INTRODUCTION

The General Thomas J. Stewart Medal was authorized by Act No. 248 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on June 22, 1931 which stated that the medal was to be awarded by the Adjutant General to officers and enlisted personnel of the armed forces of the Commonwealth upon the recommendation of the unit commander for 100-percent attendance and excellence in drill subsequent to January 1, 1926. Six distinct varieties of the Type I medal and eight varieties of the Type 2 medal have been identified.

THE TYPE I STEWART MEDAL

DESCRIPTION:

General: A circular medal 1-1/4 inches in diameter, issued in three classes: gold (gilt) (Figure 1), silver (Figure 2), and bronze (Figure 3). The bronze medal was awarded for 100-percent drill attendance, including summer camp, during any calendar year since January 1, 1926; the silver medal was awarded for 100-percent drill attendance, including summer camp, for any three calendar years, not necessarily consecutive, since January 1, 1926; and the gold medal was awarded for 100-percent drill attendance, including summer camp, during any five calendar years, not necessarily consecutive, since January 1, 1926.

Obverse (Figure 4): The obverse contains a portrait of General Thomas J. Stewart, around the outer edge of which are the words GENERAL THOMAS J. STEWART MEDAL. On the upper portion of the medal is a flower or leaf arrangement from which is suspended the ribbon ring.
Reverse (Figure 5): The coat-of-arms of the Commonwealth within a keystone with P. N. G. at the bottom of the keystone. There is a star on each upper corner of the keystone, and above it an eagle with a star above its head extending above the top of the circle. Around the keystone is a scroll containing the inscription: **100% DRILL ATTENDANCE**. Around the outer edge of the reverse are the words: PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD with five stars at each end.

Suspension: The ribbon is suspended by a double-ring assembly through a suspension loop at the top of the planchet.

Ribbon: The ribbon is solid dark blue and is suspended from a brooch at the top. A gold star is worn on the service ribbon to indicate the possession of a gold medal (Figure 6); a silver star is worn to indicate the possession of a silver medal (Figure 7). A plain blue ribbon is worn by those awarded the bronze medal (Figure 8).

Varieties: Six distinct varieties of the Type 1 Stewart Medal have been identified based on the type of ribbon brooch, the type of ribbon and the presence (or absence) of maker’s marks (this includes marks indicating the manufacturer or marks indicating the type metal).

**VARIETY 1 OF THE STEWART MEDAL (TYPE I)**

Brooch: Split brooch with rotating safety catch (Figure 9).

Maker’s Marks: None.

Ribbon: Dark blue and watered.

Boxes: A cardboard box, 4 1/2 inches long, 2 1/4 inches wide, and a half-inch thick, the lower portion of which is dark blue except for the interior bottom that is manila (Figure 10).
The lid is a speckled gold (Figure 11) except for the interior top that is manila. On the front of the lid in small black capitals is 100% DRILL ATTENDANCE MEDAL (Figure 12). The medal is attached to a manila insert card with the two-line inscription: V. H. BLACKINTON & CO./ATTLEBORO FALLS, MASS. (Figure 13).

Manufacturer: V. H. Blackinton & Co., Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts.

VARIETY 2 OF THE STEWART MEDAL (TYPE I)

Brooch: Split brooch, 1 7/16 inches wide, with an open catch. The wings on the reverse of the brooch are each 5/16 of an inch wide (Figure 14).

Maker’s Marks: Some bronze and silver medals have the words EBY CO. just above the NDA of ATTENDANCE (Figure 15). No marks have been seen on the gold medals of this variety.

Figure 10: The interior bottom of the Variety 1 box.

Figure 11: Exterior of the lid of the Variety 1 box.

Figure 13: Inscribed manila insert in the Variety 1 box.

Figure 12: Inscription on the front of the lid of the Variety 1 box.

Figure 14: The reverse of the brooch of Variety 2.

Figure 15: Maker’s mark on the reverse of Variety 2.