



The Edge

**The Official Magazine of the
WWII HRS, Inc.**

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From the editor...

Welcome to the May issue of the Edge! To begin, I'd like to send out a sincere *Thank You* to all the folks who have emailed me over the last few months, offering articles, photos and their offers to write articles for The Edge. Even the hate mail has been pretty entertaining!

I'm writing this after just getting back from Lowell, and I hope you had as much fun as I did. It was a great event, as always. The displays were among the best I've ever seen, and the props on the lower field were beyond cool (it's the first time I ever took cover behind a dead horse!). I was also stoked to see the wide range of impressions—there was a high quality Japanese squad; the USO ladies were picture-perfect; and the Soviet Paratroopers even had little girls in period dresses collecting scrap metal for "The Motherland." I helped with the S&A inspections, and I never once caught a violation. For me, it was a great way to kick off reenacting season.

As always I am on the lookout for stories: be they veterans interviews, book reviews, reviews of equipment, or AAR's of events you've been to. Pass it along; as long as its coherent, I'll publish it.

Best regards,

Matthew Andres
81st QM Co. & 95th Rifle Div.
mattandres@aol.com

Cover photo: A British para (Jason Spriggs) scouts ahead of his unit at Camden, 2010. Photo courtesy Jason Spriggs and the Chindits.

INCOMING!!!

- ♦ Remember, the third (3rd) Thursday of every month is the HRS Board of Directors teleconference. These meetings are open to the HRS membership, and members are encouraged to speak up on any issue they have. These meetings are a great way to stay abreast of the goings on in the HRS. If you would like to partake in the meeting, contact Vice President Jonathan Stevens at jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net.
- ♦ If sending an email to either the Board of Directors or The Edge editor, please include “HRS” in the reference line. With the volume of emails we get, this will help identify which emails are spam and which are of value.
- ♦ If you have unit members that do not have access to a computer, please let The Edge editor know, and he will mail them a hard copy.
- ♦ The position of Secretary is currently vacant. Per HRS by-laws, a new secretary must be voted in. If you would like to put forward your name as a candidate for Secretary, please contact President David Jamison. Because of the vacancy in the Secretary position, Treasurer Sherri Tabor has been doing double duty as both Secretary *and* Treasurer. So be sure to thank her for her hard work when you see her at the next event!
- ♦ Commanders: have you made sure all of your people have submitted their membership applications??? The form can be downloaded at the HRS Unit Commander’s Forum.
- ♦ If you have a WWII related business, why not reach over 900 reenactors by advertising in The Edge? Advertisements are FREE for HRS members.

ALL CLEAR!!!

Lest We Forget...

The saddest job as Edge editor is writing obituaries. Unfortunately, this month we have to report the passing of a WWII veteran who had a direct and positive impact on the HRS. Joseph Karr, who served in combat in Europe with the 167th Signal Photographic Company, passed away. He was the main contact of, and the inspiration for, the HRS' 167th Signal Photographic Company. The re-created 167th Signal Photographic Company is among the premiere Signal Corps reenacting units; no doubt a large part of their accuracy is because of their association with Mr. Karr.

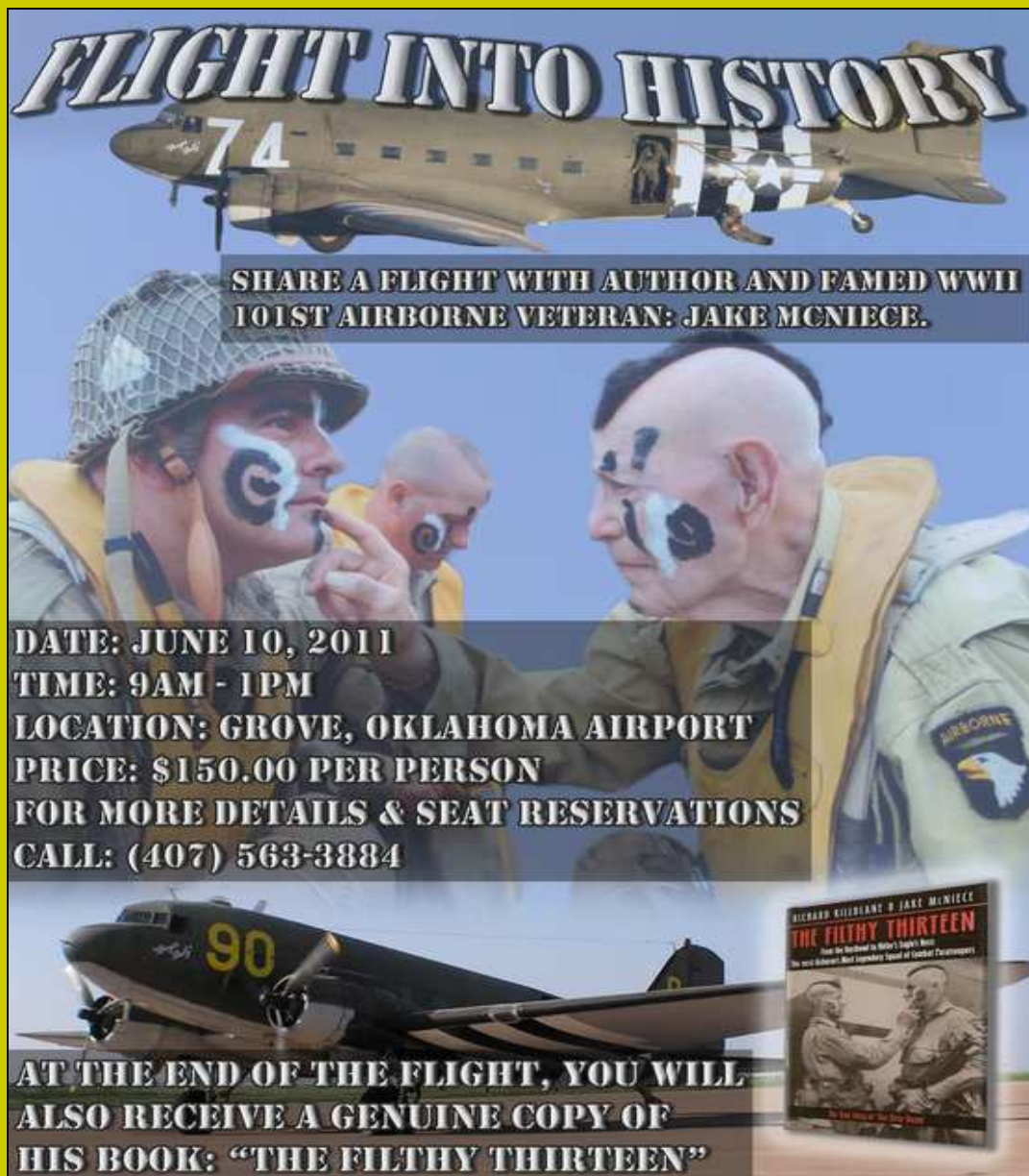


Safety and Authenticity Notes...

Do you know the minimum safe distance for discharging a firearm at a re-enactment???

Per Section 8 of the HRS Safety Guidelines, “No weapon is to be fired directly at anyone closer than fifty (50) feet or whenever anyone is close to the muzzle of a rifle. This applies to the persons who are next to you, as well as in front of the muzzle.”

Muzzle awareness was a key skill for WWII soldiers, just as it is for reenactors. Remember: *When it comes to safety, we're all safety officers.*



FLIGHT INTO HISTORY

SHARE A FLIGHT WITH AUTHOR AND FAMED WWII 101ST AIRBORNE VETERAN: JAKE MCNIECE.

DATE: JUNE 10, 2011
TIME: 9AM - 1PM
LOCATION: GROVE, OKLAHOMA AIRPORT
PRICE: \$150.00 PER PERSON
FOR MORE DETAILS & SEAT RESERVATIONS
CALL: (407) 563-3884

AT THE END OF THE FLIGHT, YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A GENUINE COPY OF HIS BOOK: "THE FILTHY THIRTEEN"

AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011

This time around, we have a different type of AAR—a photojournalism project by the HRS' own Jeff Skender. Jeff portrays Heinz Thiel, who was a combat correspondent in the German Army's Grossdeutschland Division. Jeff is a talented photographer, who roamed just about every square foot of Lowell, taking photos of the event. Rather than bore you with words, The Edge is pleased to present the photos of Jeff Skender, AKA Heinz Thiel.



WW2 Tribute Convoy through downtown Lowell at 6:15 PM Friday 29 April



The 29th MP Co. performs the flag raising



The USO Ladies prepare their impressions

AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011

CONTINUED



The view “down the street” including the 2nd Panzer and American camps



The Marines practice close order drill under the tutelage of an experienced NCO

AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011 CONTINUED—ARMOR



AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011

CONTINUED—CAMP SCENES



AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011 CONTINUED—BATTLES



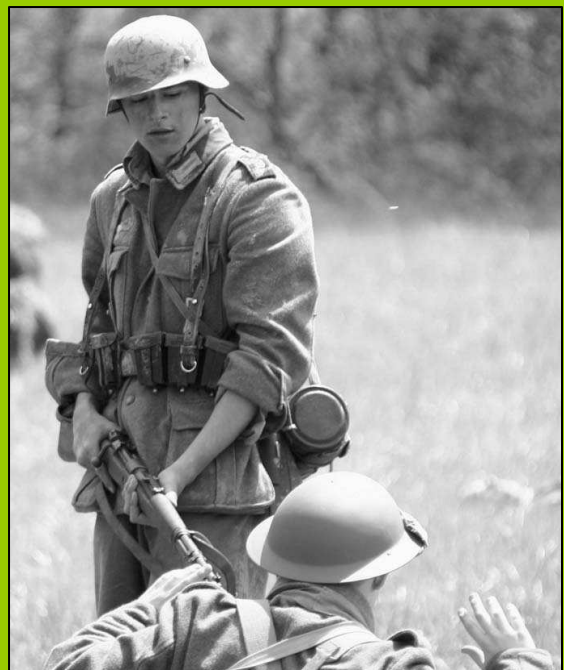
AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011 CONTINUED—BATTLES



AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011 CONTINUED—BATTLES



AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011 CONTINUED—BATTLES



AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011

CONTINUED—BATTLES



AFTER ACTION REVIEW: LOWELL, 2011

CONCLUSION



LEST WE FORGET...

Back to France at last: A 67-year-old promise fulfilled

Courtesy Nicholas Backus
Quad Community Press Staff Writer

Ken Krueger's tour of duty in eastern France was coming to an end.

On the train to Marseille, the then 19-year-old G.I. decided to go AWOL. He was in love, and had to see the girl he would dream about for the next 67 years one last time. And it was indeed the last time he saw her, despite a sacred promise.

Krueger secretly jumped off the train 10 miles from the home of Marguerite Klein, a beautiful young French woman he met in Fenetrance, a country hamlet about 200 miles east of Paris.

"We walked together for a half hour before I told her 'I don't think I'll see you again,'" Krueger, 86, said. "She clung to me like a vine and begged me to come back to marry her so I said I would, but I never did."

A devout Christian, Krueger says he has long struggled with the remorse caused by breaking "Margie's" heart.

But now, with help from Lino Lakes author Lee Burtman and Minneapolis-based filmmaker Troy LaFaye, Krueger will embark on his first trip back to France since the war. His journey is part of a video documentary titled "As Promised – Return to Fenetrance." Although Klein is gone – she died of cancer in 1999 – Krueger hopes to reconcile the empty promise he made with not only the remaining members of her family, but with his God.

Engaged during wartime

During the war, Krueger served as a message runner, a particularly dangerous job that required him to drive miles within enemy territory, often surrounded by Germans.

"There was no front because we had broken through it," Krueger recalled.

The war was winding down in Europe, and for four months, Krueger shackled up in Klein's family chateau in the tiny village of Fenetrance. Lee Burtman is the Lino Lakes author who penned the book based on Krueger's World War II experience. LaFaye's documentary will be loosely based on her written account.

Months of downtime was normal for the soldiers. "Fuel was running low so there were often stall periods until more supplies were shipped,"

Burtman explained. During those four months, Krueger and Klein became engaged. The news was posted on the village message board. Approval was granted by both U.S. Army and French officials, but then Klein's father got cold feet.

"I'm thinking 'Yeah, I have all the papers and we can get married' and then her father said 'No,'" Krueger recalled.

Confused, Krueger weighed re-enlisting for a chance to be near Marguerite against going home. In the end, he headed home – there was too great a chance he would be sent to the Pacific Theater, where the war was still being fought. It was then he went AWOL back to Fenetrance, to see Klein that last time, and it was there he made the fateful promise that would continue to haunt him.

The scourge of remorse:

Back in the United States, Krueger began writing to Klein, but soon, the letters became more and more infrequent. He was too busy with a new girl his brother had introduced to him. That girl was Krueger's late wife, Mae.

"My mom told me I didn't even give her a chance to take a bath," Krueger said about the amount of time he spent with Mae. "In the meantime, she was mad at me because I wasn't going back to France. She was writing Marguerite long after I quit."

According to Krueger, he was the talk of Klein's family during those years after the war. The French woman was heartbroken until she married some five years later.

Time went by, lives were lived, and Krueger's mother periodically kept in touch with what was happening with Klein's family. It wasn't until 1981 when the flame of remorse once again scourged Krueger's heart. That year, he read a book about his unit, and a man who fell in love with a girl, much like Krueger's story.

"It hit me," he said. "I was in love with a girl 67 years ago and I didn't go back. When I read that book, I had to apologize, see if she's alive and tell her 'I'm sorry.'"

Krueger eventually contacted Klein's great-granddaughter, who gave him the news of her death, a fact that is shaping the direction of the upcoming documentary.

"The focus of the film is 'How do you ask forgiveness of someone who has passed on?'" Burtman said.

Because he's increasing in age (Krueger's afflicted by a number of health issues that make it hard for him to stand long), the WWII vet is making his return to France sooner than later: Shooting in France for the documentary begins in late May and will wrap three weeks later.

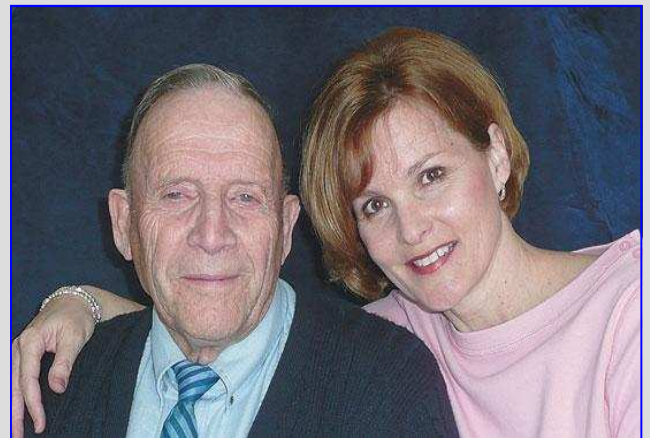
Krueger hopes to reconnect with Klein's family in Fenetrance, and visit the grave of his lost love. According to the family, the old chateau where Krueger stayed during the war still stands to this day.

Burtman's finished her book on Krueger in 2008. Since then, many who read it have told her it would make a fine film. When Burtman met LaFaye at last year's Dakota County Fair, the idea of a documentary became reality.

"I was intrigued by Ken's story because it doesn't end up like a Hollywood fairy tale," LaFaye, 42, said. "Sometimes non-sensible events take place in the chaos of war, but in that kind of experience, they can make sense."

LaFaye draws expertise for the project from his involvement with the WWII Historical Reenactment Society, where he specializes in reenacting scenes as a war photographer. He also teaches digital video production at the Minnesota School of Business. He plans on using the help of students in editing the film, which has a tight \$50,000 budget. Krueger's story is unlike any other that LaFaye has told before, he said.

"I've always wanted to work on something of this tone, and it's a new direction for me," he said. "There are so many real WWII stories out there not being told and we're losing them by the thousands per day."



Lino Lakes author Lee Burtman (right) has toured Minnesota and beyond with her book based on Krueger's WWII experience. - Submitted photo

Welcome to the following units,
who have recently chartered in
the HRS:

The USO: Stateside Operations
www.ww2uso.org

and the

24th Shidan (Japan)
www.24thshidan.weebly.com



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www.Armiam.com

The WWII Coca-Cola Bottle

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.

Most of you are probably familiar with the litany of World War Two Coca-Cola ads. You know, the ones with the fresh-faced GI enjoying a nice cold bottle of cola. Coke was actually a readily available product in stateside training areas *and* overseas staging areas. WWII Coke bottles are simple to find, and reasonable in price—and they’re very under represented within our hobby. In this article, I hope to highlight the wartime history of Coca-Cola, as well as explain how one can go about finding a proper war-time bottle.

At the beginning of the war, Coca-Cola had bottling plants in over 40 countries, and was the undisputed champion of cola. When the United States entered the war in December of 1941, the president of Coke, Robert Woodruff, stated his intent “to see to it that every man in uniform gets a bottle of Coca-Cola for 5 cents, wherever he is and whatever it costs the Company.” The War Department held Woodruff to his promise; by war’s end there were 64 bottling plants set up overseas, solely to supply the troops. Millions of bottles were supplied to troops, in every theatre of war.

So how does one find a proper wartime bottle? To begin, understand that Coke bottles changed over time. Like any piece of soldier’s gear, there were variations. What we want as WWII reenactors is what Coca-Cola collectors’ call the “Patent D” bottle. In 1916, the Coke company trademarked their “contour” or “hobbleskirt” bottle. This is the typical short, green ribbed bottle that we all know. Between 1916 and 1938, the words embossed on the bottle changed. From 1938 to 1951, the bottles were embossed on two sides, and on the bottom.

Side “A” was embossed:
Coca-Cola
TRADE-MARK REGISTERED
BOTTLE PAT. D-105529

Note: lower on side “A” was a date code, that stood for the date the glass mold was created; this is as close to “dated” as the bottles get.

Side “B” was embossed:
Coca-Cola
TRADE-MARK REGISTERED
MIN. CONTENTS 6-FL. OZS.

On the bottom of the bottle, the name and state of the bottling plant was embossed in a circular pattern.

Coca-Cola Fact: During the Bataan campaign, Army Quartermasters grabbed every edible item they could get their hands on. This included raiding the Post Exchanges for bottles of Coca-Cola, which were distributed to troops on the frontlines. The Filipino-American forces found that the Coca-Cola crates, which had dividers for protecting the bottles, was perfect for transporting hand grenades!

In 1916, when Coca-Cola decided on the contour bottle, they also decided to tinge the bottles green. Like the shape of the bottle, the color was intended to keep other companies from copying the famous Coke bottle. When World War Two began, the United States placed copper on the ration list. Because of this lack of copper, the wartime Coke bottles have a bluish-hue, instead of the traditional green. In my experience collecting wartime coke bottles, 1941 bottles are green; 1942-1944 bottles are blue; and 1945 bottles are typically green. Like anything, there are exceptions!

These bottles used a red-and-white bottle cap that said:

MINIMUM CONTENTS 6 FLUID OZS
Coca-Cola
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

One of these exceptions is the “overseas” bottle. Remember the 64 bottling plants that Coca-Cola set up overseas? Those plants produced bottles that were the typical contour Coke bottles, but were made of clear glass. These bottles also had blank bottoms, since there was no reason to include a city. Some of these bottles also had a gold-colored bottle cap that said “**SPECIAL SERVICE FOR U.S. ARMED FORCES.**” That being said, there are also overseas bottles that have the typical red-and-white Coca-Cola bottle caps.

So, which of these bottles is correct for reenactments? *All of them.* Soldiers would have come into contact with both the clear “issue” bottle as well as the blue & green “civilian” models. All three kinds are readily available for purchase, either through Ebay or at local antique stores. The wartime bottles aren’t in high demand among Coca-Cola collectors, so you can pick them up for a few dollars. The most I ever paid for a bottle was twelve bucks, and that was for a clear, overseas produced bottle that still had the soda in it. One good source, if you do not like dealing with Ebay, is Cola Corner (www.colacorner.com). World War Two Rations (www.wwiirations.com) sells reproductions of the “for U.S. Armed Forces” bottle caps. The red-and-white bottle caps can be purchased from Vintage Depot Direct (www.vintagedepotdirect.com).



Photo: Blue 1944, clear 1944 “overseas” and green 1945



Photo: L-blue 1942 Norfolk, VA; R-Green 1945 Chicago

As Promised

The Return to Fénétrange, A Documentary

WWII Veteran Ken Krueger made a promise to his long-lost fiancée 67 years ago...
that he would return to France.

Will **you** help him fulfill that promise?

More information at www.aspromised.net



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WWII Missing-in-Action Returned Home For Burial

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.

In a news release last Wednesday, the Department of Defense revealed that it had recovered the body of an Air Force pilot missing since World War Two.

The body of 2LT Martin P. Murray of Massachusetts, was missing in action on 27 October, 1943. Murray and ten other airmen were the crew of a Consolidated B-24D “Liberator” bomber, flying out of New Guinea. Their target was reconnaissance of the heavily defended Japanese installation on Rabaul. Because of bad weather, Murray and his crew were directed to terminate their mission, and land at the nearest Allied landing strip. Murray’s plane never reached Allied lines, and was not seen again.

In 2003, the Department of Defense’s Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) received information about a plane crash near Papua, New Guinea. The Papuan who reported the crash also handed over an identification card from one of the crewmembers. JPAC conducted three trips to the crash site—twice in 2004 and once in 2007. There, the JPAC crews found human remains, as well as dog tags from Lieutenant Murray’s crew.

The human remains were processed by forensic scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory. Using mitochondrial DNA, they were able to identify Lieutenant Murray.

Attempts to contact the Department of Defense for further information was met with negative results. A call to Larry Green, the communications director of the Department of Defense POW/MIA Personnel Office, for further information, went unreturned.

The funeral for 2LT Martin Murray was scheduled for 16 April 2011, in Marshfield, Massachusetts.

RESTAURANT REVIEW: "THE COMMAND POST RESTAURANT" AND THE CAMP GRANT MUSEUM

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.

As The Edge editor, I never thought I would be writing restaurant reviews. But with all the stars aligned, I got to indulge both my passions—eating *and* World War Two. This happened at The Command Post Restaurant, located at 1004 Samuelson Road, Rockford, Illinois. The restaurant is located just off Interstate Route 39 and Illinois Route 20, near the Rockford Airport.

The Command Post Restaurant is also home to the Camp Grant Museum. It's the perfect place, since the restaurant-museum is located in an original World War Two building that was part of Camp Grant. Camp Grant was used during World Wars One and Two as a training and induction base. Most World War Two Army veterans from Chicago and the suburbs would have in- or out-processed through Grant. As an aside, my grandfather, PFC Vincent Parker, in-processed at Camp Grant before shipping out to the Pacific Theatre.



To begin, the Command Post Restaurant is wonderful. It has that 'mom and pop' feel as well as home-style cooking. The restaurant is only open from 7am until 2pm, Tuesday through Friday; and 7am until 1pm on Saturdays. But that works out fine, since I sincerely advise you to go for breakfast—that's the specialty. Most dishes are named for veterans, or for ranks in the Army. I had the Crawford, a plate heaped with toast, hash browns, and scrambled eggs with bacon inside (all covered with white gravy). I would have ordered the chipped beef and toast, considering the ambience, but it was not offered.

After eating, browse through the four rooms of historical artifacts about Camp Grant. I spent over an hour looking at photographs and memorabilia related to the two world wars. Among my favorite artifacts was a section of water main pipe from World War One, and a room set up to look like a WWI Officer's mess hall. But best of all were the photographs and memorabilia from local WWII veterans. That's the true value of the Command Post Restaurant—serving great food and remembering local heroes.

Accused War Criminal To Stand Trial for WWII Mass Murder

By Matthew Andres, 81st Quartermaster Co

Dr. Sandor Kapiro, an accused mass murderer from World War Two, is set to go to trial this week for the murder of over a thousand people.

Kapiro was an officer in the Hungarian police, and was allied with the Nazis when he is alleged to have taken part in the murders of 1,250 Serbian civilians. The incident took place at Novi Sad, Serbia on 23 January 1942.

In 1944, Kapiro was convicted by a Hungarian court for his complicity in the murders. However, his conviction was thrown out after the Hungarian government was taken over by a puppet Nazi government. Kapiro escaped from Hungary after the war, and traveled to Argentina. While in Argentina, Kapiro was tried in absentia by the Communist government in Hungary, and convicted again.

At some point after the fall of Communism, Kapiro returned to Hungary. It was in Hungary that Kapiro was discovered by investigators of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, where Kapiro was on the Center's "Most Wanted" list of World War Two war crimes.

Kapiro sued investigators of the Simon Wiesenthal Center for libel, for accusing him of his leadership during the massacre. Kapiro's suit was dismissed, clearing the way for his trial.

Kapiro's war crimes trial is scheduled to begin 5 May 2011, in Budapest, Hungary.

Book Reviews

“Tanker: Boys, Men and Cowards.” Edward C. Luzinas, Athena Press, 2004. 145 pages. ISBN 1-932077-53-7.

Edward Luzinas tells a fascinating tale of his time as a tank gunner in the 710th Tank Battalion; a unit that fought the Japanese in the Pacific. Luzinas, who had a 46 inch waist when he first joined the Army, was held over at the reception station because the Army could not find pants to fit him!

The true value of “Tanker” is in the searing honesty with which Luzinas tells his story—it reminded this reviewer of Studs Terkel’s “The Good War.”

“Guarded By Angels.” Alan Elsner, Yad Vashem Publishers, 2005. 254 pages. ISBN 0-9760739-1-9.

“Guarded By Angels” is the biography of the Elsner brothers, Polish Jews who are taken prisoner by the Soviet Union after the Nazi-Soviet invasion of Poland. The brothers are sent to the gulag, where they labor as woodcutters. To escape the gulag, the brothers join the Soviet-led Polish Army in the East. There they fight as artillery officers in the 1st “Kosciusko” Infantry Division. Through the gulag, multiple battles, and serious wounds, the Elsner brothers manage to outlast both the Nazis and the Communists. Elsner’s book is a classic tale of the lengths two brothers will go to in order to survive World War Two.

“The Medic: Life and Death in the Last Days of WWII.” Len Litwak, Algonquin Books, 2001. 225 pages. ISBN 1-56512-305-0.

As the name implies, this is the autobiography of a line medic in an Infantry division during the latter stages of WWII. What sets this book apart from many other memoirs is that Litwak is brutally honest in his opinions of his fellow soldiers. Though he’s writing over sixty years after the war, nostalgia has not clouded his judgment. Also interesting are the sections on Litwak’s encounters with the German civilians and the Soviet Red Army.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3RD ANNUAL SALT RIVER EXPO

Location: Warren E See South Spillway, Mark Twain Dam, Perry, MO
Dates: 13-15 May 2011

NORMANDY BREAKOUT

Location: Arden Hills Army Training Site, Arden Hills, MN
Dates: Saturday, May 14th, 2011

PAUSE FOR PATRIOTISM

Location: Perry Farm Park, Bourbonnais, IL
Dates: Saturday, May 21, 2011 (Set-up Friday, May 20th)

DAKOTA CITY HERITAGE VILLAGE ARMED FORCES DAY - WWII WEEKEND

Location: Dakota City Heritage Village, 4008 220th St. W, Farmington, MN 55024
Dates: May 20 - 22, 2011

ANZIO EXPRESS WWII WEEKEND AT THE ILLINOIS RAILWAY MUSEUM

Location: Union, IL (about 50 miles west of Chicago)
Dates: May 27-30

KANSAS 150TH ARMED FORCES CELEBRATION - FORBES FIELD

Location: Kansas Museum of the Kansas National Guard 6700 S.W. Topeka Blvd Topeka, Kansas 66604
Dates: Saturday June 4 and Sunday June 5, 2011

LANSING REMEMBERS WWII

Location: Lan-Oak Park District, 178th and Oakley Lansing IL 60438

Dates: June 17th 2011, June 19th 2011

WWII RECREATED, DIXON, ILLINOIS

Location: Elks Page Park, 7883 Lowell Park Rd., Dixon, Illinois

Dates: June 24, 25, and 26

"RIVER RAN THROUGH IT" - TIME LINE EVENT.

Location: Frankenmuth, Michigan

Dates: June 24th ~ 26th

ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE

Location: Kankakee, IL

Dates: Saturday, June 25, 2011

WORLD WAR II ENCAMPMENT AT TRIMBORN FARM

Location: 8881 W. Grange Ave., Greendale WI 53129

Dates: June 25 & 26, 2011

HERITAGE FARM

Location: Brunswick, OH 44212

Dates: July 16 – 17 2011

LOCKPORT WWII DAYS

Location: Dellwood Park, Route 171 and Woods Dr., Lockport, IL 60441

Dates: Sept 9-11

WWII DAYS MIDWAY VILLAGE, ROCKFORD IL.

Location: Midway Village, 6799 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL

Dates: 22-25 September 2011

10TH ANNUAL WALK BACK IN TIME 2011

Location: Audrain County Historical Society, 501 South Muldrow Street, Mexico, MO 65265

Dates: 23-25 September 2011



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