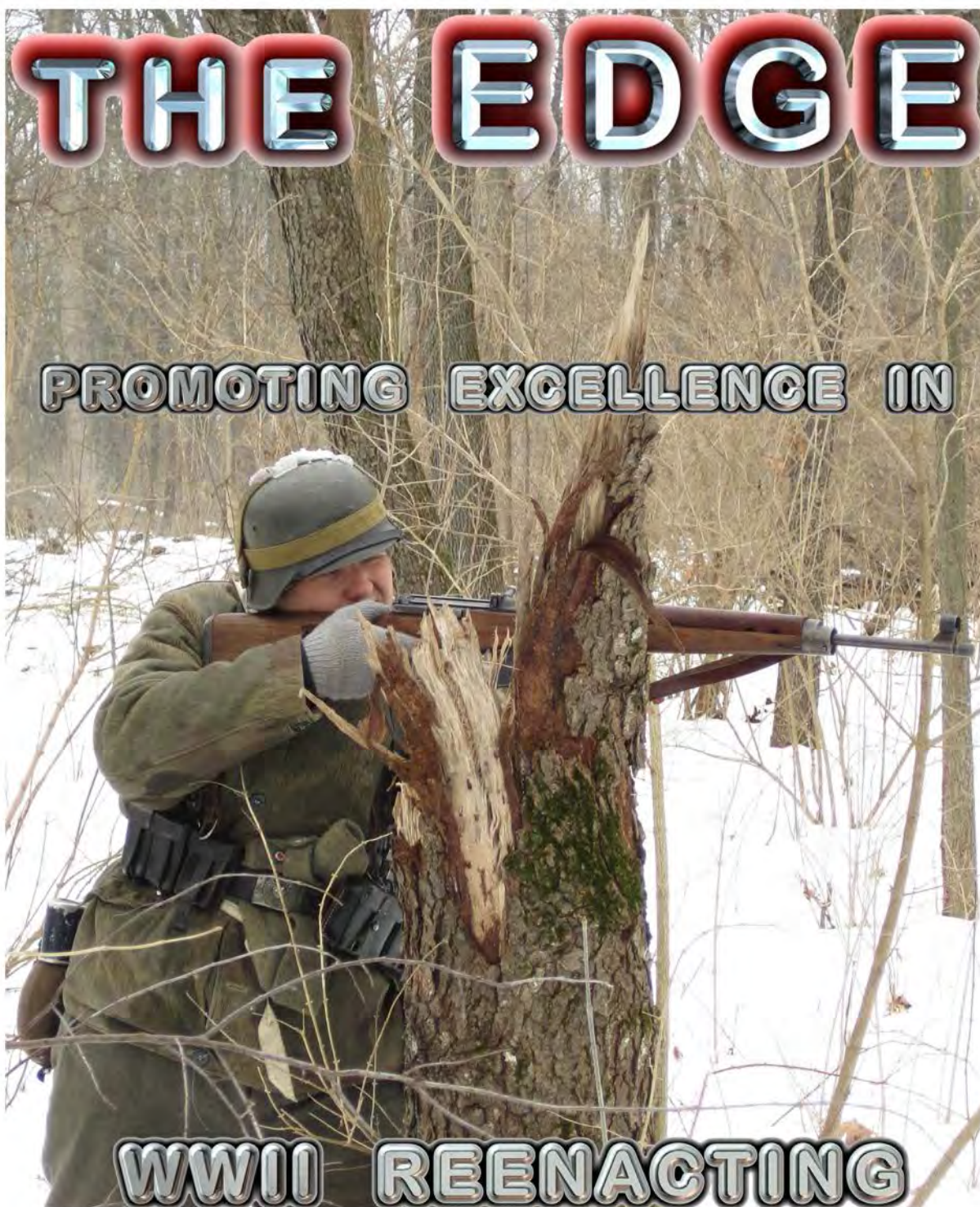


THE EDGE * VOLUME 23 * ISSUE 1 * FEBRUARY 2014



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.





WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

COMMUNICATIONS

From HRS President

Jonathan Stevens, 9th Infantry

jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net



Attention All Troops!

2014 WWII HRS electronic membership is available

The procedure will be similar to 2013. Each month a new password will be sent to the unit commanders who in turn are to provide this to their unit members.

A list of members will be provided to each unit commander approximately biweekly for the first quarter and monthly after that as new members sign up. If there are any unauthorized members for your unit that do sign please inform the Secretary and they will be removed with no refund of dues.

After the vote that recently ended the new dues structure is as follows: \$15 for an individual member; \$10 for each family member; and \$20 for an individual signing up via paper membership application. The results of that vote can be viewed via your email ballot that was sent to all 2013 members with an email address.

Paper applications are sent to the Treasurer so as not to confuse any members as to where to send paper applications we have decided to simply wait until the new Treasurer is ready to publish this application and address. Just as last year this will be available only to unit commanders to disseminate among their unit sent out automatically each month in PDF format through the unit commanders email group.

Membership cards will have a choice this year on the electronic application. You will be able to choose to use the electronic ticket generated by Eventbrite or request a membership card be sent in the US mail. For paper applications they will of course receive a membership card in the US mail.

Any membership dues collected via Eventbrite will not include any additional fees this year. Also these dues are direct deposited to the WWII HRS bank account the first week of every month. Paper applications mailed in will still require a check or money order to be included with any application that will be deposited by the Treasurer in the WWII HRS bank account. Please do not send cash or expect to renew at events.

A question included in the electronic membership is regarding operable WWII vehicles that can be used for reenacting. We will include these on the vehicle listing for the WWII HRS begun in 2013. This will hopefully enable others who may be interested in having WWII vehicles at an event to better find this information and contact the individual owners. It will not be available to the general public. More information on that system will be forthcoming.

Apologies for the late membership information. I think we are squared away now.

I would also like to express thanks to Jan Sheets and Dave Fornell for suggesting to process memberships through Eventbrite and also to Bryce Seyko and Doug Loge for working on the membership system.

If there are any questions, problems, clarifications needed, or suggestions to improve this process please post them here or contact me directly via email or phone.

See you in the field!

Jonathan Stevens
WWII HRS President



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



ballotbin
DEMOCRACY JUST GOT EASIER!

This bin is closed

Bin Title: **2014 WWII HRS Dues Schedule**

The current tallies for this bin are:

Survey Questions

▶▶ 2014 WWII HRS Dues Schedule - Binding Vote

Should the 2014 dues schedule be amended to: full member electronic application reduced from \$20 to \$15 per person with no additional Eventbright fees and the paper application remain at \$20 per person?

| Response | Count | Percent | Rank | Graph |
|----------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| Yes | 234 | 89% | 1 | |
| No | 27 | 10% | 2 | |

Should the 2014 dues for an individual family member be increased from the current \$5 per person to \$10 per person to cover the WWII HRS insurance cost per person?

| Response | Count | Percent | Rank | Graph |
|----------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| Yes | 185 | 71% | 1 | |
| No | 72 | 28% | 2 | |

▶▶ Non Binding Questions

Would you be in favor of a lower dues rate for high school and college students?

| Response | Count | Percent | Rank | Graph |
|----------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| Yes | 152 | 58% | 1 | |
| No | 107 | 41% | 2 | |

Would you be in favor of adding non-military related units or groups to the WWII HRS?

| Response | Count | Percent | Rank | Graph |
|----------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| Yes | 104 | 40% | 1 | |
| Somewhat | 99 | 38% | 2 | |
| No | 56 | 21% | 3 | |



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

EVENTS

| January | |
|--------------|---|
| 17-19 | BATTLE OF THE BULGE |
| Jan | <p>Loc: Camp Clark, Nevada, MO Dates: 1/17/14 – 1/19/14 Event Times: 0830 Saturday, 1/18/14 to 1630 Saturday, 1/18/14 Registration Times: 1/17/14 - 1400 to 2300; 1/18/14 – 0600 to 0800 Pre-Registration: Required on website: http://www.137thinfantry.org Fee: \$20 Contact: Dave Hruska Website: http://www.137thinfantry.org Authenticity Notes: WW II HRS rules apply, period is Dec 44 – Jan 45, ETO. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No Vehicles allowed Restrictions on Minors: WW II HRS rules Other restrictions: No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on Camp Clark Sponsoring Unit(s): G Company, 137th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division and the 38th Jäger Regiment</p> |
| 25 | OSTFRONT II @BLASTCAMP |
| Jan | <p>Loc: Blastcamp, Hobart, IN. Date: Saturday, January 25th, 2014 Event Times: 10:00am to 4:00pm Registration Times: 7:30am to 9:45am Pre-Registration: http://ostfront2.eventbrite.com Fee: \$15 if pre-registered, \$20 at the gate Contact: Doug Loge dbloge@yahoo.com Authenticity Notes: HRS rules apply Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No Vehicles Restrictions on Minors: HRS rules apply Other restrictions: Open to ostfont Allied registration only Sponsoring Unit(s): Assistance from 5th SS Wiking</p> |
| March | |
| 21-23 | DELAY THE INEVITABLE |
| Mar | <p>Loc: Fort Custer Training Center , Augusta, MI Dates: March 21-23, 2014 Event Times: Base is open at 2pm on Friday Registration Times: 2pm - 10:30pm Friday, Saturday 7:30 am - 9am Pre-Registration: http://www.Delay2014.eventbrite.com by Wednesday, 3/19 10pm Fee: Preregistered \$22, on day of event \$25. Saturday Banquet \$9 Contact: Alan Miltich 517-796-9193 9am - 9pm EST Website: http://www.Delay2014.eventbrite.com Authenticity Notes: Late war, HRS S&A enforced Prohibited Vehicles/Items: Handmade pyro and airborne mortar shells Restrictions on Minors: 16 and up permitted Sponsoring Unit(s): "Infamous Alfons" and 5SS Wiking Pionier</p> |



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| June | |
|-------|---|
| 06-08 | 4TH ANNUAL RAILS TO VICTORY |
| Jun | <p>Loc: Fox River Trolley Museum, 361 South LaFox Street (IL 31), South Elgin, IL 60177</p> <p>Dates: June 6-8, 2014</p> <p>Event Summary: Rails to Victory is a great event for all impressions: Military and Civilians. This year's event will focus on remembering D-Day and the sacrifices made by the Allies during the invasion of France in June and July 1944.</p> <p>- New for 2014: A period WW2 BICYCLE RALLY & PARADE is scheduled for Sunday Morning at 10:30 AM for a leisurely ride through the museum and down the Fox River Bicycle path to the Duerr Forest Preserve and back (approximately 3 miles round trip). Period bicycles of all kinds; military & civilian, and European & Homefront, are all invited to participate in this first of its kind WW2 Era Bicycle Rally.</p> <p>- Saturday's Schedule will focus on BATTLES & LIVING HISTORY scenarios along the Trolley Line; offering several bridge skirmishes throughout the day. New in 2014, we are planning evening runs of the Occupied France Trolley Tours offering both reenactors and the public a chance to see the bridge skirmishes and living history skits under sunset lighting with long shadows.</p> <p>- Sunday's Schedule shall include a LARGE SCALE FIELD BATTLE at 1pm in and around the Museum's bone yard with all the railroad obstacles for defensive positions; and includes the expanded open grassy area incorporated into last year's larger battlefield. All vehicles including tracked vehicles and watercrafts are welcome to participate.</p> <p>- A period WW2 Girls Baseball Home Front Game will once again be played on Sunday afternoon this year at 3pm. Reenactors are encouraged to come over to watch the game and cheer on their favorite team; whether it be the Rockford Peaches, Kenosha Comets, Racine Bells, or South Bend Blue Sox.</p> <p>- Opportunities for historical camp presentations are also welcome and can be presented both days of the event. Please contact us if you would like your presentation added to the printed schedule.</p> <p>- Camp Amenities: Shaded Encampments and Flush Toilets on site.</p> <p>Event Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Friday, June 6: Reenactor check-in, 4pm to 10pm.;- Saturday, June 7 : Reenactor check-in, 8 am to 9:15am;- Sunday, June 8: Reenactor check-in, 9am to 9:50am;- Daily morning formations and S&A check;- Museum Opens at 10 am on Saturday and Sunday;- Visit the Event Web Site for Additional event details (schedules, maps, and updates). <p>Website: http://www.railstovictory.com</p> <p>Pre-Registration: http://railstovictory2014.eventbrite.com (No Walk Ons)</p> <p>Fee: none</p> <p>Contact: Rebecca Tulloch becky1861@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Map: http://foxtrolley.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=1146775</p> <p>Directions: The Fox River Trolley Museum is located on Illinois Route 31, three blocks south of State Street in South Elgin, IL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- From Chicago and the east: Take the Northwest Tollway (I-90) or US Route 20 west to Elgin. - - Exit on Illinois 31 southbound and follow posted detour at Spring Street (South Elgin).- From the west and northwest: Take the Northwest Tollway (I-90) or US Route 20 east to Elgin. Exit on Illinois 31 southbound and follow posted detour at Spring Street (South Elgin).- From the south: Take Illinois Route 59 north to Illinois Route 64. Turn west on 64 to Illinois Route 31 in St Charles. Take 31 north to the museum. <p>Authenticity Notes: HRS safety and authenticity rules apply.</p> <p>Invited Vehicles/Items: All WWII vehicles, including tracked vehicles, are welcome; weather conditions permitting, tracked vehicles may be limited to the gravel road and battle field. Smaller vehicles such as Jeeps, Motorcycles, Kubels & Lightweight Trucks may drive on the grassy areas. A static vehicle honor display area has been established for all attending vehicles. Boats and other period water crafts such rafts are also welcome on the Fox River, but should contact us first prior to bringing out. River depth is only 2-3 feet in the vicinity of the museum.</p> <p>Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules</p> <p>Other restrictions: No alcoholic beverages permitted in the Museum and County Park. No digging, but camp fires are allowed in above pits and military stoves and grills. No firing of weapons in the encampment area in County Park by Forest Preserve Ordinance; but okay in the designated battlefield areas on museum property.</p> <p>Motels: Accommodations available in nearby Elgin and St. Charles Illinois: Hampton Inn, the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites and West Dundee's Marriott International-Courtyard & Towne Place Suites; and in St. Charles: Best Western, Country Inn & Suites, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Geneva Motel, Hampton Inn & Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Hotel Baker, Pheasant Run Resort, and Super 8. Restaurants: There are eating establishments with in a very easy walk of the museum ranging in variety from hot dogs to pizza.</p> <p>Sponsoring Unit(s): Members of the US10th Mtn LHDG, and members of Vintage Rockford Peaches Softball Team of the WW2 Girls Baseball Living History League.</p> |



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13-
15

GENERAL JIMMY DOOLITTLE VICTORY DAYS, DOOLITTLE, MO

Jun



Loc: Burns Army Surplus, I-44 Exit 179, Doolittle, MO 65550

Dates: 13-15 June 2014

Event Times: Camp setup starts 12 noon 13 June, event 9am - 5pm 14 June, all camps cleared by 12 noon 15 June 2014

Registration Times: 3-7pm 13 June, 7-9am 14 June

Pre-Registration: Re-enactors will receive a FREE lunch if pre-registered by 7 June 2014, all others will register on site:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/general-jimmy-doolittle-victory-days-doolittle-mo-tickets-6777907905?aff=eac2>

Fee: None

Contact: 6th Corps Living History Group (Select 'Contact Us' on the following page:

<http://www.6thcorpslhg.com>)

Website: <http://doolittlevictorydays.webs.com>

Authenticity Notes: All WW II impressions, all theatres, all nationalities

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: All Military Vehicles are welcome, static display mostly, small convoy Friday night or Saturday morning, possible small skirmish using small vehicles.

Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS Rules

Other restrictions: NO live ammunition.

Sponsoring Unit(s): FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE, 6TH CO, 3RD REG, SECOND 25TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, 25TH BRIGADE 7TH DIVISION, 116th INFANTRY REGIMENT, 29th INFANTRY DIVISION, 29th PANZERGRENADIER REGIMENT, 3rd PANZERGRENADIER DIVISION



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



Jan 31st-Feb 2nd
2014

Pheasant Run Resort
St. Charles, IL

Don't miss the world's only INDOOR military history convention! Inside the 40,000 sq ft MEGA Center you'll find everything from the finest reenacting merchandise to authentic militaria, 12 encampments (Romans thru Vietnam) real WW2 tanks, heavy weapons, dancing, live music, seminars, workshops, and MORE during this THREE DAY celebration! Join the hundreds of historical reenactors who have made this show their "can't miss!" event for the past nine years!

- Vendors from every era plus books and authentic military antiques and collectibles!
- 12 encampments plus real WW2 armor, artillery and vehicles!
- Nightly parties: Historical Jeopardy & the Grand Ball!
- Dance classes, historical seminars and reenacting workshops for all eras!



More info and discounted Advanced Tickets at
www.militaryhistoryfest.com or call (630) 336-2614
Discounted hotel rooms by calling (800) 474-3272



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

Spread the word that Weldon is back!

The 38th Jagers and 84th Railsplitters are proud to announce Weldonkrieg, a tactical western front battle at Weldon Springs Army Reserve Training Center on 28-30 March 2014. Weldon Spring is a vehicle friendly site used for many tactical events in the 70s and 80s and has not been open for reenacting in over 20 years.

Weldon Spring is located northwest of St Louis and is a former US Army Ordnance Works.

Weldonkrieg will feature these things:

- barracks space for up to 80 plus more space for cots
- vehicle friendly terrain and scenarios. We want lots of vehicles at these events because we have maneuver room.
- Western front scenario
- free vending (at least for now)
- easily accessible site to major highways, hotels and restaurants
- realistic scenarios designed by three reserve and guard officer/NCOs with experience on the site. No scavenger hunts, snipe chasing or marching to the sounds of the guns. The main goal is to be realistic and ensure force on force contact in each scenario.
- lots of ruins, building foundations and other remnants of the ordinance works (although the factories/power plants used in the 80s are fenced off and inaccessible). The site has changed somewhat but still had almost all the same good features it did back in the day.
- a relatively low battle fee in the \$20-30 range which will include a Saturday night meal
- a Sunday morning tactical...just as Weldon has always had.

Please save the date of 28-30 March for Weldonkrieg.

Tim Scherrer
Railsplitters Living History Company

Dave Goodwin and Dave Overschmidt
38th Jagers

Weldon Spring? Never heard of it...

Tim Scherrer
Railsplitters Living History Company

If you started in WWII reenacting any time after 1990, you have never been to Weldon Spring, but perhaps heard of it. If you came in after 2000, you might have heard of it in passing but it never registered as anything significant. If you came in after 2008, you probably never heard of it...period.

So what is so special about Weldon Spring Training Site? It was the location where WWII reenacting first catalyzed into the hobby that it is today. The first event was held there around 1975 and they continued until about 1989, when the site was closed to outsiders. By the time I joined in 1983, there were three events a year held there. In the beginning, there was a fall and spring western front battle, usually held in October and March. Then around 1980, an eastern front event was added in February.

I asked Fred Poddig about the genesis of Weldon Springs as a reenacting site, and he sent me this: "The first WW2 re-enactment was held at Weldon Spring in 1975. It was the brainchild of Terry Johns. He got the site and set it all up. He called the media and contacted uniform and vehicle collectors as well as re-enactors from other time periods. I primarily took over the German side of things while Terry handled the rest. For a fee of \$5.00 the participants got 100 rounds of blanks, a boxed chicken dinner, beer and soda. No one was injured, no one had to hire a lawyer and no one complained if we crushed a dingleberry flower! The army was great, the press was great the vehicle owners were only too glad to give everyone a lift when needed and no one tried to make any money off of the participants."

This is where the hobby gelled and people came from all over the US. Weldon was THE WWII REENACTMENT site in the early to late 80s. The Western front events were drawing upwards of 300 reenactors at time when there were probably only 1,000 in the US. I met reenactors there from California, Colorado and Texas regularly. I had dinner with John Angolia from Kansas City one night after an event there...yes that John Angolia who wrote all the German WWII reference books, although I was just along for the ride as a 20 year old college student. I bought items out of Rollin Curtis' trunk well before At The Front even existed, and dealt with George Peterson's National Capital Historical Sales in person there. It was that big of a deal.

So what is Weldon?

So what is Weldon Spring? The full name is the Weldon Spring Training Site. It is located in west St Charles County, Missouri not far from the intersections of I-64 and Highway 94. If you can't find that, find the Missouri River bridge on I-64, follow it north to Highway 94 and go west a little. On google earth you will see a large whitish looking structure. Go a little further west and that is it.

It was originally known as the Weldon Springs Ordnance works, and it was run by the Atlas Powder Company that produced explosive in WWII. The powder facility was closed in the 50s and the neighboring land was turned over the Army Reserve for training. In the 60s it was used by Mallinckrodt process iron ore to make atomic munitions, ceasing in the 60s. It produced "Yellow cake," which is made by running uranium ore through nasty chemicals to purify it. One joke always played on newbies at the site was how the factory fence glowed at night, although I never saw it.

In the 80s, as the environment became more of a concern, testing was done on the site and it found many locations with explosive and toxic chemicals. The lakes near the plant were found to be full of explosives dumped in them for disposal. Those of us who participated at reenactments there found areas that we camped in the fall, marked off in the spring with toxic waste signs.



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The site was closed off to outside groups about 1990, and completely to the Reserves for the few years in about 1992. My last visit out there for a long time was in 1991, when the officers of my reserve unit qualified on pistols while the Gulf War was spinning up. It was declared an EPA "Superfund site" and much of the toxic materials were buried in the site of the factory in a containment facility. The explosive were removed and detonated and now the site is considered safe for use again. Most of the waste is located in the large white tomb, which should safely store it for the next 1000 years. One remainder exists...Don't drink the water...seriously. There are two safe potable water points on the site that can be drank from, but anything other source is purely for external use. The signs in the facilities aren't a joke.

The spin up for the War on Terrorism in the early 2000s probably prevented the event being opened back for usage again, but with the decline, Weldon is back! The site consists of 1,655 acres located with easy access to main highways and roads.

So what has changed and what has remained:

For those of us with a long memory, Weldon has changed, mostly for the better. Having the toxic waste gone is always a good thing, but there has been much new investment there. There is a 27,000 square foot Army Reserve building, shop facility and some new construction going up. There are the two 40 bed housing units, training rooms and other spaces. There is a large new garage building with 12000 square feet of space. The range is still intact. Some of the St Louis reserve units are moving out to new homes at Weldon to better utilize the facility, as well as make training much easier.

What made Weldon interesting were the building foundations as well as the power plant, known as factory or "tractor factory" at the East Front events. The power plant is still there, having survived an attempt to blow it up in the 80s that took the life of a national guardsman. Most of the other building foundations are still there, although the vegetation has changed since the last event there. Weldon has lots of roads and is very vehicle friendly.

The two power plant buildings are now strictly off limits due to their contamination with asbestos and other toxic chemicals. They are fenced off and entry is not permitted. The European style train cars near the brick building near the entry is long gone, since that is where much of the new construction is located.

The biggest changes will be seen outside the gate. Weldon used to be a facility that was outside the city. In the past 20 years, St Charles County has grown out to encompass more of the area. There is a large research park located at the 64/94 interchange, and the town of Dardenne Prairie has filled in most of the area between the Weldon exit and Lake St Louis. There are several hotels within a mile or two of the exit. For those of us old timers, the circular buffet that was located in Wentzville has been gone since the early 90s, but there are plenty of restaurants in the area. St Charles County is one of the fastest growing areas in the US, and if you haven't been there since the 80s, you will quickly see the changes.

So what will the new Weldonkrieg offer to a reenactor:

The new Weldon is better than before. There was maybe one building that vendors would set up in, with everyone else outside. We now have access to the 80 bed facility and more space for cots. There is also plenty of land to bivouac. Because the town has grown closer to the site, food is easier to get to.

The site offers many roads for mounted operations, so we can use our vehicles, but not like we used to do. The Army is fairly restrictive about creating lots of ruts, so most vehicles will need to remain on or near roads unless the ground is very dry. Unfortunately these are the rules of using the military facility these days. Many of the original buildings are still there although the power plants are fenced off. We will also have to be fairly restrictive of parking areas, so don't be surprised if the "parking Nazis" come looking for you if you are in the wrong space. Please remember as organizers we are taking on a lot of liability for the people who attend, and we are just doing what we need to in order to preserve our access to the site for the future.

The original Weldon format was a large tactical on Saturday and a small Sunday morning short battle of the people who stayed around. We are bringing back the Sunday tactical! They were always smaller, lasted from about 0830-1000 and way more fun than the Saturday mass events. Most people had gotten their frustrations out of their systems on Saturday and just wanted to have a nice event on Sunday. It's back so you can get two tactical battles in a single trip. The normal routine was having everything packed up and ready to leave before the Sunday battle, so afterwards most dropped their gear in their cars and left.

The early indications we are receiving about the event have people coming from Ohio, Texas, Tennessee, Colorado, South Dakota, Minnesota and all neighboring states to Missouri. This will probably end up becoming something more along the lines of the Camp Gruber events ten years ago.

Housing is very limited so the vast majority of reenactors will be in hotels or under canvas. A Saturday night meal has been planned and budgeted as part of the battle fee. We are offering free vending spots to encourage vendors to attend. The Railsplitters and .38 Jagers are hosting, and this will be a learning event for us about reutilizing the site as well as running a large event there. I am using some best practices I learned as the Ft Indiantown Gap Allied XO to organize our forces for the event. It won't be about winning and losing, but having lots of good, safe and fun contact with our opponents, playing with our toys and seeing/making friends.

It will be March 28-29 and 30 2014.

We hope to see you there for an old/new tradition at Weldon Spring.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

2nd Armored In Europe's 2014 Liberation Tour in Honor of the 70th Anniversary!

Fellow Reenactors and Members of the WWII HRS;

My name is Michael Beth (2nd Panzer Division) and I am writing you to make you aware of a special event taking place in 2014. This is a full immersion event in full uniform, combat gear and period vehicles. Past 2nd Armored in Europe events have been supported by reenactors from the United Kingdom, United States, France, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic among others.

The event is sponsored by the US 2nd Armored in Europe (2nd AIE) at: <http://www.2ndarmoredineurope.co.uk/>

The all Allied trip is scheduled to commence on Thursday 8/28/2014 ending on Sunday 9/7/2014. The route will follow the path of the US 2nd Armored Division during their advance through Europe in 1944. The convoy will be starting in France near Montdidier, then through the Somme Valley into Belgium and will conclude at Genk, Belgium with a large liberation celebration. 2nd AIE will feature a complete Armored Recon Company, a Light Tank Platoon, and an Armored Infantry company and will be conducting opposed force simulated combat operations against German units at many points along the route.

The trip will end in Mons Belgium where the US 2nd Armored in Europe are going to be the featured group for the annual "Tanks in Town" event. This internationally famous armored gathering is really pulling out the stops for its 70th anniversary of the liberation of Mons. They are also assisting in bringing over all the Sherman's from England so our appearance there should be remarkable. The routes in France are, for the most part, finalized although there is still much work to be done both there and in Belgium. We've confirmed that there will be WWII 2nd Armored veterans who will be attending the commemorative events for the 70th anniversary, including the Mons event. I don't need to tell you what an honor it will be to have these men present, and how this may be the very last time. The goal of the US 2nd Armored organizers is for upwards of 300 reenactors and 100 vehicles with expectation for upwards of 15 Sherman's, 15 Stewart's, 15 Halftracks, multitude of M8s, Trucks, Harleys etc.

For any questions or applications please reach out to me (Michael Beth Michael.beth@emc.com) as Midwest Coordinator or to US Coordinator Tom Bowers at: tsmgm1a1@aol.com

Kind Regards
Michael Beth



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

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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 (canceled) March April May June July August September October November December | 2012 Minutes January February March April May June July August September (canceled) October November December (No quorum) |
| 2011 Minutes January February March April May June July August September October November December | 2010 Minutes January February March April May June July August September October November December |
| 2009 Minutes January February March April May June July August September October November December | 2008 Minutes January February March April May June July August September October November December |



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

A banner for Socket.NET. The background is orange and yellow. The text "people connecting people" is in the center. Below it is the Socket.NET logo, which consists of a stylized "S" and the word "Socket". Below the logo is the text "VOICE • DATA • INTERNET". In the bottom left corner, there is a small box with the Socket.NET logo and the text "www.socket.net". In the bottom right corner, there is a small box with the text "Internet Service Provider", "2703 Clark Ln, Columbia, MO.", and "(800) 762-5383".



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting 21 NOVEMBER 2013

Welcome and ROLL CALL:

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

HRS Members Present

Jim Scowlon, Jim Gustafson, Kevin Williams, Dave Weakley, Christian Dvorack, Carlos Ramirez

Reading of the October, 2013 Minutes:

The October, 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 Jon Stevens. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved as read.

Old Business

Insurance Certificate costs: There was a prior discussion about the additional insurance certificates. There will be a flat fee of \$500.00 for next year to cover as many as we need.

Renewal: The insurance policy is up for renewal and will be handled as soon as possible in 2014.

New Business

Unit Charters

New Charters:

As Mike Kaczorowski is not available, these new charters will be tabled.

Midwest Women's Historical Baseball League: Tabled, Doug suggested that this unit charter be removed from new charters.

10th SS Frundsberg: Tabled, Doug reported that they have about half of their charter "fixed" but that they be dropped until their charter is corrected.

275th Infanterie Div.: Christian Dvorack was in attendance. Jon mentioned a comment from the S&A Committee about a unit co-commander. Christian removed his name from the charter as unit co-commander due to his being under the age of 21.

19th Infanterie Regt.: Kevin Williams reported that their focus will be 1938-1941, a Bavarian Regiment. Basic Infantry Rifle Group, no heavy weapons, maybe an MG34, but that would be it. For tacticals, they'll match the time frame, but for public events, they'll concentrate on the early war period. Jon reported that this charter will now be submitted to the S&A Committee.

Probationary Charters:

Due to Mike Kaczorowski's absence, a discussion of these units will be tabled.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| H Co., 506th PIR, 101st ABN: | Tabled |
| 40th Guards Rifle Division: | Tabled |
| 3rd Infantry Division, 15th Regt.: | Tabled |
| 10th Mountain Division, 87th Regt.: | Tabled |

Defunct Charters:

None

Treasurer Report – Jon supplied the balances, the PNC Bank has \$48,309.18 in savings and \$4,484.95 in checking. The Wells Fargo account \$641.00, for a total of \$53,435.14. Jon reported that there are no receivables for November and there should be no payables, except for a bill of \$334.75 for the last "named insured". Ron Kapustka made a motion to direct David Jameson to pay that bill, which was seconded by Jon. A vote was taken and was approved. David Jameson will be asked to pay that bill.

Secretary Report No report

Commonwealth Report No report

Allied Report No report.

Axis Report Doug reported that the Herman Goering and the 9th SS unit has less than 5 members and if they do not have these numbers up by January, Doug will suggest these units be disbanded. Doug has had no contact with the 10th SS Frundsberg for over a month, and they have only about half of their charter completed so far.

Edge Report There are no plans for a December, 2013 nor a January, 2014 Edge.

Business Manager Report No Report.

Committee Reports S&A No Report

2014 Memberships Since we'll be changing the dues, the By-Laws say that the dues are to be changed upon a membership vote. Jon will set-up a membership vote on that. Once that is done, we will open up the 2014 memberships. The on-line payment will be a flat \$15.00 with the HRS absorbing the electronic charge. The mail in fee will be \$20.00. Jon mentioned that he has looked into pre-printed, pre-punched membership cards which are about .02-.03 each. Ron Kapustka suggested that Jon send the information on the cards to the board members, who will discuss the card issue prior to the December, 2013 board meeting and announce the procedure at that board meeting.

Illinois state not-for-profit annual report will be prepared by Jonathan and sent in for 2014.

Open Comments: Doug asked about the scholarship being sent out. Jonathan will check with Charlie and advise. Carlos Rameriz reported about his Unit being awarded the "Grand Marshal's Award" at their annual parade. He also asked about having veterans join the HRS and whether there are special requirements by the HRS for the dues of veterans. A short discussion was held regarding this issue. Christian Dvorack reported about his dropping his name as unit co-commander for his unit, and asked if having a unit co-commander is a requirement of the By-Laws. Jonathan commented that the position is vague in its description in the By-Laws. Doug mentioned that some of these issues will be addressed by the redrafted By-Laws. Jim reported about some updates in the Vehicle Committee. He has a list and is updating that list with regard to functioning vehicles. Jim asked whether artillery pieces and heavy weapons should also be included. A short discussion was held and it was suggested that these also be included. A short discussion was also had with regard to the listing only include HRS members. A short discussion was also held that the listing be kept semi-private.

A motion to adjourn the Meeting was made by Ron Kapustka and seconded by Jonathan. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

Here is the HRS Vehicle List

Please contact me if you
are looking for more info.

Jim Schouten
90th I.D.
Vehicle S&A Committee
hiawathajim@yahoo.com

=====

.50 Cal Quad mount Machine Gun
1/4 ton 4X4
1/4 Ton Truck (Jeep)
1936 Lasalle Staff Car,
1941 C30 Lorry,
1945 British Dingo scout Car
1938 FORD 1.5T

1939 37mm PAK anti tank Gun
1939 BMW R71
1939 M3 37mm Anti Tank Gun towed
1939 Type EGA Horch

1940 Chevy 1 1/2 ton Truck
Kubelwagon

1941 Buick staff Car U.S. Army
1941 Dodge WC 18 Ambulance
1941 Dodge wc12

1941 M3 Halftrack;
1942 GPW;
1942 Chevy 1 1/2 ton G7107;
1945 Dodge 3/4 Ton WC-51 Weapons
Carrier

1941 Plymouth p12 Staff Car U.S.
Navy

1941 Steyr 1500a-01 Reproduction
1942 Chevy CCK
1942 FORD GP
1942 FORD GPW
1942 Ford GPW (Jeep)
1942 GPW
1942 GPW
1942 GPW
1942 GPW Jeep,
Kubelwagon
1942 M100 Jeep trailer

1942 M5 1A Stuart Light Tank

1942 WC 52
1942 Willys Jeep
1942 WLA Harley Davidsion

1942 WILLYS MB
1943 1/4 ton 4X4 Truck (GPW)
1943 40mm towed Anti-Aircraft gun
1943 Ford GPW Jeep
1943 GPW Jeep
1943 GPW Jeep
1943 GPW Jeep
1943 GPW Jeep
1943 Jeep

1943 Kubelwagon
German Field kitchen
Jeep trailer KDF wagon
1943 KUBELWAGEN

1943 M22 Locust Airborne Light
Tank

1943 M3 75mm gun motor carriage
1943 M6 37mm gun motor carriage
1943 M8 Armored Car

1943 Opel Blitz Truck
1943 wc51 weapons carrier
1943 Willys
1944 10-p Cargo Sled
1944 BMW ri
1944 BSA M20
1940 BSA M20
1941 BSA M20

1940 FORD German transport Truck
(v2000)

1944 GPW
1944 Jeep Bicycle
1944 M29c Weasel
1944 M7 Snow Tractor
1944 M8 75mm PAC howitzer towed
1944 T16 Bren carrier
1944 Willys Jeep
1944 Willys MB
1944 DKW 350nz
1945 Army 10 ton crane
1945 Ford GPW

1945 LCVF Higgins Boat landing
craft on trailer

1945 Willys mb
1945 Stinson L5 Airplane

1942 Willys MB
1945 Willys MB
1945 Willys MB

Chevy 1.5 ton
Open cab lwb Jimmie

Ben hur trailer
Dodge carryall
1942 dodge wc51

1942 GPW Jeep, Converted to T-6
1/4 Ton Trailer,

1941 Indian 741 Scout
1943 Ford GPW
1943 M3A4 Hand Cart
1945 1/4 ton Trailer
1943 GMC 2 1/2 ton
1943 GPW 1/4 ton
1943 mb/GPW Jeep
Bicycle

BMW R12 R75m. With sidecars
White Scout Car
BMW R71
BMW R71
BMW R71 copy
Civilian 3/4 Ton Pick-up Truck

Field Kitchen
Ford v8 51
German Field Kitchen
German R71 bike
1945 Chevy Truck

German sdkfz 247
German sdkfz 231 6 rad

Hetzer

German 251 Halftrack

2 motorcycles w/sidecars
Jeep
Jeep
Jeep and trailer
M-1-4 IHC Ambulance
M-29C Weasel
M-42 command Truck
Motorcycle
Motorcycle and side Car

Motorcycle Truck
Motorcycle Truck
Packard Staff Car

Pak 40 Gun
Opel Blitz

Period bicycles
Period bicycles
Peugeot Motorcycle
Horch Kfz-16 (Starting 6/13) -
Reproduction

Kubelwagen - Reproduction
Trailer iF8
Willys Jeep
Willys Jeep
Willys MB Jeep
Zündapp KS750
Willys MB



Finding Master Sergeant Bloyd

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 researching 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.

Part 4:

The Training and Deployment to the Philippines of the 93rd BS and 19th BG

The 93rd Bomb Squadron is one of the oldest units in the US Air Force, tracing lineage back to WWI. It was known as the 93rd Aero Squadron in WWI with service as a pursuit squadron from 1917-19. In 1939, the unit was reactivated as a heavy bomb squadron assigned to the General Headquarters, Air Force. It was assigned to March Field, California and equipped initially with Martin B-10s and B-18s. It started receiving the earliest B-17B models in 1939.



The Martin B-10 and Douglas B-18 bombers, as first used by the 93rd Bomb Squadron. The B-10 is at the USAF Museum in Ohio, and the B-18 is at the Pima Air Museum in Tucson.

The 93rd served in the PTO from October 1941 until late 1942 with B-17s. It was then reequipped with B-24s and eventually returned to stateside. Stateside it trained B-17 replacement crews and was redesignated a B-29 unit on 1 April 1944. It arrived in Guam in January and conducted airborne attacks against Japan until August of 1945. After the war, it dropped relief supplies to various Allied Prisoner of War Camps in Japan and Manchuria.

The 93rd was involved with the first overseas deployment of the B-17 on 13-14 May 1941 when they deployed 21 aircraft from California to Hawaii. They then returned stateside by ship to prepare for their next mission. They re-stationed from March Field, CA to Albuquerque Army Air Field, now Kirtland AFB, and continued training for overseas movement.

At Albuquerque, the 19th Bombardment Group then underwent training for deployment. All aircrew were cross trained in the various tasks as crews. There was breakdown of crews into specific jobs at this point, so there were enlisted and officer tasks. The officers could be a pilot, co-pilot, navigator or possibly a bombardier. The enlisted aircrew could be assigned as a flight engineer, a radio operator, or one of the gunners. The idea was to make everyone interchangeable, although I believe over time the crew figured out what jobs best suited them, and they stuck with those positions when there was a choice. Their deployment to the Philippines happened from 16 October to 4 November 1941. A total of 26 aircraft deployed a total of 10,000 miles including the longest leg at night. They departed Hamilton Field, California with stops at Hickam Field, Midway Island, Port Moresby, Darwin in Australia and finally to Clark Field in the Philippines. The feat was considered such a difficult task, that later President Roosevelt authorized all flight crew members the Air Medal for the deployment.



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The deployment order for the movement is available on the internet. It is 19th Bomb Group Special Order #1 dated 17 October 1941. I have omitted all of the 26 aircrew lists except Gerald's aircraft.
"Pursuant to authority contained in letter W.D. File AG 370.5 (9-17-41) MC-C-M, Subject: Movement of Air Corps and Air Corps Service Units to the xxxxx xxxxxxxx dated September 18, 1941 and Letter WD File AG 370.5 (10-7-41) MC-C-M, Subject: Movement of Air Corps Units dated October 9, 1941, and 2nd. Indorsement, Headquarters 4th Air Force, Riverside, California dated October 13, 1941, the following named personnel:

Crew No. 23

1st Lt. Walter R. Ford - 0-320271
2nd Lt. Percy N. Hinton - 0-416303
2nd Lt. Charles J. Stevens - 0-409907
Avn. Cadet Melvin R. Hunt - 17025611
T/Sgt. Gerald H. Bloyd - 6493483
Sgt. James W. Hanna - 655009
Cpl. Robert R. Johnson - 6573768
Sgt. Albert H. Collett - 6580825
Pvt. Harold A. Maike - 6568988

Will proceed by military aircraft on or about October 17, 1941, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, via prescribed air route to destination in the xxxxxxxx, for permanent change of station.

Duties to be performed at all ports being exceptional will require more than 72 hours for their performance, a delay of not to exceed 15 days is authorized at each place.

In lieu of subsistence a flat per them of \$6 authorized for travel by military aircraft for officers and enlisted men.

Personnel to be returned to the Continental limits of the United States will return by first available transportation and will proceed by rail from port of embarkation to their proper stations.

The Quartermaster will furnish the necessary rail transportation for Officers and Aviation Cadets returned to the Continental limits of the United States. It being impracticable for the government to furnish cooking facilities for rations, the Finance Department will pay to the above named aviation cadet in advance the monetary travel allowance as prescribed in Table II, par 2a, AR 35-4520, at the rate of \$3.00 per day for rations for two days.

The travel directed is necessary in the military service and payment when made is chargeable to Procurement Authorities FD 1437 P 1-06, 3-06, 15-06, 17-06, A 0410-2; QM 1620 P 54-0i, 54-02, 54-13, 54-07 A 0525-2 "D". Procurement authorities for per them (Officers FD 1437 PI-06A 0410-2 (Enlisted Men) FD 1437 P 3-06 A 0410-2.

Dependents will not accompany troops. Letter AGO, June 7, 1941, file A.G. 541.1 (5-26-41) MO-D-M, subject: Transportation of Dependents and Household Goods to Overseas Stations, and paragraph I c & d. Circular 92, War Department, May 7, 1941 will govern.

By order of Lt. Colonel EUBANK:"

Please note there is an Aviation Cadet on the #23 aircrew listing. There were 11 aviation cadets listed on the crew rosters, filling officer positions. They were ordered to return back to the states after the deployment was completed. There were also 9 other officers, all Lieutenants, who were ordered back to the states once they arrived. These are probably from other units assigned to the 19th for the deployment to fill open positions for the deployment and to gain experience. While the training value of this experience is pretty clear for new aircrew, it also shows that the Air Corps was short experienced airmen. Sending aviation cadets in officer positions, and officers from other units' shows that the 19th was only at about a 90% fill for personnel. The remaining fill being temporarily assigned cadets and other flight officers ordered back to the states after they arrived. As my future research has shown, this didn't happen. They were there for the duration.



One month later on 5 December, the B-17s of the 93rd and 14th Squadrons moved to Del Monte Field on Mindanao. The field is named after the banana company which used the field before the USAAF.

Pre-war duty in the Philippines in the 19th was described by Ray Thompson in his story *My Hell on Earth* (<http://home.comcast.net/~winjerd/DethMrch.html>)
"All enlisted men in the 19th Bm Gp lived in nippa type barracks, a row of bunks on each side of the isle, we all had mosquito nets AS MALARIA was and still is a dreaded disease in the Philippines. Our living quarters (enlisted) were quaint compared to the US permanent type that is now mostly standard at most bases; however we had Filipino boys who did all our menial tasks such as clean floors, make our beds, shine our shoes, even did our (KP) kitchen police, which from all previous statements from GI's was one of the worst duties we had to perform; all we had to worry about before the war started was to eat and go to work, and we had plenty to do, digging fox holes, gun emplacements, filling sand bags which were to be used around aircraft to protect them from shrapnel, etc, and most of this was left undone as the "O" fighters and bombers put a stop to our activities. Before all this we thought our tour in the P.I. would be easy and pleasant, NO WAY.."



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Thompson defines the housing of the 19th as Nipa Huts. Nipa huts are a traditional Filipino stilt house that is found very often in rural areas of the Philippines. They sit off the ground in the event of rising waters and to keep pests like rats out of the living quarters. They usually had steps or a ladder to enter them, and lots of windows for fresh air and natural light. Many times they have bamboo floors that also help with ventilation. The roof is usually pitched and has wide eaves for water flow during the monsoon season. They are usually made with indigenous materials, like bamboo, light weight wood and have thatched roofs made of nipa, anahaw or some other local plant that can be woven into a waterproof roof. Little did many of the 19th who were later captured know this style of housing would also be their quarters when in captivity for the next 4 years.



The 19th was ordered to have at least one squadron on alert in the event of a Japanese attack. Also, there were preplanned target folders prepared for Japanese bases on Formosa (Taiwan) but these missions were never executed. The 19th prepared for the expected war, but just not knowing when it would come or how it would start.

Part 5 will examine the fate of the aircrew members that deployed with MSG Bloyd to the Philippines.

=====

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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

Re-enactor pays tribute to Veterans

Submitted by Steve Zahareas

From The Daily Herald 8 November 2013

Dressed in World War II combat fatigues and standing in a foxhole he helped dig, Steve Zahareas looks like he stepped back in time.

And, in a way, he has.



Bev Horne Photographer

Re-enactor Steve Zahareas of Schaumburg looks out from a foxhole that he helped dig out, at World War II Days in Rockford.



Bev Horne Photographer

Steve Zahareas marches to a field battle at World War II Days in Rockford.



Photo Courtesy of Steve Zahareas

Steve Zahareas portrays a door gunner on a Huey helicopter UH1 during a Vietnam War re-enactment.



Bev Horne Photographer

Zahareas looks over his gear at his static display at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, part of an observance for the 69th anniversary of D-Day.



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Bev Horne Photographer
Cole Haubenreiser, 12, of Darien, gets a lesson in fighting a World War II battle from Zahareas during World War II Days in Rockford.

A self-proclaimed "living historian," Zahareas is playing the part of a GI in the 509 Parachute Infantry Battalion during a recent re-enactment called World War II Days in Rockford.

As part of the re-enactment, the 41-year-old Schaumburg man will take part in several mock battles and interact with visitors, all with the goal of sharing information about the World War II experience with people whose knowledge of the war comes mostly from books or movies.

A former high school history teacher, Zahareas has vivid memories of his lesson plan on Veterans Day 2004, when he told students about the human cost of liberty and freedom.

Later that day he learned his nephew, Peter Giannopolous, a Marine from Inverness, had been killed in Iraq.

As a way to honor his nephew's memory, Zahareas began participating in war re-enactments in 2005. He concentrates on World War II, Vietnam and even goes back to his roots portraying a heavily armed soldier from ancient Greece called a hoplite.

Zahareas knows some critics suggest re-enactors simply glorify war, but he disagrees.

"I believe most of us do it because we want to teach and educate the public about the sacrifices of the men and women who came before us," he said. "A lot of my friends are World War II and Vietnam veterans and I do it for them."

Zahareas didn't serve in the military himself, but many of his family members did. He feels this is his way of giving back. When he identifies a veteran, he will approach and thank them for their service.

"I know there's a great deal of appreciation from the veterans that I come across," he said.

During re-enactments, he portrays a member of the allied forces in World War II, which include 509 Parachute Infantry Battalion and a British Royal Marine 401 Commando. As a Vietnam soldier, he acts as part of the 101st Airborne and 5th special forces group, or even a Huey helicopter pilot.

A married and stay-at-home dad with two girls, Zahareas typically takes part in events from May to September, which includes re-enactments as well as static displays.

He volunteers at the First Division Museum at Cantigny, where he will set up and take part in various war displays. Zahareas collects from vintage war memorabilia from estate sales, garage sales, eBay, or donations from vets.

He believes displays and re-enactments are a very effective way to teach history.

"There is only so much you can read about in a book or look on the Internet," Zahareas said. "When it's in front of you, when you can touch it and feel it, it's a much more intimate experience."



Bev Horne Photographer
Steve Zahareas at Cantigny Park in Wheaton

ABOUT THIS ARTICLE

Steve Zahareas of Schaumburg knows the true cost of war, after losing his nephew Peter Giannopolous during the Iraq War. As a former high school history teacher, Zahareas now participates in war re-enactments several times a year, doing his best to enlighten others on the realities of war. "There is only so much you can read about in a book or look on the Internet," Zahareas said. "When it's in front of you, when you can touch it and feel it, it's a much



The Story of the Soldier Mulle

This story is by Anni, who currently lives in Germany.



My grandfather was born on June 20, 1921 ...
And visited a state gymnasium in Brunswick.



He left school in 1940 ...
And was transferred to the Eastern Front after his basic training.



One day, it had to be in a time where he still was a “front-youngster”, he heard twittering birds. He always loved birds and had books about them, so he walked around to the trees nearby to look for them. His sergeant knocked him to the ground and yelled at him. There were no birds. The sounds he had heard were the sound of bullets which hit the tree leaves. They were fired from so far, that he hadn’t heard the sound of the gunshots. This was maybe the first combat experience of the young man.





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On the rise they walked about 80 km (50 miles) per day.

The horse was an important part of my grandfather's life from then on. They carried Ammunition, provisions and soldiers. The horse became a brave comrade and friend and so one of my grandfather's favorite drawing subjects. He also learned riding during the war and since then never lost his love for the big animals. On the rise he once broke down and had rest in a hospital for two days.

In Russia he soon had a conflict with the policy of the third Reich. It frustrated him that the Russian people were welcoming him and his comrades with open hands and "flowers" and as soon as the soldiers had walked thru and the politic people came, they had to go back and fight partisans.



Later in 1941, before winter, he was wounded due a surprise attack of the red army. It maybe happened early in the morning, because the soldiers were still in their tents. In front of the tents they had dug holes the day before. When the Red Army attacked the soviet soldiers were aiming at a shining thing. As it turned out this shining thing was my grandfather's helmet and parts of his uniform which hung at the tent. My Grandfather woke up from the noise, grabbed his things and jumped into the hole. What he didn't know: A grenade had landed in his uniform. The grenade exploded down in the hole. Smaller fragments and dirt blinded him and a bigger fragment tore out the metacarpal out of his right hand.

In the hospital the medics saved his eyes and bandaged his hand. He was transferred to another hospital where a nurse lifted the bandage and fainted. The wound was full of fly larvae. A doctor, who had served in the First World War, appeared. He said that the larvae saved my grandfather's life. Then he looked at the hand, cut off the bones which stood out of the open wound and bandaged it again.



His drawing hand was useless. I remember it clearly. It looked clumsy. The fingers were cramped, almost like paralyzed.

He received the certificate for vacation until his dismissal of the Wehrmacht, so he would be able to prepare for his study. He occupied law at a University with the remark "invalid soldier" but never finished his study because he had been called back into the Wehrmacht to train future soldiers.

In 1941 he received two Purple Hearts in black and one in silver. He received an Iron Cross, class 2.



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He was promoted to Unteroffizier in 1942
And to Feldwebel and Leutnant in 1943.
In 1945 he was promoted once again to Oberleutnant.

When the end of the war came closer my grandfather was sent together with his last class of soldiers back to the eastern front. On his way to the front a division commander noticed him. He said: „Da wo die hingehen kommen Sie nicht wieder von zurück“ („You will not come back from where your boys go“). With these words he wrote my grandfather a faked march order.



My grandfather took his new “order” and walked all the way from Thorn back to Bavaria, where he was captured by American soldiers. After a short time they set him free and he walked back to Brunswick.



When he came back from war only “7 of 21” classmates had returned.

Beside almost each photo of his album stood a name with a cross behind it.



You could describe him as grimly. A man, who wasn't talking too much. Silent and contemplatively. But that wasn't anything special for me. He loved his garden with his red roses and knew every single bird around. Sometimes even the family horse was allowed to relax a bit in his garden. He became a founding member of a riding club near our old house, so I began riding when I was a few years old.

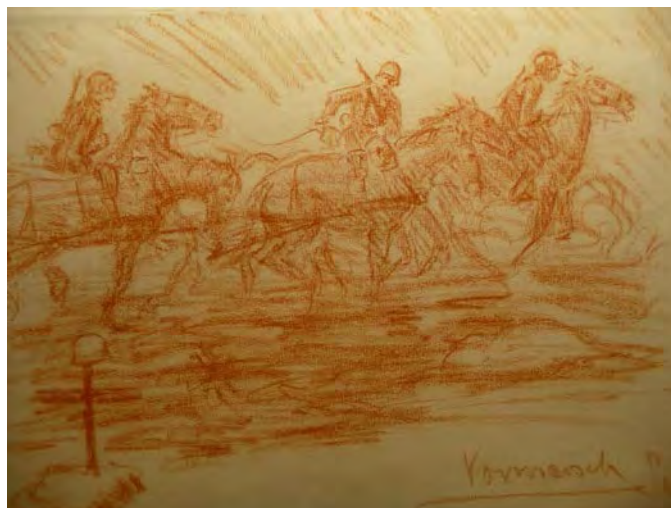


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In 2008 he had heart attack and was put to hospital. One day he wasn't waking up again. During the night he had a cerebral infarction. His heart was so weak, that the doctors gave him only one day. He peacefully died three days later.

The first and only war picture he ever drew after the war was this red chalk drawing.



He also encouraged me in my art. He was a great teacher!

After his death I researched his life. Now I know, that he never got over what he had seen in war and back home people spat at him because he wore a uniform. He wasn't allowed to talk, so he fell silent for almost the rest of his life.

By his loving Granddaughter Anni.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

WW2 HRS Promotional Videos

After many weeks of review and editing Jon Stevens has finally given me the OKAY to tell you about these...

WW2 HRS Promotional Videos

- #1) WW2 HRS - Join Us
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SS1bVlXmzM>
- #2) WW2 HRS - Battle Reenactments
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd-crtg_z48
- #3) WW2 HRS - Honoring WW2 Veterans
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVgEJSbWEno>
- #4) WW2 HRS - Equipment Restoration
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ru4V3hSwJ8>

You may use these videos to recruit members and promote events.


This is our first attempt at this.

If you have ideas for more WW2 HRS Videos then please contact me.

Heinz Thiel - WW2 HRS Press Corps

E-Mail: GD5.Heinz.Thiel@GMail.Com

From: _____

**To:** _____

