

CHALLENGE - COIN HISTORY

(The following is from www.coinforce.com)

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges as Yale and Harvard who quit mid-term to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid brass and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-mans land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French Sector. The sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of the French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of executing him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became a tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner – a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while the surviving members were still alive.

CHALLENGE COIN RULES

1. RULES:

- A. The challenge is initiated by drawing your coin, holding it in the air by what means possible and state, scream, shout or otherwise verbally acknowledge that you are initiating a coin check. Another, but less vocal method is to firmly place it on the bar, table, or floor (this should produce an audible noise which can be easily heard by those being challenged, but try not leave a permanent imprint). If you accidentally drop your coin and it makes an audible sound upon impact, then you have just “accidentally” initiated a coin check. (This is called paying the price for improper care of your coin).
- B. The response consists of all those persons being challenged drawing their coin in a like manner.
- C. If you are challenged and are unable to properly respond, you must buy a round of drinks for the challenger and the group being challenged.
- D. If everyone being challenged responds in the correct manner, the challenger must buy a round of drinks for all those persons they challenged.
- E. Failure to buy a round is a despicable crime and will require that you turn-in your coin to the issuing agency.

2. WHEN-WHERE:

- A. Coin checks are permitted, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE.

3. EXCEPTIONS

- A. There are no exceptions to the rules. They apply to those clothed or unclothed. At the time of the challenge you are permitted one step and an arms length to locate your coin. If you still cannot reach it – SORRY ABOUT THAT!!

NOTE:

Challenge Coins can be found at www.fortamerica.com