines were sent to France he had their Lewis guns seized and after a general outcry reluctantly gave them a few of the just issued Browning Automatic Rifles (M1918) that had just a 20 round magazine, to conserve ammunition. But the Lewis gun would achieve its greatest fame when used in conjunction with the newly developed airplane.

Although the Americans were the first to fire a proto-type Lewis gun from an airplane in 1912, a Wright Model B Flyer; it was the British who exercised more foresight. The open bolt firing cycle prevented it from being synchronized to fire directly forward through the propeller of a single engine fighter but for the observers or rear gunners it was a formidable deterrent. The gun was mounted on a circular Scraff ring which enabled it to be rotated and elevated, and ammo changes could be done with ease. Using incendiary ammo the hydrogen employed in German Zeppelins and dirigibles was easily ignited and those aircraft were eliminated. This gun was responsible for bringing down more enemy aircraft than any other weapon used in WWI. All the royalties Lewis derived from the manufacture of his weapon by the Savage Arms Company was returned to the United States Treasury. Over 150,00 of these guns were produced during the war and they outnumbered their nearest competitor by a margin of 3 to 1.

After the debacle of Dunkirk, in June, 1940, where most of the English weapons remained on the shores of France, some 59,000 Lewis guns were taken from stores, repaired, refitted, and reissued. Most were used by the Home Guard for defending airfields and anti-aircraft use. They also saw frontline use with British forces in North Africa and Australian and New Zealand forces in the Pacific. As a testament to its popularity and longevity it even played a role in the Battle of Guadalcanal, July, 1942. Coast Guard Coxswains Douglas A. Munro and Raymond Joseph Evans were cruising up the beach in their 36-ft Higgins Boat when they noticed a USN LCT stranded on a sandbar. They threw a line to the ship and pulled her off. Just as they got underway a fusillade of Japanese automatic weapons caught the LCT in a withering crossfire. Munro drove his boat behind the Marine laded LCT and the Japanese. They opened counter-fire with their vintage Lewis Guns killing many of the enemy troops firing from the beach. As they were retiring Munro was hit in the neck and died instantly. For his valor above and beyond the call of duty, Munro was awarded the Medal of Honor and Evans was given the Navy Cross. To this day Doug Munro is the only Coastguardsman to have ever received this esteemed honor.

Today the Lewis Gun is one of most popular weapons sought by military arms collectors and aficionados. Those in good firing condition often command prices of more than $20,000. Even ones that have been demilitarized will fetch $3-5000. Easily recognized by its long tubular cooling jacket it did not have a replacement aboard ships for anti-aircraft use until the development of the 20mm Oerlikon. Officially, the Lewis Gun was withdrawn from British Service in 1946, but was used by forces against the United Nations in the Korean War. It was also employed against the United States and France in the Vietnam and earlier First indochina War.

General Crozier died in 1942 at the age of 87. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery and there is a building at West Point named after him. Issac Newton Lewis died in Hoboken, New Jersey at 74 of a heart attack while waiting for a train to take him home. Crozier made certain Lewis never received any posthumous honors for his contributions. But that is expected from one who proudly traced his ancestry to County Fermanagh.

Get out of Jail FREE

During World War II, as the number of British airmen held hostage behind enemy lines escalated, the country's secret service enlisted an unlikely partner in the ongoing war effort: The board game Monopoly, was included in the items the German army allowed humanitarian groups to distribute in care packages to imprisoned soldiers, the game was too innocent to raise suspicion. But it was the ideal size for a top-secret escape kit that could help spring British POWs from German war camps. The British secret service conspired with the U.K. manufacturer to stuff a compass, small metal tools, such as files, and, most importantly, a map, into cut-out compartments in the Monopoly board itself. "It was ingenious," said Philip Orbanes, author of several books on Monopoly, including "The World's Most Famous Game and How it Got That Way." "The Monopoly box was big enough to not only hold the game but hide everything else they needed to get to POWs." Of all the tools in a military-grade escape kit, the most critical item was the map. But paper maps proved too fragile and cumbersome.

For hundreds of years, even before World War II, silk was the material of choice for military maps, because it wouldn't tear or dissolve in water as easily as paper and was light enough to stuff into a boot or cigarette packet. Unlike maps printed on paper, silk maps also wouldn't rustle and attract the attention of enemy guards, she said. Initially, they had some problems printing on silk, it's quite technically challenging. But then MI9, the British secret service unit responsible for escape and evasion, found the one British company that had mastered printing on silk: John Waddington Ltd., a printer and board game manufacturer that also happened to be the U.K. licensee for the Parker Bros. game Monopoly. Before leaving for missions, British airmen were told that if they were captured, they should look for escape maps and kits in Monopoly boards and other games delivered by charity groups. They were told that "special edition" Monopoly sets would be marked with a red dot on the free parking space. In addition to the concealed compass, tools and maps, real bank notes were hidden under the fake money. Waddington printed six different maps that corresponded with regions surrounding six different German camps. Monopoly kits bound for a camp in Italy, for example, would include a map of Italy and Italian currency (lira). To make sure each set reached its destination, the secret service devised another code. Each game was pinpointed as to the camp it would go to. To innocuously tag each board game, a period was added after different locations on the board. Not wanting to compromise the integrity of the Red Cross, the secret service created fake charity groups to smuggle the games into the German camps.

Monopoly games weren't the only vehicles used to conceal escape maps. Decks of cards, the board game Snakes and Ladders and pencils also concealed maps for prisoners. There was a whole industry going on. During the war, hundreds of thousands of silk maps were used to help prisoners escape. This marked a change in the way the military viewed POWs. During World War I, if you were captured in battle that was it. But after Winston Churchill and others shared their experiences as POWs, the perception of them changed. The POWs could still do a job. Not only was it their duty to fight if they were captured, it was their duty to escape. The silk (and rayon) maps and the clever ways they were distributed reflected that philosophy.

Though silk maps from that era exist in libraries, homes and museums around the world, none of the original rigged Monopoly sets still remain. After the war everything was destroyed.

Thanks to member Jerry Krause for bringing this little known item to the Cannon Reports attention.