

Big 3 automakers saved us in World War II



BY MALCOLM ANDERSON

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I wonder if all of those Americans who are buying Japanese and German cars realize they might be giving their money to those who built war machinery used to kill and shoot up Americans. I wonder how many of them care.

Mitsubishi was one of the worst of the Japanese companies. They built the Zero fighter, Mitsubishi bombers, trucks, tanks, artillery pieces and many other things which did kill Americans. I do not know what Toyota, Honda, Nissan and the other Japanese made to kill Americans, but I know that they did not do anything for us.

Every German company that now sells automobiles in the USA went all-out to build war machinery for Hitler, much of it by slave labor from other European countries. I saw them when we liberated them, so I know firsthand. They were starving while the Germans had plenty of food.

The first Volkswagen I ever saw was in Normandy in 1944. It was an imitation of our Willys Jeep and was driven by one of Hitler's soldiers. After Hitler shot himself, his parade car came into the possession of my company. It was a heavily armored Mercedes. We all took turns driving it. Every German company was building war equipment as fast as they could.

I was in our Army for about eight months before Japan pulled its sneak attack, followed by Hitler declaring war on us a few days later. We had almost no equipment of any kind. We were helpless. We faced the two most powerful military machines that had ever been assembled up to that time. Our American automobile companies with our steel mills and other factories came to our rescue.

I drove GMC trucks, Ford tanks and when we went ashore on Utah Beach I drove a Dodge weapons carrier pulling a 57 mm anti-tank gun. We got some GMC light tanks near the end of the war in 1945. The M-1 carbine I carried was made by General Motors. Thousand of Ford B-

24 Bombers flew over my head, headed for Germany. Without our American automobile companies, I am convinced that either the flag of the Rising Sun or the Swastika would now be flying here.

Most of our automobile companies have gone out of business because Americans did not buy enough of their cars. Now the Big 3 are in distress because of the ingratitude of Americans. If those who are buying and thus supporting Japanese and German auto companies would switch to buying nothing but American cars for one year I believe that would solve many of the problems that we are now facing.

The Americans who were killed by machinery made by those foreign car companies were all my comrades in arms and some were my close friends. I do not intend to buy any of their cars and thus support them.

Malcolm Anderson is a Chesterton attorney. The opinion expressed in this column is the writer's and not necessarily that of The Times.

...taken from "The Times" of Muncie, Indiana