



THE EDGE
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE WWII HRS, INC.
VOLUME 20, ISSUE 4
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HRS Board of Directors:

President:

David Jameson,
I/23rd Infantry, 2nd Infantry Div
15632 Polk Circle
Omaha, NE 68135

Vice President:

Jon Stevens,
9th Infantry Division
0N349 Cottonwood Drive
Wheaton, IL 60187

Secretary:

Currently Open

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Sheri Taber
Homefront Helpers
149 Lions Creek Ct. S.
Noblesville, IN 46062

Axis Representative:

Scott Atchison
6 SS "Nord"
149 Lions Creek Ct. S.
Noblesville, IN 46062

US Representative:

William Sheets
G/505th P.I.R., 82nd Airborne
6817 Everglades Court
Indianapolis, IN 46217

Commonwealth Representative:

Bryce Seyko
Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
305 East Lincoln Street
Normal, IL 61761

In This Issue...

- Ten Ways To Improve Your Impression
- A Museum Visit To A POW Chapel
- "Incoming:" Snippets From Around The HRS
- Book Reviews: Women in combat in Europe
- Movie Review: Death March of Bataan
- Upcoming Events
- AND MORE!!!

Cover Photo: A WWII US Army veteran visits with a German living historian from the Gross-Deutschland Division at the Lowell, Indiana event. Photo courtesy Heinz Thiel, GD Division.

Incoming!!!

- ▶▶ As of this publication date, the HRS has **763** members.
- ▶▶ The HRS board is in the process of considering a bulk email service, which will allow us to email The Edge to everyone. So make sure the HRS Board has your current email address.
- ▶▶ Speaking of the HRS Board, the position of Secretary is open to anyone who would like to apply. It's a great chance to better the society as a whole, and its a lot of fun! If you are interested, contact President David Jameson at dmjameson@cox.net.
- ▶▶ The third Thursday of every month is the HRS Board meeting. This meeting, in teleconference form, is open to all members of the HRS. The teleconference is a great way to stay abreast of the goings on in the HRS, as well as an opportunity to get your voice heard. Why learn about the HRS through gossip? Attend the monthly meeting and find out for yourself! For access, contact VP Jon Stevens at jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net.

All Clear!!!

Did You Know???

The German Army, or *Heer*, had specialized battalions called "*Magenkranken Bataillone*." These were units made up of soldiers who had permanent gastro-intestinal ailments, and needed special diets so as not to upset their stomachs. Most of these *Magenkranken* battalions served in garrison or occupation duties.

WWII HRS Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2011

Attending the meeting were: David Jameson, Jonathan Stevens, Bryce Seyko, Rey Ramirez, Sheri Tabor, Scott Atchison, Matt Andres, Ed Godi, Polly Norman-Blanton, Nicole Crosby, Bill Sheets, Carlos Ramirez, Jan Sheets

The meeting was opened at 7:06pm.

The February minutes were read, a motion was made to accept, and a vote taken to accept the minutes.

Old Business:

Insurance Report: The full policy of 80 pages was received. The policy was in force on 2 February. Other details of the policy will be reviewed.

New Business:

Unit Reports: Defunct units – B/1/1 had no primary membership or unit commander. There were some secondary members who were going to be asked if they were still interested in the unit. The discussion was tabled.

9th Naval District WAVES: Some discussion ensued on the unit. The unit would be modifying the charter to include only the Great Lakes Waves. The difference in rank structure for WAVES was discussed to include ratings for technical expertise. It was mentioned that repro uniforms were available.

Treasurer Report: None given

Secretary Report: Sheri Tabor who is working on some of the Secretary duties reported 499 Members

Commonwealth Report: No report

Allied Report: No news

Axis Report: No news.

Committee Reports: The S&A Comm was considering the WAVES charter and expecting a couple more charters.

Edge Editor: Matt Andres was working on the April Edge and had completed a March Edge.

Open Comments: Rey Ramirez reported on the Ft. Carson event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm

Congratulations to the HRS' newest unit...

THE UKRAINIAN INSURGENT ARMY

See you in the field!!!

WWII HRS Board Meeting

April 2011

Attending the meeting were: David Jameson, Jonathan Stevens, Sheri Tabor, Bryce Seyko, Scott Atchison, Matt Andres, John Newton; Polly Norman-Blanton; Carlos Ramirez, Rey Ramirez, Deane Byrne, Ed Godi, Gerret Swearingen, John Chapman, Jessica Jaeger, Jackie Detloff, Bill Sheets, Dave Serikaku

The meeting was opened at approximately 7:05 pm.

The **March minutes** were read. A vote was called, seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Unit Charter – The USO Stateside Operations charter had been approved by the Safety and Authenticity Committee and was ready for a board vote. Several questions were asked regarding the scope of the unit. A vote was proposed and seconded. All voted in favor. The charter was approved.

Old Business

The **Secretary position** was still open. No parties have yet expressed interest.

New Business

Unit Charters: *9th Naval District Great Lakes Waves* had passed the S&A Committee and was ready for a board vote. A vote was proposed and seconded. All voted in favor. The charter was passed.

24th Shidan Division was discussed. The unit commander Gerret Swearingen and co-commander John Chapman explained their unit concept. The focus would be on authenticity and from about July 1944 to the end of the war. One comment was that their unit history needed expansion and also more explanation on the rank and unit structure. The unit was tabled for further review.

Defunct Units: B/1/1 USMC was noted to have no primary members for two years. The unit was dissolved.

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer reported \$28,287.17 in savings and \$9,611.75 was reported in the checking account. \$273.10 in expenses was reported.

Secretary Report: Sheri Tabor reported that 763 members on the roster with 30 more memberships not processed.

Commonwealth Report: No report

Allied Report: No Report

Axis Report: No report

Edge: Matt Andres was working on the May issue

General Exemption Number: Exploration of the GEN would be done for the HRS where subordinate groups could use the parent group's 501c type exemption.

Ft Carson Event: Revision on the regional event request will be submitted by Rey Ramirez.

Open Comment: A question was asked about minors and insurance. Minors would be allowed under the insurance but a bylaw change was needed. Jonathan Stevens mentioned that a quote for email marketing for the HRS would be ready for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

Ten Ways To Improve Your Impression

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.

A few years ago, I cheated on World War Two reenacting. For three short years I had a meaningless fling with Civil War reenacting. I'm ashamed of it now, but there it is. After three years of listening to arguments over buttonhole stitching and the "correct" shade of canteen cloth, I repented and came home to WWII...But one positive thing I took from CW was an article entitled "Ten ways to improve your impression." It was a simple list of inexpensive, minor changes that everyone could do to improve their reenacting experience. With that as a guide, I've compiled my own list, so see what you think:

1. Drill – soldiers knew how to march, perform facing movements, to move as a body from point to point. I rarely see reenactors performing drill, even though most events are in a garrison-type setting. There are other benefits, too: At Lowell a few years back, I saw a platoon of Germans marching down the road. They were all in step, hobnails clicking on the blacktop, and they totally stole the show. I mean, the public and reenactors alike stopped what they were doing, *just to watch them march by*.

2. Eat Authentic – Instead of sneaking off to eat a Powerbar or to guzzle a Pepsi, eat what *they* would eat. The 95th Rifles routinely has crowds gather around to watch reenactors cook authentic Russian food on an open fire. I do Pacific US, and had one group astounded by my cooking Chef Boyardee (available in 10-in-1 rations) over an alcohol stove.

3. Glasses – I had to start wearing glasses two months back, for the first time in my life. Being a WWII nerd, the first thing I did was troll the local antique stores for an original army issue pair of eyeglasses. I found them for eight bucks. I found twelve other pairs of round-frame, period correct glasses at this antique store (the Sandwich Antique Mall) and none were over fifteen dollars. At that price, there's really no reason to have anachronistic glasses. Remember this: the human mind is programmed to look for oddities, so spectators will subconsciously be drawn to modern eyeglass frames.

4. Quit Dry Cleaning – I cannot begin to count how many times I've seen reenactors, who claim to be portraying "field soldiers" with perfectly pressed and ironed uniforms. I have yet to read of any Marines storming Iwo Jima with steam irons in their packs; nor were there any Airborne Dry Cleaning Detachments in Normandy. Wash and wear, my friends, and you will look far more authentic!

5. Do Something – Imagine you're a spectator, and you go to your first WWII reenactment, and you see...a bunch of guys sitting around ignoring the public. Performing acts—be they training, or fatigue duties—gives the public something to see, and an opening for them to ask questions. Last year at Yorkville, the 1st Polish Infantry Division constructed an obstacle course, and they spent the day maneuvering through it. It was like a reenacting magnet for the public; people loved it.

Ten Ways To Improve Your Impression, Continued...

6. Undershirts – This is mainly aimed at US reenactors, since we can't see the shirts under German and Soviet tunics (though you should have proper underclothes, too). The US Army of WWII issued white crew-neck t-shirts, many of which were dyed in the field by the Quartermasters. So get rid of the modern brown t-shirt you were issued back in the day, and the green t-shirt you use in Vietnam reenacting. Photos show GI's in the Pacific, fighting in the jungle in white t-shirts *because that's what they had*. As a caveat, the US Army did issue both green and white tank-top undershirts, and the USMC issued a green crewneck t-shirt (but it was a funky green, not OD green).

7. Start Saluting – This one came to me via a couple of WWII vets who were at an event... There's a built-in anti-officer complex with most reenactors, because we know that, in most cases, the reenacting officer didn't "earn" their rank (whatever that means). But most reenactments are in cantonment areas, where saluting would have happened. A reenactor Private walking past a reenacting Lieutenant and refusing to salute just looks bad. Remember: salute the rank if not the man!

8. Watches – Hide the modern watches, as no one "back then" was issued a Casio Pathfinder with built-in compass. Go for a simple gold or silver-colored watch, preferably with no date function (it was sort of rare back then). If you can find one with the minimum of maker's marks on the face, all the better. Try to skip wearing a military-looking watch—the US Army and USMC only issued watches in very specific circumstances, not to every recruit who enlisted. Above all, avoid the plastic-cased Timex Camper—that green abomination that did not exist in WWII, yet is worn by 1/3 of the reenactors on the planet. If you want a cheap, period-looking watch, check out Ebay. Many of the Russian watch factories make old-fashioned, very robust watches (often on the very machinery the Soviets stole from German factories in 1945).

9. Fill Your Pockets – Soldiers in WWII always had stuff in their pockets, as it was often the only place to carry little valuables—gum, extra legging laces, ID books, pocket knives, eating spoons, pencil stubs and pocket notebooks, C-rat cigarettes... Even Paul Fussell notes the propensity of soldiers to carry "necessities" in their pockets in his book "The Boys Crusade."

10. Have Fun – Have you ever noticed how many reenactors aren't having fun? They're either fuming over the perceived "farbiness" of some other unit, or they're whining because they didn't get a building at Rockford. Take a second and think about what the real soldiers were thinking—if they were ever going to make it home; or why their buddy died but they survived. Just go out and have fun, and your impression will be that much better.

If you have simple tips like these, or you disagree with my tips, feel free to drop me a line and let me know, at mattandres@aol.com. As always, I value any opinion or advice that can make my impression better!

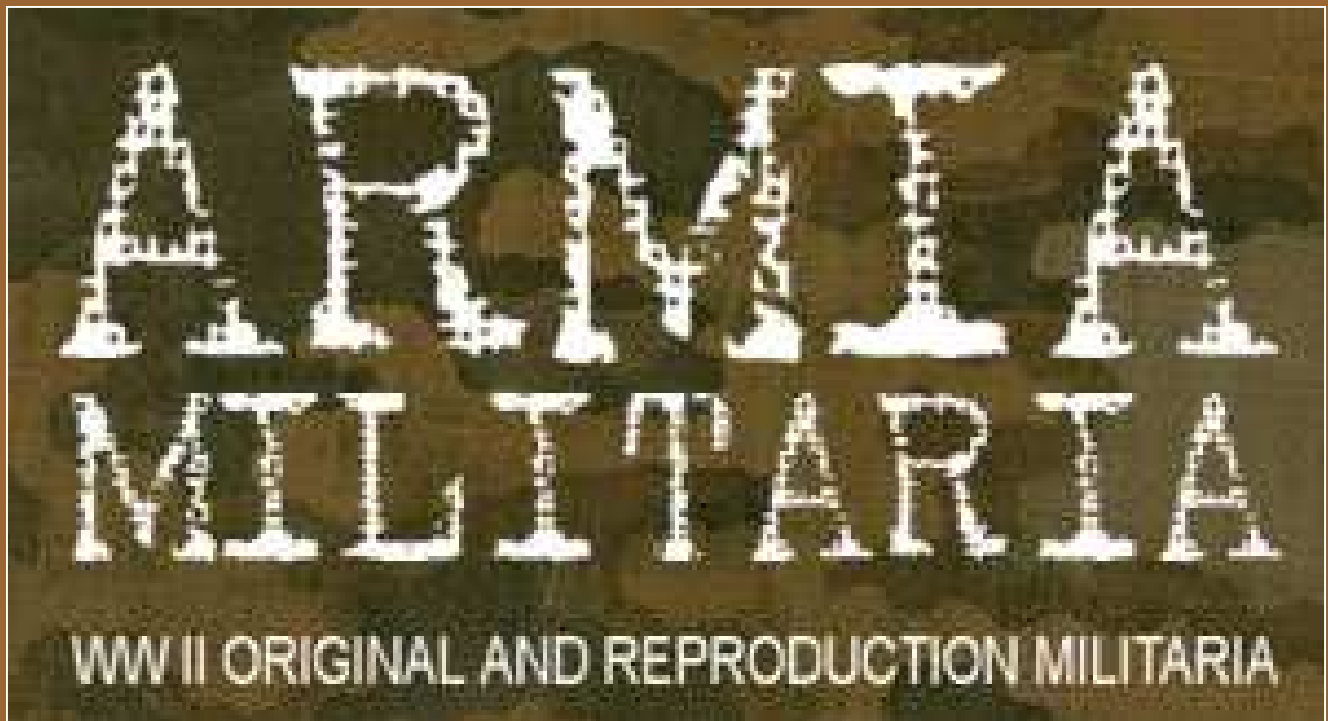
As Promised

The Return to Fénétrange, A Documentary

WWII Veteran Ken Krueger made a promise to his
long-lost fiancée 67 years ago...
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www.Armiam.com

Museum Visit: The Italian POW Chapel At Camp Atterbury, Indiana

By Matthew Andres, 95th Rifle Division

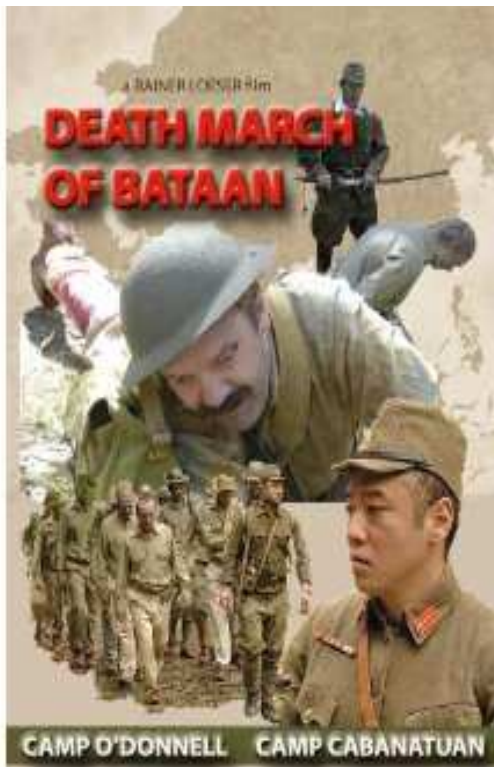
This month's "museum" visit is actually half museum and half monument. It is the Italian prisoner of war chapel at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. I discovered this monument when I mobilized at Atterbury in 2006.



Currently, the chapel is located due north of the actual camp, over the CCC bridge, and across from the lake. Yep, those directions stink, but the chapel is really off the beaten track; for better directions, check in at the post museum.

During World War Two, Italian POW's were interned at Camp Atterbury, where they were employed as an auxiliary labor force. They asked the camp commander if they could build their own chapel, using left over building materials. The commander allowed them, and the following pictures show the results. After the war, the Italian POW's were repatriated home, but the chapel stayed. As Camp Atterbury shrank, the chapel found itself off post, and later, in the middle of nowhere. Local citizens have kept up the chapel, and it can be viewed by visitors today.





Movie Review: Death March Of Bataan

As the name implies, “Death March of Bataan” tells the story of the ill-fated Filipino-American defense of the island of Luzon, Philippine Islands. Loeser, the writer and director of the film, uses living historians as main actors, which in itself is rather interesting. Though Loeser does a compelling job telling the story, he lets many of the American military and political leaders whose failed plan begat the Bataan surrender, off the hook. Reenactors will find the uniforms and much of the equipment to be anachronistic. Many viewers will also find certain scenes, such as graphic depictions of dysentery ridden prisoners, too disgusting to watch. All in all, “Death March of Bataan” is an interesting movie, but does not significantly add to the historiography of the Bataan Campaign.

— *Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.*

The logo features the name 'SHAWN SUNDBLADE' in a serif font, with 'SR' in a large, stylized font. Below the name is the word 'PHOTOGRAPHY' in a serif font. To the right of the text is a photograph of a water droplet about to hit a surface, creating ripples.

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779.348.0911
SHAWN@LIGHTISREALITY.COM

BOOK REVIEWS

“World War Two Frontline Nurse,” by Mildred MacGregor. The University of Michigan Press, 2008. ISBN: 0-472-03331-X.

MacGregor’s account of life as a WWII nurse is exactly the detailed memoir that reenactors like to read. Chock full of specific details and descriptions, “Frontline Nurse” dispels the myth that nurses didn’t serve in combat.

“Women Heroes of World War Two,” by Kathryn J. Atwood. The Chicago Review Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-55652-961-0.

Atwood’s collection of vignettes focuses on twenty-six women who made a difference during World War Two. Of the 26, I had only previously heard of three of them. The stories are fascinating, and run the gauntlet from Marlene Dietrich, who was trapped behind enemy lines during the Battle of the Bulge, to Murial Phillips, a Jewish-American combat nurse, to Nancy Wake, a spy with a model’s beauty.

The true worth of Atwood’s book is that it spans almost all of Europe, featuring women from Germany, Poland, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, England and the United States. If there is any fault to this book—and a minor fault at that—is that the book overlooks the accomplishments of women from the Soviet Union.

“Heroines of the Soviet Union,” by Henry Sakaida. Osprey Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-1-84176-598-3

Like most Osprey publications, “Heroines” gives you just enough information to leave you wanting more. So is the case with this book, that chronicles just some of the women who earned the Soviet Union’s highest award: the title of Hero Of The Soviet Union. Especially interesting is how many of these women “won” their awards posthumously. Despite its slim 64 pages, “Heroines is a great book for any fan of the Eastern Front.

2011 HRS Regional Event—Mountain States

Event Name: 2011 Mountain States Regional **Location:** Fort Carson, Colorado **Dates:** 8-9 OCTOBER, 2011 (Columbus Day weekend) **Event Times:** (SAT – 1000 hrs – 1700 hrs) (SUN – 0900 hrs – 1230 hrs)

Registration Times: For pre-registered participants ONLY:

CAMP RED DEVIL Gate 12 Open/Close Times:

Friday 7 OCT - OPEN 1500 hrs - CLOSE 1900 hrs

Saturday 8 OCT – OPEN 0700 hrs - CLOSE 0930 hrs

Sunday 9 OCT - OPEN 0730 hrs - CLOSE 0830 hrs

Pre-Registration: Beginning 1 July and ending 2 OCT 2011. Unit CO's please e-mail participant information to (cdr@worldwartwohrrscolorado.com). Barracks (male/female) available for up to 250 participants. First come, first served. Male/Females latrines & showers.

Event Fee: \$20 USD by check: For (HRS) to E. Ramirez 5.SS-Divison WIKING. E-mail:

cdr@worldwartwohrrscolorado.com). For The Regiment to D. Bryne. E-mail:

(www.ww2LivingHistoryRegiment.us)

Vendors of militaria - \$20 (limit 3 tables). * Must be a member of the HRS or other recognized organization.

Website: (<http://worldwartwohrrscolorado.com>). "Non-members" of WIKING can see the full Event announcement with details. **Map:** You may use Google Earth link (www.googleearth.com) and type in Fort Carson to get a map. **Directions:** From I-25 take Exit 135 west (towards the mountains) two miles to Colorado Highway 115. Take 115 south (left turn) for 17 miles. Look for the sign posted along highway 115. Entry to the Battle site is on your left. Check in will be at the shack inside of Gate 12. Times as noted above/under Registration Times.

Authenticity Notes: Western Front Axis/Allied impressions ONLY. ALL H.R.S Rules and By-Laws apply and are in effect beginning 1500 hrs 7 OCT 2011 and ending 1300 hrs 9 OCT 2011. *Rules of Engagement will be provided upon arrival to all participants. Period era weapons or modified to appear of WW II era.

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: (Vehicles) Period era or visually modified to look like WW II armor/half-tracks/wheeled & motorcycle vehicles ONLY. (Items) Fort Carson rules and regulations prohibit - ALCOHOL/Substances of any kind. LIVE ammunition of any kind. Pyrotechnics of any kind.

Other restrictions: Weapons MUST be blank fire, gas-fire or black-powder adapted ONLY. No firing after 10pm. No pets! No flares. **Motels:**

La Quinta Inn & Suites 719-527-4788 Fairfield Inn & Suites 719. 576.1717

Best western 719.576.2371

Cheyenne mountain resort 719.538.4000

Clarion hotel 719.471.8680

Comfort inn airport 719.380.9000

Comfort inn south 719.579.6900

Courtyard 719.226.5006

Crowne Plaza 719.576.5900

Days Inn 719.527.0800

Doubletree 719.576.8900 extended stay 719.638.9233

Holiday Inn 719.380.8516

Homewood suites 719.574.2701

Radisson Hotel 719.597.7000

Residence Inn 719.576.0101

Sponsoring Unit(s): This Event is co-sponsored as follows:

Sponsoring Unit(s): HRS - 5.SS-DIVISION WIKING "reenacted" & WW II Living History Regiment

EVENTS

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 through June 19th 2011

WWII RECREATED, DIXON, ILLINOIS

Location: Elks Page Park, 7883 Lowell Park Rd.,
Dixon, Illinois
Dates: June 24, 25, and 26

"A 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

EVENTS, CONTINUED

HERITAGE FARM

Location: Brunswick, OH 44212

Dates: July 16 17 2011

WWII Days at Blastcamp Paintball

Location: Hobart, Indiana

Dates: 13-14 August

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

WESTERN REGIONAL TACTICAL BATTLE

Location: Fort Carson, CO

Dates: 8-9 October 2011



A soldier checks the status of the unit's flashlights, prior to the invasion of North Africa. Of value is the great variance of flashlight types, with roughly half of them being commercial flashlights, and other half being the issue TL-122A.



**The Edge
c/o Matthew Andres
818 Dighton Lane
Schaumburg, IL 60173**

**John Smith
123 Elm Street
Anytown, XX 12345**