

The Edge

*The Official emagazine of the
World War Two Historical Reenactment Society*



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ON THE COVER: MEMBERS OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION PROVIDE SECURITY AT DIXON, JUNE 2011. PHOTO COURTESY HEINZ THIEL, 5TH KOMPANIE, GD DIVISION.

Election for Interim Board of Director Positions

This past June 26 two resignation letters were received from the HRS Treasurer and HRS Axis Representative. Due to personal reasons both resigned their positions. This means three board positions are currently vacant: Secretary, Treasurer, and Axis Representative. Notification was sent out for any interested parties to contact the HRS board if they were considering running for a board position. Several people are now interested in filling the remaining term of those positions and are listed here in the Edge. All are well qualified for the positions they have chosen to seek. This election will take place during the month of September and will be conducted via an on-line secure voting service. More directions will be coming in an email very soon. Those without internet access will still be able to vote via a paper ballot.

The recent monthly email notifications of the Edge have met with a good response however a portion of those emails are being deposited in spam email. A suggestion is to allow emails with WWII HRS in the subject line to make sure all notices, updates, and new information are received.

If you know of other unit members who still need to renew their membership or have not received their membership please contact me as soon as possible before the fall events. We greatly encourage all membership issues to be resolved before an event.

Thanks for your participation in our organization.

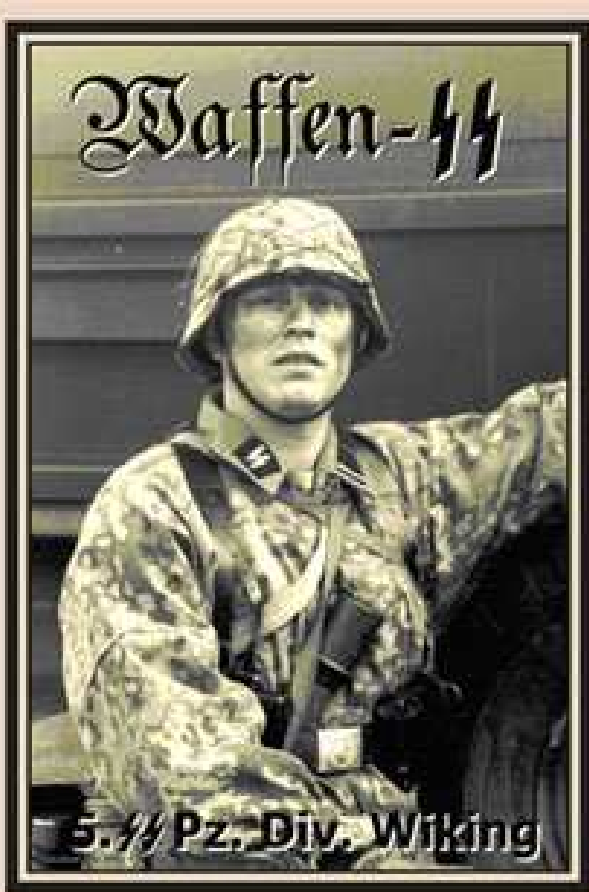
Jonathan Stevens

WWIIHRS Vice President

My name is Charles Gallagher. I've been reenacting actively within the HRS for close to 2 years and have been heavily involved with the hobby for 7. I am a full-time college student with some experience in accounting classes. I am excited to announce my candidacy for interim treasurer.



Rey Ramirez – (LTC-R), US Army Infantry.



I am a native of Colorado and 1982 graduate of Colorado University with a degree in business. I am a 1988 graduate of the Army Command & General Staff College, having attended it as a second year Captain; a rare accomplishment due to excellence superiors and supporters who believed in me.

Military Career: I entered an early commissioning program in 1980 while I completed my degree. Following graduation from CU in 1982, I entered service as an Infantry 2nd lieutenant and retired after 27 years in 2007. During my career, I served in various CONUS Infantry, Cavalry and Mountain units. Was deployed in support of Desert Storm, Bosnia and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) - where I was twice deployed to Afghanistan and once to Iraq.

Private Sector Career: Owner/Director of GLOBOS, Inc. - an education consulting firm for after-school tutoring programs serving

students who are academically at-risk.

As a candidate for the vacant Axis Representative position, I ask for you to consider voting for me. If elected, I will first continue to advocate and support the Axis Units, their Unit histories, and our Society as a whole. Second, I will serve as a conduit of information and as a voice for the Axis Units COs and their general membership. My e-mail and telephone will be made available to all the Society; who can feel free to contact me directly with information, issues or concerns. I bring maturity and experience to the table. I believe someone who contacts me deserves courtesy and respect, and I have a high frazzle thermometer after all my military and life experiences.

Experience/Qualifications for the position of Axis Representative: I began my membership with the Society in April of 1984 with 5.SS-Division WIKING and am now the Unit CO since 1998. As a seasoned member of the Society, my goal has been to promote public awareness and gratitude of our nations' service personnel and their sacrifices made during WW II.

As a reenactor, I participate yearly in various public and private events which serve to remind today's generation of the history of W.W. II, the combatant nations, and the theaters of war. As Unit CO, I have maintained WIKINGS' professionalism in support of the Society and support for the general membership to have a voice in how our Society operates.

I'm Andrew Garrison from the Great Lakes Naval Station north of Chicago. I've been reenacting German Waffen SS since 2004. I am an active duty Navy Corpsman and combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan.

My goal is for the Axis to create an atmosphere of synergy. The synergy would encourage units to work together by sharing the collective wisdom they possess. As a society we should strive to be receptive to new ideas, be modest, and be motivated to learn more from other units. For example, conduct classes using references and teaching field maneuvers as they would have been taught to recruits in WW2 and adding beneficial information on our websites.

If I'm made Axis Representative I will do all in my power to support those who seek to better the hobby, encourage constructive feedback to those who need it, and honor those who served in WW2.

Thank you for this opportunity

HM3 (FMF) Andrew D. Garrison
USN



Ladies and Gentlemen of the HRS:

I am running for the open position of Secretary with the HRS. Later this month, The Edge will contain a Ballot for electronic voting. Please pass my Resume along to your Units and please encourage them to vote in the upcoming election.

Thank You.

Name: **Ronald J Kapustka**

Hometown: Chicago

Education: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in Business Law; Juris Doctor in Law.

Occupation: Lawyer, licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin, been practicing for 21 years, partner in a 35 lawyer firm since 1998.

Reenacting Experience: WW2 and Vietnam, since 2003. I joined Easy Company, 2/506th, 101st Airborne for 6 months, than split away from them with ten members and formed my current Unit, C Company, 1/502nd, 101st Airborne. I have been the CO of the Unit since 2004, running the Unit as a Private, until 2009, when I assumed the rank of Captain. I let others, more experienced in reenacting help me direct the Unit during the early years, taking advantage of their experience and guidance.

Reason to get Involved: I have been a member of the HRS since 2003, have seen things done different ways, some I agree with others I don't. I have started my own successful Unit, which has kept a great core group of 20+ members since its formation in 2004. The Unit stays together because I try to lead by example and I try to make decisions that benefit the Unit as a whole and not one man or one small group. I feel that my business and legal real world experience will be beneficial to the HRS and its members. I act as Corporate Counsel for over 3000 not-for-profit corporations and have everyday experience that will be useful to the HRS. IN short, I want to make a difference.



August 11, 2011

To: HRS Board

HRS Members

From: **Richard A. Russo**

Re: Axis Representative Board Position

I would like to express my interest in running for the Axis Representative position currently vacant on the HRS board. I have been a historical reenactor for the twenty six years. I started off my reenacting career as a Civil War reenactor primarily doing union infantry, for the last 16 years I have been doing a WWII German Heer impression.

My WWII German impression started in July 1995 when I attended a “time-line” event in Geneva Illinois with my Civil War unit and came in contact with members of the 2nd Panzer Division who were in attendance at the event. Having had several uncles whom were WWII vets I was immediately hooked on the hobby and subsequently joined 2nd Panzer. In November of 1999 I left 2nd Panzer to join a newly formed unit the 116th Panzer (Windhund) Division unit and stayed with them until May of 2005 when I joined another relatively new unit 5th Kompanie GrossDeutschland on which I am currently the unit Commander.

From the time I started in the WWII hobby I have been very active in promoting WWII Reenacting mainly through the initiating, organization and planning of WWII public battle reenactments. During my time with 2nd Panzer I started both the Lowell, Indiana Buckley Homestead County Park and Rockford, Illinois Midway Village Museum public battle events. I was on the planning committees for these events for several years. I have recently initiated another new public battle reenactment which will be held this year for the first time in Lockport, Illinois at the Lockport Park District Dellwood Park. Other public venues that I have been involved in planning include the Wauconda, Illinois Lake County Forest Preserve WWII Living history, Popular Grove Airport Battle Reenactment and the Stonehouse Reenactor Park tacticals located in Earlville, Illinois.

In my professional life I am a owner of a Civil Engineering consultant firm which specializes in heavy highway design and construction. In this line of work I am required to deal with various governmental agencies and stakeholder groups. As such I have learned how to deal with groups of people or individuals with various needs or agendas and work towards common solutions that create wining scenarios for all involved. I believe that I have developed various skills sets be they financial, political or technical which will be useful to the HRS board and its membership.

Should I be elected to this position I will serve the needs that arise within the Axis units. I will also work toward strengthen relationships between the axis units and the HRS board.



Dear Edge Editor...

Dear Edge Editor:

How come there is no Soviet Representative to the Board of Directors? Every other nationality is represented but us. There are more Soviet reenactors than there are British, and the Brits have their own representative. It sucks that the Soviets aren't represented.

- Guards Senior Sergeant Smegmakov

Dear Mr. Smegmakov:

The reason why there is no Soviet representative is because it takes a by-law amendment to add additional board members. To the best of my knowledge, no one has ever submitted such a by-law amendment. If you were so inclined, all you have to do is email President David Jameson or VP Jon Stevens. Ask for a proposal for a by-law change to include a Soviet rep. The by-law proposal will be listed in The Edge, and the membership at large get to vote for or against the by-law proposal. A simple majority decides whether the proposal passes or fails.

But let me add this as a possible alternative—call in to the monthly board meetings. The Board of Directors meets via teleconference, so there isn't any traveling to do. All members are encouraged to call in and voice their opinion. So why would you want someone else to represent you when you can represent yourself???

-The Edge Editor

In the interest of space, and to keep inflammatory letters from starting fights, letters to the editor may be edited. Names will automatically be withheld unless the writer specifically requests otherwise. The Edge editor can be reached at mattandres@aol.com.

Kennekuk County Park Event Scores Big For Second Straight Year!

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.

The first weekend of August was 1943 at Kennekuk County Park in Danville, Illinois. Jim and Polly Blanton joined forces with Jan and Bill Sheets to put on one of the best events of the year. This annual event is fast becoming one of THE events to attend in the Midwest.



Monte Roth Sr (L) and Monte Roth Jr (Center) explain the intricacies of the M-1 rifle to interested spectators.

I am not much of a fan of public battles, but even I come running for the Kennekuk battles, which feature hard-fought battles through a small 1940's town. This year, there were two battles a day, with the first battle being an Eastern Front rumble between Soviet reconnaissance forces and a combined SS-Heer battalion. The second battle of the day was a Mediterranean Theatre battle, with the Heer defending against a joint SS-Commonwealth assault.

Reenactors from five states traveled to the park to partake of the event, which was billed as Mediterranean Theatre. Despite the billing, no reenactors were turned away, and the event featured high quality displays from the Eastern Front, Pacific Theatre, and North Africa.

In addition to the land-based forces, the event featured fly overs by an L-5 and an F6F Hellcat.

Among my favorite displays were the 504th PIR's Chaplain set-up; the 2nd Armored division's medical aid tent; and the sprawling complex of the

Soviet 9th Airborne and 95th Rifle Division.



While relaxing after the Eastern Front battle, Dakota from the 353rd Infantry displays a wide range of German gear.

Kennekuk Scores Big, Page 2

One of the best aspects of the Kennekuk event is that I got to visit with some truly accurate, dedicated reenactors. I visited with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and the Hampshire Regiment, where I got a crash course in British Army rations—I'll never complain about chow or ill food again!

In the distance I could see the Soviets practicing an obstacle course, while Australian accents carried over from the camp of the 2/25 Australian Infantry Battalion. Meanwhile, G Company of the 5th Parachute Infantry Regiment had a mess tent that sounded like it was operating around the clock! Everywhere I looked, some historically accurate moment was occurring!

Only two years old, the Kennekuk Park event has become one of the best events of the Midwest; I won't miss it next year!



L/Cpl Bryce Seyko, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, explains the contents of the 14-man company ration.



G Company, 505th PIR's mess tent fed untold reenactors over the weekend.

Attending the meeting was: David Jameson, Jonathan Stevens, Bryce Seyko, Carlos Ramirez, Deane Byrne, Garret Swearingen, Ed Godi, Yuri Soroka, Matt Andres, James Steele, Ian Baker, Tim Scherer.

Old Business

The April minutes were read, a motion was made for a vote, and the vote was for approval.

Secretary: One person expressed interest for the Secretary position.

Regional Event Requests: The Ft. Carson event headed by Rey Ramirez presented a request for \$1,015 for their event. Documentation was submitted and approved. The Lockport event request was tabled.

New Business

Unit Charters: 24th Shidan had passed the S&A Committee and was ready for a board vote. The board members were familiar with the charter. A motion to vote was called and seconded. The vote was to approve the unit. The Ukrainian Insurgent Army was introduced by Yuri Sokora. He stressed they would portray Ukrainian military heritage in their unit. The unit had passed the S&A Committee and a motion was made for a vote. The motion was seconded and the vote was for approval. The 321st Glider Field Artillery Battalion was introduced by James Steele the proposed unit commander. They planned a battery of pack howitzers.

Charter that had passed the year mark: 2/25 Australian. A vote was proposed to approve the unit, seconded, and the unit was approved for full charter.

Treasurer Report: No report

Secretary Report: Jonathan Stevens had received the secretary documents, membership forms, membership cards, and would be temporarily fulfilling the secretary duties.

Commonwealth Report: Hampshire Rgt. would be submitting several more memberships.

Allied Report: No report

Axis Report: No Report

Edge: May issue was published on the website.

Committee Report: No new information

General Exemption Number: To proceed with GEN more structure would be needed similar to bylaws and strong enforcement. More information was needed and may take several months to complete.

Attending the meeting were: David Jameson, Jonathan Stevens, Scott Atchison, Sheri Tabor, Bryce Seyko, Carlos Ramirez, George Reinke, Rey Ramirez, Michael Kaczorowski, Yuriy Sokora, Bill Reisa, Vito Abinanta, Ron Kapustka, Chris Kissenger.

The minutes for May were not available to all board members and would be sent the following month.

Old Business:

Secretary position: The position was still open.

Regional events: The Colorado event was posted on the event listings; The Lockport event was tabled.

New Business

Unit Charters: Defunct units: F Co 502 PIR, 101st Abn had no members for two years. Bill Sheets would contact them. New unit charters submitted was the 17th Airborne which would be sent out to the board members. The 321st Glider Field Artillery unit needed more information on the firing procedure. The unit was tabled. B Co., 502 PIR, 101st Abn – was introduced by Vito Abinanta. The unit would start with 8 members. Most of the members had a strong interest in the 101st Abn with several relatives in the unit during the war. The unit was formed out of C Co. 502 PIR. Other airborne units did not respond and some were some distance away from the members. Charter Approval: The 360th Cossack Regiment had passed the one year period and was ready for a vote. A vote was called, seconded, and the unit was approved. The Hampshire Regt had passed the one year period and was also ready for a vote. The vote was approved conditionally with the acceptance of another member.

Treasurer Report: Savings \$29,069.36 with \$3.91 interest, a NSF fee for a membership dues for \$20, and bank fee of \$12; Checking \$9611.25 with one check for \$92.39 for a balance of \$9515.15.

Secretary: 877 members reported by Jonathan Stevens temporarily doing the Secretary duties.

Commonwealth Report: no news

Allied Report: No news

Axis Report: No news

Edge: no report

Committee Reports: Three new unit charters were being submitted

General Exemption Number: No information, tabled.

Scholarship Application: One application for scholarship was submitted by Jacob Feldhaus

Lansing Event Insurance: A certificate of insurance was needed for June 17. With the very short notice this may not be possible as generally it takes at least 10 days.

Open Discussion: David Jameson discussed the appropriate uses of the HRS Committees which were not venues for discussing board issues that needed to be discussed at the monthly board meeting rather than email.

Ron Kapustka discussed the Rockford event and the need for more units to participate in the woods battles.

Scott Atchisson commented that a problem at any event should be taken to the event coordinator.

Chris Kissenger mentioned his event at Trimborn Farm, WI was coming up.

Bill Riesa requested that his unit listing be undated. He was directed to the webmaster following the meeting.

Mike Kaczorowski of the 1st Polish Paras wanted to know if another Polish unit was coming to Rockford.

Comets Battle Peaches!!!

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.

Sunday the fourteenth was a great day for baseball—Ladies baseball, that is. The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League brought two of their best teams to South Elgin's Fox River Trolley Museum, in a slugfest for the ages! The Kenosha Comets zapped the Rockford Peaches 13 runs to 8, in a closely fought hitters battle.

Prior to the event, both teams and spectating reenactors got the chance to ride a vintage Chicago, Aurora & Elgin trolley that rolled off the assembly line in 1902. The trolley is currently decked out as it was during WWII, with ads for vintage products and war savings bonds lining the walls.

Jackie Dethloff, the smooth-hitting second baseman for the Comets, explained to me that riding the rails was how the real All-American Girls traveled during the war; not by bus, as the movie *A League of their Own* would have us believe.

The Comets and the Peaches are part of the Vintage Base Ball League, and travel around the country playing their historically accurate style of 1943 baseball. As in 1943, they use a 12" softball and pitch underhand. But this isn't your typical softball league. The ladies were wearing their custom made 1943-vintage uniforms, with short skirt and tunic style top, as well as authentic wool baseball hats (worn over historically accurate hair-styles, I might add). But these ladies aren't here for looks; each one is fiercely competitive, as witnessed by an epic double-steal by the Comets' Rachel Neubauer and Jackie Dethloff.

The Peaches' Nicole Stadie related to me that girls' baseball was fiercely popular during WWII. Contrary to popular belief, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League did not fold when the war was over. Rather, the ladies kept playing well into the 1950's. Nicole explained that it was the popularity of major league games on television that sealed the fate of the girls' league, not the end of the war.



The logo of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, flanked by Rockford Peaches pennants.



This 1940's style trolley car is how the real ballplayers traveled to the stadium during WWII

To be inclusive, reenactors were allowed to play, as well. Mark Miller from the 401st Glider Infantry Regiment proved he could swing the lumber, as did the Marines' Jeremiah Morrow, who went 5 for 8 with three RBI's. Your humble edge editor played center field and catcher—all while wearing class A's.

But the real stars of the show were the ladies themselves. The Peaches' team captain, Rebecca Tulloch, went 5 for 7 *and* pitched. Another Peach, Nicole Stadie, was a stone wall at first base, fishing balls out of the dirt and stretching for the hard outs. Equally impressive was the Comets' infield tandem of second baseman Jackie Dethloff and first baseman Rachel Neubauer. All in all, the “new” All-American Girls Professional Baseball League does justice to the veteran players of World War Two!

The Fox River Trolley Museum could not have been nicer to us reenactors, and are looking at having reenactments every August—so stay tuned! For more information on the Trolley Museum, see www.foxtrolley.org.

To learn more about the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, see www.ww2girlsbaseball.com.



The Comets and the Peaches ride the trolley: Comets manager Nate Stamper (back row); the Comets Rachel Neubauer (Left), Jackie Dethloff (center) and the Peaches Nicole Stadie (right).

Authenticity Notes...The Mustache...

Section four (4) of the authenticity regulations deals with haircuts and facial hair, as well as mustaches. The following is the authenticity regulation for mustaches:

“Mustaches must be trimmed to 1940’s military style (British troops exempt). All mustaches must be trimmed above the upper lip line. It cannot extend past the edge of the mouth more than 1/4 inch and cannot drop down around the corners of the mouth. SS troops may not have any facial hair....”

Remember, we are here to portray the *normal* look of a soldier, not the exception.

Did you know???

Only two US civilians were awarded the Bronze Star Medal. The first was Joe E. Brown, a Hollywood comedian who traveled over 200 thousand miles entertaining troops. The other was famed journalist Ernie Pyle, who was killed in action on the island of Ie Shima in 1945.

Calls for Fall and Winter Events!!!

As you can see from the “Events” page, the listing of events gets shorter and shorter as the summer goes along. If you have a fall or winter event, please notify The Edge so that we can add your event to the listing. The Edge editor can be reached at mattandres@aol.com. THANKS!

Quartermaster Operations on Bataan, 1941-1942

By Matthew Andres, 81st QM Co.

From December of 1941 until May of 1942, American and Filipino forces in the Philippines resisted the Japanese invasion. Conventional history states that it was not so much the martial abilities of the Japanese that lead to the Fil-American defeat, rather it was a combination of starvation and jungle diseases that lead to American capitulation. However, it was not so much the lack of food as the inability to transport what rations they had, that doomed the American and Filipino forces.

To begin, one needs to understand the Army Quartermaster Corp (QMC) definition of “ration.” A ration is the amount of food needed to sustain one soldier for one day. The Army used a tiered ration system which was designed to provide proper calories and nutrition to each soldier. The tiers are described below, in descending order:

Garrison Ration: Garrison rations comprised mostly fresh foods. In other words, the type of meal a soldier would expect to be served in a peacetime mess hall. Through a quirk in the QMC bureaucracy, this same type of ration was renamed Type A Rations when served to soldiers in a field setting.

Type B Ration: This is the same as the Type A Ration, but with the fresh foods being replaced by canned foods. Most soldiers fighting on Bataan would subsist on a drastically reduced calorie B ration diet

Type C Ration: This is the ubiquitous “C Rats” that would serve the Army throughout World War Two, and comprised pre-cooked food in sealed cans. Designed as a field ration, the QMC intended that soldiers not subsist on C rations for more than three days. Despite their almost universal dislike by the common soldier, this field ration was the result of painstaking research by the QMC and the University of Chicago. The C ration was adopted and standardized by the Army on 1 November 1939, well in advance of the Bataan defense.

Type D Ration: The D ration was the replacement for the WWI “iron ration.” The D ration was principally a combination of chocolate and raw oat flour, for a total of 600 calories; a full ration was three bars (1800 calories). The initial D ration bars were made by Hershey’s in 1937, and a shipment of these bars was sent to the Philippine Department for testing. However, no record exists of troops involved in the Bataan defense being issued D Rations. This is especially perplexing given the fact that the Type D Ration bar was standardized in November of 1939—well early enough for the bars to have been shipped in quantity to the American troops in the Philippines.

So, now that the nomenclature of the rations has been explained, it is beneficial to turn to the “types” of troops who were defending Bataan. The overwhelming majority of soldiers fighting in the defense of the Philippines were Filipinos who were part of the Philippine Commonwealth Army (PCA). As a Commonwealth of the USA, the PCA was staffed with Filipino officers and troops, but with American Officers and senior Non-Commissioned Officers as advisors. The PCA was ill-equipped: they wore shorts and tennis shoes, and wore a sun helmet made from shellacked coconut fiber. For weapons, they were issued Great War surplus Model 1917 rifles, which were too long for the Filipino’s small frames. Most of the PCA enlisted men had been called up *after* the Japanese began their attack on the Philippines: December 8th, 1941. Though they were motivated, and many fought with incredible bravery, they lacked the experience and training to defend the Philippines. On the scale of rations, the PCA was supposed to be issued Type B Rations, with the modification that their diet was rice-heavy.

The real backbone of the Bataan defense would be the Philippine Division. A hybrid division, the Philippine Division was mostly made up of Filipino NCO's and troops, called Philippine Scouts, and American officers. Two of the division's Infantry Regiments, the 45th and 57th, were composed thusly. The third Infantry Regiment, the 31st, was an all-white regiment.

The division was officially part of the United States Army, and as such the Scouts were outfitted exactly as American troops—steel M1917a1 helmets, stout leather boots, and M1 “Garand” rifles. Like the PCA troops, the Scouts ate a diet of Type B rations, supplemented heavily by rice. The American officers and 31st Infantry troops were supposed to have received Type C rations, though that idea quickly fell through.

If the Army went through so much effort to feed its troops, how then did the defenders of the Philippines come to be starved into submission? The answer is not that they ran out of food, but that the Quartermasters in the Philippines were unable to transport the rations where they were needed. There is an old saying in the Quartermaster Corps, that supplies are not an asset unless they can be moved to the troops.

In the Philippines, the Quartermasters violated this old saw. They simply lacked mobility; they did not have the truck-heavy QM companies that they would use to positive results in the European and Pacific Theatres. The Philippines lacked an extensive rail system, which was much to the detriment of the QMC, whose experience in WWI lead them to rely heavily on rail movement.

The Philippine Quartermasters did try to adjust, and had planned to move their supplies via confiscated civilian vehicles (and drivers). Their main source of motorized vehicles was the Pampanga Bus Company, the private organization that provided mass transit in the greater Manila area. Reading this plan 70+ years later, and with the addition of hindsight, one can clearly see that colorful busses were no basis for an army transportation system. But at the time, moving troops and supplies via civilian mass transit was the best they could do. The wheels came off the bus, so to speak, as the campaign dragged on. Civilian drivers would desert; the colorful busses were near impossible to camouflage from the Japanese Air Force; and there was no supply of parts to repair broken busses. Adding to the confusion was the front-line officers, who would often confiscate the Quartermaster busses when they would arrive with the daily supply run.



A rare QM photograph in which C-rats actually look appetizing.

As if it were not enough to have the supply system based on civil transport, General MacArthur's change in plans weighed heavily on the Quartermaster's ability to feed the troops. MacArthur's initial plan was to defend Luzon, Philippines on the beaches. But the Japanese landed with almost no opposition. Realizing that his initial plan was faulty, MacArthur invoked War Plan Orange—the retreat to, and defense of, the Bataan peninsula. This decision, more than any other, doomed the Fil-American troops to starvation. Using Pampanga busses, and any other confiscated motor vehicle they came across, the Quartermasters moved the rations to pre-planned distribution points near the beaches. But with the collapse of the beach defenses, the QMC then had to backtrack, retrieve the rations, and move them south onto the Bataan peninsula. This was nearly impossible, as the Quartermaster vehicles became bogged down in the all-to-frequent traffic jams caused by retreating Fil-American troops.

With all the Quartermaster transportation out on the roads, there were no vehicles to evacuate the main Quartermaster stores. At Tarlac and Fort Stotsenburg, post Quartermasters merely handed out supplies to passing troops, to keep them from falling into Japanese hands. Though this was a rational solution, it did create a dis-balanced supply situation, in which some troops had much supplies while others were on the verge of starving. Still, this was better than the Los Banos supply dump, which was never evacuated, and fell into enemy hands (though individual soldiers helped themselves in passing).

As the troops settled into the Bataan peninsula, MacArthur first learned that his supply situation was dire. War Plan Orange called for the feeding of 40 thousand soldiers for 180 days (in theory the length of time it would take for relief to arrive from America). Instead, MacArthur found that he had almost 80 thousand soldiers, and over 25 thousand civilians that needed to be fed. In January, MacArthur ordered his troops to go on half-rations. Among the Scouts, who were living on rice and canned salmon, the ½ rations were not a blow to morale, as they knew they were getting their fair share.

What ½ rations the soldiers received varied by where they were, and when they were issued their rations. Obviously, food was better in the early stages of the Bataan defense than the latter. First Sergeant Joey Juachon of M 3/1st Filipino Regiment related to this writer that he spent almost the entire retreat to Bataan only eating canned salmon. 1SG Juachon had his men put pebbles in the empty cans, and hang them from vines as early warning systems against Japanese infiltration.

As time went on, though, ration issue became catch-as-catch can. In one instance, an artillery battery was surviving on Jello, until their ration truck was destroyed by an air strike. Sugar cane was also popular, especially during the fighting around Abucay Hacienda. Some Scouts were the beneficiaries of a poorly timed Japanese air drop: the Scouts enjoyed the pressed rice cakes, soybean cakes, and an unknown salty pink tablet (that they ate nonetheless). In the end, front line troops just were no longer getting rations; soldiers later recalled shooting monkeys out of trees, and eating pythons when they could be caught.

In the end, however, there was no help coming for the defenders of Bataan. As their food ran out, so did their medicine, and ultimately, their strength. Bataan was surrendered on 9 April 1942, and Corregidor was surrendered in May. The brave Filipino and American soldiers, who had endured so much, would be forced to endure the Bataan Death March, and three long years of captivity. Had the Quartermasters had transportation to properly move supplies, how much longer could Bataan have held out? Certainly not long enough to have altered the course of events.

SHAWN SR UNDBLADE PHOTOGRAPHY



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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



BOOK REVIEWS

O'Donnell, P. (2010). *Into the Rising Sun: World War II's Pacific Veterans Reveal the Heart of Combat*. New York: Free Press.

Into the Rising Sun chronicles the wartime exploits of roughly two dozen specialized soldiers who fought in the Pacific theatre. O'Donnel's book is a classic example of oral history, in that he minimizes his remarks while largely letting the veterans tell their own stories. For fans of WWII special units—Marine Raiders, Army paratroopers and Alamo Scouts—this volume will be well worth its publishing price.

Dash-Moore, D. (2004) *G.I. Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Deborah Dash-Moore's critical study of Jewish soldiers in WWII fills a much needed niche, as few books ever deal with Jewish-American combat soldiers. Dash-Moore does an excellent job chronicling the unique issues facing these soldiers, as they struggle to define themselves both as Jewish and American. If there is one drawback to this book, and a minor one at that, it is that the veterans stories are often overshadowed by Dash-Moore's analysis.

Nordyke, P. (2006). *The All Americans in World War II*. Minneapolis: Zenith Press.

Phil Nordyke is the official historian of the 82nd Airborne Division's 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. It's a job he takes very seriously, as witnessed this great volume. This pictorial history of the division covers the entire span of the war, from the early days in training through to the division's role in the New York City victory parade. Many of these photographs are not to be seen in any other publication. *The All Americans* is essential reading for any Airborne reenactor, and a must for those reenacting the 82nd Airborne Division.

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@worldwartwohrrcolorado.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@worldwartwohrrcolorado.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://worldwartwohrrcolorado.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/halftracks/ 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.

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCKPORT WWII DAYS

DELLWOOD PARK, LOCKPORT , ILLINOIS

9-11 SEPTEMBER

WWW.LOCKPORTWWII.COM

LST 325 WWII DISPLAY

CHESTER, ILLINOIS

16-18 SEPTEMBER 2011

WWW.LST325CHESTERIL.ORG

WWII DAYS AT MIDWAY VILLAGE

MIDWAY VILLAGE, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

22-25 SEPTEMBER

WWW.WW2ROCKFORDEVENT.COM

10TH ANNUAL WALK BACK IN TIME 2011

AUDRAIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEXICO, MISSOURI

23-25 SEPTEMBER

WWW.AUDRAIN.ORG

WWII DAYS AT USHER'S FERRY HISTORIC VILLAGE

USHERS FERRY HISTORIC VILLAGE, CEDAR RAPIDS , IOWA

8 OCTOBER

WWW.416RIFLE REGIMENT.ORG