

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The Ohio Military Model 685A: “The Pig”



As World War II grew to a close, the Heidbrink Division of the Ohio Chemical and Manufacturing Company was fine-tuning a new anesthesia machine for field use by the U.S. military—the Ohio 685A. This machine included an ether vaporizer attached to a nitrous oxide–oxygen apparatus. When military anesthesiologists unpacked this machine and rested it without pedestal or tanks on top of its crate, it was quite a squat, compact device. Perhaps for this reason, they affectionately nicknamed it “The Pig.” The Ohio 685A was used through the Korean War and even at the beginning of the Vietnam War. The 685A pictured (*above*) is part of the Wood Library-Museum’s Roderick K. Calverley Memorial Military Collection. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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