

December 2013 Battle of the Bulge Re-enactment Photos By Lucas Ryan



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

THE EDGE

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN

WWII REENACTING

December 2013 Battle of the Bulge Re-enactment Photos By Lucas Ryan



© Getty Images

This is an un-dated Internet Getty Photo of a Patrol during Battle of the Bulge taken (70 years ago) during World War 2

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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

COMMUNICATIONS

From The Editor



Heinz Thiel

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In this issue you will find articles by two young WW2 HRS Members. Bodo Fehrmann and Zack Myslinski.

I am welcoming Bodo Fehrmann to The Edge Staff. This month Bodo reports on re-enacting in Europe with his article Living History on Historical Ground (Page 17).

I also welcome the return of the United Press to The EDGE with their Article Yanks of the 401 GIR (Page 21). I hope to feature more of their work this year in The EDGE.

This month Zack S. Myslinski submitted his first article WWII Re-Enacting: Starting from Scratch (Page 24). Zack is new to re-enacting and has some tips for others first starting out. Look for more from Zack in future issues.

Once again Lucas Ryan has submitted some great photos which I used on this month's cover.

Terry Johns and Dave Fornell submitted information about their upcoming Operation Arcadia and WW1 events.

The EDGE is a WW2 HRS publication which promotes and features the works of WW2 HRS Members. I welcome HRS Units to advertise their Events and Accomplishments in The Edge.

ANY WW2 HRS Member can submit an item to me for publication here in The EDGE.

Jon (the HRS President) does review this publication and asks that submissions reflect the POSITIVE aspect of our Society.

You may occasionally notice articles from around the World in The Edge. The Internet makes it possible for anybody to see our Society's work, and submit items to me. We do have a large international following and I do receive world-wide e-mail from people.

Upon request I will also come out and visit with HRS Members and Units. I am happy to take some pictures or video and do a write up about your WW2 Living History efforts.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

EVENTS

March	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 Pioneer</p>
28-30	WELDONKRIEG 2014 (WESTERN FRONT EVENT)
Mar	<p>Loc: Weldon Springs Training Area (WSTA), 7301 Hwy 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63376 Dates: March 28-30, 2014 Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$25.00 Contact(s): - Fw. DAVID GOODWIN (Axis) 15505 NEW HALLS FERRY RD FLORISSANT, MO 63031 314-456-1100 dpty635g@aol.com - Obfw. DAVID (Earl) OVERSCHMIDT (Axis) 102 WISTERIA CT. KANSAS CITY, MO 64089 314-753-7547 dptydover@gmail.com - Cpt. Tim Scherrer (Allied) 835 Oak Lawn Drive, Columbia, MO 65203 - 84th Infantry Division (Railsplitters) 573-489-4891 soldierboy440@yahoo.com Website: https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/339974636142925/348850668588655/?notif_t=plan_mall_activity Authenticity Notes: HRS Authenticity Guidelines apply to this event. All German, American and other Western Front Impressions are Welcome. WWII HRS Safety and authenticity rules apply and will be strictly enforced. All reenactors participating will have proper period hairstyles for their respective nationality. Participants will use weapons of the type their respective impression/ unit would have carried on the Western Front during this timeframe. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: Authentic or Period vehicles only. Host unit(s) will be using several administrative vehicles to facilitate the event No alcoholic beverages permitted on Weldon Springs Training Site. No smoking inside of buildings. Smoking in designated areas only. No Illegal Substances. Restrictions on Minors: No one under the age of 16 will be allowed to attend this event. Attendees 16-17 years old may participate in the tactical battle but must sign any waivers and must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian or their designee. Other restrictions: Blanks/ Pyro: HRS guidelines regarding the use of blanks will be observed at all times. No Live ammo of any kind. Pyro and smoke must be commercially purchased and pre-approved. No exceptions. Motels: Staybridge Suites: 11 55 Technology Dr. Weldon Springs, MO 63376 (636) 300-0999 Residence Inn: 101 Progress Point Ct. O'Fallon, MO 63368, (636) 300-3535 Holiday Inn Express: 1175 Technology Dr, O'Fallon, MO 63368(636) 300-4844 Sponsoring Unit(s): JAGERREGIMENT .38 (HRS), 84th Infantry Division (Railsplitters) (HRS)</p>



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April	
April	
Apr	No events listed.
May	
May	
16-18	5TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY - WWII WEEKEND
May	<p>Loc: Dakota City Heritage Village 4008 220th Street West, Farmington, MN 55024 Dates: May 16-18, 2014 Event Times: open to the public Saturday 10-6 & Sunday 10-3 Registration Times: Friday noon-10pm & Saturday 7am through the rest of the day Pre-Registration: email Jon Boorum ivanthecutthroat@Hotmail.com to confirm a campsite for your unit. Fee: none for WWII veterans & reenactors/volunteers & kids under 7. Public admission is \$7 with a non-perishable food item. \$9 without. Contact: Jon Boorum ivanthecutthroat@Hotmail.com 612-432-2231 Website: http://www.DakotaCityWWII.yolasite.com Authenticity Notes: all HRS rules apply Sponsoring Unit(s): Fox Company, 502 PIR, 101 AB</p>




WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

June	June
06-08	4TH ANNUAL RAILS TO VICTORY
 <p>Jun</p>	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - 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. - 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. - 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. - 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. - Camp Amenities: Shaded Encampments and Flush Toilets on site. <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?pageId=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. at Fox River Trolley Museum, 365 South LaFox Street (Illinois Route 31), South Elgin, IL 60177</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 as 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	 <p> 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.6thcorpslhq.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 </p>
July	July
Jul	No events listed.
August	August
Aug	No events listed.
September	September
Sep	No events listed.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

October	October
16-19	WELCOME HOME STARS & STRIPES REMEMBERS WORLD WAR II & KOREA
Oct 	<p>Loc: Stars & Stripes National Museum & Library, 17377 Stars & Stripes Way, Bloomfield, MO 63825</p> <p>Dates: 16-19 October 2014</p> <p>Event Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">16 Oct, camp set up can begin @ 12 noon17 Oct, open to schools: 10am-2pm, set-up continues all day18 Oct open to the public, 8:30am, Memorial convoy18 Oct open to the public, All camps and displays @ 9am - 5pm19 Oct camp sites cleared by 12 noon <p>Registration Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">3pm – 9pm 17 October7am – 9am 18 October <p>Pre-Registration: (click here)</p> <p>Fee: N/A</p> <p>Contact: 6th Corps Living History Group, St Louis, MO at the contact me button on this web-site: http://welcomehomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com/contact-us</p> <p>Website: http://welcomehomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com/</p> <p>Authenticity Notes: All HRS Safety and authenticity rules apply.</p> <p>Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No live ammo</p> <p>Restrictions on Minors: per HRS rules</p> <p>Other restrictions: Per local and state laws</p> <p>Sponsoring Unit(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE, 6TH CO, 3RD REG HRSSECOND 25TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, 25TH BRIGADE 7TH DIVISION HRS116th INFANTRY REGIMENT, 29th INFANTRY DIVISION29th PANZERGRENADIER REGIMENT, 3rd PANZERGRENADIER DIVISION



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

'Operation Arcadia'

**Where the "Show Me" Missouri Convoy
Meets the 5th Annual WWII MO Convoy!**

2 Convoys in 1 * 3 Events in 1

**A Week Long Journey Through Time
October 11 – 17, 2014**



6th Corps Living History Group Event

*"Visit a land where the hills and rivers
meet where you are welcome to stay a
day or for a lifetime of memories"*

KEY POINTS

- Open to MVPA members & all eras of historic vehicles (Limit 30)
- Tour one or more days, the choice is yours
- Stage from the historic Arcadia Academy and Thee Abbey Kitchen
- Tour Mark Twain Nat'l Forest and the Ozark Scenic River ways
- Choose between camping, upscale B&B or cabin accommodations
- Avoid the summer heat and enjoy the fall colors
- Appropriate uniforms are encouraged, but not required
- Convoy returns to Arcadia in 7 days after 547 miles traveled
- Centrally located between Jefferson City, St. Louis & Cape Girardeau
- Travel thorough the St. Francois Mountains of Southeast Missouri
- Convoy climaxes at the Star & Stripes Museum, October 18
- Come with us and celebrate the MVPA's birth State



To enlist contact or visit:

Terry Johns: halftrackjohns@att.net

www.mvpa.org

www.6thcorpslhg.com

"I shall Return!"



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

World War 1 Event

By Dave Fornell

353 Infanterie Division



As with the WWII Days event at Midway Village Museum in Rockford, Illinois, which has become one of the largest WWII events in the country, the museum is now working with WWII re-enactors who also do WWI to create the largest public Great War public battles and encampment in the country. Now in its second year, this year's Great War event April 10, 11, 12 and 13, 2014 will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI. There were 132 WWI re-enactors who attended in 2013 and the number is expected to grow to 200 this year.

All impressions welcome to help tell the story of the Great War through 1914-1918.

Thursday April 10 is a set up day and work day on the trenches and battlefield. Friday will be a school display day for school groups in the morning.

All impressions welcome to help tell the story of the Great War through 1914-1918. The event includes battles in the historic town, indoor and outdoor displays, and large field battles (including gas attacks) are centered on a 100 foot long permanent trench, which contains 3 sleeping bunkers firing steps and MG positions.

Food tickets are provided by the museum that are good at the WWI French cafe set up in the hotel in the downtown. The cafe offers warm drinks and authentic French food. Vendors selling WWI gear will be set up in the main red barn.

WWI was a major turning point in social history, as it brought to the forefront equal rights for women, as they worked in the factories and farms to fill the jobs of soldiers who marched off to war. Women attending the event are encouraged to help with the womens' suffrage marches and rallies through town.

There is also a separate Facebook page set up to help women build their impressions with photos, references, patterns and discussion.

The website offers links to vendors and lists of basic gear needed for several impressions. It also lists units that attend the Rockford event — most made up of WWII re-enactors from the Midwest.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/midway-village-great-war-event-2014-registration-10108429585>

Website: <http://www.353id.org/ww1/ww1main.html>

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/461433667273149/>

(Midway Village Great War Event)



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

OFFICIAL INFO

HRS Board Members FEBRUARY 2014

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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 top left corner has the text "www.socket.net" and "1-800-SOCKET-3". The center features the text "people connecting people" in a purple font. Below this is the Socket.NET logo, which consists of a stylized "S" and the word "Socket" in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath 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 19 December 2013

The meeting opened at 8:04 pm

Attending were Jonathan Stevens, Mike Kaczorowski, Eddie Mayton, Doug Loge, David Jameson, Jeff Skender, Wayne McCulley, Kirk Gustafson, Chris Adams, Will Greenslade, Carlos Ramirez, Christian Dvorak, and Jim Schouten.

The November minutes were read. A motion was made to accept as read and approved.

Old Business

Insurance Renewal: Business Manager David Jameson reported that the 2014 application was completed and sent in for renewal. This included Directors and Officers coverage also. Payment can only be made by check as the agent, Quinn Insurance, does not accept credit or debit cards. Further noted was that \$500 cost to cover any additional named insured certificates was likely.

New Business

Unit Charters

The Midwest Women's Historical Baseball League was discussed with the S&A Committee approving the unit. A vote called by the board and the unit was not accepted. The 10th SS Frundsberg was reported as having no contact in the past month and the unit was tabled. The 275th Infanterie Division was discussed. The S&A Committee had approved the unit under the condition that the co-commander was over 21. A vote was called by the board and the unit was accepted. The 19th Infanterie Regiment was discussed. The S&A Committee was a tie vote on the unit. A vote was called by the board and the unit was not accepted.

Probationary Charters

H Co., 506th PIR, 101st ABN had not submitted an end of probationary year report yet. The unit was tabled. The 40th Guards Rifle Division had not yet submitted an end of probationary year report. The unit was tabled. The 3rd Infantry Division, 15th Regiment had recently submitted an end of probationary year report and would be considered at the next meeting. The unit was tabled. 10th Mountain Division, 87th Regiment had recently submitted an end of year report and would be considered at the next board meeting. The unit was tabled.

Treasurer Report: Charlie Gallagher has indicated he would be resigning but no letter of resignation was received yet.

Secretary Report: Eddie reported no new memberships.

Commonwealth Report: Bryce was unavailable with an excused absence and the report was tabled.

Allied Report: Ron was unavailable with an excused absence and the report was tabled.

Axis Report: None

Edge Report: Jeff Skender reported he was working on a WWII HRS promotional video. Also the next Edge would be February.

Committee Reports

S&A – Mike reported they had considered several charters this month.

Unit Commanders – No activity.

Vehicle – Vehicle Listing was being completed and should be ready for use in January.

2014 Membership: A membership vote would be conducted for the 2014 dues rates. The Eventbrite electronic membership would be released after the vote.

Open Comments:

Kirk Gustafson said the function of the President's vote was to eliminate tie votes and not to cause tie votes.

Jim Schouten asked if others had noticed a sharp increase in the cost of blanks. A short discussion ensued. A suggestion was made that the WWII HRS sell blanks however this was noted as not feasible with all the storage and mailing that would be necessary.

Chris Adams asked if a high resolution graphic was available for the WWII HRS logo? It was reported that the current logo was a gif format and a new high resolution image was needed. Chris said he would see about making one available to the organization.

The meeting was called to an end by vote at 9:17pm.



WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting 16 January 2014 8:00 PM

Welcome and ROLL CALL:

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

Other HRS Members Present

Tim Scherrer, Carlos Ramirez, Wayne McCulley, Craig Dvorak, Jim Schouten, Mark Lowieki, Kirk Gustafson, Rey Ramirez

Reading of the December, 2013 Minutes:

The December, 2013 meeting minutes were read by Jon Stevens. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Mike Kaczorowski; it was seconded by Doug Loge. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved.

Old Business

Insurance Renewal – David Jameson explained the new insurance policy. Includes additional named insurance and director's policy. The cost is \$6949.25. A motion was made Mike Kaczorowski to approve the full payment of the bill; it was seconded by Doug Loge. A vote was taken and the bill was approved to be paid.

New Business - None

Unit Charters

New Charters:

10th Dragoons – Unit Commander Mark Nowicki introduced his prospective unit by giving a brief unit history, and their intentions for reenacting.

Probationary Charters:

10th Mountain Division, 87th Regt. - A motion to vote on a full charter was made by Mike Kaczorowski, and seconded by Doug Loge. A vote was taken and the charter was given a full charter status.

3rd Infantry Division, 15th Regt., - Mike Kaczorowski said that several S&A Committee members still needed time to review this probationary charter.

H Co., 506th PIR, 101st ABN - Mike Kaczorowski said he has not heard from them.

40th Guards Rifle Division - Mike Kaczorowski said has not heard from them.

Treasurer Report – vacant position – Jon Stevens supplied the balances, PNC Bank has \$48,315.63 in savings and \$3,949.35 in checking.

Cost last month were -
Email marketing \$16.00
Scholarship \$500.00

David Jameson said The Wells Fargo account has \$601.70 but 1 check is still outstanding for \$300.00-ish

Secretary Report - Secretary not present, but Jon Stevens mentioned an upcoming Missouri event, and Tim Scherrer discussed his upcoming event at Weldon Springs.

Commonwealth Report - No report

Allied Report - No report.

Axis Report – Doug Loge reported that the Herman Goering units said they will have 5 reenactors to sign up as HRS members this year. No response from 9th SS about members signing up. If there is no contact by either unit by the next BOD meeting, Doug will make a motion to defunct both of the units.

Edge Report – Jeff Skender reported that the next Edge will be coming out in February. He will receive some new article from HRS members. Jeff released some HRS promotional videos, and he is getting good responses from them.

Business Manager Report - David Jameson has no additional information.

S&A Committee - Mike Kaczorowski has no additional information.

Vehicle committee - Jim Schouten said he requested information on the Unit Commanders Group, and received some responses. He is presently compiling a list of all HRS unit vehicles.

Open Treasurer Position -

Candidate Wayne McCulley explained his interest and qualifications for the position. Candidate Craig Dvorak explained his interest and qualifications for the position. Jon Stevens said the losing Treasurer candidate could fill the newly appointed position of Membership Coordinator under the Secretary. Doug Loge mentioned that the Secretary would still be liable for all Secretarial duties, even when they are given to the Membership coordinator. A motion to vote on the Treasurer/ Membership Coordinator positions was accepted by Mike Kaczorowski, and seconded by Doug Loge. A vote was taken and the Wayne McCulley won the Treasurer position. Craig Dvorak accepted the Membership Coordinator position.

Open Comments -

Rey Ramirez asked if the questions by Doug Loge in an email to him could be answered at next month's meeting. Doug said they should be able to be answered at this meeting. The questions were, was Rey or Carlos Ramirez affiliated with the Colorado Chapter of the WWII HRS, which was mentioned in the submitted probationary report for the B CO 15RGT 3rd ID unit, and also its website? If so, in what capacity, and under what present authority? Rey explained that the chapter and website was created because of bad publicity caused by another Viking unit in 2011. It was an attempt to differentiate the two units. He said that he had brought that up at BOD meetings in 2011 and had emailed Jon Stevens about it as well. He said that the charter creation was approved. Jon Stevens said he does not recall any approval given for the chapter designation or website. Jon mentioned that there is nothing in the bylaws concerning the creation of chapters. Doug Loge requested that Rey email the BOD all emails concerning the approval of a HRS charter.

A motion was made by Mike Kaczorowski to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Doug Loge. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.



Living History on Historical Ground

By Bodo Fehrmann

Photographs used with permission by
Daniel Olsson, Fronthistoriska Föreningen.

When one thinks of the Ardennes and the Battle of the Bulge, certain images come to mind - dense evergreen forests, low hanging fog, steep terrain, and the ominous profile of the German Stahlhelm silhouetted in the dim forest light as men cloaked in heavy field gray uniforms spearhead the final major German offensive of the Western front- Wacht am Rhein.



One can imagine the difficulty recreating the terrain, atmosphere, and eerie silence of the Ardennes for a reenactment event. Sites must be carefully scouted and chosen if one desires to create a truly realistic "Battle of the Bulge" experience for reenactors.



A few groups overseas, however, know not of this plight, as they hold events every year in the real Ardennes, walk the same ground as the brave men 70 years before them did. One of these groups, known as "Fronthistoriska Föreningen" (Frontline Historical Association) has members who portray a multitude of impressions varying from Waffen-SS, German Army, Soviet troops, and Commonwealth forces. What sets this group, and a few others in the region, apart from most reenactors worldwide is their seemingly obsessive attention to detail. When examining photographs from this group, one is hard pressed to find mistakes, anachronisms, or to put it in reenactors' terms, "Farby" items. For an organization with members in several European countries (most are based in Sweden), it is awe inspiring to see a reenactment organization holding themselves to such exacting standards.



Interview with Daniel Olsson, FHF

1. How did the organization get started?

The first German WWII reenactment group in Sweden started during the year 2000 and many of FHF's members began their reenactment career there. In 2008 after too much group politics and lack of ambitions, people left the old group and FHF was created. In FHF we decided to set focus to camaraderie and accuracy and have worked consistent to maintain this culture.

2. Is it difficult to find members who are willing to get such high quality impressions?

Over the years since FHF started in 2008 we have got new members on a regular basis, one or two a year sometimes more. Right from the beginning when a new member joins us we present a "kit list" that we have in FHF. Not only is the basic equipment listed, but also where we think you can buy the best reproductions. Since we have motivated and skilled members, the search for better and more accurate equipment and uniforms is always in motion and any new member is quickly introduced, and kind of absorbed by this thrive to learn and look authentic. To answer your question, it is in my point of view not that difficult to find members that are willing to get high quality impression because we all help each other to get better and boost each other to do their best and look good. Low standard and bad gear is just not an alternative, something to be proud of!

3. What is it like reenacting on the same ground that the War was really fought on?

Beside the Ardennes (Belgium and Luxemburg), we have members who have been to Slovakia, Denmark, Russia and England to participate in different events. Apart from England all events have occurred on historical ground and sometimes even on real battlegrounds. To reenact where soldiers actually have lived, fought and died during WWII gives an extra dimension that is hard to describe. Your mind is often full of questions such as "What happened right on this spot?" and so on. Humbleness and respect are two words that could summarize the overall feeling quite well.



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4. Which supplier for reenactment gear is FHF's favorite? Is there any supplier that is particularly terrible?

FHF buys uniforms and equipment from many reenactment vendors online from mostly Europe and the USA. Some suppliers are far better than others and sell quality reproductions of both uniforms and equipment. Even so, all things can't be found in stores, so some things we buy from private sellers on eBay, mostly original items. The top favored vendors are At The Front Shop, SM Wholesale, Panther-Store and What Price Glory, which offer a wide range of top quality products.

5. What are weapons laws like?

The weapon laws are quite harsh in Sweden, and do cause some problems for us when it comes to using blank fire weapons. This category of weapons is in a sort of limbo state and there are really no clear laws about these so the police (which manage all weapon licenses) tend to deny the use of them. Moreover we can't import deactivated weapons because the police and law view these as live weapons. So our most realistic option is to apply for what is called "collectors license". Otherwise we use mostly replicas and airsoft guns when we are in displays and such.

6. Is it difficult coordinating several units to put together high quality events?

To coordinate several different groups is always a challenge but at the same time very rewarding. If we want the hobby to grow and expand it is vital for all of us to be able to support and work together. In FHF we have a good relation with several groups from other European countries and we put much effort in participating in events outside Sweden. There are many groups that share our goals and ambitions to take this hobby to the next level, and that serves as an inspiration for us. The most important thing is for everyone to have a clear picture of the goals you want people to achieve. You should always try to aim as high as possible. High goals serve as inspiration and feeds ambition. People are always going to want to be good enough, by demanding high standard that is what you *will* get.

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You may be asking, "What makes these guys so great?" Look at their photographs and see for yourself. You won't find any modern eyeglasses, postwar footwear, or converted post war uniforms. You won't see incorrectly patterned breadbags, postwar mess tins, or guys covering their chests in outrageous proportions of self-awarded medals.



The photos you see here are from two events, one hosted in December, 2012, entitled "Wacht am Rhein", and another hosted in December of 2013 entitled "Kampf um Clervaux" which takes place in the real life Ardennes forest.



"Fronthistoriska Föreningen" (Frontline Historical Association)



Photo Credit: JT Bruyn



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Reenactors from around the world, around the country, and around the corner can all stand to learn a few things from some of our overseas counterparts. The great effort the participants of this organization put forth toward honoring the memory of soldiers from all nations deserves recognition.



"Fronthistoriska Föreningen" (Frontline Historical Association)



"Fronthistoriska Föreningen" (Frontline Historical Association)



"Fronthistoriska Föreningen" (Frontline Historical Association)



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"Fronthistoriska Föreningen" (Frontline Historical Association)



"Wenn Schon, Denn Schon"
"If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right"

-Bodo Fehrmann, THE EDGE.



Yanks of the 401 GIR Land Behind Enemy Line in Holland September 18, 1944

By Susan Miller United Press Correspondent
Josef Kleffman United Press Photographer

The Yanks, flushed with victory today, have landed behind Axis lines and secured several of their objectives along the way. These United Press reporters bring you the story first hand of the brave American Glider troops who land behind enemy lines with only the equipment they are carrying on them. They must fight to secure the landing zones for the rest of the Glider troops coming in behind them with the heavy equipment.

These gliders, made of canvas and aluminum tubing, are able to carry jeeps and anti-tank guns which allow the troops to achieve their objectives. The glider men have several advantages over paratroopers as they could land on the ground intact and combat ready, enabling them to fight as soon as they disembarked the glider. The gliders are completely silent in both flight and landing so they are able to land undetected at night, thereby maintaining the element of surprise.

There are some disadvantages to using gliders on operations in that they required a smooth landing area. The Germans in Normandy have been known to place posts strung with wire in the fields known as "Rommel's Asparagus" to hamper glider landings. The gliders themselves are fragile and the landings can be very rough with many of the troops receiving broken arms and legs. When the gliders are being towed they are very vulnerable to ground fire or being shot down by enemy air craft. Additionally, the glider pilots are very expensive to train and to replace. These pilots have also suffered heavy casualties in the landings and the heavy fighting that follows on the ground.

One other disadvantage of the glider troops was the lack of incentive for this very dangerous branch of service. They dress similar to the regular infantry, though occasionally may mix some parts of their uniform with that worn by paratroopers. However, they originally did not receive the additional jump pay nor any special equipment previously reserved for paratroopers. Thankfully, The U.S. Airborne High Command has looked into this matter and adjusted it. Now, after the Normandy landing, the glider troops have been issued the same equipment, jump boots, and the pay scale has been adjusted to include the additional jump pay.

The US glider troops primarily use the CG4-A Waco Glider which is crewed by a pilot and co-pilot, and can carry a squad of fully equipped infantry or a 75mm howitzer. The Waco is 48ft 8in long with a wingspan of 83ft 8in. It can carry up to 4197 pounds of men and equipment. The maximum speed the glider can travel is 150 mph, with a cruising speed of 72 mph and a stall speed of 49 mph. The Waco Glider would sink at a rate of 400 ft. a minute and required 600-800 ft. for a normal landing.

The 401st GIR, the battle hardened unit our correspondents are traveling with, has had a long history. They were organized in March 1918 but were never called into active duty during the First World War. During the demobilization that followed the war the regiment was assigned to the 101st division as reservists. The 101st was chosen to become the second of two airborne divisions. On August 16, 1942 the 401st was recommissioned as an Airborne Infantry Regiment at Camp Claiborne La. The 401st Infantry Regiment would consist of two battalions that would land in gliders.

From 1942 until July of 1943 the 401st would train in the United States. In the 1st part of September the regiment would deploy to England their new camp would be a town called Reading about 35 miles from London in the county of Berkshire.

In England the regiment's training continued with different exercises for the preparation of the invasion of the European mainland. In March of 1944 the 401st was separated. The 1st battalion stayed in the 101st division but was sent to the 327th GIR as their 3rd battalion. The 2nd battalion was sent to the 82nd airborne division and assigned to the 325th GIR as the 3rd battalion.

In operation Overlord the 401st landed on LCVPs with the 4th infantry division at Utah beach instead of landing in gliders because there was a shortage of transatlantic cargo capacity at the time. The 401st landed on June 6th 1944 with the 4th ID in the Uncle Red sector, they had orders to link up with the paratroopers that had dropped earlier in the day.

Once the 401st linked up with the rest of the 101st by June 8th they fought side-by-side and would aid in the capture of Ste. Come-du-Mont and later in the victory at Carentan. On June 15th the 1st battalion of the 401st joined the VII corp. on Utah beach and linked up with the 175th infantry Reg. of the 4th Infantry Division at Auville-sur-le-Vey. After the 401st saw 33 days of bitter fighting in Normandy they were sent back to England to refit and retrain replacements for the regiment. It was during this time they were issued new equipment and uniforms just like their airborne brothers.





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The 401st in camp between the fighting

On September 17, 1944 the 1st battalion of the 401st landed behind enemy lines in Operation Market Garden. The 101st used 933 gliders with 750 getting to their landing zone or within one mile of it. Here the 401st would fight for 72 long days. They fought mainly in the Zon-Veghel area of Holland, keeping open the corridor that the British XXX corp. was using to travel northward. Once the regiment was relieved again they were sent back to regroup, retrain and refit with new members.



While in reserve the Regiment was called upon to stem the Axis advance in Belgium, later known as the Battle of the Bulge. The 401st was sent in on trucks but not with enough winter clothing or ammunition. Even lacking these necessary items the 401st set up a defensive line in the western perimeter of Bastogne and stopped attack after attack. On a side note, the movie "Battleground" is about the men of the 401st and their fighting at Bastogne. The Germans sent a surrender note through the lines of the 401st to the commander at Bastogne. The commander wrote a simple reply: NUTS.



The next day the low hanging clouds receded for a short time and allowed a drop of supplies of food, ammo and medical equipment. Later in the drop, gliders with heavy equipment and medical personnel were landed. On Jan 18th 1945 the 401st was pulled out of the line and sent to France for the 3rd time to refit, and retrain new personal.

In late march of 1945 the 101AB was sent into Germany's industrial area, known as the Ruhr, to mop up and capture Berchtesgaden. Upon achieving this objective the 401st stayed in the area for the rest of the war.



401st member fraternizing in Germany

The reenacted Modern C Company of 401st Glider Infantry Regiment is today a unit in the World War Two Historical Reenactment Society. The unit was formed in 2003 and chartered in 2004. It has members in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. At the start of the new unit's history it had a mix of both Glider and Parachute interpreters. Robert Blecke, one of the early members of the HRS unit, started out in the unit as a corporal then went on to become a sergeant as the unit acquired more members. By the time Mr. Blecke had reached the rank of sergeant the unit had enough members to split off and form a unit of their own. Mr. Blecke has been involved in living history from over ten years and he is one of the few members of the unit who continues to only portray one time period.



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One of the main reasons the men of C Company chose the glider impression was that very few people actually realized the United States Army used gliders in combat, most people only think of the Paratroopers. C company currently has about two dozen members spread over 3 states in the upper Midwest. One of the other members is Marc Miller, whose wife is working for the United Press and is writing this article. Marc started in WW2 living history when his wife purchased him an M1 Garand for Valentine's Day. After shooting the weapon he fell in love with it and started collecting WW2 equipment. After coming out to the Rockford event in 2010 both he and his wife decided to join the HRS. The rest, as they say, is history.

We also spoke with Craig Mickelson, another of the early members of the unit. We asked him about how the unit came to be formed in the HRS. Craig told us how several of the men were returning from a Civil War event and the discussion of picking up another time period came up. The men had originally thought of interpreting World War One. The more that they talked about it they realized that there was not much in the reproduction line being made for that particular period. This would mean a large investment and use of original equipment. Thus they decided to give World War Two a try. If you sat down with each member you would discover many varied reasons they joined up, but at the heart of each is a love of history and a constant desire to educate the public on these lesser known but no less heroic young men. Thus here today we have the reenacted C Company of the 401 Glider Infantry Regiment.



The 401st at Rockford Illinois World War Two Days.



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WWII Re-Enacting: Starting from Scratch

By Zack S. Myslinski

WWII re-enacting is an extremely fun and rewarding hobby but has its share of difficulties – especially for aspiring youth. Even the most enthusiastic young recruits will find the expense of compiling their impression, limited transportation to and from events, and the inexperience that naturally comes with being “green” daunting. When I entered our hobby last year I faced all of these obstacles but was able to overcome them with this simple, two-point, common sense strategy that all new re-enactors can implement to ensure success:

After deciding to become a re-enactor, and have chosen the nation of your impression, it is best to search for units nearby. A complete list of WWII HRS units can be found on the WWII HRS website. Each unit will have advantages and disadvantages: a good unit has members located near you and has events within your traveling capabilities. The impression must be affordable (see next paragraph for budgeting strategy.) and interesting. Most importantly, your future unit must have experienced and zealous members willing to support and mentor new recruits through comradeship and “loaner gear”. The success of a new re-enactor is almost completely based upon their unit’s ability to teach and guide him throughout the initiation period.

Tip: Before joining, interview and watch a unit participate at a public event.

WWII re-enacting is expensive. Prospective re-enactors must be prepared to spend anywhere from \$1,000 to \$2000 to acquire the basic impression. Starting the hobby with at least enough money to purchase a uniform is essential, as well as a steady stream of funds so your impression can develop. You will need to create a budget based upon your financial situation. Keep in mind that although the majority of spending will be to build your impression some will need to be saved to pay for event fees.

Tip: Before purchasing an item for your impression ask for approval from the unit. Do not risk wasting money on items you cannot use. Impression quality and authenticity are paramount.

I believe the use of these two points has allowed me to enter the hobby of WWII re-enacting and build my impression, and that they will make any new member’s journey easier.



Photos from the Past

Mr. Roberts has given his permission for The EDGE to re-print photos from his 2003 sold-out book. 12 Years ago he got \$25 per book because of the high quality color photos provides. The book is out of print but Mr. Roberts can make copies.

There are over 500 pictures in this book, look for more photos from it in future issues of The EDGE

Photographic Archive of World War 2 Reenactments

November 2003

By Charles C. Roberts
70th Tank Battalion

This book is a compilation of photographs taken from World War 2 reenactments that took place in the Midwest from 1990 to 2003. The photographs are a pictorial history of reenactors and their participation in an endeavor to keep the memory of World War 2 Veterans alive.



Headquarters Display, Howell Airport, June 1992

Photo Copyright 2003 by Charles C. Roberts, Jr.



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German MG position, Aurora Airport, Aurora IL, June 1993

Photo Copyright 2003 by Charles C. Roberts, Jr.



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German tanker and grenadiers, Danville Airport, Danville IL, July 1993

Photo Copyright 2003 by Charles C. Roberts, Jr.



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**Grenadiers ready for battle, Westmont Reenactment,
Westmont IL, September 1993**

Photo Copyright 2003 by Charles C. Roberts, Jr.



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WW2 HRS Promotional Videos


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
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From: _____

**To:** _____

