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Vehicles

MOTORCYCLES

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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GENERAL SOURCES

- Ansell, David. Military Motorcycles. London: Batsford, 1985. 215 p. UC347A67.
Concise data, brief histories, and drawings of 102 models, all countries, 1908-1980.
- Birch, Gavin. Motorcycles at War: Rare Photographs From Wartime Archives. Barnsley, England: Pen & Sword, 2006. 144 p. UC347B57.
- Burns, Max, & Messenger, Ken. The Winged Wheel Patch: A History of the Canadian Military Motorcycle and Rider. St. Catherines, Ontario: Vanwell, 1993. 160 p. UC347B87.
- Crismon, Fred. U.S. Military Wheeled Vehicles. Sarasota, FL: Crestline, 1983. pp. 14-26. UC343C74.
- Ware, Pat. Military Harley-Davidson. Surrey, England: Ian Allan, 2007. 192 p. UG618W37.

PRE-WORLD WAR I

- Battine, Cecil. "The Use of Motor Vehicles in War." Royal Automobile Club Journal
(2 & 9 Dec 1909): pp. 396-97 & 410-12. UC340B33.
Mentions possible military uses of motorcycle. (Interesting to note that in 1909 England registered nearly as many motorcycles as automobiles).

Leonard, Charles F. "The Automobile and Motor Cycle for Use in the Military Service...." Typed manuscript, Army Signal School, Jul 1910. 18 p., photos. UC340L58.

Impassioned plea from an enthusiastic automobilist. Page 9 is on motorcycles "for use as couriers when wire or wireless fail." See also p. 14 & photo of early Harley-Davidson.

U.S. Army. QM Corps. Motorcycle Div. Regulations for Motorcycle Transportation. [Wash, DC: War Plans Div, 1918]. 111 p. UC343A35a.

WORLD WAR I

Morz, Albert. American Cars, Trucks and Motorcycles of World War I: Illustrated Histories of 225

Manufacturers. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2010. 419 p. TL23.M76.

Mroz, Albert. American Military Vehicles of World War I: An Illustrated History of Armored Cars, Staff Cars, Motorcycles, Ambulances, Trucks, Tractors and Tanks. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2009. 316 p. UG618.M76.

U.S. Army. AEF. Advance Notes on the Motor Transport Service A.E.F., Jun 1918. pp. 72-84. UC343A25.

_____. Instructions for Officers and Drivers of Tractors, Cycle and Automobile Drivers, Telephone and Radio Experts.... Mimeo, 1917(?) 40 p. UC343A271.

_____. Manual for Instructions Governing the Operation of the Army Motor Service. Wash, DC, 1919. 96 p. UC343A.

See pp. 12 & 30 concerning Motorcycle Messenger Service, Operation Div, Army Motor Service.

_____. Manual of the Motor Transport Corps, Oct 1918. 175 p. UC343M36.

See pp. 48-54 for detailed info on the organization, administration and operation of a motorcycle company. Also see pp. 147-48.

_____. Motor Cycle Officers' Course of the Motor Transport Corps. Wash, DC, Nov 1918. UC343A521.

_____. Motor Transport Corps. M.T.C. Curriculum and Lectures. Wash, DC, 1918? UC343A5. See Lecture IV, pp. 5-11.

_____. Outlines of Courses of Instruction for the Corps Personnel (Provisional). Wash, DC, 1918. UC343A56.

See pp. 114-41 on MTC motorcycle sec.

_____. Reconstruction Park Manual: Plans and Specifications Covering Complete Details of Layout.

Buildings and Departments of Motor Transport Corps Reconstruction Park. Wash, DC, 1918.
124 p. UC343A725.

See motorcycle repair dept, pp. 63-66.

_____. Regulations for Standard Motor Vehicle Operation, Oct 1918. 45 p. UC343A26.

_____. Report of the Chief of the Motor Transport Corps. Wash, DC: GPO, 1919. pp. 26-27.
UC343A5.

Motorcycles in infantry division.

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- _____. Tables of Organization, Series A, B, C, E and F, Sep-Dec 1918. UA25A20-UA25A24.
- U.S. Army. Quartermaster Corps. Motor Division. Regulations for Motorcycle Transportation, Quartermaster Corps, U.S. Army. Wash, DC: War Plans Div, Apr 1918. 111 p. UC343A35.
- US Dept of Army. Hist Div. United States Army in the World War, 1917-1919. Vol. 1: Organization of the American Expeditionary Forces. Wash, DC: GPO, 1948. D570A1A4v1.
AEF tables of org reprinted.
- U.S. War Dept. AGO. Personnel Specifications: Motor Transport Corps. Wash, DC, Dec 1918. 22 p. UC343P47.
For example, pp. 8-9 describes the jobs of the members of a motorcycle company.
Drivers had to be qualified repairmen.
- _____. General Staff. War College Div. Motor Transport in Campaign. Wash, DC: GPO, 1916. p. 11. UC340U58.
- _____. Tables of Organization, 1914. Wash, DC: GPO, 1914. UA25A2.
Lists most unit transportation as horses, mules, & wagons. Only a few units, such as the aero squadron (p. 39), were authorized motorcycles. See also 1918 TOE #359 for Motorcycle Co.
- _____. War Plans Div. Provisional Regulations for Operation and Training of Division Trains. Wash, DC, Oct 1918. 81 p. UC343A6.
Includes instructions for motorcycle messengers, who "should follow each commanding officer's car at twenty to thirty yards distance..." (p. 37).

BETWEEN WORLD WARS

- Ernest, N. "Employment of Motorcycle Units in Modern Warfare." Trans from Russian, May 1937. 6 p. UC340E65.
- Nalle, W. "Changes in Cavalry and Developments in Mechanization in Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Japan with Trends in Those Areas." Report, AWC, 5 May 1934. 25 p. AWCFile 408-59, Arch.
- Parker, Cortlandt. "Conclusion on the Mechanization and Motorization of Armies." Memo for Chief, MID, 2 Nov 1933. 24 p. UC340P3.
Based on study of motorization in British Army.
- Thompson, J.B. "Changes in Cavalry and Developments in Mechanization in France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Russian, and Japan with trends in Those Arms." Report, Army War College, 10 May 1938. 23 p. AWCFile 7-1938-82, Arch.
Lists motorcycle units in foreign armies.

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- U.S. Army. History of Motor Transport Corps, Camp Sherman, Ohio. Chillicothe, OH: Scholl, 1920. 8 p. UC340H67.
Corps equipment at Camp Sherman including 108 Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Also lists motorcycle units in foreign armies.
- _____. Coast Artillery School. Military Motor Transportation. Ft Monroe: Coast Arty Jrnl, 1923. 414 p. UC343M54.
Chap 30 on Harley-Davidson.
- _____. Command & General Staff School. Tables of Organization, 1929. Ft Leavenworth, 1929. U415M506G12.
Table 1W, Infantry Division (Consolidated Table), corrected to 1 Jan 1929, authorized 176 motorcycles.
- _____. Tables of Organization, 1930. Ft Leavenworth, 1930. U415M506G12.
Table 1W, 20 Jun 1930, authorized 221 motorcycles. See also Table 96W, "Motorcycle Company, Quartermaster Regiment, Infantry Division."
- U.S. War Dept. General Staff. Statistics Branch. Special Report No 169. Photocopy of typescript, 23 Oct 1922. Ua24A554S.
See pp. F-1 & F-2 on number and condition of motorcycles in the Army, 1921 and 1922.
- _____. Motor Cycle Repairer. Army Trng Manual No 58, 1924. 154 p. U393T88no58.
- _____. QM General. Quartermaster Corps Motor Transport Technical Service Bulletins. Wash, DC, 24 Jun 1936. ca 100 p. UC343U59.
For example, see Bulletin No B-2, "Lubricating Oils - Indian Motorcycle, Engine."
- _____. Quartermaster Corps. Motor Vehicles and Trailers of the United States Army. Wash, DC: GPO, 1920. 101 p. UC343M68.
See pp. 19-20 & 45-46 on Harley-Davidson M1 and the Indian M2.
- _____. Tables of Organization, Peace Strength, 26 Jun 1921. UA25Av1.1920/22.
Infantry division consolidated table shows 129 authorized motorcycles.
- _____. Tables of Organization, War Strength, 1 Mar 1932. UA25A2.
Infantry division authorized 176 motorcycles.

WORLD WAR II

Bixel, C.P. "Cavalry Motorcycle Troop." Cavalry Journal (Jan/Feb 1941): pp. 52-55. Per.

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- Boniface, J.M., & Jeudy, J.G. US Army Vehicles of World War Two. Newbury Park, CA: Haynes/Foulis, 1991. 264 p. UC374B6613.
Originally published in French, 1987; see pp. 33-39.
- Buchalet, Lt. "Infantry Motorcycle Scout Platoons." Trans from Revue d'Infanterie (Jan/Jun 1939). 39 p. U15A2C-4042.
- "Cavalry Test Substitute for Motorcycles." PA Guardsman (Mar 1941): p. 29. Per. Chief of Cavalry John K. Herr tested 1/4-ton jeep.
- Lynch, George A. "Final Report." Typescript carbon, 30 Apr 1941. UA28A6.
App VI, pp. 9-16 & App VII, p. 4, concern jeep's replacement of motorcycle as liaison vehicle.
- Matlack, Tom E. "Motorcycle Platoon in Dismounted Attack." Cavalry Journal (Jul/Aug 1941): pp. 86-87. Per.
- Miller, Seymour. "The Training Course for Motorcyclists, Fort Warren, Wyoming." Quartermaster Review (Sep/Oct 1942): p. 42. Per.
- Oliver, Tony. German Motorcycles of World War II. London: Almark, 1978. 52 p. UC347O44.
Profusely illustrated.
- Schmidt, C.T. "Adventure at Jussey." Field Artillery Jrnl (May 1941): pp. 307-09. Per.
Trans from Militar-Wochenblatt on motorcycle infantry column during 1940 invasion of France.
- U.S. War Dept. The Motorcycle. Tech Manual 10-515, Dec 1940. 43 p. TM.
General info on operation, parts, & maintenance.
- _____. Infantry Division. Table of Organization No 7, Aug 1942. TOE.
Assigned 29 solo motorcycles to div engineers recon and MP.
- _____. Standard Military Motor Vehicles: Technical Manual 9-2800, dated Sep 1943. Sec 14.
MilPub-TM.

RESEARCH NOTE: U.S. MOTORCYCLE UNITS, WWII

A cycle battalion was activated at Ft Benning on 10 Oct 1941 as an experimental unit to conduct tests related to airborne troops. See pp. 6-7, 20 & 90-94 of John T. Ellis' The Airborne Command and Center: Army Ground Forces Study No 25 (AGF Hist Sec, 1946; D769.1A52no25). A brief description of the battalion appears on p. 72 of Infantry Journal (Jan 1942). Army Regulation 672-1: Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register (Jul 1961) shows nothing for the 88th Airborne Infantry Division Infantry Battalion. Nor do files of the Organizational History Branch, CMH, indicate the unit ever engaged in combat or went overseas. TOE 7-35, dated 1 Aug 1944, and 7-35T, dated 16 Dec 1944, include neither bicycles nor motorcycles.

Motorcycles disappeared from the armored division tables of organization and equipment after Mar 1942 and did not reappear until publication of TO&E 17 N in Oct 1948, which authorized only six motorcycles in the div, specifically its MP company. This absence of motorcycles from armored unit TOE's is reflected in the absence of motorcycle references in wartime editions of the 17-series field manuals. It appears that the jeep (Utility Truck, 1/4-ton, 4x4) replaced the motorcycle, as intimated in the following report:

U.S. War Dept. "Final Report of Maj. Gen. George A. Lynch: A Summary of Infantry Developments...", 30 Apr 1941. pp. 9 & 12-13. UA28A6.

Supporting evidence for this demise of the motorcycle in the wartime US Armored Force appears on pp. 140-141 of The Armored Force Command and Center: Study No 27, prepared by Historical Section, Army Ground Forces in 1946 (D769.1A52no27). It notes that motorcycle drivers and mechanics courses terminated by 1943.

On the other hand, 1943-1945 photos unquestionably depict motorcycles in use by armored unit personnel. Possibly, these were authorized by special tables of allowance or some other source of authority. Then again, perhaps there was no authority, just improvisation, which often occurs in the field during wartime.

One vehicle expert, Fred Crismon, U.S. Military Wheeled Vehicles (Sarasota, FL: Crestline, 1983; UC343C74), makes no mention of armored unit motorcycles. Instead, he opines that "the military police were about the only element using motorcycles" in the war (p. 15).

A search in our wartime eds of MP TOE's (19-series) uncovered no ed earlier than 1943 and no motorcycles in the 1943 or later eds of field MP units. The 1945 post, camp or station MP company, however, was authorized a maximum of either 16 motorcycles or 16 jeeps, depending on type of MP unit activated. See TOE 19-217, 26 Jan 1945, and TOE 20-211T, 20 Mar 1946; the latter authorized 25 motorcycles in a constabulary rgt.

Motorcycles were authorized also in the wartime airborne division, albeit late. Whereas TOE 71, 1 Aug 1944, allowed two such vehicles in the airborne division, the 16 Dec 1944 ed substantially increased the number to an amazing 260. The increase may have reflected not only combat experience undergone by the airborne divisions but also the production and procurement of an extra light motorcycle model, which constituted nearly all of the increase in the division's allowance.

Incidentally, the total number of motorcycles procured by the Ordnance Dept during the war appears on pp. 8 & 42-43 in the draft chapter "Procurement" by Richard H. Crawford and Lindsley F. Cook, which is part of an unpublished Statistics volume in the official series United States Army in World War II. See also pp. 25 & 27 from another chapter, "Lend Lease" by Theodore E. Whiting and others in the same volume. These statistics show about two-thirds of the over 100,000 motorcycles acquired were "lend leased" to chiefly the British and Russians. Additionally, of the nearly 650,000 jeeps procured, only about one-third were sent to Allied armies via lend lease. It thus calculates that 463,000 jeeps and 35,000 motorcycles remained for US use, a 13:1 ratio that reflects the preeminence of the jeep.

SINCE 1945

Hyde, James C. "USMC Mounts Motorcycles; Army Can't Get the Hang of It." Arm Forces Journal International (Sep 1991): p. 17. Per.

Ledfors, Frederick S., and O'Connor, Patrick J. "Motorcycle Scouts." Infantry (Sep/Oct 1983): pp. 38-39. Per.

U.S. War Dept. Standard Military Motor Vehicles: TM 9-2800, dated Oct 1947. Sec 14. MilPub-TM. See also TM 9-2800-1, Feb 1953, pp. 71-76.

PERTINENT TECHNICAL MANUALS

-INDIAN MODELS

Model 340

Oper/Maint - TM 10-1283 (1940), 36 p. & Oct 1941 ed, 26 p.

Parts List - TM 10-1282 (1940), 58 p.

Model 640

Oper/Maint - TM 10-1279 (1941), 52 p.

Parts List - TM 10-1280 (1941), 60 p.

Model 841

Oper/Maint - TM 10-1519 (1942). ca 200 p.

Parts List - TM 10-1518 (1942) 55 p.

-HARLEY-DAVIDSON

TM 10-1175, Harley-Davidson, Nov 1941. 76 p.

TM 10-1177, Harley-Davidson, Nov 1941. 76 p.

TM 10-1352, Harley-Davidson, Apr 1941. 49 p.

TM 10-1361, Harley-Davidson, Mar 1943. 70 p.