



History of the War Memorial Park-Cannons

Town of New Windsor, Maryland

The cannons proudly displayed at War Memorial Park in New Windsor are Japanese Type 92 (Model 1932) 70mm Battalion Howitzers, relics from World War II and enduring symbols of both international history and local remembrance. The Type 92 howitzers were introduced in 1932 and widely used by Japanese infantry units throughout the Second Sino-Japanese War and the Pacific Theater of WWII, particularly in jungle and island combat operations.

Following the war, many captured Japanese weapons were shipped back to the United States as trophies and surplus military artifacts. The two cannons now in New Windsor arrived through such a channel in the late 1940s or early 1950s, thanks to the efforts of William Scheu and Dutch Lovell, both active members of a local committee dedicated to honoring veterans.

According to family recollections provided by Jay Gullo in a letter dated May of 2010, Scheu and Lovell reached out to the appropriate federal agency overseeing surplus military equipment and were instructed to visit a military depot located near Bethesda, Maryland. There, they were permitted to browse a large assortment of decommissioned war equipment including tanks, artillery, and small arms. Among the collection, they selected the two Japanese howitzers and, using a truck and trailer, transported them back to New Windsor. Upon their return, the cannons were permanently installed in War Memorial Park.

The installation holds deep personal meaning for the Lovell family, as Dutch Lovell's involvement in securing the cannons marked a lasting contribution to the Town's legacy of remembrance. His close friend William Scheu, who also played a central role, brought his own remarkable military background to the effort. Scheu was a member of the U.S. Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT) elite combat swimmers and demolition experts considered the predecessors of today's Navy SEALs. His service included participation in the Operation Crossroads nuclear tests at Bikini Atoll in 1946. In later years, he gifted his UDT dive knife to Jay Gullo as a token of friendship and shared history.

Adding an unexpected chapter to their story, the cannons were briefly relocated to Berlin, Maryland in the late 1990s, where they were used as background props in the 1999 romantic comedy *Runaway Bride*, starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. They appeared in the Town square of Berlin during one of the film's sequences before being returned to their home in New Windsor.

The cannons were first refurbished in 2010, including cleaning, sanding, and repainting. In 2025, a full restoration was completed by Eclectic Motor Company, a locally owned business in New Windsor. The company generously sponsored the project and donated all labor as a contribution

to the Town's preservation efforts. The wheels were reconstructed by the Amish using wood designed to endure outdoor conditions and were epoxy coated for durability. The cannons themselves were professionally sandblasted and repainted to reflect their original wartime appearance.

Today, cannons serve as living memorials with community connections and layered personal histories. They stand in War Memorial Park as a visible link between global history and local legacy, honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans from New Windsor and beyond.

Source References

1. **Type 92 70mm Battalion Howitzer Overview**
 - War History Online. *Japanese Artillery of World War II*.
<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/world-war-ii/japanese-artillery-wwii.html>
 - Wikipedia. *Type 92 Battalion Gun*.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Type_92_battalion_gun
2. **Runaway Bride (1999) – Filming Locations**
 - IMDb. *Runaway Bride – Filming Locations*.
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0163187/locations>
 - Visit Maryland. *Berlin – America's Coolest Small Town & Filming Site*.
<https://www.visitmaryland.org/article/berlin-americas-coolest-small-town>
3. **Local History Reference (Personal Recollection)**
 - Gullo, Jay. *Personal Letter to Town of New Windsor Regarding War Memorial Park Cannons*, May 2010. (On file with the Town Office)