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## Type 94 Nambu Pistol - Brought Home by PA Airmen

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin.)

A semiautomatic pistol developed for the Imperial Japanese Army, by 1945 there were over 70,000 Type 94 Nambu pistols produced. The pistol features textured bakelite grips and is chambered in 8mm, featuring a six round detachable magazine. Originally designed for Japanese aircrews and tankers, it was quite commonly carried despite serious safety issues related to the breach design leading to negligent discharges being quite common.



The Nambu pictured here (MM2018.14.1) is serial number 3583 and has distinguishable Japanese characters on its side.

Andrew J. Sottile (b.1923 - d.1986) of Sagamore, Armstrong County, PA served with the 11th Airborne in the Pacific theater during WWII from 1943 until 1945. The 11th Airborne Division was the only Airborne division to participate in combat operations in the Pacific Theater.

Comprised primarily of former glider troops and some veteran Airborne troops, the division participated in campaigns in the Philippines through late 1944 and early 1945 including the liberation of Manila and freeing more than 2,000 Allied POWS (Prisoners of War) at Los Banos Internment Camp.



Photo of War Souvenir Certificate, MM2018.14.2

In May 1945, the division began preparations for Operation Olympic to invade the Japanese mainland. With Japan's surrender in August 1945, these operations were canceled and the 11th moved to Okinawa to escort General MacArthur into Japan. The 11th Airborne remained on occupation duty in Japan until 1949.

Sottile brought this pistol home with him from his time with the 11th Airborne Division; worth noting is that this pistol is a registered war souvenir as illustrated by the certificate pictured here that accompanied the pistol home with Sottile, both are now part of the permanent collection of the Pennsylvania Military Museum.