



THE EDGE

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WWII HRS, INC.**

ISSUE 21, APRIL 2011

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Welcome to another issue of the Edge!

I hope you enjoyed reading the March issue as much as I enjoyed making it. With the 2011 reenacting season gearing up, the Edge will start to get more in-depth stories, and far better pictures.

I wanted to say how much I enjoyed seeing most of you at the reenactor garage sale. I did not recognize some of you in your "civvies," since I've only seen you in uniform! Second, the garage sale itself was awesome; far bigger than previous years. Though I found some great deals, I am still kicking myself for passing on an original K-ration (what can I say, I am a Quartermaster...). New reenactors could have completely outfitted themselves if they were doing US or German, and could go a long way towards getting a quality impression if they were doing Commonwealth or Soviet. Unit Commanders would do well to remind their new guys about the garage sale...

Finally, a big thank you to all the reenactors who have helped contribute to this publication with photographs and news stories. I appreciate it!

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**Cover photo: A young Russian boy alerts a soviet rifleman to the presence of Germans.
Photo featuring Sam and Maggie Radaj; taken at Union, 2010.
Photo courtesy Jeff Radaj of the 95th Rifle Division.**

THE 2011 ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!!!!

On the third of January, 2011, the 2629th WAC Battalion counted the ballots. There were four (4) WACs doing the counting, and they counted the ballots twice. There was a total of seventy-five (75) ballots cast. The results are as follows...

President

David Jamison—57

Doug Loge—24

Vice President

Jon Stevens—74

No—1

Treasurer

Sheri Tabor—74

No—1

Secretary

Craig Dvorak—74

No—1

Axis Representative

Scott Atchison—43

Mike Saltgaver—30

No—2

Allied Representative

Bill Sheets—73

No—2

Commonwealth Representative

Bryce Seyko—73

No—2



Soldiers in Panama fill out absentee ballots, circa 1943. Image courtesy Corbis Images.

...AND REMEMBER, IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED! THE POSITION OF SECRETARY IS CURRENTLY OPEN, SO IF YOU FEEL LIKE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE HRS COMMUNITY, APPLY FOR THE POSITION TODAY! CONTACT PRESIDENT DAVID JAMESON FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Admin Notes...

Please note the following change to section 6 of the Safety guidelines (effective 24 OCT 10):

6. Weapons must be of pre-June 1945 military type used by the unit portrayed or an acceptable replica. NO airsoft, air (BB) or CO2 guns are allowed. The authenticity committee may ban the use of pre-1945 weapons in cases where their use is not authentic. Weapons manufactured after 1945 may be used if they duplicate a WWII weapon.

Is Now Changed To:

6. Weapons must be of pre-June 1945 military type used by the unit portrayed, or an acceptable replica. Airsoft, air (BB) or CO2 guns are allowed only for display purposes if their propellant method has been made inoperable, and may never leave the display area or campsite as part of a portrayal. No airsoft, CO2, airgun or toy gun of any kind may be carried. The authenticity committee may ban the use of pre-1945 weapons in cases where their use is not authentic. Weapons manufactured after 1945 may be used if they duplicate a WWII weapon.

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WWII HRS BOARD MEETING JANUARY 20, 2011

Attending the meeting: David Jameson, Craig Dvorak, Jonathan Stevens, Bryce Seyko, Stephen Richey, Rey Ramirez, Rich Russo, Matt Andres, Ed Godi, Bill Sheets, Nick , Carlos Ramirez, Dean Byrne, Rob Lienweber, Polly Norman Blanton, John Newton, and Tim Scherer.

The meeting was at 7:04.

Old Business

Election – Results were announced. David Jameson – President, Jonathan Stevens – Vice President, Craig Dvorak – Secretary, Sheri Tabor – Treasurer, Bryce Seyko – Commonwealth Rep, Bill Sheets – Allied Rep, Scott Atchison – Axis Rep. As the new member of the board Bryce Seyko was welcomed. Edge –Membership Directory was tabled.

New Business:

Unit Charters: *1st Polish Div LWP* – Nick Zarozny discussed his proposed Eastern Front unit. A vote was called and seconded. The vote was 5 votes to accept the unit. *326th Airborne Medical Co* – Stephen Richey discussed the unit which was to be mainly a public event type unit. One portion of their display would be a battalion clearing station. Some questions regarding awards, ranks, and civilians were asked. The charter was tabled. De-funct Units: *The 3rd Infantry Div*, *30th Inf Reg* had no members for two years. The unit commander said he was unable to continue. A vote was called to disband the unit and seconded. The vote was 5 for disbanding the unit. *Great Lakes Waves* – after some discussion the unit was tabled. Some were interested in chartering this unit and one suggestion was to change the name of the unit or simply charter another WAVE detachment.

Insurance 2011 – Competitive quotes were being evaluated with insurance for minors to use weapons. The deadline was Feb 1. Nautilus, Northland, and Yates were being considered. Directors and Officers insurance would be quoted as well. Since some information was not in hand for the meeting a vote by email would be conducted. John Newton asked if this was a membership decision or a board decision. The response was that it was not a board decision only.

Treasurer Report – tabled

Secretary Report – 125 members. 20 unit commanders; Two events were to be considered Lowell and Lockport.

Change-of-command: The *416th Rifles* changed unit commanders from Rob Lienweber to Dave Pasbrig. The *137th Regt*, *35th In Div* changed from Jeff Stalnaker to Dave Hruska.

A By-Law amendment was submitted on Secondary Impressions. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.



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WWII HRS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2011

Attending: David Jameson, Jonathan Stevens, Ed Godi, Steve Richey, Rey Ramirez, Matt Andres, John Newton, Bill Sheets, Chris Kissenger, Sheri Tabor, Scott Atchison

The January minutes were read. A motion to accept the minutes was seconded. The minutes were approved.

Old Business

December Minutes were corrected which erroneously stated there was a \$230 reimbursement when there was a \$230 deposit. Website Space: Socket increased the web space donation to the HRS to one gigabyte from 10 megabytes through their non-for profit web space program.

New Business

Charters: **326th Airborne Medical Company** had passed the S&A Committee and was ready to be considered by the board. Bill Sheets and Sheri Tabor had not seen the charter. Some discussion on the unit ensued with Stephen Richey explaining the unit concept, describing the charter, and his supporting documentation. A vote was proposed and seconded. Voting for were Jonathan Stevens, Bill Sheets, and David Jameson. Voting against were Sheri Tabor and Scott Atchison. The unit passed.

Defunct Units: The **35th MP platoon** had no members for two years. A motion was made to drop the unit from the rolls and was seconded. The vote was to disband.

Treasurer Report: January had \$23637.94 in the savings with \$2,240 deposited in the checking with a total of \$9473.67. February savings was \$23,639.94 with \$5637.92 in checking.

Secretary Report: Tabled

Commonwealth Report: Tabled

Allied Report: A new WAVE charter was going to be submitted.

Axis Report: None

Committee Report: **S&A Committee** had considered the 326th Medical Co.;

The Unit Commander's Committee had a poll to regarding satisfaction with the current membership process.

Insurance: The insurance was changed from Nautilus to Yates/Northbend. There are provisions for minors but the formal policy was not received yet. Directors and Officers coverage as well as a Treasurer Bond will be added. The stipulations of the policy will be posted. For minors with weapons would not be allowed in the field yet until the policy was clarified. Foreign members would probably be accepted. A unanimous vote was taken to accept the new insurance.

By-Law Updates: A complete overhaul is needed and not simply piecemeal additions. A rough draft would be developed for the membership to view, discuss, and vote on. The goal would be to have the new bylaws ratified by Rockford. One line item correction was submitted.

Edge: An Editor was still needed. Matt Andres expressed interest in the position.

Resignation: Craig Dvorak submitted a letter of resignation due to job issues. A person to fill this position was needed. A request would be printed in the Edge.

Open Comment: Rey Ramirez had submitted the event request form for the Ft. Carson, CO Event. This event would be a regional event. David Jameson asked several questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

World Wide WWII Reenacting: Type 166 Schwimmwagen Revisited

By Jonathan Stevens, 9th Infantry Division



The formidable armada of reproduction vehicles developed for reenacting in the last few years now includes a complete type 166 Schwimmwagen. Starting out with a stock beetle a close all steel replica Schwim was designed and built over the course of one year by a definite artist in Great Britain.

While not an exact replica, this vehicle should prove to fit the amphibious niche for some German impressions. There are several differences between this vehicle and a real Schwim with the most significant being the reproduction Schwim does not have front wheel drive. Also some of the dimensions were changed to allow the use of “off the shelf” VW beetle components. Reproduction tubs of both fiberglass and metal are reportedly available in the US and Europe from several sources but those tubs and parts are made for actual Schwimmwagen running gear according to the maker which does bring up the advantage of his vehicle: VW beetle parts are significantly more available than Type 166 Schwimmwagen parts.

The builder does claim that the changes made in his design from the original using these VW parts are safer and stronger than the Schwim design. In the US at least Kooblekar, a maker of reenactment vehicles in the southwest, does advertise a fiberglass Schwim tub available for purchase and custom building. Reportedly, these vehicles may utilize VW beetle components as well similar to their reproduction kublewagen.



The idea of compromise to much of the reenacting community has many negative connotations. In this case the compromise significantly reduced the cost for one of the vehicles but seems to maintain the overall appearance of the type 166. The compromise with this vehicle can be judged by the reenactors themselves. One reenactor on the east coast is planning on taking delivery of one later this year.

Take a look at the website and when you buy one tell them you read about it the Edge! And give this ersatz GI a ride sometime. You might also be interested to know this thing actually swims. Search for “Schwimmwagen VW 166 replica - test swim” on youtube.

The bottom line is always cost even for a WWII reenactor. A swimming variant will reportedly cost about 21,000 (British pounds Sterling) and a non-swimmer will be around 18,000 (British Pounds Sterling). Then add in shipping charges. I am sure they take ebay bucks.

See <http://www.schwimmwagenreplica.com/>



**Maybe this scene will be recreated
at an event nearyou?**

Museum Visit...The Great Lakes Naval Base Museum

By Matthew Andres, 81st Quartermasters

I, your humble Edge editor, recently took a trip to the Great Lakes Navy Museum, located on the grounds of the Great Lakes Naval Base. It is an excellent museum which showcases the history of the US Navy from its inception during the American Revolution until the present day. The museum is located at 610 Farragut Avenue, Great Lakes, Illinois. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 1pm until 5pm; and Fridays 11am until 5 pm. When I visited, they had both a Navy veteran working the front desk, and an active-duty Petty Officer available to answer questions. I was also fortunate in that there were four WWII-era WAVE Petty Officers visiting, who were more than happy to answer my questions. The museum is free, though I most respectfully suggest that you leave a donation in the box—anything to support our fellow public historians.



The Great Lakes Naval Museum is relatively small and pretty sparse—exactly what one would expect from a government-operated museum. But the exhibits are all high quality. Among some of my favorite exhibits was a baseball signed by Bob Feller (when he was in the Navy during World War Two), and a dress coat owned by one of the “Golden 13,” the first 13 African-Americans commissioned in the Navy during World War Two.



It is in telling the story of minority sailors that the museum excels: the museum abounds with quality exhibits about female and African-American sailors. Small exhibits on Dorie Miller and Carl Brashear are both interesting and informative. However, I wish the museum would have devoted some space to the role Filipinos have played in the history of the US Navy.

One caveat, however: there are a number of outdoor exhibits, such as a fighter plane painted to approximate that which was flown by Senator McCain during the Vietnam War, and a Dahlgren cannon used at the Battle of Mobile Bay. DO NOT take photographs of these artifacts, as it against the law. I took pictures of these exhibits, and was told—nicely and professionally—by the base police that I was breaking the law and needed to delete the photos from my camera.

All in all, the Great Lakes Naval Museum is a great trip, and one that honors the courage and commitment of the sailors in the United States Navy.

For more information of the Great Lakes Naval Museum, please see the following webpage:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/museums>

Photos:

- Top**—A collection of WAVE memorabilia
- Middle**—A WWII WAVE recruiting poster
- Bottom**—A timeline of minority Navy service



WWII Display a Success – for the 11th Year in a Row

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM CO

On March 11, World War Two came alive in the library of Grove Middle School in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. That was the day of the 11th annual World War Two display and lectures.

The lecture series is the brainchild of Steven Sloane, who portrayed a Normandy-era paratrooper in the 504th PIR/82nd Airborne Division. Sloane, himself an Army veteran and former paratrooper, began displaying



his WWII collection at Grove Middle School when his daughter, Elizabeth, was a student there. Elizabeth is now a historian herself, having graduated from Loyola University with a degree in Classical Studies. Elizabeth Sloane portrayed a machine gun team



leader in the Soviet 95th Rifle Division.

Each year, Steve Sloane brings other reenactors to help round-out the impressions. This year, the Germans were represented by Matt Coppins of the 353rd Infantry. Coppins wore full battle-rattle the whole event, and gave excellent accounts of the *Panzerschreck* and MG42. Representing the Pacific Theatre was Matthew Andres, who portrayed a GI in the 81st Infantry Division.



The event, a tradition for the eighth grade at Grove Middle School, is always a hit. Between classes, all the talk in the hallway was about the WWII display, and many students needed late passes after lingering after their class was done. Many of the students, who 13 and 14 years old, stated they wanted to do WWII reenacting themselves .

Photos:

Top—Steve Sloane explains the M1919A6 Machine Gun

Middle—Elizabeth Sloane explains the role of female Soviet machine gunners

Lower—Matt Coppins explains the K98's bolt-action

Pennsylvania Boy Raising Money For Major Winters Statue

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.

Jordan Brown, a twelve year old from central Pennsylvania, has raised over \$32,000 dollars in donations to raise a statue to Jordan's WWII Hero. And he has done it one dollar at a time!

Jordan's hero is Major Richard Winters, a WWII Paratrooper who was immortalized in the Stephen Ambrose book "Band of Brothers," as well as the Tom Hanks' produced miniseries of the same name.

In order to raise the funds, Jordan is selling olive-drab green wristbands, similar to those Nike produced for Lance Armstrong. Jordan's wristbands are inscribed with "Hang Tough," the words then-Lieutenant Winters spoke to his troops on D-Day, June 6th, 1944. The wristbands are available for only one dollar each.



The funds Jordan has raised are intended to pay for a statue to Major Winters, to be erected in Normandy, France. Winter's fought in Normandy as a member of the famed 101st Airborne Division. He passed away in December of 2010.

To purchase a "Hang Tough" wristband, or to make a contribution to Jordan's cause, please go to www.hangtough6644.org

...And speaking of WWII monuments: The City of Maywood, Illinois, has a street named "Bataan Drive." The street is named in recognition of Maywood residents who served in the Illinois National Guard's 192nd Tank Battalion. The 192nd was sent to Luzon, Philippines in 1941. There, the guardsmen fought during the Bataan Campaign. Most were taken prisoner, and were part of the infamous Bataan Death March. Every September, a Bataan Remembrance Day is held in Maywood to commemorate those brave tankers.



Tell it to the Marines!!!

The following pictures show a drill date that the China Marines performed on LST393. The event was held in August of 2010. All photographs are courtesy David Neary and the China Marines.



Embarkation



Bayonet Practice



Nice Quarters!



Never Too Clean...



Fall In!

Great Job, Marines!

Book Reviews

“Russian Helmets: from Kaska to Stalshlyem, 1916-2001.” Robert W. Clawson, Bender Publishing, 2002. 128 pages. ISBN No. 0-912138-90-4.

“Russian Helmets” is a relatively new book, only nine years old, but a book that was sorely needed for Eastern Front reenactors. The Author, Robert Clawson, does an excellent and in-depth job of explaining the evolution of Soviet Army helmets, as well as high lighting the political processes that surrounded the helmets’ production.

Of particular interest to reenactors will be the deciphering of date and factory codes in Soviet helmets, as this will help to discern between war-time and post-war helmets of the same model.

“Japanese Military Sake Cups: 1894-1945.” Dan King, Schiffer Publishing, 2004. 143 pages. ISBN No. 0-7643-1881-0.

Dan King’s volume on Japanese military ceremonial sake cups would be worthwhile on any WWII scholar’s bookshelf. King has painstakingly documented the sake cups of the late 19th and early 20th century. In addition to great photography of various sake cups and sake related ephemera, King has provided tables that translates the various Japanese kanji.

With sake cups being among the most affordable original WWII militaria, this volume would be invaluable to collectors of Japanese sake cups.

“The Warsaw Uprising of 1944.” Włodzimierz Borodziej, University of Wisconsin Press, 2006. 183 pages. ISBN No. 0-299-20730-7.

The Warsaw uprising is one of the saddest events of WWII, yet one of the most interesting for historians, as new evidence and new memoirs are consistently coming out. Borodziej’s book is no exception, offering a fresh look at that epic campaign. One thing that stands out with Borodziej’s volume is the attention he pays to the inter-governmental maneuvering on behalf of Poland’s allies: the Brits, US and USSR.

Also interesting is the depth with which the author treats the 1st Polish Army. Under the command of the Soviets, the 1st Polish Army was ordered to stop short of Warsaw. However, many of the soldiers of the 1st PA still entered Warsaw, to join the final stand of their Armia Krajowa (Home Army) brothers.

Events: 2011

29-30 April / Last Big Push; Carver, MN

30 April-1 May / WWII Tribute at Buckley Homestead, Lowell, IN

14 May / Normandy Breakout; Arden Hills, MN

20-22 May / WWII Weekend at Dakota City Heritage Village; Farmington, MN

13-15 May / 3rd Annual Salt River Expo, Perry, MO

28-30 May / Italian Campaign, Union, IL

04-05 June / 150th Armed Forces Celebration; Topeka, KS

10-12 June / Yorkville, IL

17-19 June / Lansing Remembers WWII, Lansing IL

25 June / WWII Recreated, Dixon, IL

25-26 June / WWII Encampment at Trimborn Farm, Greenville, WI

Please note that this list is not all inclusive; for all events, and for more in depth information on each event, please see the events section on the HRS website.



Lest We Forget...

This is the cemetery at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. While the base itself has been turned into high-income housing, the small cemetery is still under federal control. Tucked away behind the former post, the Fort Sheridan cemetery is a nice place to visit and pay one's respect to the soldiers of the past. Among those interned are numerous veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea and the Vietnam War. There are also seven WWII German POW's buried there.



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