

THE EDGE

WWII Historical Reenactment Society

FEATURES:

- Not one, not two but **FOUR AAR's!**
- Rationing and the Modern Kitchen
- **Sacrifice on the Steppe Book Review**
- **CAPTION THIS! Photo Contest**

Special Feature

***How to Restore Your
Own Quonset Hut***

VOLUME XXI • ISSUE 2

May - June 2012

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On the cover: "US and British Soldiers wave goodbye as their troop transport leaves the station. (Union 2012(Photo Courtesy: Matthew Crowley Photography

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Check www.worldwartwohrs.org for more information.

The Edge is the official publication of the World War Two Historical Reenactment Society, which is a 501 c(4) non-for-profit corporation registered in the state of Illinois formed for the purpose of preserving and remembering the sacrifice of the men and women in WWII.

FROM THE EDITOR



(Photo by Matthew Crowley Photography)

Memorial Day came and went, many of us were involved in parades, public displays, reenactments and most important of all in what we try to do best, honoring our veterans.

We also very quickly progressed into the reenacting season, with so many great events, some of us never had to even unload the car, since for those willing to, an event was available each weekend. This is why it took so long to get the issue out, since there was an event each weekend, it was a lot of work to compound everything together and send it out before the urge came to add yet another event to this issue. For this I sincerely apologies.

Besides the plenty of After Action Reports, we also bring you an amazing article on the restoration of a Quonsnet hut, that looks absolutely stunning after all the hard work done to it. We also begin to add the book reviews so that you can start compiling the long reading list for the cold winter evening. And if you happen to be hungry on those nights, we also are starting a little section on...cooking. That is right, now you can cook yourself or your comrades at reenactments or at home some delicious WWII treats, so start putting that cook impression together. Finally as a dessert we begin our monthly "Caption This!" contest.

Stay safe and have FUN!

Michael Kaczorowski
Editor in Chief

HRS CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

File Number

6264-192-4



To all to whom these Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

I, Jesse White, Secretary of State of the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that

WORLD WAR TWO HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY, A DOMESTIC CORPORATION, INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE ON JANUARY 22, 2003, APPEARS TO HAVE COMPLIED WITH ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ACT OF THIS STATE, AND AS OF THIS DATE, IS IN GOOD STANDING AS A DOMESTIC CORPORATION IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.



Authentication #: 1215007614

Authenticate at: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com>

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto set
my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of
the State of Illinois, this 29TH
day of MAY A.D. 2012 .*

Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

AAR: LOWELL 2012

Text by: Jeff Skender and Mike Kaczorowski
Photos by: Jeff Skender



On May 5 and 6, 2012 Units from HRS came together to put on one heck of a great public show in Lowell, Indiana. This annual event is hosted by the Indiana's Lake County Park District at Buckley Homestead living history farm. This farm normally features historic traditions, culture and heritage of farming life during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Where visitors learn about history or reminisce about their own childhood memories. The focal point of Buckley Homestead is the Bank Barn, so named because it is built into the side of the hill. This 1916 barn, granary, milk house, hog barn, and hired hands house are an ideal setting for an HRS WW2 re-enactment.



AAR: LOWELL 2012



Melissa Lenczewski: a member of the 2629th WAC Battalion is one of the first to arrive at Buckley Homestead. The 2629th was a Co-Host of this event. They setup registration and the USO show, and a bunch of other stuff. The women of the 2629 always do a great job ! Thanks!



Hundreds of extremely skilled reenactors come out to this event every year and bring outstanding collections of equipment. It gets a bit hectic when the public arrives in everyone's camps. My favorite time to tour the camps is at dawn, before the public arrives. You can truly feel like you have taken a step back in time. While most focus on the Battle reenactment ... the true nature of all the efforts put into this event by the reenactors can be seen in the camps.



German 709th Infanterie Division Camp

AAR: LOWELL 2012



Event Co-Host: US 9th Infantry Division Camp



Jon Finch sleeping in the Russian 95th Rifles Camp



Russian 95th Rifles



5th SS Wiking

AAR: LOWELL 2012



5th SS Wiking Motor Team at Rest and in Action



AAR: LOWELL 2012



S&A Saturday Morning





At the Safety and Authenticity Inspection: Doug Loge with 709th Infantry Division coins the term “Filthy Fifth” for 5th Kompanie GrossDeutschland. 5th Kompanie has set the standard for the muddy Russian front look and quickly accepted the “Filthy Fifth” designation.

The Main Battlefield / Battle

This is the stage where HRS Reenactors really shine and put on an awesome public display. This show was great from any viewpoint and what the public saw from the sideline depended upon where they were at. Hundreds of cameras started to snap away as the men take to the field. Video of this battle appeared on the internet a day later. As I stand with our audience, I get to hear their comments, I often hear: Oh my... and Wow... and Look at that.



AAR: LOWELL 2012



AAR: LOWELL 2012



The realism of the battle is superb. Each reenactor does a great job.



AAR: LOWELL 2012



5th SS Wiking's Panzershreck takes on the 70th Tank Battalion Stewart Tank.



AAR: LOWELL 2012

*Note by Mike Kaczorowski

Sadly, this years Lowell was also the last one for the foreseeable future. In an e-mail that was sent to all reenactors who attended Lowell the Buckley Homestead staff wrote:

As you are likely aware the purpose of the Buckley WWII Tribute was to acknowledge and honor our WWII veterans. Over time, our veterans are either no longer with us or they are finding it very difficult to get to the park site. After a great deal of evaluation, it has been decided that the Lake County Parks will honor our Greatest Generation at a different function in a climate controlled, handicapped accessible facility at one of our other parks in the future.

While we understand the value of historical reenactments here at our living history farm, we no longer have the resources to continue the WWII Tribute at Buckley Homestead. It has been a wonderful and rewarding experience for us during the 15 years of the program. We appreciate the hard work and support from each of you and the many hosts and coordinators over the years.

On behalf of our park board, park staff, and volunteers, thank you.

Even though the event for now is cancelled, we should not be sad, we had some great years at Lowell, and we have so many other smaller events that are with each year gaining more public and spectators that before we know it there will be a replacement for Lowell. And we still have Rockford to look forward to this year, which always brings crowds.

AAR: Union 2012

Text by: Jeff Skender and Mike Kaczorowski
Photos by: Jeff Skender

Choo-choo! Goes the train...but not any train, that is troop transport heading to the North Platte Canteen, which is stocked up on corn balls, cakes, muffins, lemonade, soda, bubble gum and plenty of kisses from the pretty girls waiting for the soldiers. When I wrote this description I thought that it might fit better the end of the report rather than the beginning, a beautiful scene of GI's being treated kindly and warmly by strangers that never met them, but for whose freedom they fought. I thought it would sum up the event quite nicely, but then everyone would forget about other things that happened at Union, even with smaller numbers compared to previous years.

Union was filled with variety for all kinds of reenactors, there was place for public display, there was time for a skit, a battle and there was time to get your tickets checked by the Reichsbahn police. Everyone could do something that they liked. Saturday night was nice and quiet with a movie being shown which was "Bringing up Baby" which perhaps made some of the hardened military buffs cringe, but finally the civilian reenactors and those who enjoy the culture of the 1940's could thoroughly enjoy, funny enough after a few crazy stunts by Katherine Hepburn on scree the hardened military buffs began to slowly complain less and less until they started laughing with the rest of those watching it.

The event allowed the reenactors to really interact with each other and get to know each other better, especially since the Canteen skit was open to all, German or Allied. Overall it was a nice event, which hopefully will continue, giving the civilians a bit more space to play and also allow to those only reenacting the military side of the hobby to become more acquainted with the culture and civilian life that also hugely impacted the soldiers on both sides.



AAR: Union 2012



AAR: Union 2012



Photo Courtesy (Matthew Crowley Photography)



Photo Courtesy (Matthew Crowley Photography)

AAR: Union 2012



Photo Courtesy (Matthew Crowley Photography)



Photo Courtesy (Matthew Crowley Photography)

AAR: Farmington WWII Days

Photos by: Heather Rae - Moments of Magic

The third week of May (May 19 – 20, 2012), a small village becomes a bustling WWII sight. Armed Forces Day WWII Weekend is held at Dakota City Heritage Village (www.dakotacity.org) about 30 minutes south of the Twin Cities in Farmington, MN. The Corp of Engineers set up in and around the library. The Panzer Divisions spread out on the opposite side of town near the school. In the millenary the ladies are doing what they can for the home front. In and around all the buildings you will find Soviets, Germans, Canadians, British, Irish, and American troops with vehicles and camps. The train depot becomes a battleground several times throughout the weekend. All are welcome for the weekend!

There are 31 different re-enactor groups (22 Allies and 9 Axis) that participated in the 2012 event representing the Americans, British, Canadians, Germans, Irish, Japanese, and the Soviets. The American re-enactors portrayed the Army, Army Air Corp, Navy, and Marines. Dozens of military vehicles could be seen moving about the site including a 1942 Sherman tank, jeeps, trucks, American and German half-tracks, multiple motorcycles, Soviet armored vehicles, and WWII era tractors and fire engines.



AAR: Farmington WWII Days



AAR: Farmington WWII Days



AAR: Farmington WWII Days



Gallery: Peoria 2012



AAR: Peoria 2012



How To Restore a Quonset Hut

HOW TO RESTORE A QUONSET HUT (ONE HISTORICAL HUT AT A TIME)

Todd Hintz

In 1940 America was already gearing up for the world war that many knew was just around the corner. Our army grew from 174,000 officers and men before the war to 8,300,000 men and women in 1945. Overall, the armed forces of the United States had over 12 million people in uniform.

Along with the massive expansion in the forces came an equally great explosion in the number of bases at home and around the world. As part of the Lend/Lease program the United States suddenly found itself with dozens of new bases that needed to be rapidly expanded for the coming war. Plus all the new soldiers being inducted into the services needed places to train, live, and work. Many of the sites for bases were in remote areas of the world, such as the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, South Pacific Islands, and North Africa. Great Britain didn't have the excess raw materials or production capacity to supply their own needs as well as America's and in many cases there weren't building materials nearby that could be used to make quick and cheap housing.

It was with these pressing needs in mind that the Quonset hut was born. On March 30, 1941 the government expanded an existing contract covering base construction to design and build a hut that was to be durable, able to withstand a sustained 200 MPH hurricane, usable in any climate, and easily erected and dismantled. And the first huts were to be shipped by June 1—an incredibly short time to design a new product!

With just 30 days to work with, the designers at Fuller & Scott got to work. Starting with the British Nessien hut as a basis, the engineering team had the first portion of a factory built and operational in just nine days and a prototype hut complete only a few weeks later. Based at the Quonset Point Naval Station in Rhode Island, the facility lent its name to the huts. It was a marvelous feat of ingenuity and work ethic that was common to the men and women of the time who were used to the sacrifices of the Great Depression.

In all there were 153,000 Quonset huts built during the war in 41 different configurations. Customization kits were shipped to make hospitals, barber shops, repair depots, and warehouses, just to name a few.

After the war there were millions of GIs mustering out of the Army, looking forward to getting married, start families, and jump start their careers that had been interrupted by the global war. Even before WWII started there was an acute housing shortage due to the Depression, which curtailed construction in the housing market. Once again the Quonset hut stepped up to get the job done. The government had thousands of the buildings on its hands that it no longer needed, so it shipped them off to municipalities to set up for use by their burgeoning populations.

How To Restore a Quonset Hut



(Photo compliments of the Olmstead County Historical Society)

Fast forward to 2009. Our group tore down a hut in the 1990s that was last used as a gas station. The end of the ribs though were in tough shape and many of the parts would have to be sacrificed to the Gods of Rust. A farmer approached us at a show and said a neighbor has three of the huts and may be willing to give them up for the cause. Two were in tough shape and had been blown off their foundations, but the third one was still fully intact and perfect. We talked to the farmer and struck a deal. We could have all three for free, but we had to take the two bad ones first.

We went to work that fall and pulled down the worst of the bunch and hauled the parts back to a buddy's shop. Over the winter the crew got together a couple of weekends a month to hammer out dents, scrape old mastic off, and weld new ends onto the ribs to make whole ones. By spring we had enough good parts to put up a 40' hut. But who wants a Quonset hut erected in their back yard? That part was surprisingly easy.



How To Restore a Quonset Hut

Just a couple of miles down the road from the shop was a farmer who had several side businesses, one of which was building demolition and moving. Twenty years ago he started with an 1850s Norwegian immigrant log cabin that a client wanted torn down. Rather than demolition the cabin he carefully disassembled it and brought it back to his farm and restored it, much like our little hut. Now he's up to about 40 buildings, from gas stations to town halls, train stations, churches, saw mill, power generator, black smith, and on and on. There's even a 1/3 scale spiral bridge over a pond, fashioned after one that used to span the Mississippi nearby in the early 20th century.



It didn't take much to persuade him to not only give us a spot to build on, but also provide a foundation and electrical hookup. At the end of July he opens the place up and holds a tractor show that attracts people by the thousands. Restorers come from all over the area to show off their beautiful tractors, from 1923 John Deeres to 1967 International Harvester to Allis Chalmers models. We had to live up to that standard and get our hut up in by mid July, no short order considering we're just a bunch of volunteers doing this on occasional weekends as the Commander In Chief (pronounced "wife") permits.

Some work was hired out, such as electrical hookup and sandblasting and painting the exterior. But most of the labor and hardware were donated by our volunteers and local businesses. We did have to buy some material, such as insulation, Masonite, caulk, and nails. In all the project ran a couple of thousand dollars for materials. We got the building finished just in time for the show, which was a mob scene thanks to a venerated 1950s era drive-in that was restored just across the street from our hut.

How To Restore a Quonset Hut

As an added bonus we found a board with an address on it during demolition. Even the packing crates were used for the hut construction and ours was no exception. The address was for the mayor of Rochester, Minnesota, Paul A. Grassle. Mr. Grassle was mayor from 1939 to 1947, placing this hut squarely in the hectic post war period. A little research at the county historical society showed that Rochester gave the huts to the Mayo Clinic to house doctors who were going through their training program. Articles from the late '60s mentioned that the buildings were sold off, many ending up with local farmers to use for hired hands and migrant workers.

We not only had a piece of history, but also the provenance to prove its transformation from the Army to municipality to farmstead. As a reenactor and historian it doesn't get any better than this!



How To Restore a Quonset Hut

As of spring 2012 we've got the other two huts torn down and plan to assemble them next to the first one if we can put together enough good parts for more 40' huts. The last good one had an intact floor grid and channel for holding the rib in place, even if some of the parts are pretty rusty. As if that isn't



enough to keep us going for another five years, we also have a lead on a medium sized hut that would have been used as a warehouse or repair facility. The owner has seen our work at the village and is happy to donate his hut to the cause. At 45' x 70' though I think we'll line up some donors and hire a professional crew to do the disassembly and reconstruction work. We'll tackle rehabbing the parts, but it'll take someone with cherry pickers to get high enough to get at the nuts and bolts near the peak.

Yes, it helps to be a little crazy to take on a project like this. If you find a hut in your area that you can't bear to watch rust away into oblivion drop me a note and I'll be happy to share our collective information, from tool lists to construction materials and assembly plans.

I've also got my eye on one of the huge warehouse model hut, big enough to get single engine aircraft into them. There's one in south Minneapolis that was thrown up in 1943 and used as factory space during the war. The current owner uses it for his moving and storage business, but by the time we're done with the others he may be ready to retire and give it up. Who know what will happen when you start talking to people!

How To Restore a Quonset Hut



Thanks to everyone who worked on this project, of which there were about thirty—too numerous to mention individually here. I would like to single out our intrepid leader though, Harold Bottolfson. Without his steadfast leadership this project would never have seen the light of day.

Camp Hastings Museum:

www.camphastingsmuseum.org

117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division

<http://home.comcast.net/~30thhrs/>

105th Engineer Combat Battalion, 30th Infantry Division

www.105th.org

And my numerous sisters, brothers, in-laws, nieces, and nephews who pitched in. Thank you!

And for those who were masochistic enough to read all the way to the end of the article, here's a special treat: a time lapse of our 2012 hut teardown.

<http://tinyurl.com/7oeyubv>

HRS Announcement: Poland 1939 Event

POLAND UNDER ATTACK!

POLACY DO BOJU!

Red Army forces ATTACK Poland!
Красной Армии напасть на Польшу!
"Agresja Sowietcka na Polske"

POLAND 1939 8TH ANNUAL EVENT

LONGMONT, COLORADO

SEP 22, 2012

FEE -NONE

RSVP: CDR@WORLDWARTWOHRSCOLORADO.COM

SPONSORED BY: COLORADO CHAPTER - W.W. II H.R.S. &

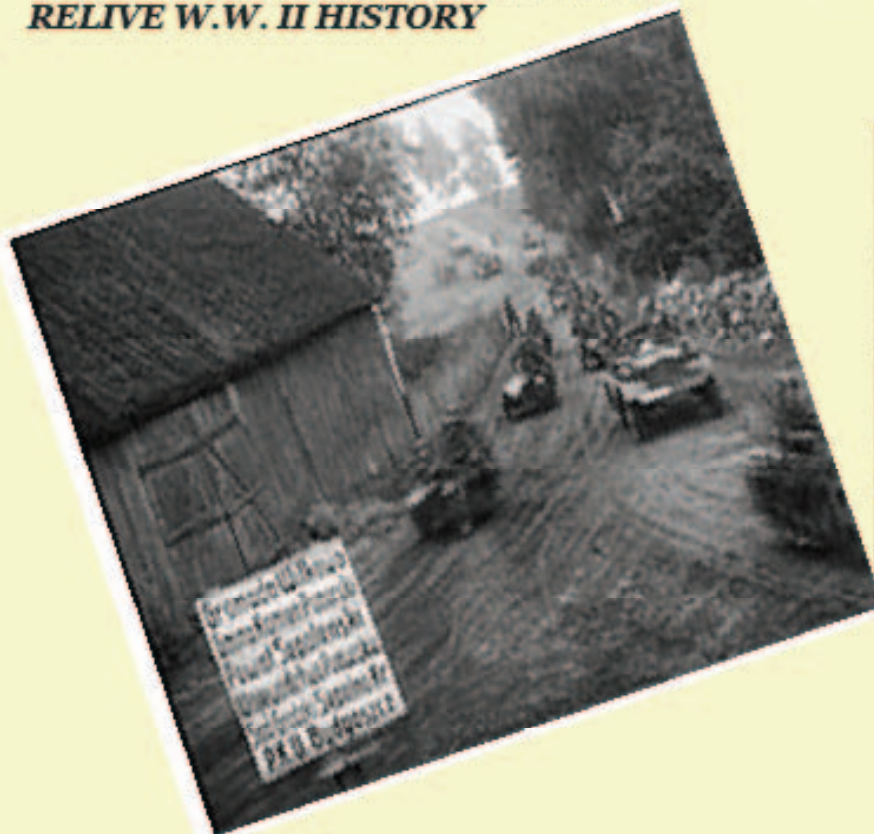
12TH PODOLIAN LANCERS, 3RD CARPATHIAN DIVISION

TO LEARN MORE, EMAIL: cdr@worldwartwohrrscolorado.com

RELIVE W.W. II HISTORY



Водать руку помощи братским народам
Западной Украины и Западной Белоруссии
наша священная обязанность!



12TH PODOLIAN LANCERS, 3RD CARPATHIAN DIVISION
"Guarding the Polish border"



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

HRS Announcement: Poland 1939 Event

Event Name: "POLAND 1939 – "POLAND UNDER ATTACK" **Location:** Longmont, Colorado **Date(s):** 22 SEP, 2012

Event Time(s): (SAT – 1000 hrs – 1700 hrs)

Pre-Registration: Beginning June 1 and ending September 10, 2012.

Registration Times: For pre-registered participants ONLY:

Gate 01 Open/Close Times:

Saturday 22 SEP - OPEN 0700 hrs - CLOSE 0900 hrs. OPEN 1800 hrs for departure from tactical site

*Unit CO's - please e-mail participant information to (cdr@worldwartwohrrcolorado.com)

Event Fee: None

Website: (<http://worldwartwohrrcolorado.com>) for announcement and forms. Map: You may use Google Earth link (www.googleearth.com) and type in Longmont Colorado to get a map.

Directions: From I-25 and Hwy 119 (Exit-240). Go west 1 mile to County Road 7 Stop Light. Turn left on County Road 7. Now head south one-half mile or so on County Road 7 to County Road 20 1/2. From County Road 20 1/2, turn right. Now head West on County Road 20 1/2 for one-half mile. Look for land mark on left Gravel Pit. Entrance to 2012 Mountain States Regional is on the right side. Look for signs. Follow the dirt road to gate #1. Continue to Gate #2. Follow road and cross the river bed to maneuver site.

☑ Check in will be at the entrance at Gate 01. Times as noted above/under Registration Times. Each belligerent nation reenacting group will be allocated a different location for setting up respective camp. Event coordination will take place centrally at a designated and clearly marked area.

Authenticity Notes: 1939 era uniforms/equipment/vehicles/armor ONLY. Eastern Front German / Polish / Russian impressions ONLY. Males and females welcome. No post-1939 stuff allowed. ALL H.R.S. By-Laws, Rules for Safety and Authenticity, appearance standards apply, and are in effect. *Rules of Engagement will be provided upon arrival to all participants. Period vehicle operators will provide proof of a valid operator's license upon request. A copy of valid Auto Liability Insurance to be kept on vehicle. All vehicles will have a DOT approved and operational fire extinguisher on board. NOTE – No factory manufactured camouflage uniforms or items allowed. Natural and ad hoc camouflage is allowed.

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: (Vehicles) NO post 1939 allowed. Modified to look 1939 or earlier is allowed.

Items: Landowner rules prohibit - ALCOHOL/Substances of any kind. LIVE ammunition of any kind. Pyrotechnics of any kind. No pets! No flares. **Blank firing weapons** – MUST be of 1939 vintage or before; or visually modified to represent same

Other restrictions:

1. AMMUNITION - Blank ammunition ONLY will be allowed. ALL participants and vehicles entering the maneuver area are subject to personal and vehicular search.

2. EXPLOSIVES/SMOKE

a. PYROTECHNICS – NOT allowed.

b. Smoke – NOT allowed.

c. Live Flares – NOT allowed.

d. Grenade Simulators – NOT allowed.

e. ATF Form 20 - 5320.20 Application to Transport NFA Firearms in effect- A copy of the Application to Transport Interstate or to Temporarily Export Certain National Firearms Act (NFA) Firearms MUST be presented when you sign in. The address is: 10477 Weld County Road 7, Longmont, Colorado 80504

Motels: There are many other hotels/motels outside the maneuver area and can be easily found along Hwy 119, and directly off of I-25 Exit 240. Below are listed a few of these locations: Food/Dining (located off of Hwy 119 headed west)

Other: *NOTE: Tactical maneuver area is private property and therefore is subject to cancellation based on landowner requirements. If this occurs, notices will be posted immediately to all known websites where the announcement was made.

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

1) Colorado Chapter, WW II H.R.S.: 5.SS-DIVISION WIKING "reenacted"; CO B, 15th RGT, 3d Infantry Division (US); STRAFBAT No.5 (Russian Impression Unit Forming since 2011 in Colorado)

2) 12th PODOLIAN LANCERS, 3RD CARPATHIAN DIVISION -"reenacted," WW II Living History Regiment

POC: Rey Ramirez - E-mail: cdr@worldwartwohrrcolorado.com

Rationing in the Modern Kitchen

Rationing and the Modern Kitchen
by Alexia Thoms

Rationing was introduced in Great Britain in January of 1940, with bacon, ham, sugar, and butter as the first to go. By March of the same year, all meat was rationed, and in July, tea, cooking fat, cheese, and margarine were added to the list. By July of 1942, when America was only six months into WWII, jam, treacle, syrup, marmalade, and sweets were rationed and milk and egg distribution was controlled. The rations allotments were very slim, with eggs going down to one egg every two weeks at one point and cheese often varied between 2 and 8 ounces per week. The Britons were forced to get creative with their meals, and recipes such as Woolton Pie, Oatmeal Soup, and Eggless Sponge Cake came about.

I tested the famous rationing recipe of Woolton Pie. The recipe came from *The Victory Cookbook*, a compilation of the wartime cookbooks *We'll Eat Again*, *The Victory Cookbook*, and *Post-War Kitchen*, obtained at the Imperial War Museum. I'm really not sure why I volunteered to do this, as I am a disaster in the kitchen. But, off I went, bolstered by the belief that the food of the war years can still make a good showing today, either in its original state or in a more modernized capacity.

Woolton Pie, named after the Minister of Food, Lord Woolton, is a flexible recipe, allowing for whatever ingredients are available at the time. The recipe is as follows:

"Dice and cook about 1 lb of each of the following in salted water: potatoes (you could use parsnips if topping the pie with mashed potatoes), cauliflower, swedes, carrots—you could add turnips too. Strain but keep $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of the vegetable water. Arrange the vegetables in a large pie dish or casserole. Add a little vegetable extract and about 1 oz rolled oats or oatmeal to the vegetable liquid. Cook until thickened and pour over the vegetables; add 3-4 chopped spring onions. Top with Potato Pastry or with mashed potatoes and a very little grated cheese and heat in the centre of a moderately hot oven until golden brown. Serve with brown gravy. This is at its best with tender young vegetables."



Rationing in the Modern Kitchen



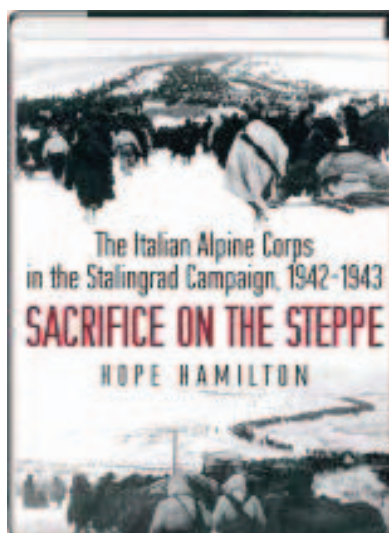
I discovered, after consulting a dictionary, that a “swede” in this case is a rutabaga, not a native of Sweden. I used cauliflower, parsnips, and carrots in my pie, with a mashed potato crust. The parsnips seemed overpower the dish when it was right out of the oven. After chilling and reheating, the parsnips were much more mild. All the same, if I were to make this dish again, I would use rutabaga rather than parsnips (mere personal preference). I had trouble with the vegetable liquid, as it did not want to thicken. I am not sure if this was because I did not let it thicken long enough or because I did not add the vegetable extract. Probably a combination of the two. I discovered this omission after I had put the pie in the oven, so it was too late to make the fix.

Overall, I think that Woolton Pie is:

1. A dish that could be well-executed by a more seasoned chef,
2. A dish I will attempt again, and
3. One that I would not mind seeing as a regular on the dinner table with a few non-rationing tweaks (namely adding some beef or chicken into the mix).

BOOK REVIEW: Sacrifice on the Steppe

READING LIST BOOK REVIEW



I need several thousand dead to be able to take my place at the peace table,"

Benito Mussolini, 1940

SACRIFICE ON THE STEPPE

Written by Hope Hamilton

Publisher: Casemate Publishers

ISBN 978-1-61200-013-8

Print list price: \$32.95.

Amazon Price: \$9.99

Pages: 324 plus Notes & Bibliography

Reviewer: Rey Ramirez rates this book at 5-stars ★★★★★

The Book: This is the story of the three Italian 8th Army Alpini divisions who were told they would be used in mountainous terrain, but found themselves on the open expanses of the Russian steppes. When the German Sixth Army advanced to Stalingrad in 1942, its flanks were mainly held by its allied armies—Romanians, Italians and Hungarians. These flanks caved in before a massive Red Army counteroffensive, but one Axis unit held out to the very end—the Italian Alpini Corps.

In 1941, Italy's land army relied primarily on war materiele from 1915-18. This materiele of

arms, tanks and artillery was woefully inadequate for the kind of war being fought in Russia of 1941. Such a war required rapid mobility, tanks and modern weaponry; as well as tactical coordination between the various services of the military. When Benito Mussolini sent 62,000 Italian troops to Russia; he worried only that they might not arrive in time to join the triumphant German victory. Mussolini sent the best Army divisions he had at the time; but they lacked even the trucks to transport themselves. Rather, his troops marched on foot in low shoes with puttees. These marching shoes wore out immediately, being so thin the troops called them ballerina shoes. Armed with a carcano Modello-91 6x52mm bolt action rifle, there was hardly an automatic weapon available to the infantryman, and they could not match the Russians armed with automatic weapons. What automatic weapons the Italian infantryman had functioned poorly, especially in the cold. Their M-13 tanks were described as sardine cans, being so thinly armored. Their Air Force? At just around 63 aircraft - amounted to nothing.

In 1942, Mussolini decided nevertheless to send in 10 divisions. When his Generals cautioned him against sending more troops, he said: *"At the table of peace, the 200,000 soldiers of the 8th Italian Army will weigh a lot more than the 62,000 of 1941."* Thus., the sacrifice of over 200,000 Italian troops on the frozen steppes of Russia on the Don bend.

The Author: In *Sacrifice on the Steppe*, Hope Hamilton, a

descendant of two Uncles who fought in Russia, tells the story of how the elite *Alpini* Corps fought until becoming isolated, and tried to fight its way through both Russian encirclement and brutal winter conditions. Only one of the three Alpine divisions escaped destruction¹ to rejoin the Axis front.

My Recommendation: Whilst there are volumes upon volumes of perspectives written about the eastern front from the German and Russian points of view abound, little is written in English about the Italian perspective of WW II. This book further details the prison camps and the outright starvation en masse, as experienced by the Italian POWs. Of note – German soldiers captured were typically shot out-of-hand and were sought out amongst the Italian POWs for outright execution. This book is filled with many personal accounts, maps, and original photographs from the participants themselves.

"Read this book and learn about the events and battles that knocked Italy out of the war on the eastern front."

Rey Ramirez
W.W. II H.R.S.
5.SS-DIV WIKING "reenacted"
Commanding

¹ The three Italian Alpini Divisions were the Tridentina, Julia and the Cuneense. The division which not only led the breakout, but also managed to escape and survive was the Tridentina Division. The other two, whilst having some survivors escape capture, were largely destroyed.

Board Meeting Minutes: February, 2012

Board Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2012

The Meeting was called to Order at 7:45 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Position	Name	Present
President:	David Jameson	
Vice President:	Jonathan Stevens	Yes
Treasurer:	Charles Gallagher	
Secretary:	Ronald J Kapustka	Yes
Allied Representative:	Bill Sheets	Yes
Commonwealth Rep:	Bryce Seyko	Yes
Axis Representative:	Rich Russo	
Newsletter Editor:		

Unit CO's and Members Attending:

Alan Jones

Carlos Ramirez

Sherry Atchinson

Scott Atchinson

Rey Ramirez

The minutes for January, 2012 were not ready and the reading of same was tabled.

Old Business:

Regional Event Requested Funds: Rockford reimbursement. Tabled as to whether the funds were sent out.

Scholarship Funds: Payout issue tabled.

Online membership Process: Membership Form is ready and will be sent out tonight. Pay Pal option tabled until the e-mail address and the bank accounts are able to be connected to a Pay Pal account. The issue as to whether PayPal was anti-Second Amendment was brought up.

RJK to look into Bid Pay as a possible alternative if Pay Pal does not work.

PAHA: There may be new information on this, but the issue will be tabled at this time.

New Business:

Unit Charters:

New charters:

SS Gebirgsjaeger Rgt. 12: This Charter is at the S&A Committee for discussion.

3rd Inf Div, 15th Regiment, Company B: Carlos and Rey Ramirez spoke about the history of the Unit, the vehicles they have, parades. Battles, displays, etc, that have been attended by the Unit. Audie Murphy was also part of this Unit and the Unit still exists today. They have several Jeeps, 3 CCKW's, 2 ambulances, 2 half-tracks, a mortar. They have ten members in the Unit. This Charter will be forwarded to the S&A Committee for discussion.

Defunct Units:

1st Airborne Recce Squadron: They have not answered any e-mails and had one member in 2011,

Board Meeting Minutes: February, 2012

none for 2012 yet. Bryce motioned to disband which was seconded by Bill Sheets. A vote was taken and the Unit was disbanded.

Final Charter Approval:

326th Airborne Medical Company: There has been no communication back from the Unit Commander on a few questions so this vote will be tabled.

36th Armored Inf, 3rd Arm Div: Approval of this Charter was motioned by Bryce and seconded by Bill Sheets. The Charter was approved by the Board.

Officers Reports:

Treasurer Report: Tabled

Secretary Report: 1059 members for 2011. 2012 Application Forms are out. We have 79 Applications in as of today for 2012.

Commonwealth Rep Report: No Report.

Allied Rep Report: Bill Sheets spoke with a 5th Rangers group (Andy Burgess) who are with the old TSG and are looking to join the HRS. Bill will stay in touch with them.

Axis Rep Report: Tabled

Edge Report: Two people have responded that they are interested in working on The Edge. It is believed that this position will be filled by the next board meeting, possibly by the two of them working together.

Committee Reports:

S&A: Committee working on several Charters.

Unit Commanders: We need to make sure that all CO's are on the E-mail distribution group.

Event Support Form Update: This form is on the website and was sent out to all CO's. We have received two requests so far, but both need more information provided. One was a tactical in June in Colorado and an event in Lansing, Illinois. Lowell is also rumored to be sending one in as well as the Yorkville event.

Insurance Update: The insurance premium went up a bit from 2011, but it was renewed for 2012.

Open Comments:

No comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes: March, 2012

Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2012

ROLL CALL:

Position	Name	Present
President:	David Jameson	Yes
Vice President:	Jonathan Stevens	Yes
Treasurer:	Charles Gallagher	Yes
Secretary:	Ronald J Kapustka	Yes
Allied Representative:	Bill Sheets	Yes
Commonwealth Rep:	Bryce Seyko	Yes
Axis Representative:	Rich Russo	
Newsletter Editor:		

Unit CO's and Members Attending:

Alan Jones
Carlos Ramirez
Rey Ramirez
Yuri Soroka
Joe Carr
George Rayke
Andrew Burgess
Steve Williams

The minutes for January, 2012 and February, 2012 were read and approved. A Motion to approve was made by RJK and seconded by David. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved. Bill Sheets motioned to approve and seconded by Jonathan. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Regional Event Requested Funds: Three new requests, Lowell, Colorado Event and Lansing Event. Requests will be sent out by Jonathan to the Board. Tabled for now.

Scholarship Funds: The funds were paid out.

Online membership Process: Nothing new. Jonathan saw something on the PNC website regarding accepting payments on-line.

PAHA There is no new information on this. David Jameson spoke to the HRS attorney who advised that the documents sent were not our documents.

Board Meeting Minutes: March, 2012

New Business

Unit Charters

New charters:

5th Ranger: Their Charter was passed by the S&A Committee. Andrew Burgess discussed their Unit, which has been together with the TSG since 1998. Unit has 2 Jeeps, 1 .30 cal. mg and 19 members. Charter was vote upon. Motion made to accept and seconded. A vote was taken and the Charter was accepted as a Probationary Charter.

3rd Inf Div, 15th Rgt: This Charter is in discussion with the S&A Committee. One issue is the approval of the wearing of jump boots by the Unit. A discussion was held by Rey Ramirez in furtherance of the wearing of jump boots. Several resources were referenced. Alan Jones weighed in with regard to the wearing of jump boots as well. Carlos Ramirez also held a short discussion. The Charter will remain in the S&A Committee for now.

B/1/5 USMC: That Charter will be forwarded to the S&A Committee for now.

40th Guards Rifle Division: That Charter will be forwarded to the S&A Committee for now.

Defunct Units:

19 Volksturm, II. Kompanie This Unit has been hanging on for over two years. A motion which was seconded. A vote was taken and the Unit has been disbanded.

29th Inf Div, 116th Rgt. There has been no contact with this Unit. Bill Sheets and Jonathan will try one last time. Issue tabled for now.

Final Charter Approval:

326th Airborne Medical Company There has been no contact with the Unit CO Stephen Ritchey for awhile. There were 5 members last year. This issue will be tabled for now.

Officers Reports:

Treasurer Report: The funds have been transferred from Chase to PNC. Funds are still in both accounts and a full report will be forthcoming later this week.

Secretary Report: We have 350 Applications in as of today for 2012. Cards laminated, envelopes done, need to buy 500 stamps.

Commonwealth Rep Report: No Report

Allied Rep Report: 10th Mountain finishing up their Application for the HRS.

Axis Rep Report: No Report

Edge Report: – The two volunteers have not yet been pinned down. No Report at this time.

Committee Reports:

S&A Working on two Charters.

Unit Commanders Tim Scherer's Unit has been asked to provide Honor Guards at veterans funerals.

Event Support Form Update Form on the website.

Insurance Update No change except the cost of Units to have the Event as an Additional Insured. The cost went from \$25.00 to \$60.00. The Request should be made at least 60 days prior to the Event.

Open Comments

No comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Board Meeting Minutes: April, 2012

Board Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2012

ROLL CALL:

Position	Name	Present
President:	David Jameson	YES
Vice President:	Jonathan Stevens	YES
Treasurer:	Charles Gallagher	NO
Secretary:	Ronald J Kapustka	YES
Allied Representative:	Bill Sheets	YES
Commonwealth Rep:	Bryce Seyko	YES
Axis Representative:	Rich Russo	YES
Newsletter Editors:	Mike Kaczorowski	YES
	Jeff Skender	NO

Unit CO's and Members Attending:

Alan Jones	Scott Bacon
Carlos Ramirez	Scott Atchinson
Rey Ramirez	Mike Kaczorowski
Dan Davidson	
Jeff Blazer	
Frank DeBartolo	
Bill Ricci	
Tim Scherer	
Ed Godi	
Vito Abbinante	
Yuri Soroka	
Yarow Howski	
Doug Loge	
Kyle	
Phil Lauricella	

The minutes for March, 2012 were read and approved. A Motion to approve was made by Bill Sheets and seconded by Ron Kapustka. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Regional Event Requested Funds: Three new requests, Lowell; Dakota City, MN; Colorado Event and Lansing Event. Requests were sent out by Jonathan to the Board. This was to be a request for REGIONAL events. The intent was to have four (4) Regional Events, not necessarily to fund any and all events. A lengthy discussion was held with regard to the funding of events. The Board will further discuss this issue and come up with guidelines for the future funding of events. The issue will also be put to the Unit Commanders for input.

Board Meeting Minutes: April, 2012

Rockford reimbursement – not completed. Charlie needs to be contacted with regard to this issue.

Scholarship Funds: payout – not completed. Charlie needs to be contacted with regard to this issue.

Streamlining Membership Process: Tabled until June/July.

PAHA: Nothing new at this time.

New Business

Unit Charters

New charters:

3rd Inf Div, 15th Rgt: Their Charter is still in the S&A Committee. Jonathan has received further information from the Unit which has to be forwarded to the Committee to review. Tabled for now.

B/1/5 USMC: Frank DeBartolo, reported that their Charter was changed to A, rather than B. This Unit passed the S&A Committee. Frank discussed their Unit and the reasons they chose this Unit, including the fact that his grandfather was in this Unit. They will also be adding an MP section to their Charter in the future in order to assist the HRS with security duties. The Charter was voted on and approved. The Charter was approved by the Board and they were accepted as a Probationary Unit in the HRS.

40th Guards Rifle Division: Yarow Howski, discussed his Unit and the reasons they are proceeding with this Charter. Their membership are located in the Northern Illinois area and are portraying the standard Infantry unit on the Eastern Front and intend to branch out to the cultural aspects of the unit, such as singing and dancing. Jonathan asked that they define their Charter down to a company level as the HRS does not charter whole divisions. The Charter is still in S&A. This Unit is still in the old TSG and are looking to make the move to the HRS. Questions were submitted to Yarow. Tabled.

H Co., 506th PIR, 101st ABN: Dan Davidson, from Colorado Springs, explained his Unit, which is known as "The Forty Thieves". The S&A Committee is waiting on their full charter application. The Unit has 35 members and broke away from a parent organization in Colorado. Doug Loge asked about their rank structure as they are relying on "misdrops" for Officer and NCO heavy units in the field. The Charter is tabled as this is in S&A.

10th Mountain Division: The Unit has 25-30 members. They are part of the 10th Mountain organization out of Colorado and the LHRA. They have been in existence for 7 years. D Company of the 87th would be their company size designation. Phil Lauricella also added some information about the Unit and explained the women involved, as WAC's, and who would be tasked with clerical duties, and would not be in the field. The Charter is in S&A and will be tabled.

SS Gebirgsjaeger Rgt. 7 of Comp Group Nord: Scott Bacon explained his Unit and their involvement, including their display with regard to the France and Russian fronts, including skis, etc. The Charter will be submitted to the S&A Committee. Tabled for now.

Defunct Units:

29th Inf Div, 116th Rgt. There has been no contact with this Unit. Neither Bill nor Jon have been able to reach the Unit. Bill will try one last time to reach the Unit Commander. Tabled for now

Board Meeting Minutes: April, 2012

Final Charter Approval:

326th Airborne Medical Company: They had sent formal information that the Unit will cease to exist. The Charter will be denied. A motion was made to deny the Unit which was seconded. A vote was taken and the Unit Charter was denied.

USO Stateside Operations: The Charter has been approved by the S&A Committee. The Charter was voted on and approved. The Charter was approved by the Board and they were accepted as a Probationary Unit in the HRS.

Officers Reports:

Treasurer Report: Tabled for now.

Secretary Report: We have 350 Applications in as of today for 2012. All cards have been processed and mailed. There are two large groups of new Apps being sent from the Treasurer to the Secretary, which will be processed asap.

Commonwealth Rep Report: No Report, bit working on a large Commonwealth event.

Allied Rep Report: No Report, but working on the St. Joe event.

Axis Rep Report: No Report, but has received requests for German reenactors looking for Units from ReenactorFest.

Edge Report: – New Editors are Mike Kaczorowski and Jeff Skender. Mike Kaczorowski talked a little about the upcoming Edge Editor duties, etc. He expects the first issue to come out in the next week or so.

Committee Reports:

S&A: The Committee comments are listed above.

Unit Commanders: Nothing new. Yuri Soroka asked about his Unit Charter, which was mentioned that it will be next month.

Recognition of other groups: The LHRA has its insurance in place and submitted that info to the HRS. Their insurance is the same type of policy that the HRS carries. A motion was made, which was seconded, to recognize the LHRA. A vote was taken and the LHRA was accepted as a sanctioning body.

Open Comments:

Doug Loge expressed his dissatisfaction at the Board recognizing the LHRA as a sanctioning event. It was explained that LHRA members could generally appear at HRS events. The event also has the option to exclude certain LHRA units from certain events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

July 2012

July 21-22 "Heritage Days"

Event Times: Sat 11-5 Sun 12-4/Registration Times: Fri 12-4 Sat 11-5

Pre-Registration: none Fee: none

Contact: John Keaton 440-888-2317



August 2012

Fri 08/17 (setup) - Sat 08/18 VERNON DAYS "BATTLE FOR NUREMBURG 1945"

Vernon, Colorado

<http://www.worldwartwohrscolorado.com>

August 3-5 THUNDER OVER MICHIGAN

Loc: Willow Run Airport, Belleville Michigan

Pre-Registration: <http://www.2012Thunder.eventbrite.com>

Contact: Alan Miltich - WikingPionier@comcast.net

Website: <http://YankeeAirMuseum.org>

September 2012

September 1-2 1st Annual WWII Tribute at Kuipers Farm

Loc: Kuipers Family Farm, Maple Park Illinois

Pre-Registration: <http://kuipersww2tribute.eventbrite.com/>



September 20,21,22,23 Rockford WWII Days

Loc: Midway Village Museum 6799 Guilford Road Rockford IL 61107

Contact: Scott Koelling, SKoelling@aol.com

Pre-Registration: <http://skoelling.homestead.com/page9rockford.html>



28-30 September 2012 WALK BACK IN TIME

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

Contact: Tim Scherrer 573-489-4891 or soldierboy440@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.audrain.org> and <http://www.railsplitterslivinghistory.org>

Map: <http://audrain.org/visitus.html>



October 2012

October 13, Prelude to Invasion

Loc: Casa Italia, 3800 Division St., Stone Park, IL.

Contact: Contact: Vito Abbinante at abbinantev@yahoo.com, or The Italian American Veterans Museum

Pre-Registration: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3884071362>



CAPTION THIS! CONTEST

With so many great photos circulating from events, every once in a while we all come across one where we want to ask ourselves, what did the other reenactor think, or say when he was doing something out on the battlefield or during a display demonstration, as sometimes the facial expressions of reenactors..can be priceless.

And so with permission of some of the reenactors photographed at events we begin a series of caption contests . The top caption gets the photo re-published with the caption and best of all will win an HRSshirt , with the HRS logo displayed on the back and the captioned image on the front!

I invite you to e-mail your submissions to mike.kaczorowski@gmail.com or send them via regular mail to

Michael Kaczorowski
1600 Kaimy Ct
Aurora Illinois 60504

Please note all entries must be post marked by August 6th.

Without further ado, here is a photo of Andrew Garrison from 2012 Lowell taken by Adam Walker. Good Luck!!!



YOUR HRS NEWSLETTER IS HERE!



Ambush at Union 2012
Photo Courtesy (Matthew Crowley Photography)

