



THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

"OUR DESTINIES ARE SOMETIMES FOCUSED ON THE
SHARP POINT OF A BAYONET".
JFK

With this realization, America entered the Vietnam War—the longest in our history.

Now, in this, the tenth anniversary year of the official close of the Vietnam War, we are proud to bring you, our Member, news of our project which honors the Americans who fought that war—and the noble, patriotic spirit that caused us to enter it.

"The Vietnam War Bayonets of Honor Collection" marks the first time in world history that limited edition commemorative bayonets have ever been commissioned. So this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. They will be a source of pride to all Americans and an important milestone in military history collecting.

Dear Member:

They lost no major battle, though they fought in a foreign land, against a ruthless aggressor.

They are great Americans who gallantly sacrificed for the cause of democracy but were hamstrung by politicians and a liberal, vocal "intelligentsia" at home.

But let me tell you the quote that in my mind best describes the Americans who served in Vietnam. It is engraved on a plaque in the main lobby of the high school in Mulberry Grove, Illinois, a farming community of 700 people, in memory of three of their sons lost in Vietnam...

"Not for fame or reward.
Not for place or rank.
Not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity.
But in simple obedience to duty..."

Many of them were just boys, a long way from home. But they became men in a hurry.

Nearly a generation has passed since the war began. Before memories

fade we want to draw national attention to these "forgotten warriors" who patriotically served the cause of freedom.

The bayonet is the symbol of combat—the willingness to close with the enemy and fight eyeball to eyeball. It is representative of the courage of the individual trooper who fought the many small actions that characterized the warfare in Vietnam. A bayonet cannot be ignored. So, it seemed highly appropriate to select a bayonet for this tribute.

The bayonet is especially important at night, when you have a hard time telling friend from foe until you are right up on him—or when the fighting is too close to use grenades. Recall the action in "The Battle for Khe Sanh":

The North Vietnamese blew lanes through the barbed wire...Quickly...the enemy was inside the wire. The counterattack quickly deteriorated into a melee that resembled a bloody, waterfront barroom brawl...Because the darkness and ground fog drastically reduced visibility, hand to hand combat was a necessity. Using their knives, bayonets, rifle butts, and fists the men of the 1st Platoon ripped into the...Vietnamese with a vengeance.

We have commissioned four different special Vietnam War Bayonets of Honor, one for each of our service branches: the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.

The fact that this is the first limited edition commemorative bayonet ever issued in world history will in itself draw further attention and importance to this issue--especially among collectors. And each time it is displayed and studied, the Vietnam War and those who served will be remembered! These bayonets are beautiful, yet deadly, symbols of combat that say: "NEVER FORGET!"

Whether or not you or a member of your family served in Vietnam, each of these Bayonets will give you a renewed sense of pride in the Americans who answered the call to duty. You will be proud to open the case and show it to your friends—and pass it along to future generations of your family.

When you pick up each Bayonet, you will know you are holding a combat-worthy weapon! Designed in 1963, each is made to full G.I. specifications with a total of 16 parts, including two working spring-loaded releases. And each is tested to fit the M16 Rifle.

We have specially commissioned the Imperial Knife Company to custom make each re-issue Bayonet for this Collection. They are using the same original tooling that they used during the Vietnam War, and each is made in the United States.

However, that's where all similarity ends. An incredible amount of

hand work makes each a presentation grade collectible, worthy of this tribute.

- o The 6-5/8" hardened and tempered battleworthy blade is high carbon steel, polished to a mirror finish and deeply acid etched with the tribute inscription and a scene symbolic of warfare in Southeast Asia. It is hard flash chromed for lasting beauty and gold-gilt and black enamel infilled for contrast.
- o The checkered grips are the authentic G.I. pattern specially made of highly polished black phenolic (rather than the usual dull, fiber-impregnated castings). Each right grip is milled and inset with a full-color, gold-plated cloisonne medallion of the service branch insignia.
- o 24-karat gold is richly plated on the crossguard, two releases, butt, two grip screws and two grip nuts. But in order to get that beautiful, deep gleam, each component must first be polished to a mirror finish. This process alone requires nearly an hour per Bayonet by a skilled polisher.
- o Then the craftsman carefully files and fits together the 16 components that make up this Bayonet. The crossguard is secured by a bracket bent by a massive hydraulic press through a hole in the tang so that both ends press the guard against the blade shoulder. The butt is then "spin peened" in place; the tang is actually expanded over the gold plated butt--so it can't loosen in combat.
- o Next the craftsman inspects the Bayonet in all particulars and tests it for fit on the M16. Then the individual limited edition serial number is engraved on the blade reverse.
- o Finally, the numbered Certificate of Authenticity is matched with the Bayonet, ready to deliver to you.

To further make this a meaningful tribute, we commissioned Vietnam veteran B. J. Weber to design the blade etchings. B. J. became a professional artist after returning home from two combat tours in 'Nam, and he is one of your fellow Foundation Members.

He created four distinctive blade etching panoplies for the Bayonets of Honor. They graphically convey the feeling of combat in Southeast Asia. The flat shoulder panels of the blades are accentuated with a single gold-gilt infilled border etched around the commemorative inscription.

Although more than 2,500,000 Americans served in Vietnam, only 2500 of each Bayonet of Honor will ever be made, to further assure rarity, respect and value as a collectible. Each is numbered, individually serialized.

We are presenting Serial No. 1 of the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force Bayonets of Honor to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the

recognition they have given to our veterans. Contributions will also be made by the Foundation to Vietnam veterans organizations to help them perpetuate the memory of those who served and to help establish a Vietnam War Exhibit in The American Historical Foundation Museum.

You may now advance register, without obligation, for subsequent Bayonets in this series so you can systematically acquire a complete set of four with matching serial numbers. A complete matched set is always of greater historical and collector interest and value.

Each Bayonet can be delivered to you, one at a time, in the months ahead. This allows you to conveniently space your payments in between.

You may also reserve the optional display case for each Bayonet, covered and lined with the finest quality velvet available. Across the inner lid is mounted an actual piece of ribbon from the Vietnam Service Medal. Each case is color-keyed to the service branch: Army green, Marine Corps scarlet, Navy blue and Air Force blue.

We have also designed a Wall Display Mount for the set of four. These are being custom-made for our Members by LTC Bill Williams, USAF (Ret); the frames are hand covered with woodland leaf pattern camouflage cloth.

You may easily place your reservation with a small deposit, and credit cards are accepted. You may call our Member Services staff toll free (800-368-8080), use the reservation on this page or personally visit.

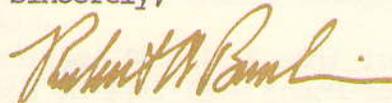
Satisfaction is guaranteed, and there are no shipping charges. For an additional \$15 we will personalize your Bayonet by engraving your name, rank, serial number and/or other personal memorial information on the blade reverse.

I hope you will take advantage of this chance to add one—or a complete matched set of four—of the Bayonets of Honor to your collection. This is an important project because it honors our Vietnam veterans, and it makes history as the world's first limited edition Bayonet.

Please know that we very much appreciate your participation and support.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

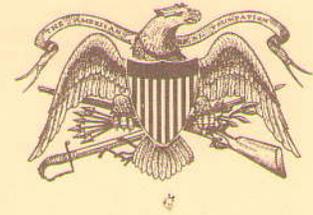


Robert A. Buerlein
President

P.S. Please see the enclosed information about the free gift that we are giving just to our Members. Also, if you have any friends or relatives who served in Vietnam who would like to receive information about the Bayonets of Honor, just let us know.



ADVANCE
RESERVATION
FOR
THE VIETNAM WAR
BAYONETS OF HONOR



I wish to reserve each of the below-indicated Bayonets of Honor in the world's *first* limited edition Bayonet Collection, with 24-karat gold plated crossguard, releases, butt, grip screws and nuts and made to full G.I. specifications by the original wartime maker. Each blade is deeply acid etched with a jungle scene symbolic of warfare in Southeast Asia.

I understand that this Advance Reservation will expedite delivery and eliminate the need for me to return individual reservations in the future.

I will immediately be sent written confirmation of my reservation and matching serial number for each Bayonet reserved.

Full inspection privileges apply; I may return any Bayonet in this series within 30 days for a full and unquestioned refund.

1. MILITARY SERVICES HONORED:

U.S. ARMY VIETNAM WAR BAYONET OF HONOR

The blade is deeply etched and gold-gilt and black enamel infilled. A full-color U.S. Army insignia cloisonne medallion is inset into the grip. Optional Army green velvet-covered display case available.

U.S. MARINE CORPS VIETNAM WAR BAYONET OF HONOR

A full-color cloisonne medallion bearing the U.S. Marine Corps insignia is inset in the presentation side of the grip. The blade etching depicts a gold-gilt infilled tribute inscription to the U.S. Marine Corps. Optional Marine Corps scarlet velvet-covered display case available.

U.S. NAVY VIETNAM WAR BAYONET OF HONOR

The gold-gilt infilled tribute inscription is deeply acid etched into each blade. The U.S. Navy insignia is depicted in a full-color cloisonne medallion inset into the grip. Optional Airborne blue velvet-covered display case available.

U.S. AIR FORCE VIETNAM WAR BAYONET OF HONOR

The full-color cloisonne grip medallion depicts the U.S. Air Force insignia. The tribute inscription is deeply acid etched into the blade. Optional Air Force blue velvet-covered display case available.

2. OPTIONS:

- A. Please engrave the Bayonet(s) indicated as specified on the enclosed "Engraving Request" form.
- B. Please send a velvet-covered and lined display case with Vietnam Service Medal ribbon across inner lid for each bayonet reserved, adding \$24 per case to the balance.
- C. Please send a custom made Wall Display Mount which holds the set of four Bayonets within a camouflage cloth covered frame. Steel clips hold the bayonets; etched brass I.D. plaque at \$159.

Please charge my credit card or invoice the balance or Payment in full is enclosed.

3. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT:

I wish to reserve each bayonet noted at \$189, which includes Certificate of Authenticity and shipping charges.

I submit a \$39 deposit (check, money order or charge card authorization) for each bayonet reserved. Please invoice or

charge the balance for each bayonet prior to shipping...

in two equal monthly payments.

in full.

or Payment in full is enclosed (check or money order).

4. SCHEDULE OF DELIVERY:

Please deliver one bayonet at a time as each is available.

or I would prefer to receive all of the bayonets at one time.

5. METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check or money order enclosed.

Please charge: VISA Master Charge American Express

Account No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

6. DELIVERY ADDRESS:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Telephone Number () _____

Virginia residents, please add state sales tax.

If you prefer to place this registration by telephone, please call the Foundation, toll free, 1-(800)-368-8080.

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

1022 WEST FRANKLIN STREET RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23220 TELEPHONE: (804)353-1812 CABLES: ARMORY

Presenting...

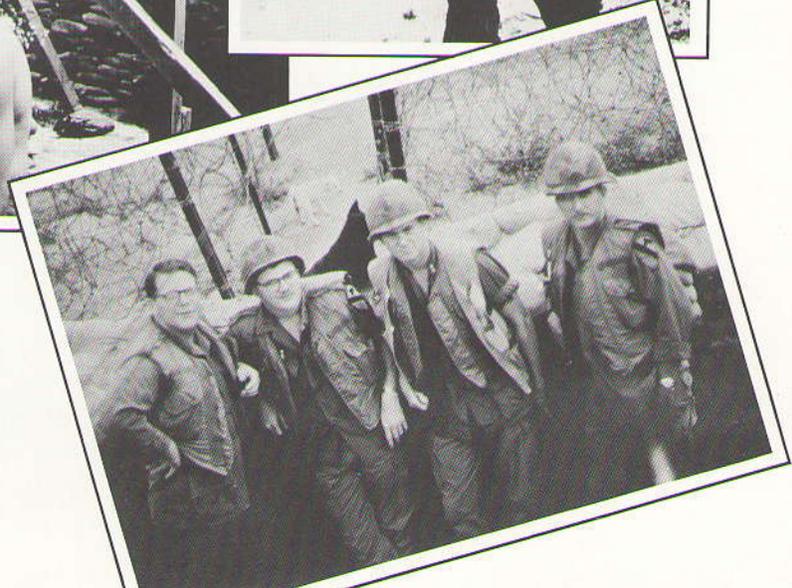
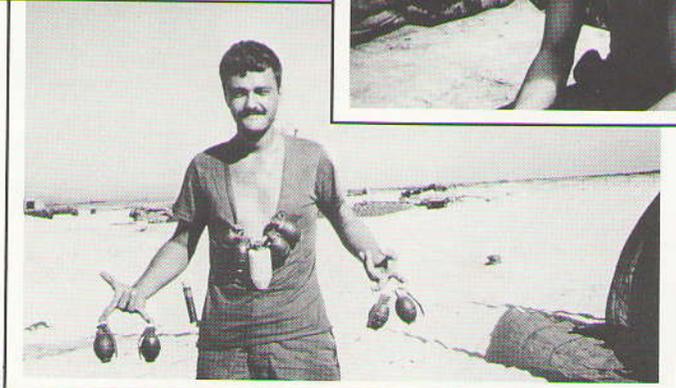
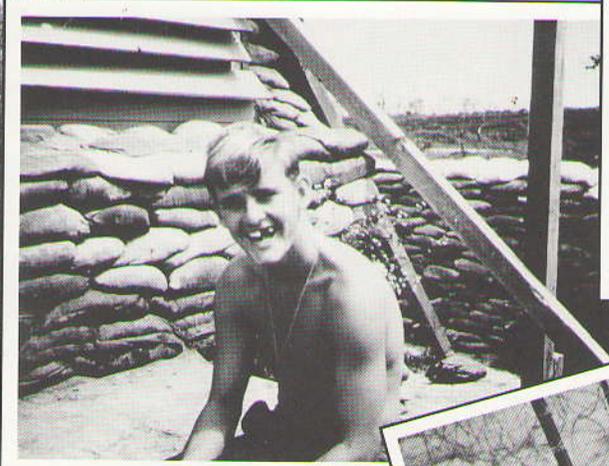
THE VIETNAM WAR BAYONETS OF HONOR

The world's first limited edition Bayonets. Plated with 24-karat gold.
Made to full G.I. specifications using the original wartime tooling.



Many of them were still boys,
a long way from home.
But they all became men in a hurry.

*"Not for fame or reward.
Not for place or rank.
Not lured by ambition
or goaded by necessity.
But in simple obedience
to duty..."*



The Vietnam War Bayonets of Honor — designed by Vietnam combat veteran B.J. Weber.



“...the Jungle Would Explode
in a Ball of Flames...”

I served two combat tours in 'Nam. Like the boon-docks of Vietnam, these bayonets are beautiful, yet deadly.

Designing these blade patterns was just a matter of putting down with pen and ink the memories, emotions and experiences of fifteen years ago that will live with me forever.

I put a different snake design on each blade. Snakes strike quietly, quickly—and fatally. They reminded me of the enemy who frequently during the day looked like friendly civilians but at night would send a child walking into your camp carrying explosives.

I also put a different dragon on each blade. We saw dragons throughout Vietnam—especially on Buddhist temples. They put them there, I believe, to

protect them. But the dragon was a mythical creature that didn't exist—just as we often found that enemy forces that weren't *supposed* to exist would suddenly show up and hit us from nowhere. Often we were forced to fight like mythical soldiers, to follow rules and guidelines, while the enemy was totally unrestricted.

The bamboo background is symbolic of the jungle but also of the two worst enemies faced by a ground-pounder or a grunt—sharp points of bamboo used in punji sticks, and “Bouncing Betties”.

The flames along the leading edge are reminders of the balls of flame when all hell would break loose in combat. One moment everything would be peaceful and beautiful. Then we'd be ambushed and the jungle would explode in a ball of flames—especially if we had to call in napalm.

So, snakes, dragons, bamboo, flames—and these Bayonets—symbolize the war in Vietnam from my perspective.

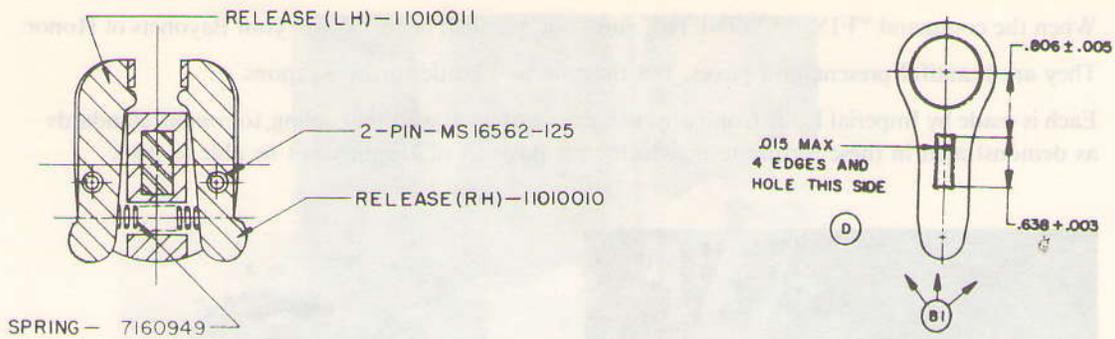
B.J. Weber

*Each battleworthy blade is mirror polished and deeply acid etched
and gold-gilt and black enamel infilled.*

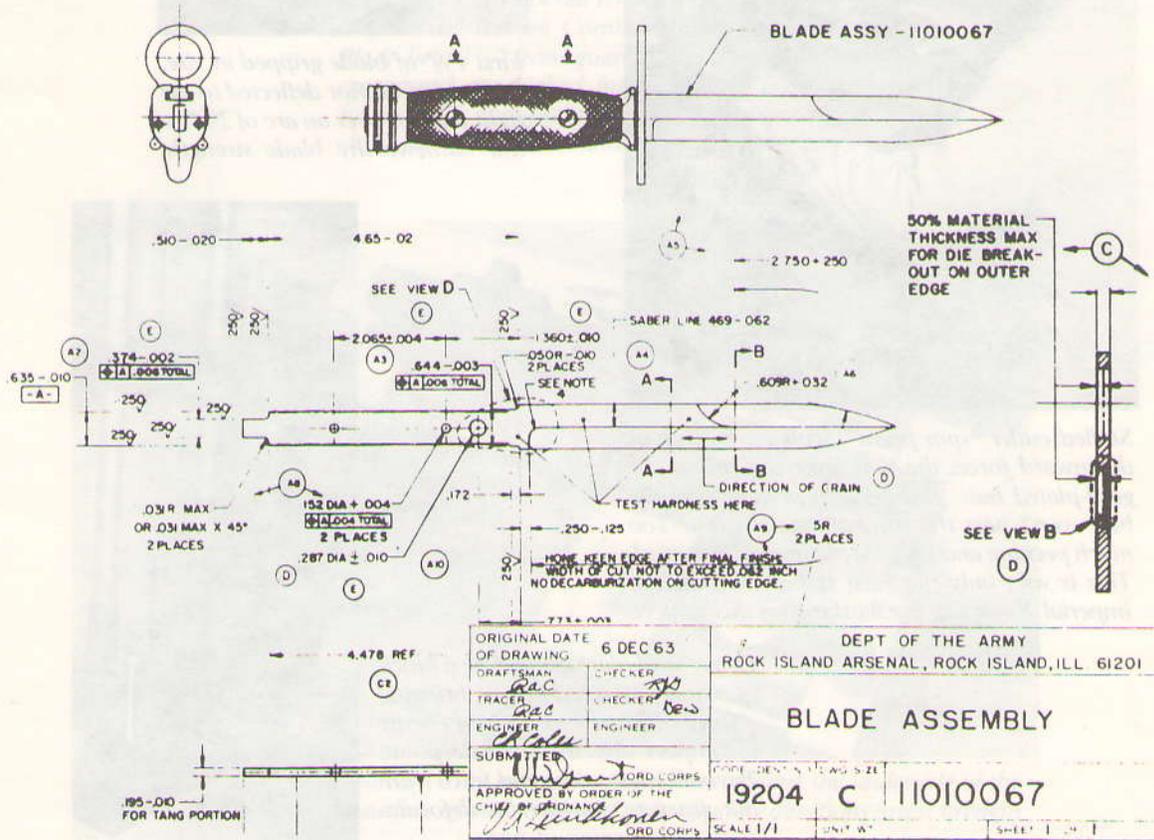


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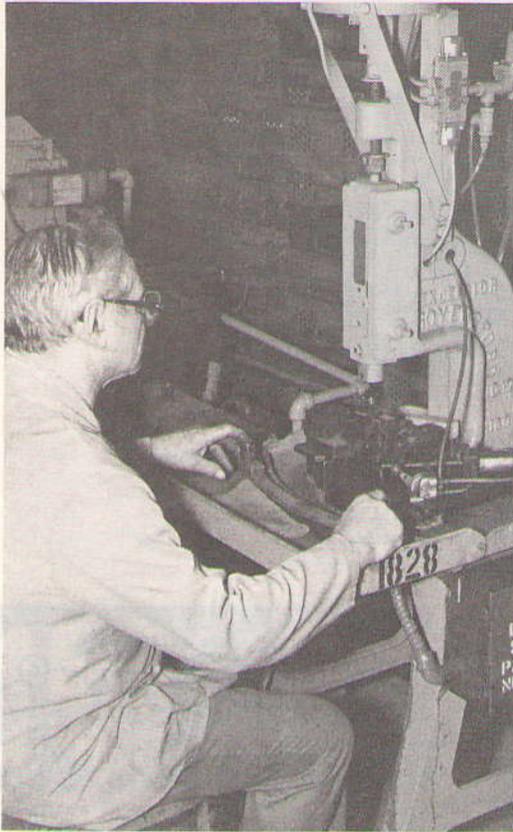


AFFIX BAYONETS!
By Foundation Staff



ORIGINAL DATE OF DRAWING	6 DEC 63	DEPT OF THE ARMY ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, ROCK ISLAND, ILL. 61201	
DRAFTSMAN	REC	CHECKER	JKO
TRACER	REC	CHECKER	DEW
ENGINEER	W. J. ...	ENGINEER	
SUBMITTER	...	BLADE ASSEMBLY	
APPROVED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF BRIGADE	...	CODE IDENTIFICATION SIZE	19204 C 11010067
		SCALE	1/1
		SHEET	1 OF 1

When the command "FIX BAYONETS!" rings out, you will be ready with your Bayonets of Honor. They are beautiful presentation pieces. But they are also battleworthy weapons. Each is made by Imperial Knife Company, using their original wartime tooling, to *combat standards*—as demonstrated in these torture tests, which each Bayonet of Honor must be able to pass.



Skilled cutler "spin peens", with a tremendous downward force, the tang over the end of the gold-plated butt. Not enough peening and the butt won't pass the combat strength test. Too much peening and the gold plating will be ruined. This is why only the most skilled craftsmen at Imperial Knife Co. are working on this project.



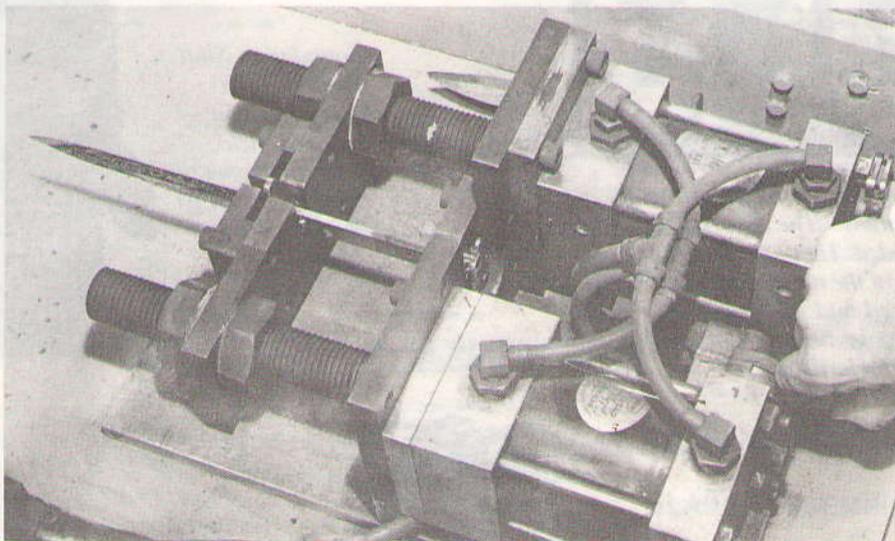
First 1 1/2" of blade gripped in vise. Bayonet of Honor deflected to the right and left over an arc of 2 1/2" to test battleworthy blade strength.



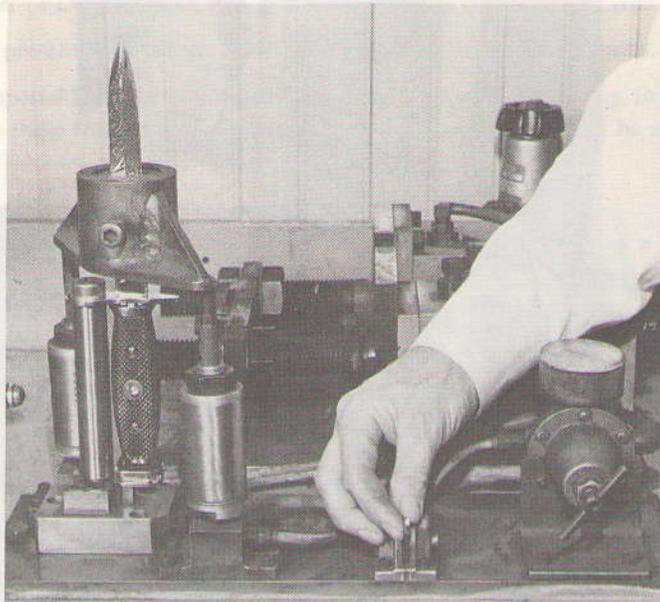
Heavy steel plate containing a block of maple wood is dropped, bringing a force of 28 foot-pounds of energy on impact directly to blade point. Bayonet must withstand force without fracture, permanent deformation, or loosening of parts.



Buck Raper of Imperial Knife Co. executes military "twist" test on Commemorative Bayonet. Blade held 1½" from guard while the butt and crossguard are locked into position. Twisting force of 25 foot-pounds of torque applied in clockwise and then counterclockwise direction.



Hydraulically operated fixture exerts powerful force against the underside of the butt and the upper surface of the crossguard — in opposite directions to test strength of mounts.



Hydraulic cylinders attempt to rip Bayonet of Honor off bayonet stud. The two spring-loaded releases must not fail.



Close-up of unassembled and assembled butt assembly. The two releases are spring loaded. They—and the butt—are just three of the nine parts that are mirror polished and 24-karat gold plated. They must be beautiful—but work to combat standards!

Foundation Staff member (two tours Vietnam, USMC), field tests a Bayonet of Honor. His reply: "Sin loi, Victor Charlie!"



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In this, the 10th Anniversary year of the official close of the Vietnam War, we are proud to honor the Americans who fought that war through the issuance of "The Vietnam War Bayonets of Honor Collection."

This is the first time in world history that limited edition commemorative Bayonets have ever been commissioned, so this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The Bayonet is the symbol of combat and an object which, when displayed in a home, office or museum, cannot be ignored.

The fact that these are the first limited edition commemorative Bayonets ever issued will further draw attention and importance to this Collection.

Each time they are displayed and studied, the Vietnam War — and those who served — will be remembered!

We have commissioned four different presentation grade Bayonets — one for each service branch. Each Bayonet is specially made in the U.S.A. by Imperial Knife Company, using the original tooling they used during the Vietnam War.

Whether or not you or a member of your family served in Vietnam, each of these Bayonets will give you a renewed sense of pride in the Americans who

answered the call to duty. You will be proud to display each and pass them along to future generations of your family.

- Each is a combat-worthy Bayonet, made to full G.I. specifications, with a total of 16 parts, and each is tested to fit the M16 Rifle.

- The hardened and tempered battleworthy blade is mirror polished, deeply etched and gold-gilt and black enamel infilled.

- 24-karat gold is richly plated on the guard, two releases, butt, two grip screws and two grip nuts. All parts are mirror polished. The blade reverse is engraved with the limited edition serial number, after test

fitting to the M16 Rifle. A numbered Certificate of Authenticity accompanies each Bayonet.

- The special, polished grips are checkered black phenolic.

- A gold plated, full color cloisonne medalion of the service branch insignia is inset in the right grip.

To show our appreciation to the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Fund for their recognition of our veterans, we are presenting Serial No. 1 of each of the four Bayonets in the series to them. We will also establish a Vietnam War exhibit in The American Historical Foundation Museum.

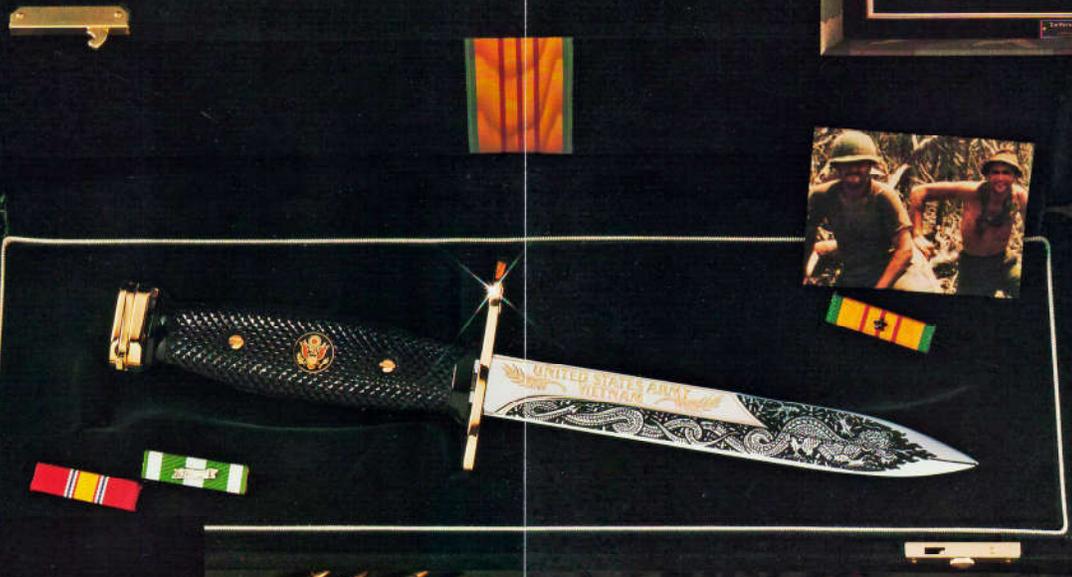
You may reserve any one, two, three — or all four Bayonets. If you advance register for the complete set of four, they will have matching serial numbers, as long as matched sets are available.

This is a strictly limited edition of only 2500 of each Bayonet, and under no circumstances will this be exceeded. Certification of this and the purity of the 24-karat gold plating is confirmed on the Certificate of Authenticity.

Satisfaction is guaranteed or you may return any Bayonet reserved within 30 days of receipt for a full and unquestioned refund.



The four Bayonets of Honor, from left to right, honor the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. The Wall Display Mount (18" x 25") exhibits the set of four Bayonets within a woodland leaf pattern camouflage cloth covered frame. Etched solid brass ID plaque. Four steel brackets hold the Bayonets for easy removal from the velvet-covered backing board.



U.S. Army Bayonet of Honor shown smaller than actual size of 10 1/2". Velvet covered and lined display case includes actual ribbon from Vietnam Service Medal in inner lid.



Each Bayonet of Honor is test fitted to the M16 Rifle.

