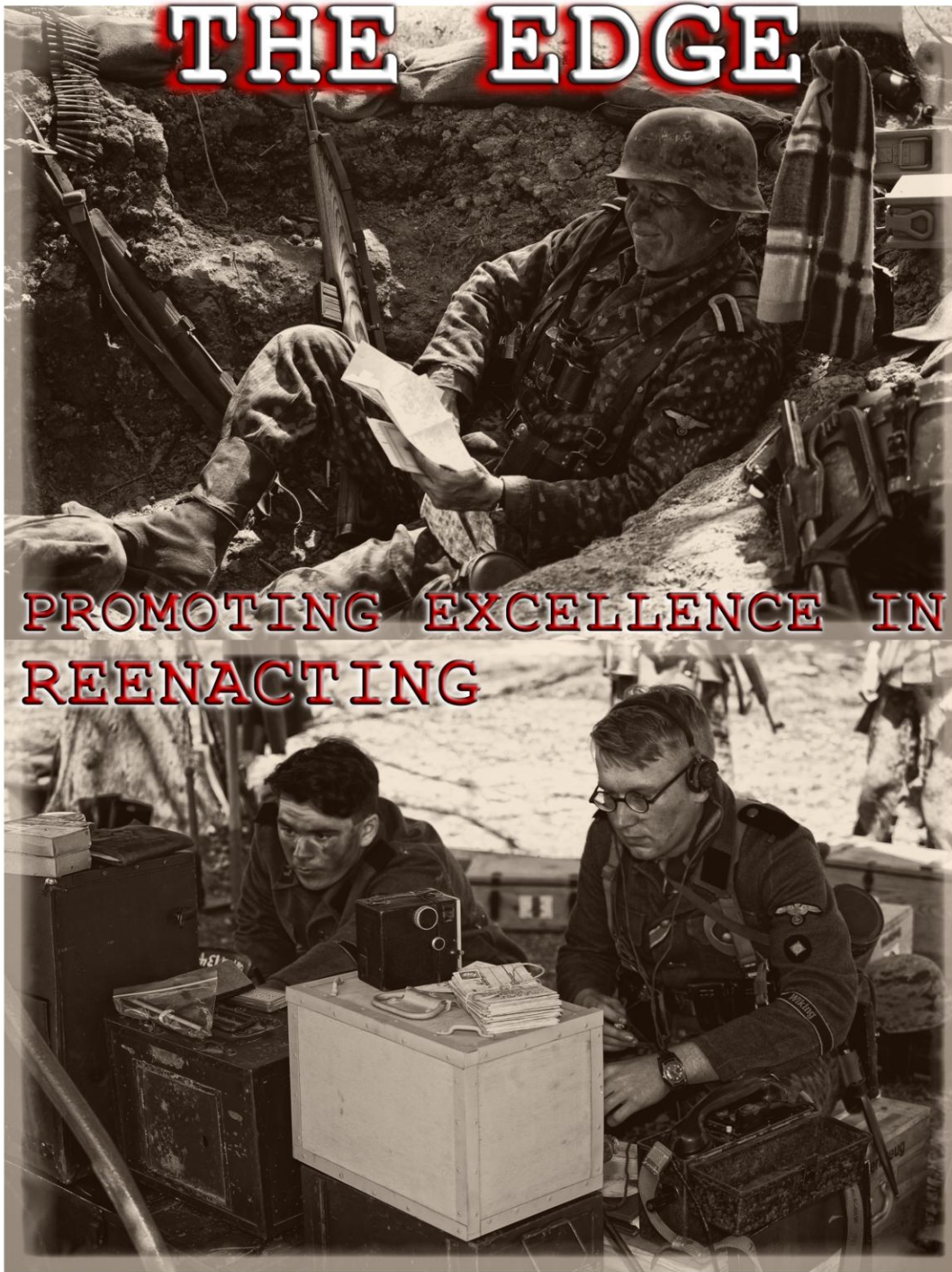


Danville, IL World War 2 Event Photos by Piotr Krawerenda, WW2 HRS Press Corps





Danville, IL World War 2 Event Photos by Piotr Krawerenda, WW2 HRS Press Corps



Elkhart, IN World War 2 Event Photo by Heinz Thiel, WW2 HRS Press Corps

## CONTENT

- \* Page 4: Communications
- \* Page 7: Events
- \* Page 10: WWII HRS Board Member List
- \* Page 13: Meeting Minutes
- \* Page 15: Keeping Their History Alive

- \* Page 17: Their History, Our History
- \* Page 21: Event Photos
- \* Page 22 HISTORICAL ACCURACY
- \* Page 25 Red Arrow Leads the Way





# COMMUNICATIONS



The 62<sup>nd</sup> Soviet army announces with great sadness the death of long-time reenactor Paul L Johnson. Johnson, a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, died suddenly of heart disease at this home near LaPorte, Indiana on February 28th. Paul had just returned from the Show of Shows in Louisville with his friends when, according to the medical examiner, he passed quite quickly almost immediately upon entering his door. Johnson was 70 years old.

Paul Johnson began reenacting in the early 1980s, joining the 110<sup>th</sup> Panzergrenadier Regiment. He continued, primarily in a German infantry impression, subsequently joining 2<sup>nd</sup> Panzer and finally the 62<sup>nd</sup> Soviet (aka 8<sup>th</sup> Guards) Army. During his reenacting career Mr. Johnson participated as Japanese and Soviet Infantry, French partisan, U. S. Marine as well as German Infantry and Cavalry.

He was also knowledgeable of Civil War and Indian War equipment and tactics, and he participated in some of those events over the years. His last reenacting outing was at Conneaut Ohio in 2014, in the impression of a partisan. He was active to the last and was working on yet another impression at the time of his death.

Johnson's interest in German cavalry and other horse-related equipment led to an extensive collection, upon which he based his first book, Horses of the German Army in WWII published in 2006 by Schiffer Military History Publications. A second book, of which Johnson was the co-author, The Troop Bicycle of the German Wehrmacht, was published in 2013 by B and D publications LLC. Johnson was acknowledged as well for his role in coordinating communications for all four

of the well-regarded D-Day events in the Chicago area. For his role in the last of these in 1994 he was recognized with a citation from the WWII Commemoration Committee of the Department of Defense.

Paul was a very successful manager and instructor for AT&T prior to his retirement, having worked himself up from installer/repair duties. The skill sets acquired in his telecommunications career, as well as his numerous other talents were of great benefit to the reenacting community. Semper Fi, Paul Johnson. You will be missed!

Due to the fact that some of Paul's extended family live abroad, memorials have been deferred until early summer.

John Ryan, 62<sup>nd</sup> Soviet



## **WWII HRS Scholarship 2015**

In 2010 the membership approved the creation of an HRS scholarship. The effort behind the scholarship was twofold. The primary goal is to assist the younger members of our organization in their pursuit of higher education. Obviously historical reenacting is an expensive hobby that can be a near impossibility for some students. Secondly we will help grow interest in historical reenacting as an educational endeavor which is part of the mission of our Society. The scholarship will be awarded to a full time undergraduate or graduate student. The preferred majors are history, museum studies, or archeology however all HRS member students are encouraged to apply. The award can be used towards tuition or books and will be paid to the student's college or university to be credited to their account. Note that any family or relations of any board of directors or staff of the WWII HRS will be ineligible for this award.

Please send the applications to the WWII HRS Vice President. The amount of the award is \$500.

### **Eligibility:**

1. Must be a current member of HRS in good standing in at least their second year of membership.
2. Must be registered as a full-time student; undergraduate or graduate; at an accredited college or university.
3. Must demonstrate a minimum GPA of 2.75.
4. Must currently be a history or associated major, however if there is not any history or associated major that apply then all majors are eligible.
5. Must not have received a previous HRS scholarship.

### **Requirements:**

The student should write a 500-word essay describing their qualifications and justification for receiving the HRS scholarship. It should also include the student's future plans in reenacting. A letter of recommendation from their unit commander should also be included. If the student is the unit commander for their unit, then another commander can supply the letter. Unofficial transcripts or a letter from the student's college or university stating that the student's current major and GPA needs to be included along with a recent picture in WWII uniform of the student.

**Deadline:** July 1

**Notification:** August 1

An article highlighting the student will be in the Society publication, The Edge, after the scholarship is awarded.

### **Review:**

A committee consisting of an Allied, an Axis, and a Commonwealth member will review and give recommendation to the Society board of directors for awarding the scholarship based on the submitted applications.



From HRS Treasurer

Wayne McCulley

9th Infantry Division

WMcCulley45@Gmail.com



TREASURER'S REPORT  
WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY  
MAY 2015

Account Balances as of April 30, 2015

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$12,588.19
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$48,363.04
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$ 302.20

Account Totals	\$61,253.43
----------------	-------------

Income for April 2015	
April Membership Income	\$ 1,030.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$ 2.18

Total Income	\$ 1,032.18
--------------	-------------

Expenditures for April 2015	
Email Marketing Service	\$ 12.80
Postage	\$ 9.80

Total Expenditures	\$ 22.60
--------------------	----------

Year To Date Membership Income	\$ 8,380.00
Year To Date Interest Income	\$ 9.58
Year To Date Expenditures	\$ 7,221.37

Respectfully Submitted  
Wayne McCulley  
HRS Treasurer

WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT

1st QUARTER 2015

23 May 2015

BEGINNING BALANCES	
PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$11,429.56
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$48,353.46
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$ 302.20

TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCES	\$60,085.22
--------------------------	-------------

INCOME	
Membership Dues Income	\$ 7,350.00
PNC Bank Money Market Account Interest Income	\$ 7.40

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 7,357.40
--------------	-------------

EXPENDITURES	
Email Marketing Service	(\$ 38.40)
Postage Charges	(\$ 33.19)
Annual Post Office Box Rental	(\$ 80.00)
Membership Card Supplies	(\$ 71.43)
Liability Insurance	(\$ 6,205.75)
Directors and Officers Insurance	(\$ 744.00)
Illinois Secretary of State Annual Report	(\$ 10.00)
Illinois Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing	(\$ 16.00)

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(\$7,198.77)
--------------------	--------------

ENDING BALANCES 1st QUARTER 2015	
PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$11,580.79
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$48,360.86
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$ 302.20



TOTAL ENDING BALANCES	\$60,243.85
-----------------------	-------------

Respectfully submitted  
Wayne McCulley, HRS Treasurer





# EVENTS

June	June
06	13TH ANNUAL HEARTLAND MILITARY DAY
Jun 	<p><b>Loc:</b> Museum of the Kansas National Guard 6700SW Topeka Blvd Topeka, Kansas 66619</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> June 6th, 2015</p> <p><b>Event Times:</b> 7:00 AM – 7:00PM</p> <p><b>Registration Times:</b> 7:00AM to 9:00AM</p> <p><b>Pre-Registration:</b> E-Mail <a href="mailto:office@kngmuseum.org">office@kngmuseum.org</a> &amp; <a href="mailto:nordland1@cox.net">nordland1@cox.net</a></p> <p><b>Fee:</b> none</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> John Colyer <a href="mailto:nordland1@cox.net">nordland1@cox.net</a> &amp; Ed Gerhardt, BG (Ret) <a href="mailto:office@kngmuseum.org">office@kngmuseum.org</a></p> <p><b>Authenticity Notes:</b> WWII HRS Authenticity &amp; Safety rules will apply</p> <p><b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> NO LIVE AMMUNITION OF ANY KIND on event site. No alcohol during the event and display times</p> <p><b>Restrictions on Minors:</b> Any person under the age of 16 may NOT carry any type of weapon or participate in public or tactical battles in any capacity. 16 &amp; 17 year olds must be accompanied by Parent or Guardian</p> <p><b>Other restrictions:</b> Camping is allowed Friday June 5 and the museum will have a rest room available. No modern tents in the display area</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Museum of the Kansas National Guard has decided to make a special effort to recognize the services of all Kansans, including the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, who have been deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, Africa, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia since 9-11. Special recognition will be given to those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in this war. Reenactors from all time periods are welcome.</p> <p>7-10 a.m. - Pancake Feed</p> <p>8 a.m.-5 p.m. - Exhibit of WW II Military Equipment and Re-enactors, Civil War Exhibits and Re-enactors, and exhibit of Global War on Terrorism exhibit by the KSARNG (MRAP, ASV, HEMMT, HET, Vietnam Veterans Exhibit, etc.)</p> <p>10 a.m. - WW II Battle Reenactment</p> <p>11 a.m. - Band Concert</p> <p>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Cookout Lunch</p> <p>2 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. - WW II Battle Reenactment</p> <p>Afternoon - Global War on Terrorism Panels</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - Band Concert</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Ceremony Commemorating the Global War on Terrorism, Reading of Names of GWOT KIA, Gold Star Wreath, etc.</p> <p>We again welcome all re-enactors, exhibitors, and bands. We would like a band for the 6:30 p.m. concert, if possible. Other band concert times in the day are flexible and we will schedule you as desired--whether at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., etc.</p> <p>Contact during the event call the Museum 785-862-1020</p> <p><b>Sponsoring Unit(s):</b> 11th SS Nordland &amp; 250th Ski Co.</p>
19-21	WWII RECREATED, DIXON, ILLINOIS
Jun 	<p><b>Loc:</b> Elks Page Park, 7883 Lowell Park Rd., Dixon, Illinois</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> June 19, 20, and 21</p> <p><b>Event Times:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Friday June 19: Arrival, setup, evening public event preview, and militaria flea market with indoor tables for HRS members and others \$5/table. Please RSVP for a table.</li> <li>- Saturday June 20: 10am to 5pm campsites open to the public, with two public battles, weapons demos, veteran recognition and interviews, militaria sale</li> <li>- Sunday June 21: 8-10am Tactical; 11am to 4:00pm open to the public with one public battle; militaria sale</li> </ul> <p><b>Registration Times:</b> Friday June 19 and Saturday June 20 7 to 9 am</p> <p><b>Pre-Registration:</b> <a href="https://wwiirecreated-dixon-2015.eventbrite.com">https://wwiirecreated-dixon-2015.eventbrite.com</a></p> <p><b>Fee:</b> None</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Stevens@wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com">Jonathan Stevens</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com">http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com</a></p> <p><b>Map:</b> <a href="#">Click Here</a></p> <p><b>Authenticity Notes:</b> All HRS rules apply.</p> <p><b>Minors:</b> All HRS restrictions apply</p> <p><b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> All vehicles welcome.</p> <p><b>Sponsoring Unit (s):</b> 9th Infantry Division</p>



## World War 2 Historical Re-enactment Society

20	RAY FAGEN MEMORIAL AIRSHOW 2015	
Jun	<p><b>Loc:</b> LENZEN ROE MEMORIAL FIELD - GRANITE FALLS MN 56241 <b>Dates:</b> SATURDAY JUNE 20TH 2015 - WW2 DISPLAY AND ENCAMPMENTS <b>Event Times:</b> GATES OPEN AT NOON- WW2 PUBLIC BATTLE- AIRSHOW!! <b>Registration Times:</b> FRIDAY EVE JUNE 19TH OR PRE-NOON SAT. JUNE 20TH- REENACTORS ENCOURAGED TO CAMP OVERNIGHT FRIDAY <b>Pre-Registration:</b> SIGN UP ON FACEBOOK EVENT SITE <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/451221201712388">https://www.facebook.com/events/451221201712388</a> <b>Fee:</b> NO FEE FOR EVENT PARTICIPATING WW2 REENACTORS IN UNIFORM <b>Contact:</b> SCOTT STEBEN 952-607-0856 <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/451221201712388">https://www.facebook.com/events/451221201712388</a> <b>Authenticity Notes:</b> HRS SAFETY AND AUTHENTICITY RULES APPLY <b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> WW2 VEHICLES AND PLANES AT EVENT!! <b>Restrictions on Minors:</b> UNDERAGE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT <b>Other restrictions:</b> NO LIVE AMMO <b>Sponsoring Unit(s):</b> 12.SS PZ DIV 'HJ' MIDWEST</p>	
July	July	
Jul	No events listed.	
August	August	
Aug	No events listed.	
September	September	
25-27	WALK BACK IN TIME 2015	
Sep	<p><b>Loc:</b> Audrain County Historical Society, 501 South Muldrow Street, Mexico, MO 65265 <b>Dates:</b> 25-27 September, 2015 <b>Event Times:</b> Setup can occur from Thursday (Sept. 24) to Saturday (Sept. 26). Friday is the school education day. The event runs from 10-4pm Saturday and Sunday, with Candlelight Tours on Saturday from 6-9pm <b>Pre-Registration:</b> No preregistration is required although coordination for camping space is required. Camp space must be reserved before the event to ensure adequate space is available. <b>Fee:</b> There is no fee for the event, and the organizers provide a Saturday night meal to all participants. If your unit participates in the Friday education day, you get a free lunch! For the women reenactors, there will be a tea party on Saturday sponsored by the Helferin of the 29th PGR. <b>Contact:</b> Chris Adams, 573-680-1244, <a href="mailto:cblackthorne@hotmail.com">cblackthorne@hotmail.com</a> <b>Authenticity Notes:</b> WWII HRS safety and authenticity rules apply. All theaters are welcome, ETO, PTO, and MTO. <b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> No firing of weapons between 2200 and 0800 at night. <b>Restrictions on Minors:</b> WWII HRS rules apply <b>Other restrictions:</b> None <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. Reenactors from different timelines will have a great opportunity to talk and share their knowledge and experiences with each other. Thursday morning, a small military convoy is planned that will travel from Fulton to the site in Mexico. The convoy will stop and visit several schools along the way to show off the vehicles to students. The trip distance is about 25 miles. Contact us for more information! <b>Registration Times:</b> All day Thursday, All day Friday and Saturday 0800-1000 in the 29th Panzergrenadiers Camp <b>Sponsoring Unit(s):</b> 84th Infantry Division Railsplitters and the 29th Panzergrenadier Regiment</p>	





October

October

15-18

**WELCOME HOME, STARS AND STRIPES PRESENTS:  
REFLECTIONS OF HISTORY, 1860-PRESENT**

Oct



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

**Dates:** 15 - 18 October 2015

**Event Times:** 15-18 October 2015

**Fee:** NONE

**Contact:** [papaioadfsf@sbqglobal.net](mailto:papaioadfsf@sbqglobal.net)

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

**Authenticity Notes:** Per Hrs Safety and Authenticity rules

**Prohibited Vehicles/Items:** N/A

**Restrictions on Minors:** Per HRS rules

**Other restrictions:** NO live ammunition

**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



# 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

Charles Bolanis III  
2/SS-Panzer Pioneer Bataillon 5 "Wiking"  
[charles\\_bolanis\\_03@yahoo.com](mailto:charles_bolanis_03@yahoo.com)

### Secretary

Doug Loge  
2/SS-Panzer Pioneer Bataillon 5 "Wiking"  
[dbloge@yahoo.com](mailto:dbloge@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Wayne McCulley  
9th Infantry Division  
217.778.0885  
[WMcCulley45@Gmail.com](mailto:WMcCulley45@Gmail.com)

### Allied Representative

Ronald J Kapustka  
C Company, 502nd PIR, 101st Airborne  
847.682.6460  
[fourboys@ix.netcom.com](mailto:fourboys@ix.netcom.com)

### Commonwealth Representative

Bryce Seyko  
DCL I  
847.385.8974  
[bster144@aol.com](mailto:bster144@aol.com)

### Axis Representative

Tyler Stevens  
2/SS-Panzer Pioneer Bataillon 5 "Wiking"  
[tstevens1593@yahoo.com](mailto:tstevens1593@yahoo.com)

### Business Manager

David Jameson  
[dmjameson@cox.net](mailto:dmjameson@cox.net)

### THE EDGE Newsletter Editor

Jeff "Heinz Thiel" Skender  
WW2 HRS Press Corps  
[GD5.Heinz.Thiel@GMail.Com](mailto:GD5.Heinz.Thiel@GMail.Com)

### Webmaster

John Olsen  
9th Infantry Division  
[wwiHrsWebmaster@Gmail.com](mailto:wwiHrsWebmaster@Gmail.com)

### Membership Coordinator

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

### Event Development Team

Rich Russo  
5<sup>th</sup> Company GrossDeutschland  
[vizsla25@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vizsla25@sbcglobal.net)

#### 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.





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.

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



## 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.

**www.WorldWarTwoHRS.Org**

WEB Site Is Hosted by Socket.NET

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

people  
connecting people

**Socket**  
VOICE • DATA • INTERNET

Internet Service Provider  
2703 Clark Ln, Columbia, MO,  
(800) 762-5383





## MEETING MINUTES

### Minutes of the WWII Historical Reenactment Society Board Meeting 17 March 2015, 7:30 pm

Welcome and Roll Call:

Position	Name	Present
President	Jonathan Stevens	YES
Vice President	Chuck Bolanis	YES
Secretary	Doug Loge	YES
Treasurer	Wayne McCulley	YES
Allied Representative	Ron Kapustska	YES
Axis Representative	Tyler Stevens	YES
Commonwealth Rep.	Bryce Seyko	YES
EDGE Editor	Jeff Skender	NO
Business Manager	David Jameson	NO

#### HRS Members Present

Jim Schouten, Chris Adams, Dave Goodwin, David Serikaku, Tim Clauss

Policy For WWII HRS Board Meetings order of business – approved by BOD vote.

#### Reading of the February minutes:

February minutes read by DL

February minutes - Approved by BOD vote.

#### Officer Reports:

##### Vice President:

##### New Charters:

34th Inf Div, 135th Inf. Regt. - Passed S&A Committee. Tabled until next month for receipt of charter changes from Unit Commander.

A Co., 502 PIR, 101st AB – Approved by BOD vote for probationary charter. CB added that needs progress reports from unit during probationary period.

##### Probationary Charters:

10th Dragoons – No contact from Unit Commander by CB

275th Inf. Div. - CB contacted present Unit Commander and he will be stepping down shortly. The new Unit Commander will submit a Change of Command Form and end of probationary report shortly.

##### Defunct Charters:

4th Armored Div 704th Tank Destroyer Batt. - CB will talk to the current Unit Commander this weekend at an event.

#10 Commando – No contact from Unit Commander by CB. It was decided that there will be a vote for defuncting the unit if the 5 member minimum has not been reached by the unit, by the next BOD meeting.

##### Charter Updates:

7.SS-Gebirgs Rgt to SS-Gebirgsjäger Regiment 12 "Michael Gaißmair",  
6.SS-Gebirgsdivision "Nord" - Name change approved by BOD.

#### Treasurer:

##### TREASURER'S REPORT

WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY  
MARCH 2015

Account Balances as of February 28, 2015

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$ 8,723.59
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$48,358.32
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$ 302.20

Account Totals \$57,384.11

##### Income

January Membership Income	\$ 5,026.20
Interest from Money Market Account	\$ 2.14

Total Income \$ 5,028.34

##### Expenditures

Mad Mimi Marketing	\$ 12.80
Eventbrite Fees for the Month of January	\$ 676.20
Office Depot Membership Card Supplies	\$ 42.34
Illinois Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing	\$ 16.00

Total Expenditures \$ 747.34

#### Secretary:

DL gave a list of events that have been approved by the BOD for 2015 that may not have been in the previous minutes.

World at War Tactical - Camp Siman Mo.

Weldonkrieg 2015 - St. Charles MO.

The Great War - WWI at Midway Village - Rockford, IL.

Rails to Victory - South Elgin, IL.

13th Annual Heartland Military Day - Topeka, KS.

WWII Recreated - Dixon, IL.

Walk Back in Time 2015 - Mexico, MO.

Kennekuk/Danville IL. event

More specific information on these event can be found on the HRS website minus the Kennekuk/Danville IL. Event which should be added shortly.

DL mentioned he has been waiting several months for a template for HRS cards, and will be sending out cards at the end of the month.

Commonwealth Rep: BS tried to contact Mike K. about Polish Para unit.

Allied Rep: RK talked to representative of 82nd AB Association about being HRS umpires. All responding BOD members though it would be a good idea. DL thought that perhaps they could be added as staff and not a chartered unit. RK will ask them to send proposal to the BOD.

Axis Rep: TS tried to contact 5th Ko. about their possible charter amendment. He spoke to Rick Pennington of the 709th about turning in a Change of Command form.

#### Staff Reports:

Press Corps – No information.

Business Manager – JS said David Jameson was still working on sending insurance policy information to the BOD.

Event Development Group – No information.



#### Committee Reports:

S&A – JS said discussed shooting in TX.

Unit Commanders – JS said membership info sent out to Unit Commanders.

Vehicle Committee – Jim Schouten said has completed Jeep authenticity guide. No participation from kubelwagon owners for future guide. CB will help gather info this weekend from Kubelwagon owners.

Civilian Committee – JS said working on regs for civilians.

Special Committee on Safety Protocols – JS said to be discussed in future.

#### Old Business:

None

#### New Business:

New Events – Farmington, MN

Event Support - Farmington, MN – DL said event has asked for \$200.00 for dance/disc jockey expenses. There were 75 HRS members at the event last year. Event funding approved by BOD vote and will be distributed upon receipt of HRS waivers and bill from disc jockey.

DL asked about what expenses needed to be voted on at BOD meetings. It was decided that all expenses over \$200 would be voted on in the future, with the exception of ordinary business expenses.

Comments - none

Announcements: Next meeting 21 April 2015

Meeting adjourned 8:28pm

## Minutes of the WWII Historical Reenactment Society Board Meeting

**April 28, 2015 7:30pm**

Conference call began at 7:42 pm

#### BOD in attendance

Jon Stevens  
Tyler Stevens  
Chuck Bolanis  
Ron Kapustka  
Wayne Mculley

#### HRS Members Present

Jim Schouten, Matt Lemasters, Steve Landgriff, George Reinke, Kevin Rains,  
David Jameson, Jim Phillips, Joe Kuipers, Christian Dvorak

March minutes read off by Jon Stevens

March minutes accepted

David Jameson - Insurance read off first

Discussion initiated concerning insurance from HRS to cover not only event but aircraft and everything going on at the airport. Jon to follow up with Elkhart organizers.

Officer reports initiated

Vice president report

#### New Charters

34th ID gave run down on what they plan on doing as a unit in the HRS

34th ID probationary charter approval called to a vote and approved by board

11th Guards (Jim Phillips) discussed what they'd be adding to the HRS as a unit and answered BOD questions. Awaiting final S&A committee review

#### Probationary Charters

10th Dragoons charter passed S&A committee review,  
call to vote for nomination for approval of charter.  
charter approved

#### 275th ID

Kevin Rains (new unit commander) answered BOD questions  
Call to vote on charter approval  
Full Charter approved

Wayne Mculley gave treasury report for April

Secretary report - 890 members signed up for HRS

Commonwealth report - Bryce not in attendance

Allied Report - Ron followed up with discussion about 82nd AB veterans association

Axis Report - 275th Charter approved, no word from Rich Russo of 5/kp GD concerning charter amendment, still awaiting 709 COC form

Press Corps - No Report

Vehicle committee: Jim Schouten - request for a list of Axis vehicles in the HRS

Discussion initiated on vehicle authenticity

Old business - none

#### New business -

New events - Iowa event info sent to JES

#### Event Support

Funding request for Danville sent in for portable restrooms  
Motion made to support Danville, request approved by BOD

#### Open comments

Jon Stevens brought up minor forms and the process of being notarized. Idea brought up to keep form on file for minors until they're 18. Idea will be brought up to David.

Meeting set up for Tuesday May 19th

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm





## Keeping Their History Alive:

### Portraying a Family Member

By Matt LeMasters



When I was a kid, I remember always being interested in not just WWII history, but also my family's participation in the war. As 16 million Americans served during WWII, I think most of us can make that connection. Unfortunately, all but one of my family members (that I know of) that served in WWII have passed, none of which I was able to interview. Although my grandpa was in the Navy at the tail end of the war, I always took a very particular interest in my great uncle's service. When I was much younger, I remember grandpa telling me that my great uncle had never talked about the war and that he had shrapnel in him until the day he died. A few years later, around the time grandpa passed away, I decided to dig deeper into my great uncle Ray's military service.

### LE MASTERS

the 37th Infantry Division  
Amazon.—For helping to turn back  
a Japanese attack during the fighting  
for Manila, Staff Sergeant  
Raymond L. LeMasters, son of Mrs.  
Julia LeMasters, of 2416 Peoria  
Road, has been awarded an Oak  
Leaf Cluster to his Bronze Star  
Medal which he earned while fighting  
on Bougainville Island.

While guarding a street corner in  
the Walled City along with two  
other men, LeMasters noticed several  
figures approaching from a  
nearby building. Believing them to  
be friendly troops, he didn't challenge  
the men until they were only  
30 yards away, whereas they immediately  
took cover and started  
throwing hand grenades.

LeMasters and his companions returned  
the fire, although they were  
outnumbered. Soon the enemy fired  
rifles at the Americans in addition  
to tossing hand grenades, but the  
three men stood their ground until  
the Japs were driven off, leaving  
several dead behind.

In addition to his Bronze Star  
Medal with the cluster, Sergeant  
LeMasters has also won the Combat  
Infantry Bodge, the Good Conduct  
Medal, and both the Asiatic  
Pacific Theatre and the Philippine  
Liberation ribbons with battle stars.  
He left the states in May 1942 with  
the original division.

So, just who was Ray LeMasters? To me and my family, he's a hero. But I know he wouldn't consider himself one. If he were still around, he'd likely say that he had just done his job, much like most other WWII veterans. Having earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, both with Oak Leaf Clusters, his service means a lot to me.





The unit he belonged to was Company F, 145th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Division, which was part of the Ohio National Guard. The Buckeyes, as they are called, spent 3 long years fighting in the Pacific at New Georgia, Bougainville, and Luzon. Company F helped hold the line at Hill 700 at Bougainville, and it was the first in history to knock down the gates at Intramuros during the liberation of Manila. Yet the men who fought with the 37th Division have, for the most part, been forgotten when it comes to the Pacific War (this is unfortunately true for most Army and National Guard units that fought there). It is through living history displays and presentations that I try my best to make sure that they're remembered.



Fortunately I live close to the Illinois State Military Museum in Springfield, IL, which also has a Living History Detachment. It is the goal of the Living History Detachment to educate the general public through local displays and parades, as well as to educate school groups that visit the Museum. As most reenactments are ETO-themed, I generally do my PTO displays with the Museum. It's one thing to teach about the period you're portraying, but it makes it that much more worthwhile and rewarding when you're teaching people about what someone in your family did during the war, which potentially gets others interested in their own family's military history. I also attend local Honor Flight homecomings, which is one of the best things you can participate in as a reenactor. I've met some really cool veterans, two of which happened to be with the 37th Division during WWII.

It's also important to me that I make sure that what I present is correct. Research is a VERY large part of the process. I've spent countless hours reading through the official unit history, after action reports, regimental journals, and looking through pictures and footage of the Division to make sure that my portrayal is accurate. A correct uniform is just as important as accurate information presented to the public. While I believe this applies to reenacting in general, it means more to me personally when I'm portraying a family member or someone I know. While I don't know what exactly my great uncle carried, I base my portrayal off of what evidence I have been able to find within the 37th Division, specifically the 145th Regiment, and from what little I am able to gather from his discharge form.

When we're asked why we do what we do, we often say that it's to honor our WWII veterans and to keep their stories alive. This can most certainly be applied to your own WWII history, because every veteran's story is important. I've gained a lot of knowledge in the process, and have been able to pass it on to my great uncle's immediate family that knew only bits and pieces about his service. Whether you intend to portray a relative or not, I would highly recommend learning more about your family's military service, no matter the conflict. There's a vast wealth of knowledge just waiting to be discovered.



## Their History, Our History

By Corey Vaughn



Signalman Lee Phillip Ebner was getting ready to come off his watch and thinking about what he would do with his Sunday off. The Navy Chaplains are getting ready to start their Services, Sailors are waking up from a good Saturday night. High up on his perch on the USS West Virginia, Lee Ebner admires the breathtaking scenery of Hawaii. Little did he know, that in just a few short moments, that Heaven-on-Earth would turn into complete Hell.



Lee Ebner is my Great-Uncle; both he and his brother (my Grandfather) were in the Navy during the War. Growing up, I knew that Lee was at Pearl Harbor, but I didn't really know much else, or ask him about it. It was only after I started Reenacting, that I became truly interested in his story.

In late 2013 I decided to start a US Navy impression to honor both of them (my Grandfather had passed previously, but Uncle Lee was still going strong). I got a reproduction set of Enlistedman's Dress Blues, and showed it to Uncle Lee. He was absolutely thrilled by it; I could hear and see his excitement. He even commented that the wool in the reproduction was thinner and oven looser than what he wore. Unfortunately he never got to see me in it; he passed away a few months later. The first time I wore the uniform in public, was as an Honor Guard at his funeral.





We all do our impressions for different reasons, whether it's because that's what you did in the Armed Forces, it was the closest Reenacting Unit to you, or it just caught your fancy. However, when you do an impression for someone who is or was a relative of yours, it takes on a hard-hitting meaning. The research is more than just words on a page or pictures. It's the history of you, personally. The words you read and the pictures you see about your relative are actually your own history in a way; it helped lead to you.

I know that when I started researching about Lee Ebner, I was absolutely shocked and stunned because of what he went through and what he witnessed; things that I couldn't imagine in my worst nightmares. This gentle man that I had known for all my life, had been at Pearl Harbor, the Marshal and Glibert Islands, the Santa Cruz Air Battle, did convoy duty in the Atlantic, then returned to the Pacific for Leyte Gulf, Luzon, the Surigao Straights, Siapan, Tenian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa (where the USS Newcomb was kamikaze'd five times). And, once the war was over and he was in San Francisco, did he get to go home immediately? Nope; he got shipped out on the next boat out, which happened to be going to Bikini Atoll, where he witnessed two Atomic bomb tests. And knowing that through it all, through seeing Hell, Lee Ebner did his duty and became the kindest and most giving person I have ever known, really puts a deeper and more heart-turning meaning to my Navy impression.





I only hope that I can be a fraction of the man that he was. That's why I would encourage everyone to research your family and especially those who served. Previously, I had no interest in the Navy or doing a Navy impression. But now, after researching about my Great Uncle, I have a much deeper appreciation for that branch of service. Once you start looking into your heritage, you will truly be amazed at what you will find, and if you start an impression based off that research, Reenacting will become even more special to you.





Heinz Thiel  
WW2 HRS Press Corps  
[GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com](mailto:GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com)

If your unit has news that it would like to be published in The EDGE, Or if a member would like to submit an article, Then simply e-mail it to me and I will put it in The EDGE.

Also I am willing to spend a day with your unit to get photos and video. The HRS Press Corps has 8 members so now we should be able to get wider coverage at events, you do need to contact me if you would like some special coverage of your unit or event.

The EDGE is the WW2 HRS's own publication. It is where we promote what we do. The EDGE 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.**



Photo by Piotr Krawerenda WW2 HRS Press Corps



Piotr Krawerenda (Center)  
WW2 HRS Press Corps





**Danville, IL World War 2 Event  
Photos by Piotr Krawerenda  
WW2 HRS Press Corps**

**Danville, IL World War 2 Event  
Photos by Piotr Krawerenda  
WW2 HRS Press Corps**



## **HISTORICAL ACCURACY vs AUTHENTICITY REGULATIONS**

All of us who have been re-enacting for any length of time are all too familiar with the shortcomings we all see in the authenticity rules and guidelines set forth by the various re-enactment organizations.

I am not talking about conforming to local, state or federal firearms laws or other such legal issues. I am talking about the rules and guidelines put in place by the various re-enacting organizations covering authenticity of uniforms, equipment, personal appearance, actions, etc.

We all realize that for us to keep order and some sort of sanity in our hobby we need to establish a set of rules and guidelines for authenticity. Of course this is easier said than done. But should it be as hard as we all make it out to be? Such terms as “common”, average” and “normal” seem to be the popular mantra utilized by most organizations.

The problem with using such words is do they really provide a proper framework or basis for all re-enactors to accurately present the members of the units they have chosen to portray? After all, what may be normal, average or common for the members of the 957th Combat Bakery Team during their service in Shangri-La in 1944 may not be the same as the members of 666th Deceptive Services Battalion serving in Xanadu in 1942. There are differences within the same unit depending on what year and theater of operations is observed.

Yet the various organizations try to compile a “one size fits all” when it comes to authenticity guidelines for all units in the organization to follow. Now on paper it may look good but in practice it becomes apparent that such documents are far from being historically accurate for all units, every theater of operations and all periods of the war.

Too often these rules and guidelines are the result of a knee jerk reaction to some unpleasant incident which was experienced by the organization. So in an attempt to eliminate the possibility of having to deal with another such incident a rule is put in place to address it. Sadly some of these rules do not truly reflect or maintain any level of historical accuracy but instead are designed as a “CYA” measure or to match a perception or a preconceived notion of what we think is historically accurate. Many of us refer to this as the “shotgun” approach to dealing with issues since it is like shooting buckshot out of a shotgun and hitting many people regardless of whether they are the problem or not.

Now add into this equation people who are charged with enforcing authenticity standards whom are not poorly educated or completely ignorant about those whom they are inspecting and you have the potential for a real mess. I have been witness to such messes over and over and both large and small events. Do not put people in charge of enforcing authenticity standards if they don't know that they are doing plain and simple.

The ultimate goal that we should strive for is a happy medium between keeping things orderly and lawful as well as reflecting what really took place during the period by the forces being represented at any given function. This isn't rocket science but it will take some effort and time to get it correct. And of course we cannot forget that if you aren't having fun or enjoying taking part in this hobby then why are we doing it.

So in closing I urge all of us to realize that the learning never stops. As a result of this continual education we need to do our due diligence and truly ask ourselves if what we are doing is an accurate representation. We owe it not only to ourselves but those whom we try to educate that we make an honest attempt to show the public what the brave men and women really did during the War.

Be safe and have fun and I will see all of you in the field.

Sincerely,  
Robert Leinweber  
Aka Dima  
9th Soviet Airborne Brigade. HRS





### Craig Morehead's Sherman Tank

Elkhart, Indiana World War 2 Event

Photos By Heinz Thiel

World War 2 HRS Press Corps

### Craig Morehead's Sherman Tank

Elkhart, Indiana World War 2 Event

Photos By Heinz Thiel

World War 2 HRS Press Corps





Elkhart, Indiana World War 2 Event Photos By Heinz Thiel World War 2 HRS Press Corps



## The Red Arrow Leads the Way

United Press

Su Miller and Josef Kleffman

Let me tell you about one of the lesser known National Guard units that served in WW2, the 32nd Infantry Division. Most of the National Guard units that were activated by the federal government before the United States was officially at war were made up of men that knew each other for most of their lives; they grew up together, worked together and played together. Many of the Guardsmen lived in the same small towns their whole lives until the time that they were called up to military service.

The 32nd Infantry Division was the first unit to be called up AND go overseas in a one ship convoy as a whole unit after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. They were also first US Division to make a beach landing and employ General MacArthur's by-pass strategy. (Instead of engaging the enemy in a traditional frontal assault, go around the enemy and either flag them from the rear or avoid them altogether.)

The 32nd Infantry division was comprised largely of men from Wisconsin and Minnesota. They were the first United States Army Division to fight in an offensive action against the enemies of the United States. They fought that campaign in the Southwest Pacific. They were also the first Army division to be air lifted into a forward area and march into battle during the Papuan Campaign. The division was also the first to publish an American servicemen's letterpress newspaper in the Southwest Pacific. The division served 654 days in combat, which was more than any other US division in the United States Army during WW2.

The 32nd actually had an outstanding career during the First World War, but it is outside our scope of this article. During the period that followed the Great War, the US army along with the reserves and National Guard were largely downgraded until many of the units were just made up of a headquarters company, and the rest was on paper. What little equipment the 32nd Division did have was of Great War vintage. The training that the National Guard units received left much to be desired before the war in Europe broke out. Only after the German's 1940 lightning campaign in France and following Battle of Britain did the US Army take notice. On August 27, 1940 the United States Congress inducted the United States National Guard into Federal Service. Eighteen National Guard Divisions were activated including the 32nd. The following month, on September 16, Congress authorized the first ever peace time draft in US history. The United States was clearly gearing up for the war that they knew was coming.

The 32nd Division was called to active duty on October 15, 1940. All eighteen National Guard divisions were called up and were to receive one year of training. When the division moved out on January 26, 1941 to start training, it was under resourced and didn't yet have all of the equipment that it was supposed to have. The division was stationed at a newly built post named Camp Livingston, which was fifteen miles northeast of Alexandria, Louisiana.

During the summer of 1941 the largest maneuvers of the US Army to date took place in Louisiana. The first phase ran from June 16-27, in which both the 32nd and the 37th National Guard divisions took part. Phase two ran from August 16-30, this time including the 32nd, 34th, 37th and 38th divisions. One of the new pieces of equipment introduced around this time was the C ration. They were tried out extensively during the 1940 and 1941 maneuvers of the US Army. The C ration was intended to replace the reserve ration left over from the First World War. It was to be carried by the individual soldier and only used in emergency, but because of the nature of modern warfare it became the staple of the American Soldier during WW2.



Figure 1 Soldiers of the 32nd training in Louisiana late summer of 1941

The National Guard at this time was not required by law to serve on active duty outside of the United States. Men that were drafted into the Guard were required to serve one year. The US Congress changed all of this on August 7, 1941; they approved the National Guard for an indefinite extension of military service. The 32nd Division was activated and slotted for Europe. The division was going to move to Fort Devens Massachusetts and from there on to Northern Ireland. Because of the quick Japanese advance in the Southwest Pacific only the 107th engineering Battalion headed out for departure; they were originally the advance party for the 32nd Division.

Australia feared that their country would be the next place attacked by the Japanese and they requested from England that their troops fighting in North Africa area be released to return home to defend Australia. The US response to help out Australia was to send the 41st Division. Later on April 9, 1942 the 32nd Division was loaded aboard 13 freight and 25 passenger trains at Fort Devens and shipped west, arriving in Oakland, California on April 14th.

On April 22nd the 32nd Division received 3,000 soldiers fresh out of basic training. These young men were little more than bodies to fill out the division. As for equipment, many of the men were finally able to hand in their old WW1 bolt action Springfield's and draw the new M1 Garand. Unfortunately, there were not enough M1's to equip every man at this time. The artillery batteries also turned in their old upgraded French 75's for the new 105mm M101 Howitzer. This would have been great but they received very little training on the use of these new weapons.





Even though the soldiers of the 32nd were in Louisiana, with terrain close to a tropical climate, none of it was used for training in Jungle Warfare. Later when the division was moved to Australia they did receive a little jungle training.



On the night of July 21-22, 1942 a Japanese force of 4,400 troops led by major General Tomitora Horii landed on the northeastern shore of Papua, New Guinea. They quickly moved south-west on the Kokoda Trail with the objective of capturing Port Moresby. The army of Imperial Japan continued to land troops and supplies and by early August 1942 11,000 troops had landed on Papua, New Guinea. With Australia only 340 nautical miles from New Guinea, the allies believed the Japanese would attack Australia. Even though the Imperial Japanese navy had laid a plan to attack Australia it was later decided to occupy Midway Island and cut off Australia from the United States supply lines.

It was believed that the Japanese would build an airfield on the coast of New Guinea and attack Port Moresby and the rest of Australia from the air. The combination of the jungle and the Australian forces had taken their toll on the Japanese attack force. The Japanese had fought their way up the through the Owen Stanley Mountains and, after weeks of fighting then pushing the Australian defenders back southward, the Japanese descended the southern slopes and stopped 20 miles from Port Moresby on the Ioribaiwa Ridge. All along the way the Japanese had suffered from the stifling tropical weather, but the Owen Stanley Mountains were frigid during the night and many of the troops suffered from the cold. The Japanese attack force had also begun to outlast their supplies and the men were on half rations or less, because the Allied Air Forces attacked their supply line continually. In the rear areas where the Japanese attack force had landed, their engineers were busy building reinforced and interlocking supportive bunkers from which they could defend their beachhead.

With the Allied Air Forces attacking the supply lines, the much weakened Japanese force was stopped on September 17, 1942 at Imita Range, just south of Ioribaiwa. With the Japanese force stopped just a few miles short of their objective they dug in for a few days, and on September 28, 1942 they were told to withdraw back over the Owen Stanley Mountains to Kokoda and finally to Buna. The reason for the withdrawal was due to the uncertain outcome of the battle on Guadalcanal, and the airstrip called Henderson Field had yet to be recaptured from the American forces. With the campaign at Guadalcanal in doubt it was decided to hold and see how it would turn out. This retreat of the Japanese forces was the first time that they had been stopped in their Pacific conquest.

The 32nd Division arrived in Australia in April and in August 1942 they were still there. The commander of the area, General Douglas MacArthur, had requested more troops, but he was told to make do with what he had on hand. MacArthur quickly realized that the key to the defense of Australia was in an offensive on New Guinea. MacArthur ordered parts of the 32nd Division to Papua, New Guinea on September 13, 1942. This move would be the start of the offensive in the Southwest Pacific, and MacArthur grossly underestimated the Japanese army. The Japanese army had been in combat since the mid-1930s and consequently they were a battle-hardened force to be reckoned with. Normally the US Army would train a division as a unit for a full year before sending them into a combat area. However, at this point they had only five months of training and as many as one third had only been in boot camp before being shipped out.



Figure 2 Red Arrow Soldier taking a break in training





The Australian army units that were fighting on New Guinea were worn thin by the constant fighting and withdrawing against the Japanese Forces. The Allies were very anxious to relieve some of the pressure on the Australian units, so the 32nd division headquarters and two regiments of the 126th and 128th infantry were deployed to Port Moresby toward the end of September. General MacArthur gave orders for the US forces to capture the Kapa Kapa Trail, which no white man had crossed since 1917.

MacArthur thought the US Army could secure the right flank of the Australian Army and at the same time trap the Japanese troops between the two commands. Orders were given on October 14, 1942 for nine hundred US troops of the 114th Engineer Battalion, the 19th Portable Hospital and the 107th Quartermaster Company. They were charged with making the march over the Kapa Kapa Trail. Their objective was to flank the Japanese forces that were withdrawing along the Kokoda Trail somewhere near Jaure. The distance the troops were to march was 130 miles along a trail that was barely a goat path through the jungle and up into the mountains.

The US forces on the Kapa Kapa Trail were only given 6 days of rations as they were told they would be supplied en route by air drops. The food that they received was of poor quality being drawn from the Australian forces. It consisted of hard tack, rice, and bully beef (called corned beef today). Much of the rations had spoiled and the soldiers became ill from it. The US troops were poorly supplied to fight in the jungle and the high mountains; they were not issued insect repellent, water proof bags for medical supplies or personal effects. The Atabrine pills issued were not stored in anything that would keep them dry, so the troops put them in their pockets and in the daily rain storms the pills washed away. The men were totally unprepared for the conditions they had to endure. The Kapa Kapa Trail was in worse shape as a track than the Kokoda Trail. It was described as a very dark eerie place and rougher than the Kokoda Trail by the men who marched it. "The Ghost Mountain Boys" was a term later used to refer to the soldiers that marched and fought on the Kapa Kapa Trail. The 9,200 ft Mount Obree was renamed "The Ghost Mountain" by the men because it disappeared in the clouds. Finally, on November 20, 1942 after forty two days on the march, lead elements of the 126th Eegiment arrived at the front near Soputa. It took several days for the rest of the battalion to come on line. After these troops got over the mountains no other troops were sent on the same route. As you have likely surmised, one of the main problems with the campaign was not only the Japanese troops but the terrain itself. There were no roads to move supplies and the US Army had to either use the rivers or engage in air drops. While the 126th was arriving on station, the rest of the 128th was flown in to Wanigela near Buna where they joined up with Australian forces. On November 16, 1942 both forces started assaulting the Japanese defenses in eastern New Guinea. In this action the 32nd Division had the honor of being the first US Army division to engage the enemy forces in a ground action during WW2. One thing that hampered the US Forces in the New Guinea campaign was the lack of tanks and heavy artillery. General George Kenney, who had no first-hand knowledge of warfare in the jungle, persuaded MacArthur that air support in the form of bombers and fighter bombers could replace tanks and artillery.



Figure 3 Soldiers of the 32nd resting on the Kokoda trail

The defenses that the Allied forces had to assault were well thought out. The Japanese were not able to dig very deep because of the high water table. Instead they used coconut log bunkers, which were used time and time again by them in their defense of the Pacific Islands. As the initial Japanese forces crossed the Owen Stanley Mountains at the start of their campaign, their engineers were building the defenses the Allied forces were now attacking. Each of these lines of defense was built upon interlocking fields of fire, and trenches were attached to the bunkers to allow the Japanese to reinforce the bunkers at will while staying under cover. The Japanese also camouflaged their positions so well that the Americans didn't know the Japanese were there until they opened fire on the US troops.



Figure 4 Three Pictures of a Soldier of Imperial Japanese Army



The Allied forces were sent in without proper intelligence gathering and were told that the Japanese forces were in sad shape as they were sick and under fed. What happened next was no surprise considering that the US forces were unprepared and they were attacking the strongest Japanese fortified position in the South Pacific with inadequate fire support from the air.

The 32nd Division had now taken 2,520 battle casualties in this battle; the soldiers were pulled back and provided hot food and additional supplies, and given a two day rest from combat. They had a strength of 9,825 men, of which 586 were killed in action; however, over 66% of the casualties were due to illness.

Once the battle of Buna was wrapped up, the 32nd Division was transported back to Australia for retraining and some R&R. It took several weeks to move the division back to Australia as there were only a limited number of airplanes available for troop transport. When the men arrived they were sent to Camp Cable.

After a brief R&R the 32nd Division troops were outfitted with fresh supplies and equipment and sent back to New Guinea, where they continued with the rest of General MacArthur's command to secure the Philippine Islands. The 32nd was to fight in the Battle of Leyte and the Battle of Luzon. The division served in the occupation forces of Japan until February 28, 1946. They were one of the first to enter combat and were the very last to stop fighting. The division was in combat for 654 days, more than any other US Army unit in the Second World War. The division also claimed 11 Medal of Honor winners in its ranks during the war.





#### World War II Campaigns of the 32D 'Red Arrow' Division

Campaigns	Dates	Days
Papuan		
Buna/Sanananda/Gona	20 Sep. 42 – 22 Jan. 43	117
New Guinea		
Saidor	2 Jan. 44 – 29 Apr. 44	118
Aitape	22 Apr. 44 – 25 Aug. 44	125
Morotai	15 Sep. 44 – 10 Nov. 44	57
Leyte		
Leyte	16 Nov. 44 – 2 Jan. 45	47
Luzon		
Villa Verde Trail	30 Jan. 45 – 28 May 45	119
Mopping Up	29 May 45 – 15 Aug. 45	78
Total:		661 days
Less 7 days overlapping when the Division was in combat at both Saidor and Aitape:		- 7 days
Grand Total:		654 days

The men today that portray the Headquarters Company of the 128th Infantry Regiment of the 32nd Division come from all walks of life. Some are former US Army or National Guard soldiers. Many are college students and hold down full time jobs. Each of the members has joined this unit for one reason: the unit is a progressive one. They are constantly trying to improve their impression through research of the history, talking to the veterans that served on the campaigns during WW2 with the 32nd and, finally, living in the field for a few days using only the same gear the originals would have used to eat, live, dig in and survive.



Figure 5 A member of the HQ coy resting after stringing commo wire on the Kapa Kapa trail

Quite a few of the members got their start in living history with Civil War and from there they moved on to other eras. One of the founding members of the 32nd got his start with the 401st Glider Troops in 2004. After being with the 401st for a time several of the members decided to recreate a unit that was closer to home. Most of the members of the 32nd are from Wisconsin so they thought "why not do a unit from our own state". With some research the 32nd was settled upon and the portrayal of the Citizen Soldier in WW2 was started. In 2009 the 32nd was founded with Chris Kissinger, Andrew Braun, and Robert Braun being the original members.

Some of the other members enjoy the close kinship they have in the unit, just like the original unit would have had prior to the start of WW2, as most of the members of a letter company would have been from the same hometown.

With Progressive Living History there is a better opportunity to experience the field life of a soldier during WW2 than being out on the battlefield firing off blanks, as battle in a soldier's life only makes up but a small portion of his career in the Army. To be sure the battles are what draw the public in to the events, and they are the bread and butter of the HRS, but many of the public come to the events to learn about the soldiers themselves and what they had to go through. Much of the public have had relatives that served in WW2 and as these relatives get older and pass away that part of history is lost. The venue of Progressive Living History is where the 32nd really excels. The members today have set up camp as it would have been during the New Guinea Campaign. They have used their wool blankets and ponchos to erect crude rain shelters. For rations they can eat C-rations or the dreaded K-rations. The K-ration was about the size of a box of Cracker Jacks and about all they would do is keep you alive; but you are not going to gain any weight eating them, even though they were enriched (according to the government). These soldiers would also supplement their rations with captured Japanese rations such as canned whale meat and rice.

A lot of people have no idea that the US Army was involved in the Pacific, and believe the US Marines were the only troops there. The reality is that the number of US Army troops far outnumbered that of the Marines (22 divisions of US Army vs 6 divisions of Marine Corps).

What Progressive Living History means is trying to live, for the weekend, just as the soldier of the 32nd did while on campaign. You will have nothing more than what you carried on your back and in your pockets. At times this can be difficult to do and you just have to go without. However, reenacting in 'harsh' conditions like bad weather is still nothing compared to the reality that the men of the 32nd Red Arrow Division faced throughout the war. Not since the Seminole Wars of the 1830-1840's had the US Army fought in such terrible conditions as they encountered in the New Guinea Campaign.





I'm sending you my best wishes from Poland.  
A few pictures from my Polish paths.  
Piotr Peter Krawerenda





I'm sending you my best wishes from Poland.  
A few pictures from my Polish paths.  
Piotr Peter Krawerenda







## JACOB COOGAN Stools for Sale

I am selling these stools for  
60\$ each.  
With a coat of oil on them.

You can contact me at  
[coogan1224@gmail.com](mailto:coogan1224@gmail.com)







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 |
| • Officer's Custom Summer Tans – 1944 Issue<br>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                                | \$ 7.50 Each |
| • Officer Branch Insignia – INF, CAV, TANK                                      | \$10.00 Each |
| • Shoulder Patch – 1ID, 30ID, 45ID, 84ID, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ranger                | \$3.00 Each  |
| • M1943 Field Jacket – Size 48, 1944 Issue                                      | \$150.00     |
| • M1941 Field Jacket – Size 46 Reproduction                                     | \$125.00     |
| • Double Buckle Boots – Size 10D, Repro   | \$75.00      |
| • M1938 Leggings – Size 3R  | \$20.00      |
| • 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      |
- =====



Heinz Thiel Photo by Esther Schleper

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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