

# THE EDGE

## OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

# WW2 HRS

DIXON ILLINOIS WW2 Re-enactment

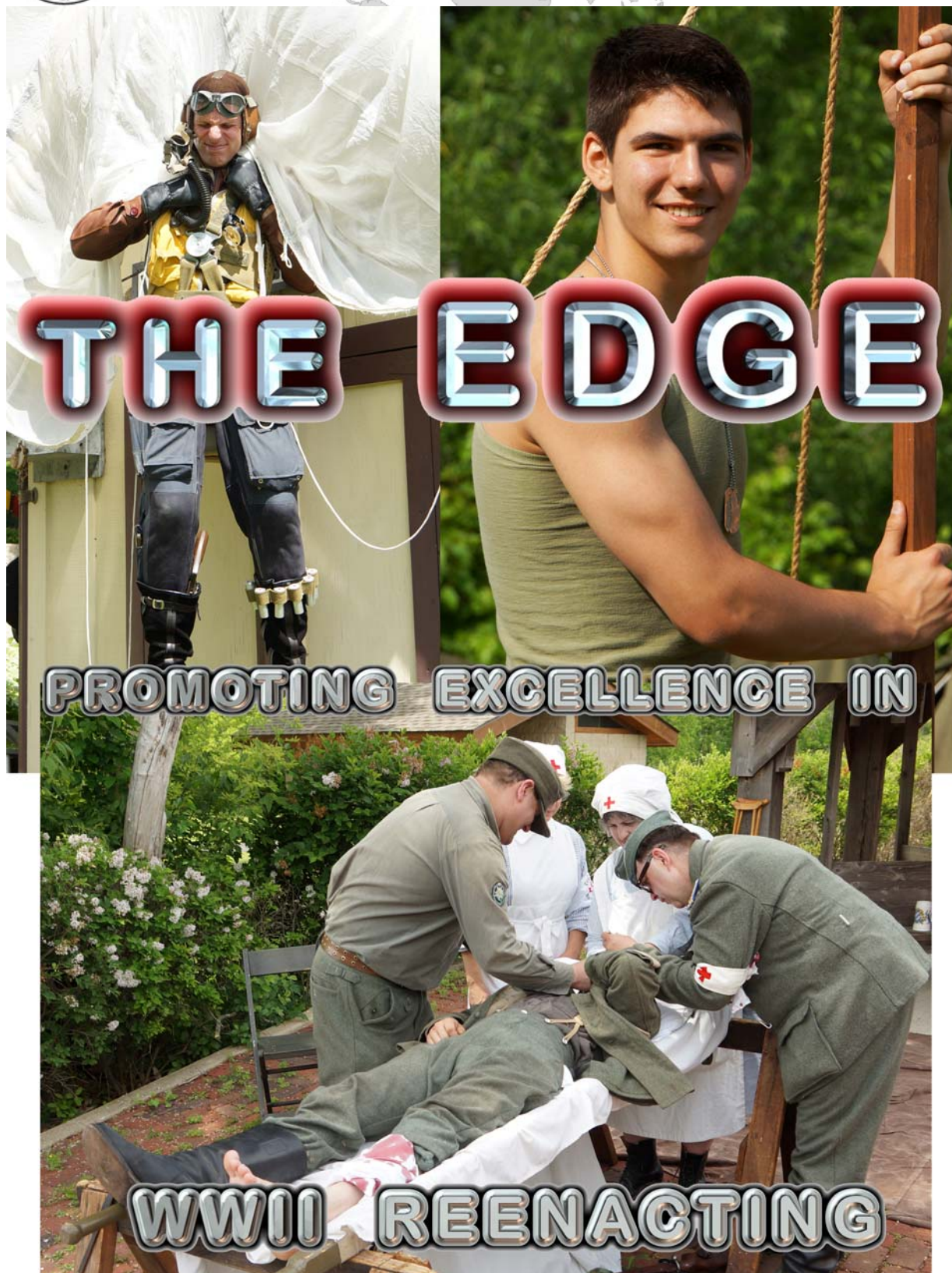
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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



SOUTH ELGIN ILLINOIS WW2 Re-enactment

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2ND Marines Reenacted check out Chuck Roberts Higgins Boat

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### I am Tired

By Jonathan Stevens,  
WWII HRS President, 9th Infantry Div.

I am tired. I am very tired of the historical community putting down WWII living history. Generally I would never write something so negative but we really ought to be aware of the stereotype of WWII reenacting and its effects. The stereotype is of course overgrown boys spending their weekends running about the woods pretending to be soldiers or even potential "secret Nazi sympathizers." The effect is a downgrade of the possible historical benefits to be gained through WWII living history.

I try to review anything in the media that mentions WWII reenacting and reenactors to understand how we are viewed and understood. Most recently at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations in France numerous articles mentioned and pictured reenactors in uniform. This is of course very positive but some media called the reenactors "war enthusiasts" not mentioning terms such as reenactor or living historian. I feel confident to say that as reenactors we are not enthusiastic about war. I also cite a quite funny reenactor spoof from several years ago which shows well uniformed WWII British reenactors using sticks as weapons and acting as if they were still 12 years old. Other examples from two different BBC reports interview various reenactors at the War and Peace show in the UK. These interviews were usually back dropped in front of vendors selling German WWII reproduction uniforms and equipment. Another clip caught a conversation from a couple intoxicated reenactors telling off color jokes late in the evening. The culmination was the filming of an actual wedding in German WWII regalia with a lot of commentary rightly questioning the reality of the scene. The final portion of one of the reports showed a German historian describing in her horrified opinion the utter lack of anything to be learned through WWII reenacting about WWII at the War and Peace show. A bit closer to home and a few years back a reporter dissected reenactor turned politician Rich Iott for his participation in WWII reenacting with Pz Pi Btl 5, Wiking. He interviewed a prominent historian that writes popular WWII history who described WWII living history as utterly worthless in so many words as a means to study the history of the Second World War. There are several other instances of WWII reenacting denigration.

My examples were criticism directed primarily at German reenactors but most assuredly can extend to any US, British, or any other represented nationality. This I feel is our dilemma: We could simply brush this off as sensational journalism which it is for the most part or we could understand just a little how the "outside" may view WWII living history and make an effort to alter that opinion.

In recent conversation with a number of "old timer reenactors" we discussed a general idea of reenactor "de-sensitization." In other words we as reenactors can become desensitized being surrounded by every manner of WWII equipment and troops at our events and in our research. WWII becomes "old hat" with the horrors of WWII seemingly forgotten. This is a greater concern for those portraying German troops who are of course in a unique position of portraying

soldiers under one of the evil regimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The German uniform containing 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich symbols can be shocking to the general public but is often living history as usual for the reenactor. Just about any action in German uniform at public reenactments can and will likely be scrutinized by spectators and the media much more than any American, Soviet, or British uniformed reenactor. A further very real possibility is the misrepresentation of anything said by a reenactor in German uniform by a journalist. When portraying a German soldier this has to be kept in mind. Without a proper context for those viewing a display of the WWII German soldier and his equipment the indication could be that the reenactors were expressing support for the Third Reich. This situation can only be exacerbated by reenactor desensitization. As one of the old timer reenactors I discussed this with said, "German reenactors were possibly too comfortable with the impression and were possibly missing the fact that German WWII uniforms are highly offensive to some."

With that said the WWII HRS bylaws include a rule against wearing German uniforms to and from events. This rule has been included for many years not as an attempt to control a reenactor's life but to give a guideline that if you go to the gas station or grocery store to pick up some supplies for your camp the best practice is not to wear your M43 field blouse in public. Another long time reenactor added, "The general public does not understand and it [wearing German uniforms in public] can and will cause problems for us, even 70 plus years after the war. It is history, but many are still very sensitive to the German part of that history, regardless of how historical or academic it might be from our point of view."

Finally, we have to be careful in our historical presentations. There is no way around this. We cannot please everyone and someone will find a way to take great offense at WWII living history however those who portray the fighting soldiers of the Third Reich have to be especially on guard while accurately and carefully creating this representation of an obviously important aspect of the Second World War. If not the result is marginalization of WWII living history if not outright ostracism leading to serious limitations on our future endeavors.

Our goal summed up in the WWII HRS motto, More Majorum, in the tradition of those before us, is worthy. Keeping alive the memory of those who fought, died, and suffered in WWII is our objective. We do this through our Living History which is in essence a traveling WWII museum with four dimensional attributes: Not only do you see WWII weapons, uniforms, artifacts, and vehicles, they are animated by living historians. We cannot replace a well-researched historical work but we can add life to those pages to form a better understanding of the epoch of 1939-45 that has shaped our world for the last 70 years.

Historians! Welcome WWII living history into your realm as part of the historical process.

Reenactors! Carefully, systematically, and seriously create your portrayal to complement the historians work.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## From HRS Treasurer

Wayne McCulley  
9th Infantry Division  
[WMcCulley45@Gmail.com](mailto:WMcCulley45@Gmail.com)



This is the report of financial balances deposits and expenditures for the month of May 2014.

Balances as of 5/31/14

PNC Business Checking Account \$9,997.74  
PNC Money Market Account \$48,330.68  
Wells Fargo Account We have Approximately \$300 in this account.

### PNC Checking Account Deposits

05/02/14 Mailed Membership Deposit \$40.00  
05/07/14 Eventbrite Deposit of April Memberships \$1,181.30  
05/08/14 Mailed Membership Deposit \$40.00  
05/19/14 Mailed Membership Deposit \$20.00  
05/28/14 Mailed Membership Deposit \$100.00

PNC Checking Withdrawals  
05/07/14 Mad Mimi Marketing \$12.80

PNC Money Market Deposit  
05/30/14 Interest \$3.18

Eventbrite Memberships  
May 2014 63 Memberships. Net Sales \$852.04

## Treasurers Report

### First Quarter 2014

#### World War II Historical Re-Enactment Society

### BEGINNING BALANCES

PNC Checking Account	\$ 4,472.15
PNC Money Market Account	\$48,315.63
Wells Fargo Account	\$ 302.20
<b>Total Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$53,089.98</b>

### INCOME

2014 Membership Dues Income	\$ 7,015.62
Deposits of 2013 Memberships	\$ 4,141.16
Other Income	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 8.91
<b>TOTAL INCOME- 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER</b>	<b>\$11,165.69</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME WITH BEGINNING BALANCES</b>	<b>\$64,255.67</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Office Supplies	\$ (516.02)
Postage	\$ (110.00)
Bank Charges	\$ ( 27.00)
Liability Insurance	\$(6,949.25)
Membership Dues Overpayment Refund	\$ (5.00)
Post Office Box Rental	\$ (39.00)
Scholarship Payment	\$ (500.00)
Reimbursement of 2013	
Membership Card Postage	\$ (388.32)
Expenses to Jon Stevens and Eddie Mayton	
Email Marketing Service	\$ (38.40)
Illinois Secretary of State	\$ (10.00)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2014</b>	<b>\$(8,582.99)</b>

**ENDING BALANCE 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014** **\$55,672.68**

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.  
Wayne McCulley  
HRS Treasure

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## From The Editor

Heinz Thiel

WW2 HRS Press Corps

[GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com](mailto:GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com)



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.

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The following edited photos (at the right) are from my visit to Roberts Armory in Rochelle, Illinois with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines Reenacted.



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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## NOTICE FROM The Vehicle S&A Committee

The HRS currently has 206 WW2 vehicles, armor & misc. artillery and equipment registered. Event coordinators can get contact info for this equipment by contacting the HRS vehicle coordinator at [hiawathajim@yahoo.com](mailto:hiawathajim@yahoo.com).

The Vehicle S&A Committee would also like to announce that S&A inspections of vehicles will be done at all HRS events starting with the 2014 season.

Vehicle Safety regulations can be found on the HRS WEB Site. Authenticity regulations for vehicles are currently in the works and will be posted soon. This is being done to further concrete the excellent safety record of the HRS.

The vehicle committee is also seeking applicants for doing vehicle inspections at events, the more inspectors we have the less time it will take for everyone involved. Those interested should send their info to [hiawathajim@yahoo.com](mailto:hiawathajim@yahoo.com).

The vehicle committee is also seeking heavy weapons, machine gun crews, mortar teams & field artillery. These items will be added to the list so that event coordinators' know what is available for events. If you have any of these please send info to [hiawathajim@yahoo.com](mailto:hiawathajim@yahoo.com).

## VEHICLE SAFETY

- 1.** All motor vehicles must be driven by a licensed driver, regardless of off or on road use. The driver must be knowledgeable of the type of vehicle he is driving. PROPER LIABILITY INSURANCE IS MANDATORY. Any vehicle driven off road MUST HAVE A GROUND GUIDE, to avoid personnel hiding in foliage.
- 2.** Service brakes shall function on all wheeled vehicles.
- 3.** Emergency brakes (parking brakes) should be functional, if a vehicle was originally equipped with such brakes.
- 4.** Tires shall have a minimum tread depth of 2/32 inches.
- 5.** Tracks shall be properly adjusted.
- 6.** Steering system shall be functional.
- 7.** Lighting shall be operational if used for night operation.
- 8.** Each vehicle shall be equipped with a current UL listed class BC fire extinguisher, rated for vehicular fires.
- 9:** Batteries must be properly secured to the vehicle.
- 10:** Maximum vehicle speed on the battlefield is 10 m.p.h.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



## Insurance Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What kind of insurance does the WWII HRS carry?***

The HRS carries Liability Insurance. It is good in the lower 48 states.

### ***Who is the insurance carrier?***

Essex Insurance Company.

### ***What is the term of the insurance?***

2/1/2014 to 2/1/2015

### ***Is the HRS insurance personal accident insurance or medical insurance?***

No.

### ***Are those under age 18 covered under our policy?***

Yes, those under age 18 are covered although some restrictions still apply to minors.

### ***What are the limits?***

\$1,000,000; \$5000 medical expense limit for any one person.

### ***Are vehicles, landing craft, and aircraft covered by the HRS insurance?***

No they are not.

### ***Does the insurance bar Canadian members?***

No.

### ***What if my equipment or vehicle is lost, stolen, or damaged?***

There is no coverage for personal property loss of any kind.

### ***Can my event get insurance coverage?***

Yes, if an HRS chartered unit sponsors the event and it is approved by the HRS board however some restrictions apply.

### ***The event site says they need to be added as an additional named insured to a certificate of insurance for my event.***

Our insurance for 2014 has a blanket additional named insured so this does not incur an additional cost as in previous years however you still need to apply for this with enough time to process the request. At least 60 days should be allowed for the request.

### ***Can I see proof of insurance for the HRS?***

Yes, please contact a board member for more information.

### ***Do non-members attending a WWII HRS event need to provide their own insurance for the event?***

No. They are covered under the HRS insurance as part of the event.

### ***Are HRS members covered at non-HRS sanctioned events?***

No. The HRS insurance only applies at HRS sanctioned events.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## EVENTS

August	
<b>09-10</b>  <b>Aug</b>	<b>IOLA MILITARY SHOW</b>  <b>Loc:</b> Iola WI <b>Dates:</b> August 9-10-2014 <b>Event Times:</b> Set up anytime Fri or by 8:00 Am Sat. There will be a WW2 Battle both days and a static display both days <b>Registration Times:</b> Friday noon until 6pm <b>Pre-Registration:</b> Allies contact Randy or Ann Lamers 920-853-7102 Axis contact Michael Alexander, <a href="mailto:alexamirtc@tcc.coop">alexamirtc@tcc.coop</a> or 608-323-0082 <b>Fee:</b> Free if pre registered by Aug. 1, 2014 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.iolavms.com">http://www.iolavms.com</a> <b>Authenticity Notes:</b> HRS rules apply <b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> none <b>Restrictions on Minors:</b> HRS rules apply <b>Sponsoring Unit(s):</b> 2nd Armor Sat. Breakfast and supper provided    Sunday Breakfast provided
<b>16-17</b>  <b>Aug</b>  	<b>CEDAR RAPIDS WWII LIVING HISTORY</b>  <b>Loc:</b> Seminole Valley Farm, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>Dates:</b> August 16 & 17 <b>Event Times:</b> Sat 0900-1700 & Sun 0900-1500 <b>Registration Times:</b> Fri 1400-2100 & Sat 0700-0900 <b>Pre-Registration:</b> email to <a href="mailto:redkommissar@hotmail.com">redkommissar@hotmail.com</a> <b>Fee:</b> None <b>Contact:</b> Dave Pasbrig - <a href="mailto:redkommissar@hotmail.com">redkommissar@hotmail.com</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.416rifleregiment.org/cedar_rapids_living_history_event">http://www.416rifleregiment.org/cedar_rapids_living_history_event</a> <b>Authenticity Notes:</b> HRS S&A to be followed <b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> Anything not WWII related <b>Restrictions on Minors:</b> Per HRS <b>Other restrictions:</b> None <b>Sponsoring Unit(s):</b> 416th Rifle Regt, 112th Rifle Div, USSR
<b>29-31</b>  <b>Aug</b>  	<b>SALUTE TO VETERANS OF WWII</b> <b>PUBLIC DISPLAY AND BATTLE</b> <b>MILITARY ENCAMPMENT AND BATTLE RECREATION</b>  <b>Loc:</b> Indiana Military Museum, 715 S. 6th Street, Vincennes, Indiana 47591 <b>Date:</b> August 29-31, 2014 <b>Event Times:</b> Friday August 29, Open for setup 1pm Saturday August 30, Gates open 9am – 5pm, displays, ground battle, evening museum open house, sandwiches & social Sunday August 31, Gates open 9am – 4m, displays, ground battle S&A Saturday 9am. Attendance required by all participants Unit Commanders Briefing Saturday at S&A - Overview of event schedule and updates <b>Registration Check-in Times:</b> Friday 4pm – 9pm <b>Pre-Registration:</b> Registration required <a href="https://indianamilitarymuseum.eventbrite.com">https://indianamilitarymuseum.eventbrite.com</a> <b>Fee:</b> None <b>Contact:</b> Jan & Bill Sheets Email <a href="mailto:jsheets@1812@gmail.com">jsheets@1812@gmail.com</a> Phone (317) 788-1836 <b>Map:</b> See <a href="http://www.vincennescvb.org">http://www.vincennescvb.org</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.indymilitary.com">http://www.indymilitary.com</a> <b>Authenticity Notes:</b> All HRS rules apply. <b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> All viewable items must be from WWII era. <b>Motels:</b> <a href="http://www.vincennescvb.org">http://www.vincennescvb.org</a> <b>Sponsoring Unit:</b> 82nd AB 505th G Co.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

September	
September	
<b>26-29</b>	<b>WALK BACK IN TIME 2014</b>
<b>Sep</b>	<p><b>Loc:</b> Audrain County Historical Society, 501 South Muldrow Street, Mexico, MO 65265</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> 26-29 September</p> <p><b>Event Times:</b> Setup can occur from Thursday to Saturday. Friday is the school education day. The event runs from 10-4pm Saturday and Sunday, with Candlelight Tours on Saturday from 6-9pm</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Walk Back in Time is the premier living history timeline event in the state of Missouri. It usually draws 300 participants in all time periods and 10-15,000 spectators. There is a WWII Battle on Saturday and Sunday. This year will feature the role of animals in support of the US military.</p> <p><b>Registration Times:</b> Friday 1300-2100 and Saturday 0800-1000 in the Railsplitters Camp</p> <p><b>Pre-Registration:</b> No preregistration is required although coordination for bivouac space is required.</p> <p><b>Fee:</b> There is no fee for the event, and the organizers provide a Saturday night meal to all participants</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> LTC Tim Scherrer, 573-489-4891, <a href="mailto:soldierboy440@yahoo.com">soldierboy440@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.audrain.org">http://www.audrain.org</a> and go to Walk Back in Time</p> <p><b>Authenticity Notes:</b> WWIIHRS safety and authenticity rules apply</p> <p><b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> No firing of weapons between 2200 and 0800 at night.</p> <p><b>Restrictions on Minors:</b> WWIIHRS rules apply</p> <p><b>Sponsoring Unit(s):</b> 84th Infantry Division Railsplitters</p>
October	
October	
<b>11</b>	<b>5TH ANNUAL WWII MISSOURI CONVOY</b>
<b>Oct</b>	<p><b>Loc:</b> Arcadia Academy B&amp;B, Arcadia, Missouri (Southeast Missouri)</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> 11 October 2014 (1 DAY)</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 74 miles</p> <p><b>Event Times:</b> Convoy Departs 09:00 Hrs. Returns to the Academy at 4:00 pm</p> <p><b>Registration Times:</b> Advanced registration required (Limit 15 vehicles)</p> <p><b>Pre-Registration:</b> REQUIRED (Limit 15 vehicles) WWII Vehicles and period costumes required!</p> <p><b>Sign In:</b> Thursday-Friday noon-10:00 pm, Saturday until 08:00 am</p> <p><b>Fee:</b> \$15@ vehicle w/2 people, \$5@ additional rider, \$50@ vehicle (after 1 July space permitting)</p> <p>Saturday evening entertainment and dinner: \$20@ person (optional)</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Terry Johns at <a href="mailto:halftrackjohns@att.net">halftrackjohns@att.net</a></p> <p><b>Camping:</b> \$10 per site (No open flames)</p> <p><b>Accommodations:</b> \$35-\$189 (Barracks space also available)</p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.20thcenturyqi.com/index.php?topic=2011.msg3352:topicseen#new">http://www.20thcenturyqi.com/index.php?topic=2011.msg3352:topicseen#new</a></p> <p>Promo Video can be viewed on the MVPA web at <a href="http://www.mvpa.org/other-convoy-news">http://www.mvpa.org/other-convoy-news</a></p> <p><b>Authenticity Notes:</b> As per WWIIHRS guidelines</p> <p><b>Prohibited Items:</b> No alcohol &amp; no discharging of firearms or carrying of same (This is not a battle reenactment!)</p> <p><b>Restrictions on Minors:</b> With parental presence, persons 16-17 allowed.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> While not a battle reenactment this event will provide the vehicle owner with an opportunity to drive his vehicle within Missouri's beautiful St. Francois Mountains during the most colorful season of the year. The historic Academy offers a venue that lends itself perfectly for a living history HQ Assembly Area.</p> <p><b>Route:</b> East to Millstream Gardens, Fredericktown, Castor River Shut-Ins.</p> <p>West to the Olympic Steak House for lunch, Mark Twain Natl. Forest, Marble Creek, return to the academy.</p> <p><b>Additional:</b> This event is part of the larger MVPA "Show Me" Convoy (October 11-17) in which the WWII convoy will lead.</p> <p><b>Sponsoring Unit(s):</b> 6th Corps &amp; 22 IPC</p>

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## WELCOME HOME STARS & STRIPES REMEMBERS WORLD WAR II & KOREA

16-19

Oct



**Loc:** Stars & Stripes National Museum & Library, 17377 Stars & Stripes Way, Bloomfield, MO 63825

**Dates:** 16-19 October 2014

**Event Times:**

16 Oct, camp set up can begin @ 12 noon

17 Oct, open to schools: 10am-2pm, set-up continues all day

18 Oct open to the public, 8:30am, Memorial convoy

18 Oct open to the public, All camps and displays @ 9am - 5pm

19 Oct camp sites cleared by 12 noon

**Registration Times:**

3pm – 9pm 17 October

7am – 9am 18 October

**Pre-Registration:** ([click here](#))

**Fee:** N/A

**Contact:** 6th Corps Living History Group, St Louis, MO at the contact me button on this web-site:

<http://welcomehomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com/contact-us>

**Website:** <http://welcomehomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com/>

**Authenticity Notes:** All HRS Safety and authenticity rules apply.

**Prohibited Vehicles/Items:** No live ammo

**Restrictions on Minors:** per HRS rules

**Other restrictions:** Per local and state laws

**Sponsoring Unit(s):**

FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE, 6TH CO, 3RD REG HRS

SECOND 25TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, 25TH BRIGADE 7TH DIVISION HRS

116th INFANTRY REGIMENT, 29th INFANTRY DIVISION

29th PANZERGRENADIER REGIMENT, 3rd PANZERGRENADIER DIVISION

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## **VIETNAM MOVING WALL ½ SIZE REPLICA BERWYN, IL**

The following is a brief outline of the 4 main events surrounding the MOVING VIETNAM WALL that will be visiting Berwyn, Il from Tuesday, August 7 thru Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**OPENING CEREMONY @1800 Hrs  
PROKSA PARK, BERWYN, IL**

### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**USO STYLE SHOW AND B-B-QUE  
1600 Hrs - 2100 Hrs  
MEGA PLEX, Mc COOK, IL**

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**ECUMENICAL CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE  
PROKSA PARK, BERWYN, IL**

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**CLOSING CEREMONY 1500 Hrs**

**VETERAN VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED AT VARIOUS TIMES THROUGH OUT THE ENTIRE TIME THE WALL IS IN BERWYN. THE WALL WILL BE ACCESSIBLE 24 Hrs EACH DAY. ANY VETERANS GROUP THAT HAS A COLOR GUARD IS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING CEREMONY. ALL VETERAN VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKED TO WEAR AN APPROPRIATE SHIRT, JACKET, CAP, ETC THAT REPRESENTS THEIR GROUP**

**CONTACT - WAYNE E. PARTHUN**

**(708) 749-3864**

**[parthun@prodigy.net](mailto:parthun@prodigy.net)**

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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



**HONOR 2014**

**August 7-11, 2014**

**Proksa Park**

**3001 S. Wisconsin Ave. Berwyn, IL 60402**

**WEBSITE: [MOVINGWALL.BERWYNPARKS.ORG](http://MOVINGWALL.BERWYNPARKS.ORG)**

**FACEBOOK: [HONOR2014BERWYN](https://www.facebook.com/HONOR2014BERWYN)**

**708.788.1701**



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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

1944 ★ 70th Anniversary of D-Day ★ 2014

## D-DAY 2014 CONNEAUT AUG. 22-23



WWW.DDAYOHIO.US

1944 ★ 70th Anniversary of D-Day ★ 2014

## D-DAY CONNEAUT

### Experience the Largest D-DAY Living History Event in the U.S.

Join us for 2 full days and once again help us commemorate and honor this historic World War II event and those who paid the price for our freedom.

- ★ **Visit** with WWII French Resistance, Commonwealth and U.S. Infantry, U.S. Navy, American Airborne and German forces.
- ★ **Explore** pre-invasion encampments of Allied and Axis forces and their tactical support elements, plus historical exhibits.
- ★ **See** training exercises, weapons, vehicles, and living history demonstrations by over 750 reenactors.
- ★ **Experience** 3 unique battle recreations.
- ★ **Watch** Higgins Boats, DUKW, and LVT make amphibious landings with Allied troops to assault Axis defenses on the bluffs overlooking "Normandy" beach as military aircraft patrol overhead during the climactic battle of the event.
- ★ **Meet WWII veterans** and be amazed as they share their personal experiences.

#### Free Admission with Free Parking & Shuttle to Event.

Just off Interstate 90 (Exit 241), 5 miles west of the Pennsylvania border, in Conneaut, Ohio. Follow the signs to free shuttle parking areas. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated.

Visit [www.ddayohio.us](http://www.ddayohio.us) for event information and to learn more about D-Day or how you can become a part of this great event.



August  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2014



Conneaut  
OHIO

WWW.DDAYOHIO.US

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



The poster features a collage of WWII-themed images: a soldier in the top left, a tank in the top right, and a soldier in the bottom right. A barbed wire graphic runs horizontally across the middle. The event title 'WWII DAYS' is prominently displayed in the center, flanked by stars. Text on the right side promotes a 'USO Style Dance' with a 'Moonlight Jazz Orchestra' and 'SportsCore Two' on Saturday night. The event dates and times are listed for Saturday (Sept 20th, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday (Sept 21st, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). A list of activities includes battles with pyrotechnics, skirmishes, and food from Burrill's Meat Products. A 'Behind the Lines' tour is advertised for Friday, Sept. 19th, for \$15. Admission details are provided for advance tickets, after Tuesday, and for museum members. Logos for Midway Village Museum and Rockford Park District are at the bottom left. A red diagonal banner at the bottom right says 'Save The Date'. Ticket information and contact details are at the very bottom.

**USO Style Dance**  
Moonlight Jazz Orchestra  
7 pm, Saturday Night  
SportsCore Two  
8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park, IL  
\$5 Cover Charge • Registered Re-enactors Free!

# WWII DAYS

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

**Saturday**  
September 20th  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Sunday**  
September 21st  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- ★ Midwest's Largest Reenactment
- ★ Over 1,000 Reenactors
- ★ Battles with Pyrotechnics
- ★ Skirmishes in the Village
- ★ Demos & Displays in Buildings
- ★ Affordable Food from Burrill's Meat Products

 "Behind the Lines" tour  
Fri., Sept. 19th, \$15 SPACE IS LIMITED. CALL FOR DETAILS.

**Admission:**

- ★ Advance Tickets Online or Museum Store  
\$12 Adults | \$6 Children
- ★ After Tuesday, September 16  
\$14 Adults | \$7 Children
- ★ Museum Members are Free

 **Midway Village Museum**  
Rockford  
HISTORY MUSEUM

 **ROCKFORD**  
PARK DISTRICT

**Save The Date**

TICKETS: ONLINE [WWW.MIDWAYVILLAGE.COM](http://WWW.MIDWAYVILLAGE.COM), MUSEUM STORE & AT THE GATES | INFO: 815-397-9112

\* Registered card carrying re-enactors are the ONLY guests admitted into the event in vintage military uniform.  
Visitors to the event may ONLY dress in 1940s civilian costume and must make sure the Visitor sticker is worn prominently.

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## 'Operation Arcadia'

**Where the "Show Me" Missouri Convoy  
Meets the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:halftrackjohns@att.net)**

**[www.mvpa.org](http://www.mvpa.org)**

**[www.6thcorpslhg.com](http://www.6thcorpslhg.com)**

***"I shall Return!"***

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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

# TIMELESS TAILORING CUSTOM CLOTHING

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## World War II Items For Sale

Contact Ed Fahrner, WW II HRS, 34<sup>th</sup> ID

630-858-4597

[fahrnerlsa@aol.com](mailto:fahrnerlsa@aol.com)

• M1 Carbine Magazine Pouches - Belt	\$25.00 Each
• M1 Carbine Magazines	\$15.00 Each
• Officer's Service Coat - Size 42R, 1944 Green Issue	\$250.00
• Officer's Custom Summer Tans - 1944 Issue Shirt Size 16, Pant Size 40 x 30	\$125.00
• Officer's Wool Shirts - Sizes 15 & 16	\$50.00 Each
• Officer's Service Trousers - Size 38x36, Repro Pinks	\$50.00
• Officer's Service Trousers - Size 40x28, Repro Pinks	\$50.00
•	
• Officer's Service Trousers - Size 42x30, Repro Pinks	\$50.00
• Officer Rank Insignia - BG, LTC, MAJ, CPT, 1LT	\$10.00 Each
• Officer Branch Insignia - INF, CAV, TANK	\$10.00 Each
• Shoulder Patch - 1ID, 30ID, 45ID, 84ID, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ranger	\$3.00 Each
•	
• 45 ACP Shoulder Holster - 1942 Issue, Good Condition	\$50.00
• M1943 Field Jacket - Size 48, 1944 Issue	\$150.00
• M1941 Field Jacket - Size 46 Reproduction	\$125.00
• Shoe Pacs - Size 12W 1944 Issue	\$100.00
• Tanker Jacket - Size 46 Reproduction	\$100.00
•	
• Double Buckle Boots - Size 10D, Repro	\$75.00
• M1938 Leggings - Size 3R	\$25.00
• M1936 Pistol Belt	\$50.00
• M1916 Holster - 1944 Issue	\$45.00
• 45 ACP Magazine Pouch	\$25.00
•	
• First Aid Pouch / Bandage	\$15.00
• Canteen & Cover	\$50.00
• Jeep Cap - Reproduction	\$30.00
• Practice Grenades	\$10.00 Each
• Musette Bag - 1943 Issue	\$50.00

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## OFFICIAL INFO

### HRS Board of Directors

Please send any correspondence to:  
WWII Historical Reenactment Society  
PO Box 861  
Champaign, IL 61824

#### President

Jon Stevens  
9th Infantry Division  
630.221.1171  
[jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net)

#### Vice President

Mike Kaczorowski  
1st Polish Independent  
Parachute Brigade  
630.888.9067  
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#### Secretary

Darryl "Eddie" Mayton  
C Company, 502nd PIR, 101st Airborne  
[wwiispartan@aol.com](mailto:wwiispartan@aol.com)

#### Treasurer

Wayne McCulley,  
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#### Allied Representative

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#### Commonwealth Representative

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#### Axis Representative

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#### Business Manager

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#### THE EDGE Newsletter Editor

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#### Webmaster

John Olsen  
9th Infantry Division  
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#### Membership Coordinator

Craig Dvorak  
2nd Marines Reenacted  
[hrrsmembers@yahoo.com](mailto:hrrsmembers@yahoo.com)

#### 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.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

All of the HRS Board Meeting Minutes from the past six 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

Click to go to a PDF file of the minutes.

<b>2014 Minutes</b> <a href="#">January</a> <a href="#">February</a> <a href="#">March</a> <a href="#">April</a> May June July August September October November December	<b>2013 Minutes</b> January February (canceled) <a href="#">March</a> <a href="#">April</a> <a href="#">May</a> <a href="#">June</a> <a href="#">July</a> <a href="#">August</a> September (canceled) <a href="#">October</a> November <a href="#">December</a>
<b>2012 Minutes</b> <a href="#">January</a> <a href="#">February</a> <a href="#">March</a> <a href="#">April</a> <a href="#">May</a> <a href="#">June</a> July <a href="#">August</a> September (canceled) <a href="#">October</a> <a href="#">November</a> December ( <u>No quorum</u> )	<b>2011 Minutes</b> <a href="#">January</a> <a href="#">February</a> <a href="#">March</a> <a href="#">April</a> <a href="#">May</a> <a href="#">June</a> <a href="#">July</a> <a href="#">August</a> <a href="#">September</a> <a href="#">October</a> <a href="#">November</a> <a href="#">December</a>
<b>2010 Minutes</b> <a href="#">January</a> <a href="#">February</a> <a href="#">March</a> <a href="#">April</a> <a href="#">May</a> <a href="#">June</a> <a href="#">July</a> <a href="#">August</a> <a href="#">September</a> <a href="#">October</a> <a href="#">November</a> <a href="#">December</a>	<b>2009 Minutes</b> <a href="#">January</a> <a href="#">February</a> <a href="#">March</a> <a href="#">April</a> <a href="#">May</a> <a href="#">June</a> <a href="#">July</a> <a href="#">August</a> <a href="#">September</a> <a href="#">October</a> <a href="#">November</a> <a href="#">December</a>

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## About Us



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

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

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

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

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

The WWII Historical Reenactment Society Inc. has never hosted, supported, or financed any events, or dinners at the Minneapolis based Gasthof Zur Gemutlichkeit Restaurant.

The only officially sponsored WWII HRS events are listed on our website: <http://worldwartwohrs.org/Events.htm>.

Information about our non for profit organization can be found here: <http://worldwartwohrs.org/AboutUs.htm>

Any activities by our members and member units that violate the stated bylaws and regulations of the Society are reviewed for disciplinary action up to dismissal and banning from future participation.

On behalf of the WWII HRS Inc. Board of Directors,  
Michael Kaczorowski  
WWII HRS Inc. Vice President  
WWII HRS Inc. Head of Safety and Authenticity

The **www.WorldWarTwoHRS.Org**  
WEB Site Is Hosted by Socket.NET

www.socket.net  
1-800-SOCKET-3

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2703 Clark Ln, Columbia, MO.  
(800) 762-5383

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## MEETING MINUTES

**Board Meeting** 22 May 2014, 8:00 pm

### Welcome and ROLL CALL:

Position	Name	Present
President:	Jonathan Stevens	YES
Vice President:	Mike Kaczorowski	YES
Treasurer:	Wayne McCulley	YES
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

Chris Adams, Jim Schouten, Curt Gustafson, Keith Long, Carlos Ramirez, Steve Sloane, George Reinke, Scott Steben, Larry Fryklund, Will Greenslade, Frank Bartolo, Alan Militich, Sue Miller

### Reading of the April, 2014 Minutes:

The April, 2014 meeting minutes were read by Jonathan Stevens. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka to approve the minutes as amended, which was seconded by Wayne McCulley. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved as read and Amended.

### Officer Reports:

#### New Business

#### Unit Charters:

**New Charters:** No new Unit Charters ready for a vote.

#### Probationary Charters:

40th Guards Rifle Division: Mike K reported that the majority of the S&A Committee voted "No" on the question as to whether the 40th Guards should be accepted as a full membership. Mike reported that the general discussion were concerns with safety and authenticity issues. Steve Sloane reported that the problems they had can be turned around and resolved. Will Greenslade reported that they failed to address reoccurring safety and authenticity issues over the past year. Frank Bartolo reported that they continue to have the same safety issues, even when they were with their prior Unit. Mike K reported that they have been a Probationary Unit for three years so far. Mike K asked for a vote as to whether the Unit should become a fully chartered Unit in the HRS. A "Yes" vote means they get accepted. A "No" vote means they get dissolved. Doug Loge seconded. A vote was taken and the Unit was NOT accepted as a full member in the HRS and their Charter will be dissolved.

517 PCRT: Mike K reported that this Unit passed the S&A Committee. Ron Kapustka reported that they are a smaller Unit and that he had checked them out at Danville. Mike K reported there have been no issues. Jon asked if they have at least 5 members and Doug confirmed they do, per EventBrite. Mike called for a vote to accept them as a fully chartered Unit in the HRS. This was seconded by Ron Kapustka. A vote was taken which was passed. The Unit will become a fully chartered Unit in the HRS.

3rd Infantry Division, 15th Regt.: Mike K reported on the Unit out of Colorado. The Unit passed the S&A Committee, and the BOD vote had been tabled from the April, 2014 Meeting. Mike K reported that the "boot issue" is not a big issue and that at the April, 2014 meeting, they reported that the M1943 boot was going to be their boot of choice. No further comments were offered. Rey and Carlos spoke on their Unit and reported about their activities within the State of Colorado. They recently added a member of the Unit with a Sherman and a Stuart tank. Mike K called for a vote on the Unit that the Unit be accepted as a fully chartered HRS Unit. If the vote was "No", the charter would be dissolved.

Ron Kapustka seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Unit was accepted as a fully chartered Unit.

E Co, 505th PIR, 82nd Abn: Mike K reported that all of the following four Units be tabled at this time as he just received information on all four Units which must be forwarded to the S&A Committee.

53. Aufklarungs-Abteilung: Tabled, see above.

3rd Infanterie Div (mot): Tabled, see above.

United Press: Tabled, see above.

### Defunct Charters:

4th Infantry Div, 22nd Regiment: Mike K has not received any further information from them. Jon reported that all his attempts to contact them failed. They had no members in 2013 and none in 2014. Mike K made a motion to disband the Unit, which was seconded by Wayne McCulley. A vote was taken which was passed. The Unit will be disbanded and removed from the active Unit List and website.

506th PIR, 101st ABN: Mike K reported that he has not received any information from them lately. Jon reported that he sent them an e-mail, which was not responded to. Last year, they were "upset" about the memberships from last year. Doug reported they have no members for 2014. Carlos reported that they are still interested in being members, although they haven't signed anyone up. Based on this information, Mike K suggested we table the vote for one more month, until June.

Doug suggested that another Unit be added to the Defunct List, the 6th SS Nord. Jon reported that under the By-Laws, a Unit needs to have no members for two years. Jon pointed out that this Unit was not on the Agenda and that the issue should be tabled for this month. Doug asked that they be added to the Agenda for next month.

### Treasurer Report:

This is the report of financial balances deposits and expenditures for April 2014. Balances as of 4/30/2014

PNC checking account \$8,629.24  
PNC Money Market Account \$48,327.50  
Wells Fargo Account: We have approximately \$300 in this account

PNC Checking Deposits  
04/07/14 Mailed Membership Deposit \$120.00  
04/09/14 Eventbrite Deposit of March Memberships \$1,375.26  
04/15/14 Deposit of check from Midway Village for insurance for WW1 event \$300.00

PNC Checking Withdrawals  
04/04/14 Illinois Secretary of State for Certificate of Good Standing \$16.00  
04/07/14 Mad Mimi Marketing \$12.80  
04/21/14 Transfer of money to PNC Money Market account \$5,000.00  
04/21/14 US Postal Service for Stamps for mailing ID cards \$99.85  
04/24/14 Office Max for supplies for Membership cards \$32.56

PNC Money Market Deposits  
04/21/14 Deposit of Money Transferred from PNC Checking account \$5,000.00  
04/30/14 Interest \$2.96

2014 Eventbrite Memberships  
April- 95 memberships Net Sales \$1,181.30

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## Old Business

**2014 Membership Process:** The 2014 procedure was discussed by Jon Stevens. All is going smoothly.

**Event Listing Procedure:** event request; funding request; AAR, submission of waivers; funding payments if approved.

## **Probation Vote for 12th SS**

### **Posting Non HRS events – website and publications**

**Secretary Report:** Eddie Mayton was unable to attend, Jon reported the HRS has 802 members.  
Membership Coordinator, Craig Dvorack is absent.

**Commonwealth Report:** Tabled.

**Allied Report:** Nothing to Report

**Axis Report:** Nothing, other than Doug has contacted all Axis Units to verify memberships and all have members but three Units.

**Edge Report:** Jeff Skender reported that the next month's issue is ready to go. Jon asked that the scholarship information be included.

**Business Manager Report:** Tabled.

## Committee Reports:

**S&A -** Nothing to Report.

**Unit Commanders -** There have been proposed By-Laws being circulated.

**Vehicle –** Jim reported that the Committee is working on S&A Rules for Vehicles. There are more than 200 vehicles listed

## Old Business

**Event Listing Procedure:** The Event Request Form was revised and circulated by Jon. After the event, an AAR must be sent to the HRS and a submission of waivers from the event and any funding payments made and receipts collected.

**Probation Vote for 12th SS:** Jon reported that last month that Doug Loge mentioned the MN Dinner Issue and had made a motion that the 12th SS be put on probation for one year with the stipulation that they do not fly, display, or hang any flag, banner, pennant, or standard with a swastika, SS runes, or totenkopf on it. Jon mentioned that last month, he thought Scott Steben needs to be advised that this vote was going to be taken and that he be given notice to attend the next meeting. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka, which was seconded by Wayne. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. Scott Steben was to be advised that this discussion and vote will take place at the (next) BOD meeting and that he has the opportunity to attend the BOD meeting. Mike K reported that the probation was not being imposed because of the "Dinner Issue" but because of past violations at Rockford and the Wade House where the 12th SS had flown political flags. Doug reported on the prior violations and that Scott had been advised of the violations. Scott wore a "Hitler" moustache; sold T-Shirts with swastikas on it at two different events; shot a rocket at a fellow reenactor; wearing Nazi party pins; has a large SS and totenkopf tattoo; and displayed political flags at the MN Dinner. Larry Fryklund advised that the party in question was a "private party" and that any information found on a "FaceBook" page should not be the reason for the probation. Doug reported that Scott Steben wore a "Hitler" moustache at Rockford last year. A discussion was had regarding the moustache and Scott reported that the moustache was removed prior to the event starting. Jon asked that the violations of the By-laws and the S&A Regulations be discussed. Doug mentioned the

Unit selling T-Shirts with swastikas on them at the Rockford event. Jon mentioned that is not a violation of the By-Laws. Doug mentioned the Panzerfaust which was a safety violation; the Christmas Dinner; wearing Nazi party pins at an HRS event. These pins are political in nature and are a violation of the By-laws in that a member of a political organization, you cannot be a member of the HRS. Doug suggested, for lack of a better word, that there appears to be a "fetish" with swastikas. Jon summarized that the issues appear to be the safety issue with the Panzerfaust; the wearing of political insignia and the flying Nazi flags at an event. Mike K reported that displays cannot be political in nature.

Scott Stebens asked what was the political pin that he was wearing at an event. Scott mentioned that the flags themselves are "props" and are being used as such, not to make a "statement". The flags that are being displayed are either Unit flags or battle flags. The Panzerschreck has been used many times in the past, but this was simply an accident with a malfunction. The system has been changed on that weapon and only smoke is used, NO projectiles are used. With regard to the "political pins" they are also being used as "props" not to make statements. Scott reported that they are simply WW2 reenactors "playing Army" and are not making any types of statements or to push any type of agenda. Scott Stebens offered that the Unit will refrain from flying any type of flag at any event in the future. Mike K commented that the display or flying of flags must be prohibited, although they are "part of the history". At Wade House, there was a Hitler Youth flag was displayed on a flag pole, "in a place of honor", and in violation of the Rules. Scott offered that the Unit will no longer display any types of flags at events. Jon asked if anyone else had comments. Alan Militch spoke about Waffen SS and that anyone who "does SS" should be careful of wearing such pins. Alan thought it is appropriate to put the 12th SS on probation. Steve Sloane reported that selling T-Shirts with a swastika on it was not a good idea at an event.

Jon asked for regular members who may have a comment. Hearing none, the floor was turned over to Scott Steben for a response. Scott Stebens apologized to the members of the HRS and stated that they do a combat Waffen SS Unit. The Dinner Party was a private event. They do not allow or have any "skinheads" or other people with an agenda in their Unit. The flags, pins, etc., that they use are only props. He is a patriotic, stand-up guy who works with disabled people. He again said that the Unit will not display any flags or other props of such nature at any events. No political pins will be displayed either at events in the future.

Jon turned the floor over to Doug to wrap up the discussion. Doug reported that the "pin" was worn at an event approx. 6 months ago at the Greenbush event. Doug described it as a round pin, worn on the right pocket above the Hitler Youth pin and the Honor Chevron could only be worn by a member of the Nazi Party. Doug suggested that all of the evidence reflects a "fascination" with swastikas and the Nazi Party. Doug suggested that the probation would be for what Scott has already promised not to do. Doug read the motion as 12th SS be put on probation for one year with the stipulation that they do not fly, display, or hang any flag, banner, pennant, or standard with a swastika, SS runes, or totenkopf on it. Doug added "or wear any Party Pins". Doug amended his Motion to include "Party Pins". Jon asked if the Motion should be amended to include the Hitler Youth Flag.

The Motion, as amended, is as follows: "12th SS be put on probation for one year with the stipulation that they do not fly, display, or hang any flag, banner, pennant, or standard with a swastika, SS runes, or totenkopf on it. Also, there will be no wearing of any Nazi Party pins". Mike K and Ron K seconded the motion. Ron re-read the motion again. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. The 12th SS is put on probation for one year, to be reviewed in May, 2015.

**Posting HRS events.** A request was made for an event in Iowa and a display event at an airport in MN. There was no comment and the events will be posted on the website.

**Posting Non HRS events.** A request was made to post Non-HRS events on the website. Jeff Skender pointed out that Non-HRS events are already listed in The Edge. Jon suggested that the Board review any requests to post/list both HRS and Non-HRS events.

\* \* \*



## Open Comments:

Wayne asked that David Jameson provide information in a more timely manner to assist him in preparing his Quarterly Reports.

Sue Miller asked about her article submitted, which was about Jefferson Barracks, and asked whether articles should be about HRS events/Units. Jon suggested that articles should be about HRS Events and Units, which is a benefit to HRS Units. We want to promote HRS Units and Events. The next meeting will be June 26th.

A motion to adjourn the Meeting was made by Jon Stevens and seconded by Ron Kapustka. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

24 | April 17, 2014 | THE FRANKFORT STATION

LIFE & ARTS

frankfortstation.com

## COVER STORY

# HCMS students see World War II, holocaust items

JON DEPAOLIS, Editor

Hickory Creek Middle School students had a unique opportunity Friday, April 4, to see artifacts from World War II and the holocaust.

Dr. Joseph Matheu, the grandfather of a Hickory Creek Middle School student, displayed his vast collection for the community a day earlier, but he also spent time April 4 showcasing the items to the students.

This isn't the first time — nor the first collection — Matheu has shared with the students at HCMS. He previously brought his collection of Abraham Lincoln and Civil War items to the Frankfort school.

But this year, he had a different idea. And HCMS Principal Dr. Kevin Suchinski said it couldn't have worked out better.

"Our eighth-grade students right now are in the study of World War II, as well as the holocaust," Suchinski said. "And they are reading in their ELA classes the diary of Anne Frank. That just snowballed into the possibility of bringing this to our students."

HCMS seventh-graders have also been raising money this year for Honor Flight Chicago, so it was "a perfect connection for our kids to realize and to learn more than what is in a textbook," Suchinski said.

About 50 people turned out April 3. Frankfort resident Steve Dohm was one of those who attended.

Dohm and others were able to see many different artifacts, including a World War II field phone, presented by Christian Dvorak.

"After 71 years, this phone still functions," said Dvorak during the April 3 presentation.



Dr. Joseph Matheu, the owner of the collection and the grandfather of a HCMS student, shows one of the several World War II items he brought to the school.

"I've always been interested in World War II," Dohm said. "This was a chance to see items up close and personal."

The next day, Matheu gave a detailed history about the artifacts.

"I think what was core to the exhibit and really reached the soul and the heart was the Auschwitz concentration camp prisoner's uniform," Suchinski said. "I think we spend a great deal of time talking to our kids about discrimination ... and talking about sacrifices and rights. I think that piece really brought into perspective the things they are studying."

It also tied into what the students were learning.

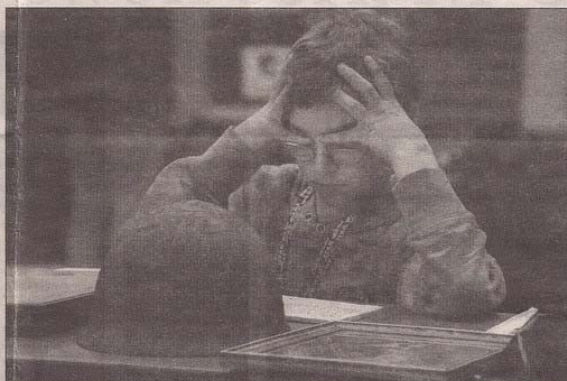
"When we talk with our



Christian Dvorak showcases a World War II field phone.

students ... we focus on the idea of history not repeating itself," Suchinski said.

He said the students focused on the quote, "Those



Ethan Lewandowski, a Hickory Creek Middle School sixth-grader, looks at an original World War II helmet Thursday, April 3, during an exhibit at the school. PHOTOS BY MARY COMPTON/22ND CENTURY MEDIA



Sgt. Craig Dvorak (right) shows a grenade used in World War II to Daymon Gast (left) and Steve Dohm.

who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Students had to find one relic or artifact that was going to remind them to teach the world to not have history repeat itself. Students then wrote a paragraph about that reflection.

"I think it allowed history to come alive for them," Suchinski said.

Dvorak and his father, Craig, also participated in the presentation by displaying artifacts and relics.

Suchinski thanked Matheu and the Dvoraks for

"their willingness to share their knowledge."

"We're quite honored to be allowed to see these relics," he said. "I think it gives our kids a great opportunity."

\*Mary Compton contributed to this story.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SEE WW2 ITEMS

2nd Marine members share their collections and knowledge of the Second World War  
With the students and faculty of Hickory Creek Middle School in Frankfort, Illinois.  
The event took place on April 4 & 5th, 2014.



Craig Dvorak at Hickory Creek Middle School



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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



Bodo Fehrmann at Hickory Creek Middle School

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## Restoring a Chrome Plated German Helmet By Bodo Fehrmann

We have all seen them online, or on some biker's head going down the freeway: a chrome-plated ex-German or Spanish Stahlhelm as some sort of counterculture statement or "hardcore" looking piece of biker gear. If you were wondering, though, German helmets are not safe for motorcycle use and the World War Two HRS does not condone their use as motorcycle helmets outside of reenactment events.

As any collector of WWII Militaria will know, original German helmets are expensive, really, really expensive, especially if you have a big noggin. Unlike one-size-fits-most American helmets, German helmets are sized, and the bigger they are, the more they cost. A restored original helmet in size 68 (fits a 7 1/2 head) can cost upwards of four hundred dollars. This can make them inaccessible for many, and most big-headed folk are left to settle on reproductions, almost all of them being sub-par. I was one of these unfortunate oafs, left in the proverbial lurch, wishing I could afford an original helmet to top of the impression I have invested much time and money into getting as accurate as I can. Luckily, deals are out there, and I certainly found one.

As the administrator of one of the largest free reenactment gear marketplaces on Facebook, the "WWII For Sale/Trade Forum" (shameless plug), I see a lot of used reenactment gear come up for sale at reasonable prices. One of the pieces which came up for sale particularly tickled my fancy: a size 68 M42 helmet shell. About 65 dollars and a week later, it was on my doorstep. What's the catch, you may ask? It was chrome dipped at some point between 1945 and 2014.



Holding the helmet in my palms, I had a minor crisis, my inner 1970's Hell's Angel was begging me to leave the helmet chrome, but I knew it was for the better that I return it to the proper 1944 configuration.

Inspecting the shell, there were two major issues I would have to tackle. First, and most obviously, the chrome would have to come off. Second, and perhaps most difficult, I had to re-form the air vent holes, since apparently the same individual who chrome dipped it, smashed in the air vents so they would lie flush with the helmet. I decided I would address the rust first.

After several cumulative hours spent searching the web, I read that household bleach was a safe and effective way to strip chrome. After buying five gallons of bleach and soaking the helmet for about a half hour, my suspicion that it was just too good to be true was validated. All the bleach had done was rust the inside of the shell where there was no protective chrome plating.

Feeling a little crestfallen I decided to switch to plan B: abrasives. I used what is called a flap disc sander, which is a rotary tool attachment which allows one to quickly remove material from metal and is used by most to clean up welds and smooth out sheet metal. I bought my flap disc at Menards and it was about 8 bucks. Harbor Freight has them for about \$2.99, but Menards was closer.



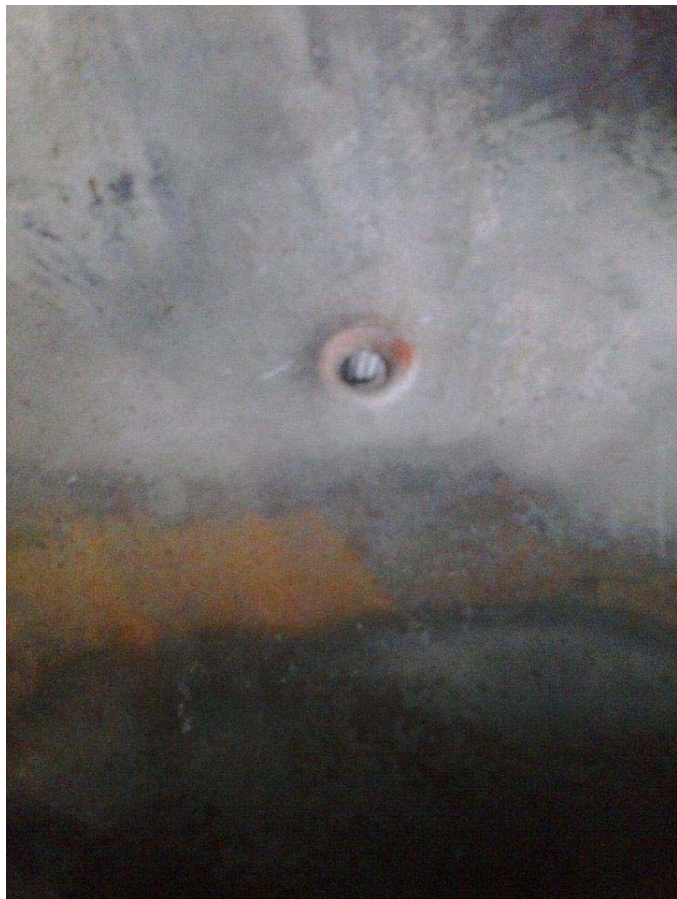
It took a while to get the helmet back down to bare steel, but it was easy enough thanks to my Roto-Zip angle grinder. I should mention that I did have to do a slight modification to the flap disc so that the Roto-Zip would accept it, but this will not be a problem with standard angle grinders.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

After feeling satisfied that I had removed all of the chrome, I had to tackle the issue of the smashed in air vents. This is what it looked like from the inside:



I have the advantage of having several decades of accumulated riff-raff and various machine parts at my disposal, and came up with some sort of thick spacer (A thick washer would work just fine as well) to form my new air vents. The concept here is simple, I have a washer with a hole the same diameter as my desired air vent, and I have a round-head screw with the same amount of curvature as my desired air vent. I put the washer on the outside, (held in place with masking tape), and I banged on the screw with a hammer until it formed a proper, domed-out, air vent hole.

This is what my spacer looked like, a thick washer would work just fine as well.



After wailing on the thing, I successfully made two new air vents with a proper domed-out appearance. Unfortunately I got a little excited on one side and blew through it. I had to bend the metal back, and I filled the gap with "Bondo" auto body filler. Oops!

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



After this, I sanded the whole shell with 120 grit sand paper to dull down the tool marks as best as I could. My next obstacle would be getting the proper late war fine textured finish into the paint. In several circles, "Rustoleum Deep Forest Green" spraypaint is an acceptable substitute for the proper shade of dark feldgrau. It did not tickle my fancy based on originals I've seen in the flesh and online (color temperature taken into consideration, of course). I felt I could do something to make it work, though.



Here's where it got tricky.

I had to decant some "Deep Forest Green" with "Flat Black" from the spraycans into an airbrush jar. To do this, I covered the top of the jar with a shop rag, placed a drinking straw directly against the spray nozzle and bled the paint into the jar. I mixed about 3 parts "Deep Forest Green" to 1 part "Flat Black". I then mixed it thoroughly. These colors are available at Home Depot.

Into a different airbrush jar, I poured a good portion of aluminum oxide powder.

The aluminum oxide I used is available at Menards and is designed to be used as a texture for shop floors to prevent slipping. It was somewhat expensive at \$11, but it was convenient. Aluminum oxide is the same type of powder that was used by German helmet factories in the mid-late war years and it is recommended that if you use an M40 or M42 shell for reenacting that you texture it with aluminum oxide.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



The airbrush jar with the powder in it was attached to a Paasche medium sized spraygun.

Using a finer airbrush, I sprayed small sections of my custom mixed Feldgrau onto the helmet, and then quickly switched to my oxide brush and sprayed it onto the wet paint. This allowed me to get a very even, fine coating of the powder applied to the surface of the helmet.

Once I was satisfied that the entire helmet was evenly coated, I put the paint mix into the larger spraygun (formerly used for oxide powder) and sprayed a fairly thick outer coat onto the helmet.



My result is a very even texture with a glorious shade of "Feldgrau Dunkel".

This is what the helmet looked like after drying: (Ignore the mess in the background)



What is a German helmet without a liner? Since I had only spent about 90 dollars on the whole project thus far, I was way under budget, so decided to splurge on the best helmet liner money can buy. These liners are made in the Czech Republic and are sold various places around the net. Many unscrupulous dealers on eBay age them and sell them as originals. At The Front sells them for \$75.00 plus shipping for a liner kit, which includes the liner, three split pins with washers, the liner drawstring, and a very high quality reproduction chinstrap. Liner installation is fairly easy: All you have to do is align the rear hole of the liner with the rear hole of the helmet, insert your split pin through the helmet from the outside, put the split pin washer over the prongs of the pin, and bend the prongs apart so that they hold the liner in place, tight against the shell. Repeat with the other two holes, and your liner is installed.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

Here is the finished product with my German name, rank, and Erkennungsnummer (Serial number) painted on the inside of the flange.



The paint should be allowed to cure for at least 72 hours and ideally should be heat cured by putting it in an oven at about 125 degrees for about 10 minutes and then dunking it into a bucket of cold water.

Over all this project was fairly easy to tackle and I hope my step by step guide will help you restore your own German helmet. I came up at about \$150 total spent on the project which is less than a third of what a restored German helmet would cost me elsewhere.

If you have any specific questions about my painting technique or more about how to restore German helmets, please do not hesitate to email me at [Bodo.fehrmann@gmail.com](mailto:Bodo.fehrmann@gmail.com).  
Happy helmeting!

-Bodo Fehrmann, 275. Infanterie.  
[275infanterie.weebly.com](http://275infanterie.weebly.com)

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## My WW2 Reenacting Memories

By Larry Mayo

This year marks my 35th year since I began WWII reenacting. Some months ago, I had the opportunity to sit down and reminisce with a couple of others who were around in the early years of WWII Reenacting. It occurred to me that many others might be interested in the history of our hobby. I decided to write a short memoir of my beginning years of WWII reenacting when the HRS was the first and only WWII reenacting organization, and Weldon Springs Missouri was the center of the reenacting world. I apologize in advance to our Allied reenactors. My impression has been Axis, and therefore, by necessity, my viewpoint has been from there. These are my memories, and history as I recall it. I present this as my opinions, and if, on some points, others disagree, they are welcome to do so. Some may have different opinions or other information than I do, but I call them as I saw them then, and see them now.



## The Bad Old Days

The reason for the title, "The Bad Old Days," is to emphasize that reenacting today is light-years ahead of what it was then. You won't hear me going on about how great the "old times" were or how much I miss them. The only thing I sadly miss is the many wonderful people I have not seen in decades. Wherever they are, I wish them well. Terry Johns started the ball rolling with his personal history in the previous issue of The Edge. I was unaware he would be doing this when I wrote the following account. There will be some minor retelling of events he previously has covered, but much from the perspective of an individual reenactor in those early days.

The HRS was founded in 1976. I was not a member then, but there are some, such as Harry Cliffe, who were there at the beginning. The following history is courtesy of Harry, who was there at the beginning and was the 12th member of the HRS to be registered.

Terry Johns became friends with the Cliffes, meeting them at the Edwardsville Illinois gun show where they would look for Third Reich items. At one of the shows, Terry asked the Cliffes, Marty Senior, Marty Jr, and Harry, if they would be interested in meeting at a fellow collectors house to take pictures in their uniforms. Terry Johns later proposed the idea of reenacting WWII, since he had already been doing Civil War reenacting. They later were invited by him to a trial battle at Weldon Springs Missouri. This occurred in 1975. Things continued to move along, and Terry proposed the idea, to them and others, of creating an official WWII reenacting group. They began meeting at his house once a month along with others who were interested. They discussed how the reenactment group would be organized, its rules, and bylaws. At one meeting a suggestion was made by Art Obermeyer to call it MARS, for Military Arms Reenactment Society. The WWII Historical Reenactment Society was proposed. It won on a vote, and was adopted as the official name of WWII reenacting. This was 1976. The first battle was held in Peoria that year, and the first dues were collected. An annual "National Battle" was proposed and adopted there. These were mostly held at Weldon Springs in October of every year. Terry Johns had connections with the personnel stationed there, and it turned out to be an ideal facility. At that time, nobody was sure how safe blanks were, so at one meeting, in Terry John's basement, he set up an experiment to determine their safety. He hung sheets of paper in a line at one foot intervals, and then fired a blank at them to see how many sheets would be pierced by the discharge. Officers were elected at another meeting, and Terry Johns was elected the first President of the HRS. Martin Cliffe Sr. was elected to the position of Treasurer. Meetings continued at Terry's house for years. Terry and Fred Poddig were the most involved and energetic participants. Others involved were the Cliffes, Art Obermeyer, Jim Willingham, and Gary Sokol. As time passed, meetings had to be moved to larger accommodations because of an increasing membership. A news letter was written every month, and it was first printed on colored paper because it was cheaper. Once, a newsletter was printed with every page a different color. As years passed, the National was eventually moved to Weldon Springs. That is where my story with the WWII HRS begins.

Terry Johns still shows up today as a vendor in the barn at Rockford. Next time you are at Rockford, go to the barn, inquire after him and, when you find him, thank him. I have seen claims posted on-line that WWII reenacting originated with the Federation. There is even a book written about the authors experience with WWII reenacting. It covered nothing outside of east-coast events, and doesn't even mention the HRS by name. Let me state this clearly. The HRS was the first WWII reenacting group. It was born in St Louis, and was the originator of the hobby. If anyone claims otherwise, challenge him to produce a charter or newspaper coverage that predates 1976. It may be the first in the world. I was shopping in a militaria shop in London in 1982, and the owner had not heard of WWII reenacting and was very interested to hear the details.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

I had been collecting WWII German militaria for a couple of years before discovering WWII reenacting. I was buying a tunic, one day, when the seller asked me if I was interested. After looking at a photo album of events he had attended, I was enthusiastic about joining his unit. That was the Herman Goering Division. We outfitted as ground combat troops. I went to my first reenactment at Metamora Illinois in October of 1979. Our unit commander, Nancy Hassenstein, in spite of a physical challenge, went out and kept up with all of us. Our uniforms consisted of repainted original helmet shells, modern West German smocks recut to WWII configuration, postal worker's wool pants, and work boots with original gaiters. All of our field equipment was original. I was amazed to see a real kettenkrad, and a kubelwagen, the first of both I had ever seen. The fighting that weekend was particularly hot and heavy with few pauses and few boring waits. I was hooked. We were assaulting a group of Americans, holed down in a position, when an SS reenactor with a Panzerschreck (German Bazooka) crawled up next to me. He was shot and ruled dead by the referee. With the schreck laying next to me, he said, "Finish 'em off." I picked it up, leveled it at the Americans and squeezed it off as a huge powder charge lit and smoke roared out both ends. The American position was ruled wiped out. I was double hooked. There were even a couple of WWII veterans who participated as Americans. At that battle, I met a German veteran for the first time. His parents had answered Hitler's call and moved their family back to Germany. He was assigned to the Russian front, and wound up at Stalingrad. One day, he was detailed to help carry stretchers to waiting aircraft at Pitomnik. In the confusion at the airport, he and his helper decided to risk getting on the plane themselves. They knew there was no hope for the 6th Army at that point, and decided that possible execution for desertion was preferable to certain death or imprisonment at the hands of the Russians. When they arrived at the other end, their cover story was that they had been detailed to help with the wounded there. Likely, by the time anyone got around to checking up on them, communications with Stalingrad had collapsed.



Photos of the author at his first battle.

Events back then consisted of three battles, one on Saturday, a night battle on Saturday night, (of which I will speak of later) and a battle on Sunday with a public-display battle squeezed in somewhere. Information about the event was published in the local media, and people were invited to come out on Sunday and watch a staged battle. There was a National Meeting, then, where issues were debated, and election of officers took place. I think we also got food as part of the battle fee. Early events usually had a group of referees who sometimes wore uniforms, and were always identified by a prominent armband. The organizer of an event would contact a local ROTC, National Guard or other reserve unit and organize volunteers to perform this duty. These events were, to me, the most satisfying because arguing over hits simply didn't exist when the umpires were present. There was always someone or another who didn't like a call, but if anyone became a problem, he was told to leave. It also proved to be educational to those participants who were truly clueless about the destructive power of various weapons. Some would try to advance across an open field against multiple MG42 fire, or another would put his face to the ground

believing that it would protect him from a grenade exploding two feet from his head. That sort of stuff still goes on. At one event, a foxhole filled with Allied soldiers took a direct mortar hit on a branch two feet over their position. The referee walked over to them and ruled them all dead. They began yelling at him. He yelled back at them with a lecture about how little would be left of any of them, had a large-caliber mortar round burst directly over their heads. Referees were soon a thing of the past replaced by the "honor system" which has rarely worked. I have seen squads advancing over open ground against the combined, point-blank fire of three 75 mm guns and not take a single hit. So much for the "honor system." I attend few tacticals today, simply because most of them have no referees. For me, it is like playing tennis with no net, just not satisfying. I have heard all the reasons for not having them, and they are, in my estimation, excuses.

The latest great news, for the HRS, is the recent reopening of Weldon Springs Missouri to reenacting events. Weldon Springs was closed decades ago for environmental concerns, and other problems. Those all have been remedied, and it is now safe and renovated. Prior to its closing, most events were held at Weldon Springs. It was an inactive military preserve south of St. Louis. Then, there were few more than two or three events in a year, all of them tactical. Weldon Springs was close to the notorious Mallinkrodt weapons factory that had been shut down one day when it was discovered that the whole place contained radioactive dust from years of manufacturing. You could see it from the road with forklifts and other rusting vehicles abandoned exactly where they were parked the day the plant was closed. The area was also a briar heaven filled with locust and other briar bushes sprouting thorns the size of nails. Uniforms and flesh were picked apart regularly. I still have a scar from one of them. One of the features there was a huge, abandoned factory that had been used to make TNT for the armed services. To Weldon Springs came reenactors from all over the country. Later, TNT was discovered in buried pipes, and in the ground water. It was thereafter closed for cleanup, and check for radiation. Fortunately, no radiation was found, nor any problem with harmful chemical contamination. Weldon Springs was valuable in that it was an easily accessed and dependable place to hold regular battles. It did not present the problems of working around an active military post, and could be used several times a year. It also had several abandoned buildings that added to character of the place. We have never had a similar dependable battle site, and when it was closed, it was a great loss to the HRS. Hopefully, now that it is again open for events, it will prove to be a first-class venue, as once it was.

Everything we are surrounded with today was only an impossible pipe dream 30 years ago. There were only a few original German vehicles that showed up at events, one Hetzer (occasionally) a kubelwagen, kettenkrad, R75 motorcycles and a light Opel Blitz truck. Our unit dreamed of having a truck, any truck, American or otherwise. The Hetzer sat at Weldon Springs, and we would arrive there hoping that the thing would be running. Three times out of four it was packed up with engine trouble, and we were mostly disappointed. The allies had more vehicles with a Sherman, Daimler Dingo, 2 1/2 ton truck, and jeeps all over. Oddly, allied vehicles nearly disappeared in the coming years, only lately to make a big return to events. The existence of copies of the BMW motorcycles and, the OT810 half-tracks, were unknown or unobtainable at that time.

Authenticity was either horrible or flawless, horrible because the wearer of the uniform was forced to make the uniform himself, or flawless because the wearer's uniform was totally original. Some guys were amazingly good at reproducing a uniform. Others looked like their uniforms had been put together without adult supervision. Allied units had plenty of surplus original uniforms available. Prior to 1980, many German reenactors wore original uniforms, or mostly original parts. Nobody dreamed that these uniforms would be worth thousands someday. SS units turned out, many of their members wearing original smocks, and original helmets. These are worth a fortune now. I, personally, still have a picture of a German Fallschirmjaeger putting on a mint pair of, ultra-rare, side-lace jump boots he bought from a museum in Pennsylvania, and another of someone wearing an original M43 cap and tan-and-water parka. The thorns at Weldon Springs damaged many original uniforms.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



Decent reproductions were a rarity then, and pretty much sold only by George Peterson who traveled from his shop in Alexandria Virginia, to sell at the National Battle. His blankets were covered with piles of original German items, and rarities such as repro Fallschirmjaeger helmets and jump smocks. I even remember him selling original iron crosses that were piled in a small box. We looked forward to seeing what new and interesting things he would come up with. Most German reenactors had to make do with whatever they could scrounge up, convert, or dye to look like descent uniforms. Swiss army and American Marine tunics were popular. Hats were surplus West German, that fit almost nobody, or home-made stuff that generally looked bad and misshapen. I wore a cotton shirt and a pair of Postal worker pants, or Swiss splinter-pattern pants that looked O.K. if you sort of squinted when you looked at them on a dark night. My kit included a West German smock heavily recut to look like WWII ones. I look at pictures of myself from then and shudder at how bad I looked. Boots were nearly all work boots wrapped with original gaiters. There were a few who wore Wellingtons with the strap and buckle still on, black cowboy boots or, rarely, German postal worker boots that looked good. The Point often carried articles showing how to hand-make some uniform part, field gear, or a source where some cheap, original items could be obtained. Reproduction German grenades had to be laboriously made from hand-turned wood, and spray paint cans. Reproductions were in their infancy then and, every once in a while, somebody would show up with a beautiful reproduction of an SS smock, or an army parka and announce he was taking orders for more. A couple of dozen guys would send him an order only to find out, a few months later, that the seller and their money had taken a powder to parts unknown. This happened a couple of times that I'm aware of. Then, there were the sellers who were honest but quickly realized that they could not make any money from such labor-intensive products and went out of business. The difficulty in getting decent repros at an affordable price is demonstrated by the fact that it would not be until years into the next century before cheap and accurate uniforms would be available. Today, I often attend militaria shows and usually see some item, being sold as original, that I immediately recognize as one of those early reproductions.

Back then, you could join the HRS at the gate and participate immediately in a battle. This resulted in local bikers, and other yahoos, reading about events in the papers and coming out for a good time. Their authenticity was horrible, modern uniform parts, beards, long hair, the works. I saw two guys pull up in a

modern jeep painted OD green. They were wearing American helmets, khaki pants, green T shirts, (I think) long beards, and sporting M14 rifles in leather holsters strapped to the side of their vehicle. They were turned away. There were always problems with beards and facial hair, mostly from people who came in from the east coast. There, Civil War and Revolutionary War reenactments were the established mainstay. Many of them did not want to cut their hair because it would no longer look correct (or so they claimed) for either of those periods. I heard the statement made that, "WWII reenacting isn't legitimate." What that was supposed to mean, I never figured out. Evidently, WWII reenacting was considered slumming for some of them. Much bad feeling was generated when they were turned away.

"I can't cut my hair, I do Civil War."  
"That's nice, then scam."

Although, this was sometimes overlooked by organizers who were more interested in gate receipts than authenticity. That, in itself, was always a problem. When authenticity and the bottom line clashed, authenticity usually came a cropper. Short hair was not in fashion then, and this was always a running battle.

In the early eightys, it was clear that a split was looming in the HRS. Many from the east thought that it was too much of an imposition for them to drive to events. Gas prices were soaring, and traveling was becoming very expensive. I was told that easterners are not used to traveling great distances to events owing to the density of population in the east. Inevitably, a division took place, and the Federation was formed. You will hear many versions of why The Federation split from the HRS, but, as far as I know, the real reason was authenticity. A majority of our authenticity problems came from people who lived on the east coast. The two times I went to Indiantown Gap pretty much demonstrated to me that this was not a stereotype. We saw a whole squad of Germans with American rifles, beards everywhere, Austrian dot camouflage, VW Things and a Sherman tank driver who got kicks out of swerving his vehicle toward columns of Germans. (This was witnessed by me first hand.) I wasn't aware that Ray Bans, and mirrored sunglasses were issued in large quantities to WWII ground troops. To be sure, there are some very good units, the eastern GrossDeutschland group was top-notch and perfect in every way. From what I hear, they still are.

They are one of the few German units who have attended a reunion of the real unit they portray, and reenact that unit with the permission and support of their veterans. Since then, the splintering process has resulted in many groups splitting off from the Federation as well as the HRS. The most common reason seems to be issues of authenticity.

Safety? Ha ha, that's another story. It would be honest to say that other than the fact that mounted bayonets were banned, and ammo was checked before each event, there was none. My mother used to say that God watches out for drunks and little children. You can add WWII reenactors to that list. (Some might insist that they are already covered under the first two categories.) Considering some of the totally dangerous and careless actions I have seen, it is a miracle that nobody was killed or seriously injured. That is not an exaggeration. Compared to now, it was the wild west. You could bring darn near anything to an event that you wanted to make, as long as it wasn't rocket-propelled. No pyro was checked at all. There were mortar projectiles that would thud when they landed, and would have knocked out a cow. Some were spiked up with a few ounces of powder. I saw one guy, who was firing a mortar, light up his hand with a round containing several ounces of black powder. Fortunately, it flashed rather than exploded. Luckily, it only burned his hand a bit and did no serious damage. Thanks to, possibly, damp powder he did not lose a hand, or worse. Lighted grenades and smoke bombs were thrown into moving vehicles filled with people. From time to time, someone would bootleg artillery simulators into an event. That is a military explosive device intended to simulate an exploding shell. It gives out a distinctive whistle, and explodes with the force of a small bomb. It is potentially lethal at close range. When I was in basic training, I saw them used only in sandbag-lined pits. Even then, they blew the helmet off anyone going too close to them. At every battle, It was normal to hear about somebody being taken to the local hospital with some sort of injury. Some units

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

were regularly giving out wound badges. Participants in a D-Day battle, held on the east coast in the early 80s, claimed that some German was shooting M80 firecrackers, with a slingshot, into the Allied troops as they came ashore. One GI, who attended, told me that he was bruised on the thigh by a charge that was planted in the beach and exploded under him. Part of every National Battle was the night battle. The scenario usually consisted of about a hundred, or so, guys swanning around and firing guns at each other in total darkness. This was idiocy and dangerous to the maximum. Engagements were, by necessity, only when you, literally, bumped into someone else and started firing at close range. Everybody realized that these battles were a waste of ammunition since determining a hit was impossible. During one of these, I rode in a truck being driven at speed, at night, through a battle area. Somebody, in the back of it, was throwing home-made grenades at anything that moved. Fortunately, these battles were discontinued after three, or so, years. Unfortunately, this idea is 'rediscovered' from time to time. My advice is, forget it.

The zenith of this insanity came at the 1980 Weldon Springs National. As I mentioned before, there was a huge, square, factory building there. The building was abandoned and crumbling. It rose three stories with a basement level that was open in half of the building. This created a nice four-story fall and was an accident waiting to happen. There was a gigantic, open center shaft with stairs zigzagging up the side of it from the basement to the top floor. Mind you, there were no complete floors on any of the levels, just slabs of various sizes with open sides. I don't recall that there were any railings at all on the stairs. People were running up and down these stairs constantly during the fight, and any one of them could have fallen two or three floors to his death. The concrete floor was filled with square pits ranging from the size of a coffin, to three, or so, yards square. There were also raised, concrete pedestals with large, rusting rods and other steel sticking up from them. The whole thing looked very much like the factory in the film Cross of Iron, but more vertical. The walls had dozens of odd-shaped windows of every size in them that let in plenty of light, .... and projectiles. And, there was the fact that nobody was sure of what condition the building was in. This factory became the concentration point of the battle that day.

All the Germans were defending it, and the Allies were trying to force their way in. A friend of mine and I made a position in one of these pits that was just large enough to hold both of us. It was about three feet deep and ideal to duck down in. Little did I know that it was a lucky choice for reasons I'll explain.

Our pit was near one of the high windows, and we fired upwards at anything we saw popping into view. Almost immediately, the firing became hot and heavy climaxing in several minutes of solid, roaring gunfire. I had read veteran descriptions of single gunshots coming so fast they blended into a solid roar. That is exactly what I heard that day. The noise was deafening. At one point, the Sherman tank rolled up to a large, open door and began firing its main gun directly into the factory causing painful shock that reverberated throughout the whole building. Add to that, a rain of explosive devices of every description coming through the many windows. Prior to the battle, I bought a grenade from someone who had made them with pull fuses that did not require a lighter. These were made from plastic juice containers and had a good heft to them. As we raised up from our hole to fire, we heard what sounded like something ricocheting around in the building. After seeing some sort of projectiles bouncing dangerously off the walls, I realized there WAS something flying around. It hit our helmets as well. We could feel small shock waves coming through the concrete. One grenade hit near our hole, and I heard something ricochet off the nearby wall. As I lay with my head pressed against the floor, a short piece of twisted, metal pipe came to rest exactly in front of my eyes. It had a pull ring still attached to it. I realized that it was a remnant of one of those grenades I bought. I reached in my pocket, pulled mine out and unscrewed the cap. To my shock, I found it contained a 35mm film canister full of black powder, a piece of pipe with the igniter inside, and the rest was filled with pea gravel, intended to give it some weight. This was nothing short of a fragmentation grenade. But, that was small change compared to the other stuff being thrown in. The blasts came one after another, echoing off the concrete walls, and slowly filling the building with smoke. After one huge explosion, I raised up to check our window. I saw a hand holding a four-inch long section of carpet tube with heavy cardboard glued on the ends. A fuse, coming out of, it

was burning. This thing must have contained nearly a pound of black powder. As the hand threw it in, I ducked down into the pit. The bomb went off with an ear-shattering blast that, I swear, bounced us off the floor with its shock wave. Had it gone off near somebody, he would have been killed instantly or seriously maimed. I was so PO'd that I grabbed my one grenade, ripped out the igniter ring and threw it back out the same window, safety be damned. I, later, realized that this probably wasn't the smartest thing to do. Evidently, the guy outside must have been out of those blockbusters, or I would have been very sorry.



Photo was taken after the cease-fire called at the factory battle described. Note the great amount of smoke still coming out of the building nearly ten minutes after the fighting had stopped.

At that point, two fortunate things (for most of us, at least) happened. One German was shot in the face by an Allied reenactor firing his pistol around a corner. And, about the same time, somebody in the building realized that the person next to him was unconscious. This was because, by now, the whole building was chocked with a thick cloud of gray smoke. So much ammunition and explosives had been detonated in that building, that it was no longer possible to breathe or see anything. The battle was immediately stopped. Fortunately, one of the SS reenactors was an ophthalmologist and he came to examine the person who had been shot. The casualty had a small, black, powder burn just below his left eye. I am told he still has the mark to this day. One inch higher and he would have been partially blinded for life. Also, not only one German was passed out, but as the smoke cleared, another one was also found unconscious. Both were carried out and revived. I have a photo of the pause with a huge column of smoke drifting out the front door. I look back now and shudder. Every element for disaster was there, but none happened.

This battle was the last straw. It was plain to everyone that the weapons race and escalation of violence had gotten out of hand. Later issues of The Point contained letters condemning the dangerous situation, and demanding new safety measures. One quote was something like, "If they won't take a hit, get a bigger bomb." Today, such things as I have described are no longer permitted. I am glad that the changes were made before someone lost a limb, or his life. Everyone who reenacts today is a beneficiary of those safety reforms.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

In the early years of the HRS, there was a real struggle for the "heart and soul" of WWII reenacting. That is to say, a struggle over exactly what it would become. In the pre-1983 days, the public generally was not aware of reenacting, as such. If it was, it was derided as a pass-time peopled with screwballs who, for some reason, liked to dress up. I am quoted in a book, *Uniforms*, by Paul Fussell. You may remember that he was interviewed in the Ken Burns film, *The War*. His estimation of WWII reenactors was less than flattering. We were covered in a chapter titled, *Wierdos. Revolutionary War, and Civil War* had become established, but WWII was something new and controversial. Those who did German impressions learned very quickly to keep quiet about it. This was because nearly anyone finding out that you put on a "Nazi" uniform, presumed you were one, since no other motive seemed possible. When I was dating my wife, we worked for the same employer. She told me that she had heard I was a member of the Nazi party. I had to explain to her what WWII reenacting was. Had she not been willing to openly confront me with this rumor, my marriage to her may have never happened. Thereafter, I was very careful to keep my reenacting activities to myself and never make the mistake of showing pictures to anybody. I think it is far more mainstream today for people to indulge their fantasies than it was then. I think there are a lot of people who have never come to terms with their imaginations in a constructive way. I've never understood their criticism of, and hostility towards those who do.



Part of the early problems were caused by diverse types of people whose motives for reenacting were really at odds with one another. There were those who were very knowledgeable about the war and were very much interested in authenticity. These were often collectors who wanted to get a feel of what it was like to be the original occupant of the uniforms and equipment they owned. There were the gun fanatics whose motive was simply a chance to play with their toys. For them, the uniform was an inconvenience and authenticity was not on their map. (Don't get me wrong. I'm a strong supporter of 2nd Amendment rights, but shooting off my rifle is not my main motive for reenacting.) Minimum effort toward either was as far as they wanted to go, loads of beautiful weapons, long hair. Another type was the fantasy buff. To them WWII was not a historic fact, but another form of a self-created fictional world, along with *Star Trek*, *Dungeons and Dragons* and the rest. Some years ago at a public event, at

Fort Sheridan, I saw a sad example of this. An American veteran was hanging around the perimeter rope of one American camp, trying to engage them in conversation about the war. I saw him shunned and ignored by the whole group who were not even bothering to talk to him. Instead, they would walk by him or sit grouped around the center of their camp away from the perimeter rope. After some time, he saw me watching and walked over to me.

"Hell, those guys don't want to talk, so I guess I'll talk to the krauts."

This guy unreeled an hours' worth of memories about the war, including seeing an unhinged GI using a truck full of German prisoners as a human shooting gallery until he was stopped by men near him. I suspected that those particular American reenactors, who shunned that veteran, didn't want to deal with the reality of somebody who had been a part of real history. Similarly, I've seen an embarrassing incident where an Afrika Korps veteran was told by a German reenactor, that he was wrong about the uniform he wore in North Africa. Later, that same vet told me that when you spend ten hours a day, sitting and sweating in a foxhole, and waiting for darkness so that you can move about, you have a lot of time to study what you are wearing. That German's comments, about the guy who claimed to be more knowledgeable than him, demonstrated perfect mastery of English swear words. He later became a friend, and sold me my first house.

Another type was the "True Believer." These were the neo-Nazis who thought that they would be warmly received by German reenactors. There were multiple incidents when these types had to be shown that their particular philosophy was not welcome. There were persistent rumors about certain units and questionable activity. Thankfully, in recent years I have not heard any more of such rumors. The ban on swastika flags, and political uniforms were passed because of them. These bylaws were also put in place to get rid of the political fringe who brought their families to public battles decked out in Nazi (not military) uniforms, and the neo-Nazis who put on their brown uniforms after battles. I have recently seen spectators wearing political uniforms at public events. Yes, event hosts can control this if they want to. The rest of us are tainted by this. We don't dare invite that element back into our ranks. Years ago, one of the major issues discussed at the National Meeting was the ejection of one member who sent out Ku Klux Klan, and pro-Nazi literature to other members. One of the people at the meeting was an attorney who told us that it was both legal and desirable. He stated that no jury in the country would render a verdict against any organization taking a stand against Nazis.

The last type was those who were simply thrill seekers who didn't care about anything except the excitement and violence of reenacting. Neither their weapons (Spanish Mausers and Japanese knee mortars) nor their uniforms were worth a rat.

I'll have to say that WWII reenacting has never been free of the above types, but today, they have been pretty much driven out by a generation of participants who have made a great effort to create a new culture in our hobby. It is a culture that rejects those who aren't interested in history or authenticity. I had an enlightening conversation with one person who did Rev War, Civil War, and WWII. He made an interesting observation that most of the problem types were peculiar to WWII. He went on to say that the high cost of a basic kit for Civil War or Revolutionary War generally screened out the less desirables, mentioning that the high cost of reproduction weapons, and hand-made uniforms were unavoidable. True or not, I don't know. It has been interesting to observe the evolution of WWII reenacting over the years. And, let me say that there has been a change. There has been a change from the rough-and-tumble of the earlier days to a better generation of people who are pretty much aligned to the same goal. I rarely attend an event where I do not learn something from somebody who displays a collection or someone who shows up in a well-researched impression that I had no knowledge of previously.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



In the early years, public battles were few in number. I think that Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, and WWII Days at Donnelly's Wild West Village in Union Illinois, were the only two public events that were held then. Few now remember that public events were once a hotly contested issue. Some units strongly opposed them and boycotted every one. It was becoming obvious to a lot of others that WWII reenacting, particularly German, was potentially in danger of being accused of some very unsavory things. It was possible, in the minds of some, that we were nothing but clandestine militia. After all, we did go to rural areas and engage in mock combat. It was necessary to get out of those isolated venues and get our hobby in front of the public in order to show everyone what we really were. It was also an opportunity to show the public that American WWII veterans were supportive of our impressions, Axis included. Given the subsequent years of the militia movement and 911, that decision proved to be a wise one. Nothing drove that home like the 1994 Chicago D-Day event that hosted veterans of the Rangers and 101st and 82nd Airborne. All of these units saw high casualties during the war, and, again, if anybody had cause to take issue with a German impression, it was they. They turned out to be the most enthusiastic about it. Three Airborne vets were looking over all of my kit and asking many questions about it. I asked them if they hadn't seen plenty of Germans wearing the stuff. They said that when they saw any Germans wearing it, they were too busy shooting at them. Or, when they were close to German prisoners, they had been stripped of all their gear. So, they all went through the whole war without seeing a live German soldier wearing a full kit.

The following will be much my own opinion, so be warned. However, this is part of HRS history, and affects the hobby to this day. Over the years, the HRS has done many things right, many of which I have mentioned already.

The institution of unit charters was met with much criticism, but it was the right thing to do. The HRS was filled with tiny units comprised of only a handful of people. Many events consisted of a few large units that behaved in a military manner, and other units, comprised of one or two men, that simply ran around the battlefield with no command or control whatsoever. Units could not grow because grudge groups were constantly splitting off and starting other units. Requiring a charter forced them to do some serious scholarship. In the face of that, the lightweights simply left. Requiring a minimum membership number created units that could be held responsible for their actions, and provide some means to identify individuals who were potential problems.

The HRS also, however, did two things that, I believe, were titanic mistakes. The first was the mail-in ballot that resulted in the demise of the National Meeting. For years, there were remote members who complained that they could not vote on issues if they did not attend the National Meeting. To my regret, I supported their motion to send out mail ballots instead of voting at the National. All debate was supposed to be by letter in The Point. This had some bad unintended consequences. The National Meeting lapsed into oblivion and the voting process, at that point, became vulnerable to manipulation. Because nothing could be done there except read the ballot results, the National Meeting disappeared. Before this, all National Meetings were attended by hundreds. The excuse for getting rid of it was that too much time was wasted listening to blowhards and discussing trivial issues. That was true, but the major issues were eventually discussed. Most importantly, you got to see everyone face to face, learn his name, and listen to what he had to say. Everyone had a chance to both see and hear HRS officers, candidates for office, and decide if they merited support or not. Vote fraud was impossible since everyone voting was there. Hundreds of votes were cast.

Opportunity to control voting became possible by simply printing some letters on an issue, and "losing" others. Also, the publication of The Point lapsed for lengthy periods of time, making it impossible to submit arguments to HRS members. This is how The Point became the Edge. The Edge was put out as an emergency one-sheet letter when publication of The Point fell into neglect. Why the original name was never restored, I don't know. There was no consistent way for all members to determine if their votes were counted or not. Most irritating, those who pushed for the mail-in ballot never bothered to use it, with many elections decided by only a hand full of voters. I am not implying that any recent boards have done anything questionable. However, in the past, I believe that fraud did take place in at least one instance. The online distribution of The Edge and e-voting has improved the situation. Modern technology is fixing the problems with the mail ballot, but it still is not a real meeting, and no substitute for face to face discussion.

The second big mistake was allowing non-members into our events with no penalty. When the Federation split with the HRS, there was the idea that we should all just get along and have a reciprocal agreement to recognize each other's membership. This seemed reasonable at first. They were there in the east, and the HRS was in the Midwest. So, it seemed, we wouldn't be competing for the same members. But, when it became clear that many other people in the same regions were starting their own organizations, some very short-sighted people on the HRS board decided to let them in, too. This was incredible.

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

We were now in the position of allowing anyone to create an organization, pocket the dues and send his members to HRS battles. Competing organizations used HRS events to establish themselves. It became easy to start a rival organization and then participate in HRS events without paying dues to support them. Thus, the HRS not only helped create competing organizations and allowed them to circumvent HRS bylaws, but also allowed them to avoid the responsibility and cost of organizing events. (They were supposed to submit a copy of their by-laws to the HRS, but hey, I have a copy of Word on my PC, too) Most, if not all, of these organizations would have folded in a year without the unwitting help of the HRS. Subsequent boards have made efforts to change this, but nothing has come of them. Many years ago, I asked Art Obermeyer, one of the founders of the HRS, why they didn't take measures to copyright and legally control the idea of WWII reenacting. Art just raised his eyebrows and shrugged.

"We never thought it would take off like this."

As a sidebar, if Terry is the father of WWII reenacting, then Art was the grandfather. Art Obermeyer was WWII veteran, and somebody who seemed to take us all under his wing. He published many good articles in The Point, and often showed up with pieces of clothing and other articles that he sold cheaply to those of us who needed them. I remember that, one year at Weldon Springs, Art walked off and left his wallet, containing over \$100, sitting on the corner of his cot. It stayed there all day in full view of dozens of people walking by the cot. He returned that evening and was stunned to find the wallet still there, and not a single dollar missing.

After 30 years of reenacting, what do I see for the future? I think that WWII reenacting is now in an odd state of good health and prosperity, but on the verge of peril. WWII reenacting is growing in spite of the opposite trend for many other periods. Uniforms, equipment and vehicles are available everywhere. Enthusiasm among younger members is good. Public interest is growing, and public events are popping up everywhere. When I look around at the fall Rockford event, I feel as if I have reached a "promised land" that once was a hopeless fantasy. But, what's the downside? There is, however, a dangerous problem with equating that prosperity for safety. WWII reenacting has always walked a thin tightrope between public acceptance and public condemnation. We are the only major era of reenacting where the participants of the actual war are still living, and the victims of that war as well. Many people, living today in America, were small children who were witnesses to the horrors and ravages of the war, not to mention the veterans, still living, who fought in it. Up until this day, the front line of our defense against criticism, media attack, and accusations of evil motives has been our WWII veterans. They have attended our events and expressed their support for the portrayal of their former enemies. They have stood up and prevented the cancellation of events. They have used their personal networks of friends and acquaintances in the military to open up opportunities for us. One of our display battles was seen by General William Westmoreland. He was enthusiastic in his approval. If anybody had cause to hate Germans, it was certainly he. Check out his history with regards to the battle of the Hurtgen Forest. Our 1994 Chicago D-Day Landing was the largest public event ever done by the HRS. It was attended by 50,000 people, certainly the largest attendance of any WWII reenactment in history. It could not have happened without the cooperation of local, state, federal agencies and the military at the highest levels. One of my proudest possessions is my citation from the Secretary of Defense, William Perry, for my efforts in support of that event. However, our veteran advocates are no longer around in large numbers anymore. We are becoming increasingly vulnerable to a media and evolving popular culture that rejects the military in all forms, and the history that it represents. Sometimes, unfortunately, war is the only answer, and there are those who do not want the world to be reminded of that fact. It seems, however, that our support from the military is no longer what it once was. We are certainly involved in a war now that places demands on the military, but I fear that other forces may be at work. We face possible bans of the very weapons we carry. Yesterday, Mausers were called bolt-action rifles. Today,

they have become "sniper weapons." Yesterday, they were called M1s. Today they have become "assault weapons." This threat is, in itself, only part of the problem, the other half being the stunning indifference and complacency that I see among some reenactors themselves.

The one thing that has remained constant over these years, and something I hope will never change, is the many wonderful people I have met. They are what has kept me in WWII reenacting all these years. It is the comradeship that endures when everything else is, at one time or another, a disappointment. It is wonderful to see people from every station of life come together as equals in the name of a shared personal interest.



This hobby has brought me a lifetime of experiences that others could only dream of. This season will likely be my last. Retirement, and Arizona are calling. Lincoln remarked that he had come to Springfield a young man, and left it, an old one. I came to reenacting as a young man, and am now the same age as the WWII veterans I once interviewed. So, good luck and good hunting to all.

Larry Mayo

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.

## *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  
70<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **“Beaver Thompson”, Westmont IL, September 1994**

Photo Copyright 2003 by Charles C. Roberts, Jr.

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**WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.**



## **Allies prepare for scenario, WW II HRS National Battle, Omaha NE, October 1994**

Photo Copyright 2003 by Charles C. Roberts, Jr.

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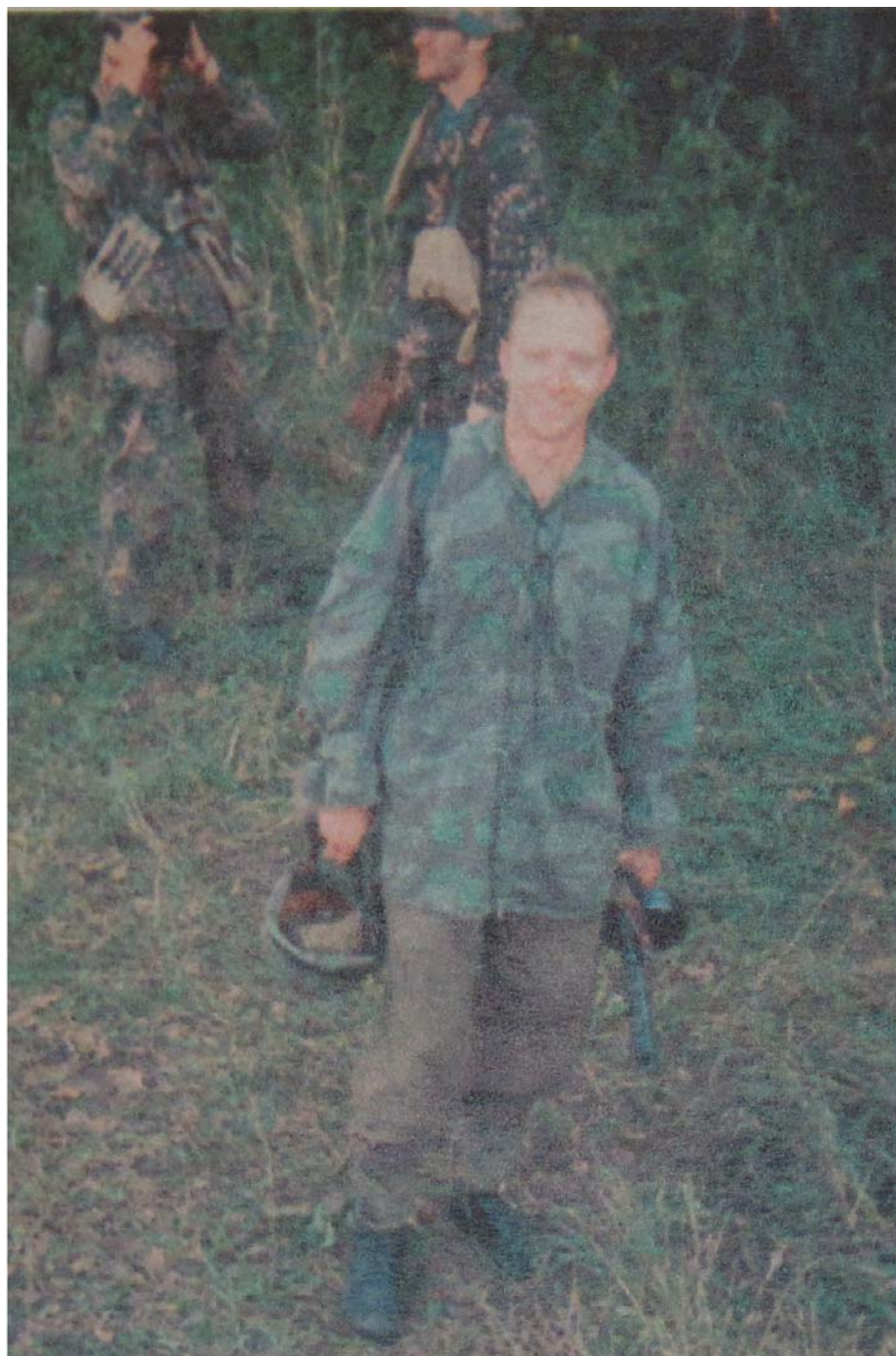
**German PAK 40, WW II HRS  
National Battle, Omaha NE, October 1994**

Photo Copyright 2003 by Charles C. Roberts, Jr.

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**WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.**



**German grenadiers, WW II HRS  
National Battle, Omaha NE, October 1994**

Photo Copyright 2003 by Charles C. Roberts, Jr.

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## From the Civilian View

By Cindy Pittsford

E-Mail: [CindyPittsford@yahoo.com](mailto:CindyPittsford@yahoo.com)

DRK in the 353rd Infantry /Civilian for WWII

Greetings to All! First off can I say thank you to all of you who are taking the time to read and reply to the articles I have been posting here in the EDGE. I know a number of you have contacted me with your views on the civilian roll you have seen over the years! Much longer then I have been in reenacting. This brings me to my next important explanation I have to correct. I have not been in reenacting for a long time. Therefore, I am very naïve on many aspects of how things work and how things are run by the HRS.

In my last posting, I have mistakenly assumed that HRS is responsible for running S&A at every event. I wanted to point out that I perceived that they were responsible for not running that efficiently! In turn, I learned that it is not the HRS who do this but the event organizers, whoever's event it might be. I therefore indirectly insulted Jim and Polly Blanton for assuming and not being aware that they did have S&A for civilians covered and they actually did have everything under control. It was explained to me after I had sent out the posting without knowing this or getting the right information. I have been informed that Unit Commanders are in charge of the overseeing of the S&A for every event and that the civilians did have an inspection too that was taken care of by Julia Fisher. It was not left or ignored as I may have expressed in my last posting. I am sorry for making that mistake!

I also learned how much hard work and dedication is involved by the hosts of each HRS event. To this I have to say that the Danville event is run as, I could see, very well and should be an example to other events to follow. I want to thank them for their hard work and I apologize to them both for the misunderstanding I had.

As to my point I had brought up in my last posting over "being frightened" over the prospect of an unauthorized person coming into an event as a civilian and doing harm. In the wake of recent events it has un-nerved me to attend public events, no matter what they may be and in a reenacting setting. At some events we have a park police force to be vigilant for us, at others HRS Members keep a lookout. My point was not to make the event organizers look uncaring or ignorant but to make everyone in the HRS aware of the harsh reality that something could go wrong. I believe the HRS needs to have a plan in case it does. That was the point I wanted to make and again I did not mean to offend anyone!

As I mentioned, many of you have wanted to get your view across for this segment and that was what I was encouraging all of you to do! Please forgive me for saying that due to some very personal issues I am facing right now, I am going to shelve this segment for a little while to address these pressing issues. I want to thank everyone who I reenact with. All of you have been very kind to me. I cannot tell you all how much you mean to me and that no matter what the future will hold or unfold. I can only express that your friendship means everything to me and your acceptance in our community is cherished and I express a sincere hope you continue to do so.

Thank you for what you do... You keep the memory of those who died for what they believed in alive and show the world that. Educating and teaching with a passion that comes from your hearts. It makes you all very special...

Bless you all...  
Cindy

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



Cindy,

I thought I would write a note in response to your article. I have met you a couple times and I know you are a very enthusiastic WWII reenactor albeit a rather new reenactor. You described what you thought was the process and function of the Safety and Authenticity Committee in regards to actual safety and authenticity inspections at WWII HRS sponsored events. For clarity sake I will briefly explain this.

The function of the S&A Committee is to regulate safety and authenticity for our members and events as an independent body. One way this is done is to supply inspectors at WWII events. These inspectors are generally members of the committee but also at times when an event may have only a few S&A inspectors they along with an event coordinator can choose other knowledgeable reenactors to assist in inspections. There are roughly 30 WWII HRS members on the committee covering a wide range of impressions including women's units and civilian impressions. I will add that the listing of S&A Committee members needs to be updated on the website. In the next issue of the Edge a full listing will be included. In any case, the inspectors are an independent body that makes judgments when necessary on those participating at WWII HRS events if they are HRS members or not. Also, maybe even more importantly, they are tasked with safety inspections. All the reenactors are asked to open the breech of their weapon or remove the magazine in an effort to check for any possible forgotten live ammunition during the S&A inspection which is obviously strictly prohibited. Ammunition is also inspected. The role of the event coordinator in S&A inspections is to seek out members of the S&A Committee to participate in the inspection. Again the S&A inspectors are independent of the event coordinator so that they can be an independent voice. The theme is always quality over quantity.

The role of the unit commander is also important for the S&A inspection. They are in fact the first line of defense. Any event really begins with the S&A inspection. All unit commanders before the inspection even begins should conduct an intra-unit inspection long before assembling at an S&A inspection. Haircuts, proper equipment, weapons, and ammunition should all be checked within the unit. Any problems can then be immediately corrected. The majority of the units accomplish this which and greatly reduces the time spent at S&A that can then be spent engaging in our favorite living history pastime. Civilian inspections have been done for a number of years especially at Rockford however this type of judgment on civilian impressions is more difficult of course due to the vast possibility of civilian garb that could be encountered. Efforts to change the civilian inspection process to keep the 1940s civilians spot on are underway.

I hope that was helpful to understand the process of how we all work together to keep the impressions at HRS events the best possible reflection of 1939-1945. Lastly in regards to the Danville event a number of S&A inspectors were there participating in the event S&A. If you would like specific information on the S&A inspections you most certainly can contact WWII HRS Vice President Mike Kaczorowski.

Jonathan Stevens  
WWII HRS President

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WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



Video Recommendations By: Heinz Thiel - WW2 HRS Press Corps

E-Mail: [GD5.Heinz.Thiel@GMail.Com](mailto:GD5.Heinz.Thiel@GMail.Com)

Watch WW2 History as told by the Men who were there!



Mr. Vincent Speranza – Airborne Beer Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZe2H8nvUAM>

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# WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY Inc.



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To: \_\_\_\_\_

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