

THE EDGE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE



WW2 HRS

FJ-Lehrkompanie "Battle of Crete" Living History Event May 2013



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN



FJ-Lehrkompanie "Battle of Crete" Living History Event May 2013



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

COMMUNICATIONS



WWII HRS August 2013 Interim Election RESULTS

548 Total Voters

Voting occurred 8 August to 21 August 2013 via Ballotbin.com

Vice President

	<i>VOTE Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Michael Kaczorowski	101	46%	1
Dan Nichols	63	29%	2
Kirk Gustafson	53	24%	3

Should a variance be created to allow for fewer primary members and a longer formation time for nationalities that have two or less chartered units?

<i>Response</i>	<i>Vote Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Graph</i>
Yes	91	46%	1	
No	52	26%	2	
Somewhat	52	26%	2	

Should divisional charters be based on membership levels and periodically renewed to retain the divisional designation?

<i>Response</i>	<i>Vote Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Graph</i>
Yes	125	65%	1	
No	67	34%	2	



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

NEW WW2 HRS Vice President



First, I would like to thank all that have voted for me in the past election and I hope that I will not disappoint your trust in me over the duration of my term.

We have a short yet busy year with Rockford coming up in just a few weeks. As of right now everyone involved in planning for the event is working really hard in order to make it the great experience it is for all old and new reenactors.

Meanwhile the HRS Board of Directors is also working hard in order to get the final batches of membership cards out. Many have been concerned about not getting them and contacting me. As I promised, I made personal inquiry about their status I can say that they will be arriving to many just prior to or at the latest be available at Rockford to pick up. Also I would like to recommend all of those that still need to register with the HRS to send in their membership applications via Eventbrite, it is **HIGHLY** encouraged to use the electronic method rather than paper one in order to get your membership in before Rockford.

The S&A committee has approved and the Board of Directors accepted three new units into the Society. The 201st Latvian Rifle Division, the 1st Infanterie Regiment - 3rd SS Division Totenkopf and the 7th Infantry Division. I would like to welcome those new units into our Society and hope they will have plenty of good safe fun with history in our Society.

Again I would like to thank you all for your vote, and I hope to see many of you at Rockford!

I remain your faithful and obedient servant,

Michael Kaczorowski



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

EVENTS

September

September 2013

06-08

WORLD WAR TWO DAYS

Sep

Loc: Delwood Park, Lockport, IL
Dates: September 6-8, 2013
Event Times: 9:00 am Friday to 5:00 pm Saturday
Registration Times: 12:00 pm Friday
Pre-Registration: Yes
Fee: None
Contact: Rich Russo vizsla25@sbcglobal.net
Website: <http://www.lockportwwii.com/>
Authenticity Notes: HRS Rules Apply
Prohibited Vehicles/Items: None
Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules Apply
Other restrictions: None
Sponsoring Unit(s): 5.Kp Grossdeutschland

07-08

SALUTE TO VETERANS OF WWII PUBLIC DISPLAY AND BATTLE MILITARY ENCAMPMENT AND BATTLE RECREATION VINCENNES, INDIANA

Sep



Loc: Indiana Military Museum, 715 S. 6th Street, Vincennes, Indiana 47591
Date: September 7-8, 2013
Event Times:
Friday September 6, Open for setup 1pm
Saturday September 7, Gates open 9am – 5pm, displays, ground battle, museum tour, evening movie social
Sunday September 8, Gates open 9am – 4m, displays, ground battle
S&A Saturday 9am. Attendance required by all participants
Unit Commanders Briefing Saturday at S&A - Overview of event schedule and updates
Registration Check-in Times: Friday September 6, 4pm – 9pm
Pre-Registration: Registration required <https://indianamilitarymuseum.eventbrite.com>
Fee: None
Contact: Jan & Bill Sheets Email jsheets@1812@gmail.com Phone (317) 788-1836
Map: See <http://www.vincennescvb.org/>
Website: <http://www.indymilitary.com/>
Authenticity Notes: All HRS rules apply.
Prohibited Vehicles/Items: All viewable items must be from WWII era.
Motels: <http://www.vincennescvb.org/>
Sponsoring Unit: 82nd AB 505th G Co.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

19-22	WWII DAYS MIDWAY VILLAGE, ROCKFORD IL.
Sep 	<p>Loc: Midway Village, 6799 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL Dates: September 19, 20, 21, and 22 Event Times: -Thursday Sept. 19: 12:00pm Gates open for setup -Friday Sept. 20: 9:45-2:15pm School tours No personal vehicles allowed in Living History Campsite -Saturday Sept. 21: 11:00am-5:00pm Museum is open to the public -Sunday Sept. 22: 11:00am-4:00pm Museum is open to the public - 7:00pm Park closes to everyone Registration Times: Registration will be located at the hospital, we will have signs pointing you in the right direction. -Thursday Sept 19, 2pm-9pm Please do not arrive before 12:00pm Thursday! -Friday Sept 20, 8am-9:30am then will reopen 2:15pm until 10pm -Saturday Sept 21, 7am-10am Pre-Registration: Unit CO's: Please e-mail Scott Koelling or Dave Fornell(davewwwii@comcast.net) to pre-register your unit beginning April 1. Individuals with approved unit may not preregister until June 1. Fee: none Contact: Scott Koelling, 2.Panzer Division - Overall coordinator Website: http://www.ww2rockfordevent.com Authenticity Notes: Any WWII impressions may set up authentic camps. Partisans welcome and will be subject to S&A Inspection. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No overnight vehicles permitted in campsite area. Other restrictions: No weapon discharges after 10pm. Motels: http://skoelling.homestead.com/page4rockford.html Sponsoring Unit (s): 2nd Panzer Division, 353rd Infantrie</p>
27-29	WALK BACK IN TIME
Sep 	<p>Loc: Audrain County Historical Society, 501 South Muldrow Street, Mexico, MO 65265 Dates: 27-29 September 2013 Event Times: The event runs all weekend, with a school day on Friday, and camps open from 10am-4pm, with Candlelight tours on Saturday evening Registration Times: 8-9pm Friday and 730-9am Saturday Pre-Registration: Individual pre-registration is not required but pre-coordination for space is required by each unit or group Fee: The event is free for participants, and they provide a Saturday night dinner. 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 Directions: Entering Mexico from the south on Highway 54, take Business 54 near Walmart and follow it into town. Where Business 54 intersects Boulevard Street, turn left (Bus 54 goes right)), go two blocks and turn right on to Muldrow Street. Drive 4 blocks and the historical society is on the left. Entering Mexico from the East on Highway 54-take Business 54, including the left turn at agricultural street. Follow agricultural street around the long turn becoming Boulevard Street. Where Business 54 turns left on to Clark street, go straight another two blocks and turn right on Muldrow street. The site is on the left 4 blocks on Muldrow Street. Authenticity Notes: WWII HRS S&A rules apply Prohibited Vehicles/Items: None. If bringing vehicles please notify the event coordinator. Restrictions on Minors: None Other restrictions: No firing of weapons from 2100-0900 Motels: http://hotelguides.com/missouri/mexico-mo-hotels.html or http://www.mexico-chamber.org/BusinessDirectoryII.aspx?lngBusinessCategoryID=16 Sponsoring Unit(s): 84th Infantry Division Railsplitters</p>



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

October		October 2013
12-13		ARMED FORCES TRIBUTE & WW2 WEEKEND
Oct		<p>Loc: Sonneman Park, Vandalia, Illinois Dates: October 12 and 13, 2013 Event Times: 08:00 til 17:00 each day Registration Times: 07:00-09:00 each day Pre-Registration: Mat Hanabarger at wildlandsequipment@gmail.com Fee: No Charge Contact: Mat Hanabarger at wildlandsequipment@gmail.com Website: http://www.facebook.com/events/364255323704379 Authenticity Notes: All HRS Safety & Authenticity Rules apply Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No tracked vehicles on grass, no digging Restrictions on Minors: All HRS Rules apply Other restrictions: None Sponsoring Unit(s): C Company, 1st BN, 502nd PIR, 101st AB</p>
18-20		WELCOME HOME, STARS AND STRIPES REMEMBERS WW II
Oct		<p>Loc: Stars & Stripes National Military Museum & Library, 17377 Stars and Stripes Way, Bloomfield, MO 63825 Dates: 18-20 October 2013 Event Times: Open to the public: 9am - 5pm 19 October 2013 Registration Times: 3-7pm 18 October 2013 & 7-9am 19 October 2013 Pre-Registration: Eventbrite Link: http://ssrwwii.eventbrite.com Fee: Free to re-enactors, nominal fee for the public Contact: Gary Adkins: papajoad@20thcenturygi.com or Sean Burton: ALEX6357@aol.com Website: http://welcomhomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com Map: http://welcomhomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com/map Authenticity Notes: All HRS Safety and authenticity Rules apply Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live ammo of any kind. Restrictions on Minors: HRS rules apply Other restrictions: N/A Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force, 6th CO 3rd REG HRS and Second 25th Australian Infantry Battalion, 25th Brigade, 7th Division HRS, Members: 6th Corps Living History Group, St Louis, MO</p>
19		BATTLE OF ARDEN
Oct		<p>Loc: Arden Hill Army Training Site: Arden Hills, MN Dates: October 19, 2013 Event Times: 9 am until 5 pm Registration Times: 6 am until 8 am Pre-Registration: No Fee: \$10 Contact: Darren Byrnes - ww2repro@comcast.net Website: http://home.comcast.net/~30thhrs/arden1.html Map: See website Directions: See website Authenticity Notes: East meets West event - 1945 Prohibited Vehicles/Items: Vehicle friendly area. Other restrictions: No camping, digging, alcohol - NO MINORS. Motels: Several within 5 miles of the site. Sponsoring Unit(s): 117th Infantry Regiment / 30th Infantry Division</p>



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

November

November 2013

08-10

OTTAWA VETERANS CELEBRATION

Nov



Loc: Forest Park, 419 N. Locust St, Ottawa, KS 66067

Dates: 11/8/13 – 11/10/13

Event Times: 10:30 am – 7:00 pm

Registration Times: na

Pre-Registration: none

Fee: no fee

Contact: Dave Hruska

Website: none

Authenticity Notes: WWII HRS rules apply

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: no alcohol, no live ammo

Restrictions on Minors: WW II HRS rules apply

Other restrictions: none

Sponsoring Unit(s): G Co., 137th Inf. Regt., 35th Inf. Div.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

Back by Popular Demand
"Behind the Lines" tour
Fri., Sept. 20th \$15
Space is limited. Call for details.

WWII DAYS

AT MIDWAY VILLAGE MUSEUM ★ ROCKFORD, IL
Located near I-90 on Rockford's east side

Saturday | **Sunday**
September 21st | **September 22nd**
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. | **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

- ★ USA's Largest Reenactment
- ★ **FREE USO Style Dance** Saturday Night, 7 pm. at
- ★ Over 900 Reenactors
- ★ Battles with Pyrotechnics
- ★ Skirmishes in the Village
- ★ Demos & Displays in Buildings
- ★ Affordable Food in Burrill's Town Hall Cafe

Admission: \$12 Adults, \$6 Children (3-17)

Midway Village Museum
Rockford's HISTORY MUSEUM

Save The Date

FOR MORE INFORMATION | WWW.MIDWAYVILLAGE.COM | 815-397-9112

Experience the World War II Era at



Midway Village Museum
Rockford's
HISTORY MUSEUM

Ever wonder what life was like during the 1940s both on the home front and overseas? Find out! Attend the World War II Days at Midway Village Museum on Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, 22. More than 1,000 uniformed re-enactors from across the Midwest will participate in the events bringing elaborate displays and showcasing realistic battles complete with tanks, artillery, armored vehicles, and exciting pyrotechnic displays. Re-enactors represent soldiers of World War II from the United States, Great Britain, France, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Japan, Italy and Germany along with 70 to 80 vintage tanks, halftracks and other 1940s era military vehicles!



Saturday the narrated battle shows are featured at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday the battle show time is 2:30 p.m. Maps of the event site will be available when visitors arrive showcasing the battlefield and the various encampments and attractions.



Admission tickets can be purchased at the Event Gates on Saturday and Sunday. Online ticket registration deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, September 19, 2013. See below for admission pricing.





WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

Visitors will also experience:

- Elaborate 1940s displays in historical buildings on the museum property acting as the back drop of a European village during World War II
- Encampments of Allied and Axis troops in the Midway Village woods and realistic skirmishes integrated in the historic village
- Pacific Theater battles in the woods with soldiers dressed as U.S. Marines and Japanese infantry
- German cavalry scenes
- Soldiers' base camps filled with period vehicles, tents and artifacts
- Shop for World War II memorabilia from numerous vendors
- Expanded food service including Burritt's Meat Products of Rockford
- A 1940s era USO-style swing dance Saturday at Veterans Memorial Hall in Rockford



Event Transportation

Shuttles run from the parking lots and within the event to accommodate visitors needing assistance. Shuttles are available for visitor to use as a transport system during the event at the event site, if needed. Please, do not bring personal golf carts. Event shuttles include a wagon ride to and from the parking lots and battlefield and several passenger golf carts in the historical village.

One-Day Admission

\$12 adults; \$6 for children (3 to 17); and free for World War II veterans and Museum Members

Two-Day Admission Pass

Two day event passes are \$18 for adults; \$9 for children (there is too much to see it all in just one day).



Parking

Parking is free and located off of Perryville Road and also off of Guilford Road. Plenty of handicap parking is available. For those with limited mobility, roving multi-person golf carts dedicated to shuttling visitors who need assistance. There are no ATMs available on the museum campus. No pets are allowed.



The event is rain or shine and the hours are:

Saturday, September 21, 2013 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 22, 2013 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Midway Village Museum is located at 6799 Guilford Road, approximately 1/4 mile east from Guilford and Perryville Roads.

For additional details on the event, check the museum website for regular updates as the event approaches at www.midwayvillage.com.



Schedule of Events

Thursday Sept. 19:

8am Gates open for setup

-Friday Sept. 20:

9:00am Camp setup stops for school tours

8am MP and FG briefing at the Police Station in the village, building 24

2:15pm Camp setup continues

11:00pm Quiet Time



Saturday Sept 21:

8am MP and FG briefing at the Police Station in the village, building 24

10am Safety and Authenticity starts, S&A will be held at West end of village where the public parks.

10:30am Field Battle CO meeting-All unit CO's and/or NCO's required to attend if your unit would like to participate in battles at main battle field, meet at main battlefield

10:45am All personal vehicles must be out of Historic Living Camp areas

11am Museum opens to the public

11:30am Vignettes/skits start and will run throughout the day

11:30am 1st Woods Battle

1:30pm Field Battle starts

2:30pm 2nd Woods Battle

3:30pm Field Battle starts

4:30pm 3rd Woods Battle

5:00pm Museum closes to the public

7:00pm USO Dance at Memorial Hall, there will be buses running to and from the museum and Memorial Hall, reenactors must be in uniform.

12:00am Quiet Time, this will be strictly enforced!



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



Sunday Sept 22:

7a-9a Free breakfast to HRS members MUST have HRS membership card.
8am MP and FG briefing at the Police Station in the village, building 24
10am Safety and Authenticity-Held in front of Hospital for those who did not attend Saturday
9:30am Church Services, located in the Church, Building 15 in the village
Services by Bob Starr and Del Miller
10:30am Field Battle CO meeting-All unit CO's and/or NCO's required to attend if your unit would like to participate in battles at main battle field, meet at main battlefield.
10:45am All personal vehicles must be out of Historic Living Camp area
11am Museum opens to the public
11:30am Viginettes/skits start will run throughout the day
11:30am 1st Woods Battle
1:00pm 2nd Woods Battle
2:30pm Field battle starts
4pm Museum closes to the public
4pm Personal vehicles allowed on camp area IF all public are out of Living History camp area, all clear will be given by Military Police!
7pm Park closes to everyone



Event Coordinators

Scott Koelling (SKoelling@AOL.Com) 1-847-309-3389
Dave Fornell (wwiidave@Comcast.Net) 1-847-347-7470

House Rules

House rules were made up by event staff on request from Midway Village, these rules will be followed!

- All re-enactors will go through HRS Safety and Authenticity inspections along with spot checks in Living History Campsite by Event Staff and Military Police Units. Any discrepancies will be addressed and corrected immediately. Any Unit who cannot correct their FARB will be camping in the Modern Camping Area in re-enactor parking lot.



- All camps are assigned. Camps are pre-arranged prior to the event by contacting event staff. Returning units need to check in with event staff by Aug. 1 or risk losing their site. New units will be placed on a waiting list and assigned a camp as space is available. Units that leave prior to the end of the event on Sunday afternoon might have their camps reassigned the following year.

- Site-wide speed limit is 5 mph



- Please unload quickly and then move POVs out of the camp and village areas, otherwise the roads quickly jam up with parked cars.

- NO live ammo allowed, only blanks should be carried or in your possession

- All NFA laws and rules, as well as Illinois State Firearm laws will be enforced. If you live in the state of Illinois, you will have on you a FOID card, PERIOD!

- All class 3/NFA weapons will be checked for proper papers, ATF Form 3 and 4, and approved ATF Form 5320.20



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



- 2300 (11:00pm) Quiet Time will be in effect, QUIET socializing will be permitted around campfires.
- No overnight vehicles permitted in campsite area.
- Haircuts will be to Military Standards. NO beards or hiding long hair under helmets or hats. Just come to the event with the proper haircut and facial hair.



- Your equipment, uniform, weapon, and vehicle should have been issued in WWII. Any item converted to look like WWII equipment will be judged by event staff, if it is not accepted then it must be removed.
- All tents should be WWII, reproduction or converted to very close resemblance of WWII tents. No 10-man arctic or post-war hexagonal tents allowed. WWII style GP small, mediums and larges are allowed, but space may limit where they can be placed.
- No Nazi Party/Political items will be worn, this also includes any other countries political items. No flying of German or Nazi Party/Political flags PERIOD.
- The public battles will be European Theater of Operations (ETO) from the 1944-45 period. However, any other WWII impressions are allowed, but will not be allowed in the main field battles, woods or village skirmishes unless prearranged (example – Soviet vs. Germans town battle).

- Re-enactors of the age of 16 & 17 years MUST HAVE a parent or guardian signed WWII HRS Minor's Waiver to participate as non-combatants. This waiver should be filled out before the event, contact the WWII HRS for information. Ages 16-17 can wear uniforms, but are not allowed to participate in any battles for in the firing of weapons. Only participants ages 18 and older can participate in the battles and fire live firearms.
- Semi-auto versions of full-auto versions, must look exactly alike and will not have longer barrels.
- Gas operated weapons should only be used in vehicles.
- M-1 carbines will not have the bayonet lug.
- During battles, no throwing of any pyro in/around any vehicles, armored vehicles or field guns (German PAK-40 AT-Gun or IG-18 Infantry Gun — These guns fire black powder charges, and may ignite fuel. Some vehicles have poorly sealed gas caps because they are 70 years old – others use propane gun systems)
- Fire pits in the village are allowed, but must be kept small and the grass replaced on Sunday.
- Digging positions in the woods camps will be allowed on a case by case basis by event staff – but ask first. As a rule, holes must be dug at least 5 feet from the edge of the road and cannot present a walking or driving hazard — positions that do not meet this rule will be filled in.

=====
Rockford, ILL
Midway Village Museum
YouTube Videos
By Heinz Thiel

- HRS 13 Rockford 2012 Battle Part 1
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6axP2CtGcLM>
- HRS 13 Rockford 2012 Battle Part 2
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbj39HJNA14>
- HRS 15 Rockford ALL Before Breakfast
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCEffgcuiOg>
- HRS 16 Rockford 2012 Inspect Then Show
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyPsWYIRqHE>
- HRS 17 Rockford 2012 Camps and Woods Battle
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUquVoA77Z4>
- HRS 18 Rockford 2012 Town Battle
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toTCegnWKe4>



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

2013 Armed Forces Tribute World War II & Vietnam War Re-Enactments

October 12th at 8:00am until October 13th at 5pm CDT

Location At Sonnemann / Greer Park

Vandalia, IL 62471

**SATURDAY • OCTOBER 12th
8:00AM - 5:00PM**

**1st Battle - 1:00PM (Vietnam)
2nd Battle - 3:00PM (WWII)**

**All Day Swap Meet
Living History & Vehicle Displays**



**SUNDAY • OCTOBER 13th
8:00AM - 5:00PM**

**1st Battle - 1:00PM (Vietnam)
2nd Battle - 2:00PM (WWII)**

**All Day Swap Meet
Living History & Vehicle Displays**

**This Event is FREE To The Public So Plan Ahead To
Attend This Fun Filled Weekend That The Entire Family Will Enjoy.**

You Will See.....

- **Military Vehicle Displays • Living History Encampments**
- **World War II & Vietnam War Battle Re-Enactments**
 - **Weapons & Equipment Demonstrations**
 - **Swap Meet Vendors • Military Collectibles**
 - **Food Vendors and Much More**



**This Event Brought To You By:
WILDLANDS OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT
For More Information Call Us At: (217) 690-9239**



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

OFFICIAL INFO

HRS Board Members AUGUST 2013

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HOW TO ATTEND a Board Meeting:

Monthly teleconference Board meetings are open to all members. Members do not need to register for the meetings nor do they need to contact the president or any board members.

They need to contact their unit commander for the call information to include phone number and password. This creates less of a choke point and gets the information out to more with less hassle.

The monthly board meeting time/dates will change to accommodate the board members time schedules. Please contact your unit commander for more information regarding date, time, and log on information.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

All of the HRS Board Meeting Minutes from the past five years are posted on the HRS WEB Site.
Current HRS By-Law call for these official business reports to be re-published here in The Edge.
See the BOD Minutes Page at <http://WorldWarTwoHrs.org/Business.htm> for past meeting Minutes

W W I I H R S Minutes

2013 Minutes

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
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December

2012 Minutes

[January](#)
[February](#)
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September (canceled)
[October](#)
[November](#)
December (No quorum)

2011 Minutes

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2010 Minutes

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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

About Us



The World War Two Historical Re-enactment Society is an organization of over 1200 men and women members from coast to coast, as well as Canada and Europe. Our mission is to bring the history of World War Two to life with public displays, simulated battles, participation in parades, and a variety of other community activities.

The society strives to honor and preserve the memory of those who served in World War Two, as well as preserve the artifacts of that period.

Our members carry out a wide range of historical impressions, including those of The United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Poland, and Germany.

Our focus is entirely on the military history of World War Two. We have no sympathy for the ideology of Nazism or fascism. Such beliefs are not welcome here.

If this exciting and rewarding hobby appeals to you, please consider joining us. Our hobby is dependent upon the talents and enthusiasm of its members and there is always room for new interest! Please contact any of our board members today for more information.

The

www.WorldWarTwoHRS.Org

WEB Site Is Hosted by Socket.NET



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting 25 JULY 2013

Welcome and ROLL CALL:

Position	Name	Present
President:	Jonathan Stevens	YES
Vice President:	Open	
Treasurer:	Charles Gallagher	NO
Secretary:	Eddie Mayton	NO
Allied Representative:	Ron Kapustka	YES
Commonwealth Rep:	Bryce Seyko	YES
Axis Representative:	Doug Loge	YES
Newsletter Editors:	Jeff Skender	YES
Business Manager:	David Jameson	YES

HRS Members Present

Pollie Blanton, Jim Schouten, Carlos Ramirez, Andy Rowden, Darrin Masters
Chris Adams, Steve Sloane, Kirk Gustafson, Jessica Jaeger, Jackie Detloff
Yuriy Sokov, Matt Andres, Chris Adams

Reading of the June, 2013 Minutes:

The June, 2013 meeting minutes were read by Ron Kapustka. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka to approve the minutes as read, which was seconded by Bryce. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved as read.

Old Business

None

New Business

Unit Charters

New Charters:

201st Latvian Rifle Division: Matt Andres reported on the history of the Unit, which was part of the Red Army. Although they have fallen in with the 95th Rifles in the past, there was no Northern Illinois Unit which they could join to do Russian. They are the most typical line infantry unit in the Red Army. They have 8 members. The Unit CO will be a PFC and the other members will be Privates.

USO Camp Shows: This Unit has submitted a Charter and a number of Amendments to their Charter. The Charter has been voted on and approved by the S&A Committee. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka to accept the Unit as a Probationary Unit and it was seconded by Bryce Seyko. There was a set of questions submitted to the S&A Committee recently and Doug Loge asked that they answer those questions by the end of the year. A vote was taken and the Unit was accepted as a Probationary Unit. The additional questions will be sent to the Unit.

Midwest Women's Historical Baseball League: This Unit is not ready for a vote yet. There are a few insurance issues that need to be resolved. This Unit will be tabled until next month.

3rd Panzergrenadiers Division: Chris Adams' Unit has been in S&A for the past month. All questions/issues have been handled. The Unit passed the S&A Committee. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka to accept the Unit as a Probationary Unit. Seconded by Bryce Seyko. A vote was taken and the Unit was accepted as a Probationary Unit.

Probationary Charters:

5th Rangers, E Company: This Unit has completed their yearlong probation and has submitted their progress report to the S&A Committee and was passed by the S&A Committee. Doug Loge asked about number of "registered" members, and the answer was 8. They have a number of prospects to add and expect to have as many as 15 members at Thunder Over Michigan. A discussion was held regarding the necessity of having an Officer with the number of members. The Unit expects to have a Lieutenant with 10-12 guys, but if the need arises to downgrade some members of the Unit to NCO's, they are willing to do that. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka and was seconded by Bryce Seyko to put the Unit to a vote. A vote was taken and the Unit was not approved. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka and seconded by Bryce Seyko and a vote was taken. The Unit was accepted as a fully chartered Unit with the stipulation that they would not have an Officer in the Unit until they reach their anticipated number of 19 members, as set forth in their original Application.

Defunct Charters:

A/1/5 USMC: This Unit was disbanded and will be removed from the Unit Rolls.

Treasurer Report: PNC Bank shows \$47,926.99 in savings account and \$4,751.34 in checking, for a total at PNC Bank of \$52,678.33. July deposits were \$90.00 in memberships plus the \$600.00 from the Lansing Event with expenses of \$35.38 for checks. The Wells Fargo Q1, 2013 ending balance was \$1,768.70. Q2, 2013 ending balance was \$1,723.20, and today's balance is \$1,187.70, with an outstanding check for scholarship of \$500.00.

Secretary Report: Eddie Mayton was unable to attend, No Report.

Commonwealth Report: Bryce reported on a large group of Commonwealth going to the Conneaut, OH event.

Allied Report: Nothing to Report.

Axis Report: Doug Loge reported on the five recognized "parent" groups and will provide that information in the next issue of The Edge.

Edge Report: Jeff needs information on the Special Election.

Business Manager Report: David Jameson reported about the request for an additional insured for the Rocky Mountain Air Show, 2013. David asked some questions about the event itself and Carlos was asked to e-mail the event link to David and David will report to the Board about the insurance request.



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Committee Reports:

S&A - The Committee will be reviewing the Latvian Unit and the Midwest Women's Historical Baseball League. Doug Loge reported on a revised Authenticity Rule regarding hair/beard/moustache and will submit that info to the website and the Commanders Forum.

Unit Commanders - Not much going on.

Vehicle - HRS vehicle listing is being worked on. There is an effort to create an article to raise awareness around armor.

Legislative Committee- There are a few volunteers, but still working on forming the Committee.

Vice President Special Election: The deadline was July 21st. There was one person who submitted their application, Mike Kaczorski. Jonathan suggested we extend the deadline to August 1st. Bryce asked about the information going out to the Units, and Doug reported that the information was submitted to the Unit Commanders and it was also in The Edge. Jeff Skender reported that the information was not in the HRS on-line version of The Edge. It was confirmed that it was NOT in the on-line version of The Edge. The deadline will be extended and the information will be published in the August edition of The Edge.

Recognized Groups The current recognized groups will be listed on the HRS website.

Rockford HRS Meal

The HRS has received two proposals to provide the meal at Rockford. The Field Mess proposal was \$6.25 per person with a full breakfast menu. The second proposal was from the 353rd Infantry. Their proposal was not submitted completed. Dave Fornell mentioned to Bryce that his per person rate would be comparable to the Field Mess rate. A discussion was held that it would be preferred to have a HRS Unit, if possible, and if economical, provide the meal. Jon suggested that we vote to provide a meal, and then vote on the provider of the meal at the next Board meeting. Doug suggested that the Board wait to get the two complete proposals and then vote on the "complete" proposal. A further discussion was had with regard to which morning we provide the meal on. A motion was made by Bryce Seyko to vote on the day the breakfast would be provided. A vote was taken, which was unanimous to provide the meal on Saturday. Bryce Seyko made a motion to approve funding for a breakfast at Rockford, which was seconded by Ron Kapustka. A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous to approve funding for the breakfast.

Scholarship

Two applications were submitted, which will be submitted to the Board. The winner of the scholarship will be announced and the scholarship paid out by August 20th, 2013. The nomination deadline was July 1, 2013.

Advertising

Jon has intended to submit a proposal, but it is not ready. This will be tabled for now.

Open Comments:

Steve Sloane asked about new memberships. A discussion was had regarding missing membership cards. Carlos Rameriz reported that he already sent the info needed directly to David. Ron will send the June minutes to Jeff Skender. A question was asked about amending a Charter.

A motion to adjourn the Meeting was made by Bryce Seyko and seconded by Ron Kapustka. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.



UNIT LISTING

Additional HRS unit

The following unit was inadvertently left out of the official 2013 unit listing in the July issue:

6th US Naval Beach Battalion

George S. Harbinson – Unit commander
harbs211@sbcglobal.net,
Unit Founded 2010.

My apologies,
Jonathan Stevens

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The 6th Naval Beach Battalion was commissioned 9 October 1943 under the command of Eugene C. Carusi, USNR, an Annapolis graduate and Washington D.C. attorney. The Battalion was formed in July and trained exclusively for OVERLORD, the Allied permanent re-entry into Continental Europe.

Upon arrival at Camp Bradford, VA in July 1943, personnel were assigned to one of four sections: communications, hydrographic, boat repair or medical. As training progressed, these Navy specialists began to resemble an Army battalion, broken into three companies and nine platoons. Each platoon had a medical doctor and was headed by a Beachmaster and his assistant.

WWII Naval Beach Battalions were indistinguishable from Army assault troops. While training at Fort Pierce, these Navy amphibians wore coveralls, field shoes, life belts, gas masks, leather gloves and full packs with rifles slung over their shoulders, engaging in joint maneuvers with the Army off the coast of Florida. Having been issued Thompson submachine guns and wearing steel helmets with a sky blue "6" (later a red arc) painted on the front, the 6th Naval Beach Battalion appeared more like soldiers than sailors.

The nine Navy doctors of the Battalion were issued Colt 45s and then reassured by instructors that in the event their shots ever missed their mark during combat on the beach, they would at least have the pistol to throw at the enemy! The Army counterparts of the USN beach battalions were amphibious engineers. Dr. Ralph Hall, a recent graduate of Syracuse Medical School, wrote to his pregnant wife that he "joined the Navy to get out of the Army. The army boys that are here joined the Army and are headed to go to sea and fight from boats. All is very ironical."

On 7 January 1944, after six months of intensive amphibious warfare training at Fort Pierce and Camp Bradford, the Battalion traveled overseas on the SS Mauritania to the UK in preparation for the invasion of Normandy.

Training continued in Swansea Wales and the 6th Beach Battalion was attached to the 5th Engineer Special Brigade 12 April 1944 in order to achieve a closer coordination between the Navy afloat and the Army ashore during the invasion landings. In support of the 16th Regimental Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Commander Carusi's amphibious unit had the mission of providing battlefield medicine, establishing shore-to-ship communications, marking sea lanes, making emergency boat repairs, assisting in the removal of underwater obstructions, directing the landings and evacuating the casualties in the eastern Omaha Beach sectors code-named Easy Red, Fox Green and Fox Red.

With a total strength of 42 officers and 362 enlisted men, Battalion elements were attached for the 6 June 1944 cross-Channel attack as follows:

Company A - 336th Engineer Combat Battalion
Company B - 348th Engineer Combat Battalion
Company C - 37th Engineer Combat Battalion
Battalion Headquarters - to land with C-8 platoon and 37th Engineer Combat Battalion



Company "C" officers of the 6th Beach Battalion seated left to right: George "skipper" Clyburn and Don White. The 2nd row includes Beachmasters Joe Vaghi, Vince Perrin and Karl Hein. Medical officers standing are Russ Davey, John Kincaid and Mike Etzl. The young sailors are wearing their Army coveralls and Navy visor hats at the Amphibious Training Base, Fort Pierce, FL.



275. Infanterie Division

I am pleased to announce the forming of a brand new Heer unit. We represent the II./984. Grenadier Regiment of the 275 Infanterie Division.

Our primary focus as a group is to authentically portray the German front line infantryman of June, 1944 through January, 1945.

We will strive towards upholding only the highest standards.

For more information, please feel free to visit <http://275infanterie.weebly.com>.

I'll see you on the field,
Christian Dvorak, AKA Bodo Fehrmann
thecman.13@gmail.com



HISTORY OF THE 275. INFANTERIE

I. The 223.

The 275th Infanterie Division was built on the remnants of the old 223. Landwehr Division which had been formed in Dresden, Germany in 1939. As a Landwehr Division, the 223. was made up of men older than the average age of enlistment at the time. Soon after the German invasion of Poland on September 1st, 1939, the 223. was sent as occupation troops to Potsdam and the surrounding regions. Here, they existed in relative harmony with the locals, were well fed, healthy, and rested. During their time in Potsdam, the 223. participated in training exercises, preparing themselves for combat. In early spring, 1940, the division was transferred to Belgium and France as part of the 6th Army to reinforce troops fighting in those areas. The 223. remained in Bordeaux, France until being transferred once again in November, 1941, this time to the Russian Front as a part of Army Group North. Battling not only the Soviet Army, but also the notoriously harsh elements of the Russian Autumn and Winter, first slowed by vast fields of thick mud, then by a deep, unforgiving winter, the Division battled fiercely against the Soviets in the Russian Winter Offensive, the Siege of Leningrad, and at Lake Ladoga. Suffering heavy losses, three battalions were dissolved and the remainder of men were regrouped and sent as reinforcements to Southern Russia in the summer of 1943. Here, these men would take part in the fighting at Velikije-Luki, Kharkov, and Kiev. It was at Kiev that the division was finally destroyed, and what few brave survivors there were would become the cadre for a new division, the 275. Infanterie.

II. Official Activation

Officially activated on November 17, 1943, the 275. Infanterie was formed on the survivors of several divisions besides the 223rd. This conglomerate of defunct divisions was originally designated 352. Division, but was quickly re-designated as the 275. In February, 1944, the fledgling division was transferred to Brittany, France. By March, the Division had grown to 11,568 strong. By June, the Division also contained 1,560 HiWi troops.

III. Kampfgruppe Heintz and the Normandy Invasion

Around the time of the Normandy invasions, elements of the 275. were a part of Kampfgruppe Heintz, including two infantry regiments, one Panzer Jäger Kompanie, a Pionier abteilung, a Fusilier abteilung, an infantry howitzer platoon, and one platoon equipped with 75mm Pak guns, the men of which totaling around 4,000 strong. Kampfgruppe Heintz was deployed to an area West of St. Lo on June 8th, 1944 to aid in the defense against the invading Allied Armies. Their efforts were largely in vain, although they fought with great vigor and tremendous spirit. Until June 27th, when the rest of the division was sent to replace lost men of the Panzer Lehr Division, Kampfgruppe Heintz was the only element of the 275. involved in the fighting in Normandy. By July 24th, the entire division was committed to the campaign.

IV. Kampfgruppe Heintz from Cobra to Aachen

The remnants of Kampfgruppe Heintz were deployed alongside the famed Panzer Lehr Division during Operation Cobra, while the rest of the 275. was scattered throughout France, serving alongside various detachments of units such as the 352nd, Panzer Lehr, and the 2nd SS Panzer Division. During Operation Cobra, the Division, along with Kampfgruppe Heintz was almost completely wiped out, however, refused to surrender. The Division was in such poor condition that it was listed as all but destroyed by SS General Paul Haussar of the 7th Army. Despite this premature observation, elements of the unit continued fighting throughout the defense of Aachen, where they were removed from the line. At this time, the division reported only 800 surviving men of the original 4,000 men of Kampfgruppe Heintz. These brave men, starving and outnumbered, all but forgotten by their superiors, wearing soiled, torn uniforms, crawling with lice, exhausted and losing their will to live, refused to surrender and continued their defenses far past their expected date of expiration.

V. Return to Aachen, and into the Hürtgenwald.

Returning from the brink of defeat, the battle-hardened 275. was regrouped on October 1st, 1944, absorbing two Luftwaffe abteilungen as well as miscellaneous German local defense troops. On October 3rd, the division reported a strength of 5,000 men, six Sturmgeschütz assault guns, a 210 mm howitzer, and thirteen 105 mm howitzers. Despite being drastically undermanned, the 275. was returned to the fighting in Aachen in November, 1944. After another round of long stretches of combat service in Aachen, the division was pushed into the Hürtgen Forest. Here, they were faced with the task of fighting not only against the enemy, but against the elements as well as physical and emotional exhaustion. Braced against the cold with only their blankets and overcoats, the men of the 275. were suffering from exposure and trenchfoot from constant moisture. Combining such a hardship with difficult terrain, constant American pushes through the Siegfried line, and suffering morale makes for an army simply unfit for fighting. Despite this, the 275. fought with everything they had, but to no avail. The Hürtgen Forest was an absolute failure for the division, which was once again nearly totally decimated, however, once again, the division refused to surrender and the remaining troops were reassigned to the 344th Infanterie Division when the 275. was pulled from the line, dissolved, and completely rebuilt as a Volksgrenadier division, armed with the new Sturmgewehr weapons and observing different tactics as opposed to the traditional Infanterie doctrine.

VI. Endgame.

Soon after the newly rebuilt 275. Volksgrenadier Division was returned to the fighting, it was finally completely extinguished in the Halbe Pocket around April 29, 1945, where they were completely overwhelmed by Soviet troops. Their fate was not one which resulted from cowardice, nor was it through any tactical blunder, the men of the 275. Infanterie Division fought long and hard in less than ideal conditions and to their final days, refused to surrender. Throughout the 275. Infanterie's history, they were met with defeat at almost every turn, but under the orders of General Leutnant Hans Schmidt, refused to surrender. Defeat after defeat, the division repeatedly bounced back to defend their homeland to the last man, which by the mighty hand of the Allied Armies, they were prevented from doing.



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FJ-Lehrkompanie "Battle of Crete" Living History Event, 16-19 May 2013

By Donald Calder fjfabrik@yahoo.com

Hosted by 5/FJR6 USA At the Military Aviation Museum, Virginia Beach, VA



I am a member of Clint Moyers' 7./FJR6 (German Paratrooper) unit of the HRS, and would like to submit my After Action Report of our "Battle of Crete" immersion/display weekend that took place in conjunction with the May 2013 "Warbirds Over the Beach" airshow at the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach, VA.

Warm regards from Virginia,
Don Calder

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The Military Aviation Museum has one of the largest collections of WW2 aircraft in the United States that are still in flying condition. Each May, the Museum hosts the "Warbirds Over the Beach" airshow to showcase these aircraft, and invites WW2 reenactment groups to set up display encampments next to the planes to help make the historical experience come to life. Our 5./Fallschirmjäger Regiment 6 living-history group has supported the airshow since 2008 by setting up interactive displays that teach visitors about the role of German paratroops in WW2. When the Museum acquired a Ju-52 transport aircraft in 2011, they made arrangements with our 5./FJR6 unit to integrate the plane into our German paratrooper display. Because that particular Airshow was planned for the weekend of 20 May, we naturally chose the 'Battle of Crete' display theme to properly commemorate the 70th anniversary of history's first large-scale airborne invasion.

When the Museum finished re-building their original WW2 Luftwaffe hangar to house their WW2 German aircraft collection in August 2012, we contacted the Museum Director and began discussions to secure our exclusive use of the hangar for our Fallschirmjäger training activities and Battle of Crete display.

We realized this unique opportunity was one to be shared with other like-minded German Paratrooper living history groups throughout the USA and Europe, so we advertised our plan within the WW2 hobby: Our 5./FJR6 unit would host a Fallschirmjaeger-specific living history weekend with the "Airborne Invasion of Crete" theme, following the successful "FJ-Lehrkompanie Living History Event" event model that had served us well in the past, and described in detail at the following website:

<http://www.fjr6.com/FJ-LEHR/fjlehrkompaniecom/2013%20why.htm>



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In the spirit of Fallschirmjäger Kameradschaft, we invited all FJ reenactors with authentic 'early war' impressions (circa 1941) to participate. Here in the USA, WW2 reenactments typically follow 1943-1945 historic scenarios; early war events (1939-1942) are rare, and we knew that Fallschirmjaeger reenactors who take the time to acquire authentic early war kit items tend to be the truly dedicated ones, full of the Fallschirmjägergeist – exactly the sort of guys we wanted. Thirty reenactors from 7 different FJ units in the USA and Europe pre-registered with us for this event, and were divided in to 3 squads for administrative purposes, following the FJ-Lehrkompanie event model. On Thursday, participants traveled to the Museum from Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, California and even Poland! Though we came from several different units, we agreed to function as a cohesive, unified group under the leadership of the Lehrkompanie chain of command - a cadre of historians and collectors who've spent years researching Fallschirmjäger uniforms and equipment, wartime FJ experiences, and experience with actual parachute jumps. Administrative duties (Meal preparation & cleanup, display security, etc.) and all training activities were carried out on squad-level basis through the FJ-Lehrkompanie chain of command. Assembling the FJ-Lehrkompanie on Thursday also ensured that we had all day Friday to ourselves, free of public visitors, so we could manage lots of "period" photograph recreations without non-period objects in the background.





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We decorated the original Luftwaffe hangar like the ones erected in Greece to support the airborne attack on Crete in the days before the invasion. This included things like a parachute packing table, parachute rigger tool bags, storage shelves for over twenty RZ-16 parachutes, parachute transport cans, a Kompanie Schreibstube for processing attendees upon arrival, wartime training aid posters for the parachute packers, original Fallschirmjäger weapons container, and all sorts of other great props and “eye candy” that enhanced the atmosphere and elevated the overall immersion experience. Our coordination with the Museum also enabled us to billet the FJ-Lehrkompanie attendees inside the LW hangar; each participant brought along a fold-up army cot and covered it with the blue & white checkered “Bettzeuge” typical of a wartime German bunks. We were very thankful for this arrangement later in the weekend; a heavy rainstorm moved through the area Friday night. I said a quick prayer of thanks when I woke up Saturday morning nice and dry while all the other reenactment groups camped out along the grass air strip woke up soaking wet!



Friday morning began what was the real highlight of the weekend for all of us – the Fallschirmjäger “immersion training day”, where we introduced all aspects of Fallschirmjaeger jump school training activities. All of these activities had been meticulously researched by our FJ-Lehrkompanie cadre: translating actual wartime instruction manuals, interviewing several German paratrooper veterans at past reunions in Germany, and in some cases, receiving hands-on demonstrations of the wartime training techniques from the actual German paratrooper veterans themselves!



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One of the differences between German Fallschirmjäger and their allied counterparts was how they learned how to pack their own individual parachutes. Consequently, FJ-Lehrkompanie attendees assembled around the packing table and received hands-on packing instruction straight from the wartime manual, using an original WW2 German parachute and an authentic German parachute rigger tool kit (Packwerkzeuge) as teaching aids! Instruction was given on how to neatly separate the suspension lines, divide and inspect each panel, the secrets of making the proper "S" folds, air pockets, and all the other tricks of the trade.



(Parachute Packing Training)



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Before a Fallschirmjäger could attempt a parachute jump, he had to go through an extensive ground training program designed to teach him to hit the ground safely. The cornerstone was learning the parachute landing fall, and the German version of this technique was quite different from what the allies developed because of how the German parachute harness was designed. The riser assembly connected to two large D-rings located at the waist of the jumper, so as the Fallschirmjäger descended to earth, he typically landed in a pitched-forward position. Therefore, the German parachute landing fall was a combination judo roll and gymnastic tumble. Jumpers spent day after day learning to execute the special forwards or backwards roll to prevent injuries upon landing, to the extent that muscle memory took over, and they could perform the rolls safely regardless of how they hit the ground. Veterans often joked that their muscles had been so conditioned to falling and rolling that they had become "rubber men" (Gummimaenner) who could never be hurt by falling down. In fact, some veterans even relayed that decades later, when they reached old age and experienced potentially life-threatening falls, they escaped unhurt because they remembered their jump training from years ago!

With this in mind, our next FJ-Lehrkompanie immersion activity involved instruction on how to properly execute the forward and backwards fall, the forwards and backwards roll, and eventually, the diving roll over 2 kneeling Kameraden. To enhance the atmosphere and authentic flavor of the event, this training was conducted on the airfield grass in front of the LW Hangar and next to "Tante Ju" parked outside!



(Pictures of Parachute Landing Roll Training)



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After the parachute landing roll techniques were completed, the next training session focused on mastering the famed diving exit from the Ju-52 aircraft, which was so critical to the proper deployment of the parachute. Participants formed up around our wooden doorway mock-up platform, and received instruction on the correct diving exit techniques, as well as the proper way to hold the special purpose canvas tarp used to "catch" each jumper. Each participant was able to make several jumps out onto the tarp under the watchful eyes of the seasoned instructor; in fact, some participants shared that it was more fun than any amusement park roller coaster!



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Military history enthusiasts with advanced knowledge of wartime German parachute training are familiar with jump school photos depicting paratroopers suspended in their parachute harness from a rope. Trainees in harnesses and hooked up static lines exited an elevated doorway, and were held suspended above the ground, possibly oscillating in the harness. At an undetermined moment, the Fallschirmjäger was released from the rope several feet in the air, and had to perform the proper landing rolls upon hitting the ground. Our next FJ-Lehrkompanie activity imitated this very aspect of jump school. After strapping on an authentic German parachute harness, participants were lifted 4-5 feet off the ground by a rope looped over the ceiling rafter beams inside the hangar. With a tug on the jump boots by the instructor, participants began to spin around, giving the sensation of how the parachute oscillated during the decent. Our participants were instructed on how to perform a 'bicycle kick' to steer away from a ground obstacle, as well as body movements that counteracted the oscillating parachute.



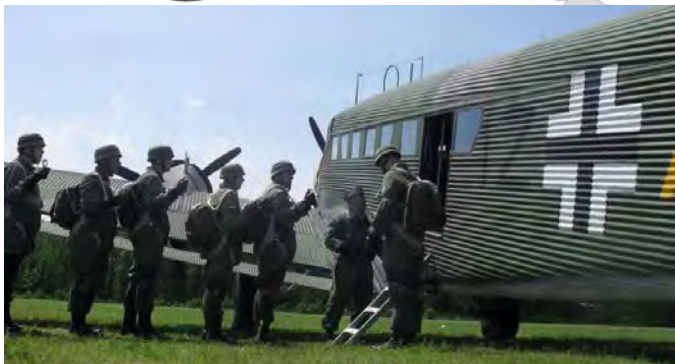
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Our next FJ-Lehrkompanie immersion activity involved taking “remembrance photos” with the Ju-52, and utilized approximately 20 authentic RZ-16 parachutes and several other equipment items. If you’ve ever paged through a reference book on the invasion of Crete, you’ll always see lots of photos taken just before the jump of Fallschirmjaeger and air crews loading the aircraft, conducting last minute equipment preps, snapping farewell photos for loved ones at home, and the like. Our goal was to recreate these photos, and thing that really helped us pull it off was all the artifacts serving as our photo props. Most of the gear and items we used are normally kept hidden away in the hobby rooms of collectors. However, as reenactors and living historians, we were able to breathe life into these inanimate objects in a way that no reference book or museum display can achieve.



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Once all the gear was loaded, and all the last minute equipment checks made, it was time to board the aircraft and start the next scheduled FJ-immersion activity: aircraft procedures and jumping commands! At the command of “An die Maschinen!”, we marched out of the hangar to board “Tante Ju” with our parachutes, and took turns boarding the aircraft and going through the exiting commands and procedures. Each stick took turns climbing into the Ju-52 complete with parachutist equipment and static lines clenched tightly in our teeth, just like the wartime photos. This was a necessity due to the arrangement of the aircraft door; you simply needed both hands to pull yourself up and through the doorway when wearing that parachute and fully laden with gear!



Due to poor timing and logistics errors, the Luftwaffe was not able to provide the Fallschirmjaeger with their excellent summer-weight tropical uniforms, which would have been infinitely more practical in that hot weather environment. Consequently, the Fallschirmjaeger attacked Crete wearing their continental wool flight blouses and jump trousers underneath their smocks. Historic records show the temperatures were near 100° Fahrenheit; the Crete veterans I’ve interviewed all remembered the feeling they were sitting in an oven. The sheet metal fuselages baked in the sun as the pilots waited for the huge dust clouds to settle before they could take off safely! Southeastern Virginia can be just as hot and humid in mid-May, and we got a real taste of what it must have felt like inside those Ju-52’s back in May 1941 as our ‘Absetzer’ (Jumpmaster) went through all of the standard exiting procedures and German commands for each stick (“Fertigmachen zum Absprung” and so on). Needless to say, the location, background scenery, correct uniforms and gear all combined wonderfully to make our photo session a successful and interesting experience.



By the time all our sticks had completed this activity, it was late afternoon. After the parachutes and equipment had been properly stored, the squad assigned with evening meal duty got busy preparing dinner, while the rest of the FJ-Lehrkompanie was free to visit the museum’s aircraft collection, main museum facility, and the rest of the WW2 reenactors who were just now starting to arrive on site and set up their field bivouacs outdoors along the grass flight line. Meals were served “family style” on tables set up inside the hangar; after supper, Joe Lombardo (FJR2 in Massachusetts) arranged a special “Pay Call” where the FJ-Lehrkompanie Zahlmeister (Paymaster) issued out wartime Greek currency to all the participants, who admiringly began pulling out their period billfolds and tucking in the 25 Reichmark “jumper’s pay”. Just like with allied paratroops, many Germans were lured into volunteering for the Fallschirmjaeger because of the extra pay entitled to qualified parachutists! This was a really nice touch, and a great example of the sorts of things that happened all weekend. After dinner, we organized a special award ceremony, and everyone who participated in all the jump school activities was awarded an extremely accurate reproduction “Fallschirmschuetzenschein”, or jumper’s license, courtesy of Ron Lam (FJR5 in California). During the event planning stages, Ron had prompted all the participants to bring along a black & white Soldbuch-style photo for this specific purpose. Ron is one of the go-to guys here in the USA for Fallschirmjaeger reenactors seeking an authentically filled-out and stamped Soldbuch, and his jumper’s licenses are real treasures.



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Just as we were about to kick off our “Kameradschaftsabend”, the members of mid-west based 7./FJR6 got everyone’s attention for an unscheduled presentation. I was asked to step forward, and was then formally presented with an amazing honor plaque in appreciation for past efforts promoting the Fallschirmjäger impression within the USA WW2 reenacting hobby. The plaque featured an amazing hand-carved diving-eagle badge, and is a real work of art; this presentation was a complete surprise to me, and I feel truly honored to be recognized so thoughtfully by my reenacting peers. Of course, the plaque now has a place of honor on the wall of my hobby room, and I’ll treasure it for years to come.

Some FJ reenactors wear the diving eagle badge without giving much thought to what the veterans went through to receive it. As reenactors, we certainly don’t claim to have “earned” any of the badges we wear; rather, we are more like actors portraying a specific role, and that role involves wearing certain badges on the uniform. Our attendees all agreed that short of attending the German airborne school at Altenstadt, this FJ-Lehrkompanie event is the kind of thing that allowed them reach out farther to ‘touch the ghost’ than most of the other reenactors in the hobby, and has enabled them to wear their paratrooper badge with a bit more pride.



(Award Ceremony for Fallschirmschutzenschein & Presentation of Honor Plaque for Don C.)



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Our FJ-Lehrkompanie participants welcomed the public display opportunities during the actual airshow as a way to “pay-back” the Museum for allowing us exclusive use of their hangar! Saturday and Sunday were spent educating airshow visitors about the German paratrooper’s role in the battle of Crete. During the non-flying portions of the airshow, our FJ-Lehrkompanie gave a public demonstration of the tarp-dive training out in front of the hangar, which received a hearty round of applause from all spectators upon completion. Most reenactor displays tend to be static “junk on a bunk” displays of weapons & equipment, but our goal was to run an interactive, not static, exhibit in order to bring that original Luftwaffe hangar back to life. Rather than simply lay out a piece of parachutist equipment out on a table, we actually showed visitors how the gear was used during the war by personal demonstration. Enabling the public to observe specialized activities, like instruction on the German parachute harness design and aircraft exiting techniques, followed by a demonstration of our jump platform/tarp dive training session, airshow visitors had a better appreciation for the diving exit made famous by the wartime newsreels. This all seemed to make things much more interesting for our public visitors.





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During our Saturday evening meal we were joined by an unexpected guest: former Luftwaffe FW-109 pilot/German ace Hans Meyer! Herr Meyer graciously accepted our dinner invitation, and gave our cook a tremendous compliment: "This Kartoffelsuppe is exactly like I had during the war from our field kitchens!"



Me-109 Pilot Hauptmann Hans Meyer (1943)

Photo courtesy Luftwaffe Aircrew Reenactor Association (LARA)



Saturday evening meal shared with Me-109 Pilot Hauptmann a.D. Hans Meyer

As living historians presenting the Axis side of WW2, we must be very sensitive about the image we project, how we engage the public, and the impressions they leave with because it can affect the venue host as well as the individual units involved. Though the Luftwaffe Hanger was located the furthest from the entrance to the Museum property, we had hundreds of visitors come through our display area both Saturday and Sunday, and we received nothing but positive feedback from the public visitors. Several people commented that they would pass along compliments to the museum in hopes that we'd be able to continue the Crete display again in 2014. As our participants parted from the site on Sunday afternoon, they all agreed that the FJ-Lehrkompanie "Battle of Crete" weekend is now the primary must-attend event for all serious students of Fallschirmjaeger history and particularly the early war German Paratrooper impression. There's just nothing like it anywhere else in the USA.

As the primary host of the 'Battle of Crete' display event, I want to personally compliment all the FJ-Lehrkompanie participants on how well they worked together the entire event, shouldered any slight burdens for the betterment of the event, and truly acted as one large unit despite coming from several separate ones. This was a terrific example of 'treue Kameradschaft'!

We started with a pretty ambitious dream, but it took first rate FJ reenactors to turn it into a reality. My hope is that everyone realized how one weekend spent together with like-minded enthusiast benefits the hobby as a whole; after returning to their respective units, they're taking back new knowledge of the impression and practical teamwork experience with other FJ units that should raise the bar within their own units. Reenactors get involved in the WW2 hobby for lots of different reasons, and people are drawn to the German paratrooper impression for just as many different reasons. The Fallschirmjäger-Lehrkompanie event is a hobby experience that isn't for everyone. However, if the Fallschirmjäger impression is the one that fascinates you the most, if you're in decent physical condition, and you're willing to put the time and effort into assembling an authentic early war Fallschirmjäger kit, we offer you this advice: "Komm mit und zage nicht, komm mit!"

Glück ab,
Don Calder





Finding Master Sergeant Bloyd

Part 1

By LTC Tim A. Scherrer

About Finding Master Sergeant Bloyd: This is a series of articles regarding discovering the service of a family member in WWII. This is the running down of a story inside my family and comparing it to the facts that can be found in other sources. I don't know how many articles this will be, because the research is still underway. I hope to prove each month a series of new details as my detective work figures out exactly who was MSG Bloyd.

The Genesis of this project: This started out as a reenacting project for me. I have always wanted a high quality A-2 flight jacket that is marked for a unit. Originally I was thinking about the 91st Bomb Group, mostly because I had been to their reunion in the 90s and had several books about them. Over time, I realized that there may some really interesting family history I am overlooking. That led me back to Master Sergeant Gerald Bloyd.

Part 1: Every family has legends and Master Sergeant Bloyd is one of them from my own family. Gerald Bloyd is my great uncle on my mom's side, my grandmother's brother. Some family history is in order to frame this series of articles. Everyone in the reenacting community knows me as being from Missouri, but my family is deeply rooted in West Central Illinois. I grew up in Quincy, IL and attended only one reenactment, Union, IL 1983, before I started college in Missouri. Although I have been in Missouri since 1983, I still claim my Illinois roots very proudly, although Missouri is my home.

This strain of my ancestry is the only side that served during the war. My maternal grandfather was a farmer in rural Brooklyn, IL. If you look up Brooklyn, you will find a town near St Louis. This Brooklyn no longer exists and was west of Rushville, IL. My paternal grandfather worked as a Boilermaker on the CB&Q Railroad out of the Beardstown, IL roundhouse, which still exists today as a factory.

I knew my grandmother, Rachel Peacock, pretty well before her death in 1987. I always knew her as Grandma Peacock and we visited her many summers in Poplar Grove, IL. She moved up there after remarrying. She was in the restaurant business and ran probably half of the restaurants in the Belvidere, Poplar Grove and Capron, IL area. The one time I attended the

Rockford event, in 2002, I was familiar with the area because of my summers at Grandma Peacock's house, located near the school in Poplar Grove.

Rachel had three brothers, all of whom served in WWII. Gerald was the oldest and according to family legend was a "lifer." His two younger brothers were Guy and Earl. I probably met them in the 1970s at some point, and vaguely remember them. Guy served with Patton's Third Army and liberated concentration camps. I have a picture of Guy that I kept in my college dorm room in his WWII Class A's. Because of his experiences, he almost never spoke of it. Earl

My starting point for research is the family lore. These are the things I commonly heard growing up about Gerald:

-He died in the Bataan Death March

-He was an enlisted pilot

-He was a military "lifer." He was someone who made a career of the military.

-My grandmother was watching a newsreel in a theater and saw some video footage of Gerald shot in the Philippines. Rachel was so shocked by the footage that she passed out in the theater.

-My mom had requested a picture of his gravesite through our congressman back in the 70s and received a Polaroid picture.

It isn't much information but I have to start somewhere. Having both the name and the Bataan connection gives me a good albeit narrow starting point.

Part II will focus on basic information found on the internet about Master Sergeant Bloyd.

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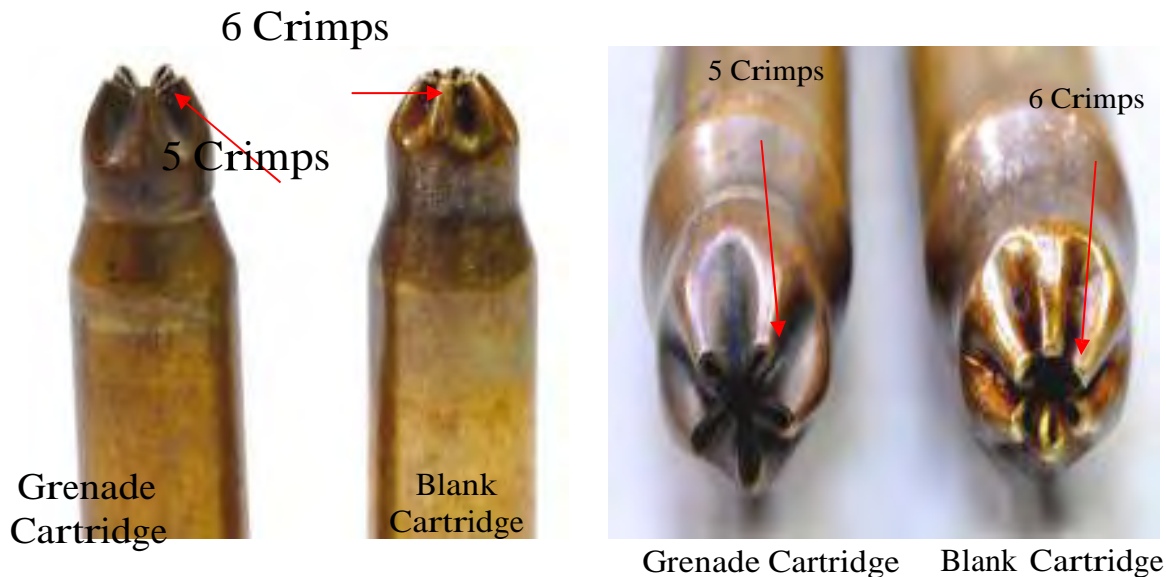
Subject: .30 Caliber Blank M1909- Ammunition Safety Message

AMMUNITION SAFETY MESSAGE



A mishap occurred during the first week of May 2013 in which two M1 Garand Rifles blew apart. This occurred during the rendering of funeral honors at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. As a result of this mishap two American Legion Members received serious injuries. This mishap was caused by the inadvertent use of .30 Caliber Grenade Cartridges instead of the .30 Caliber Blank Cartridges. The grenade cartridge generates more pressure than the blank cartridge and is not designed or intended to be fired with a blank firing adapter.

The significant physical difference between the Blank Cartridge and the Grenade Cartridge is that the Blank Cartridge has 6 Crimps and the Grenade Cartridge has 5 crimps.



WARNING

- Do not fire .30 Caliber Grenade Cartridge in the M1 Garand Rifle
- Only .30 Caliber Blank Ammunition Received from the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command should be fired
- If an Organization's Ammunition Source is unknown that ammunition should be inspected for the presence of Grenade Cartridges

If you have questions, please direct them to Mr. Robert Weissman, U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Center- (973) 724-3056, or robert.j.weissman.civ@mail.mil



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Do you have a good re-enactment picture?
Then Send it in to me for publication The Edge.

Heinz Thiel GD5.Heinz.Thiel@GMail.Com

It does not matter when or where it is from.
Good Pictures are Timeless.





WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



From: _____



To: _____

