







# THE EDGE



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN  
REENACTING







U.S. Navy World War 2 Veteran Master Chief Robert Reeners with Chuck Roberts

## **WHY WE HONOR WW2 VETERANS**

Over 16 million Served in the U.S. armed forces during WW2.  
Almost 500,000 made the Supreme Sacrifice and another 671,000 were wounded.

These citizen soldiers sacrificed their youths to allow those that followed to live in freedom. We often take their sacrifices for granted. Many re-enactors are the sons and daughters of WW2 veterans. Our children and grandchildren may not even have known their grandfather or uncle who served during WW2. Most schools curriculums do not even include WW2 as a course of study. So how do we keep our fathers or grandfathers or uncles memory alive? We choose to honor them by portraying the men who did fight in WW2. The way we dress, how we act, the authenticity of our equipment, by marching in parades or serving as on honor guard at public celebrations, that is how we choose to honor our fathers, grandfathers and uncles.

**It is our goal to make sure the sacrifices made by all WW2 Veterans are remembered.**  
**WORLD WAR 2 HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY**  
<http://www.WorldWarTwoHRS.org/>





## Introduction to Re-enacting

WW2 re-enacting is a hobby where the uninformed try to explain it away with such hot button titles as “gun-nuts,” “neo-type warmongers,” “weekend warriors,” etc.

WW2 reenacting is a hobby (keep that in mind) where modern-day men (and women) attempt to recreate the WW2-period as best as they can. You will encounter individuals who are helpful and nice as you begin to collect the needed gear, uniforms, and weapons needed to participate in whatever event your “unit” decides to attend.



When you see a WW2 Re-enactor at an event you are seeing someone who is enjoying himself and giving many other people the ultimate educational experience. He is preserving something that will eventually be lost and consigned to newsreel footage and subjectively written books. He is, as with the soldiers facing each other in 1939-45, an ordinary man, nothing else.

World War 2 Re-enacting is the historical reenactment of the various combatants involved in World War 2. It includes the portrayal of civilians on the various Home Fronts, as well as services involved in home front activity.



The re-enactment of World War 2 as a hobby traces its roots to the Historical Re-enactment Society (HRS). Not long after the first HRS event in 1975, World War 2 reenactors began to form permanent groups, each adopting the designation of a specific military unit that had served during the war. Since then hundreds of reenacting units have formed across the world, representing nearly every nationality involved in the conflict.

Since 1975, the WW2 Historical Re-enactment Society has brought history to life as an educational hobby, providing its members and the public with a time machine to the 1940s, using authentic uniforms, real weapons, and vehicles from WW2.



The WW2 Historical Re-enactment Society is composed of historians, teachers, students, military collectors, veterans, and others interested in the Second World War. Members provide educational displays and act out WW2 battles, at school presentations, veteran's reunions, air shows, parades, and community events.



The WW2 Historical Re-enactment Society is dedicated to keeping World War 2 history alive and in the public eye and to honor the veterans as well as preserving World War 2 artifacts. Our mission is to bring the history of World War 2 to interactive life where the public reach out and touch equipment, smell gunpowder, and feel the concussion waves of explosions at simulated battles, talk with troops, and see how they lived.





The society strives to honor and preserve the memory of those who served in World War 2, as well as preserve the artifacts of that period.

You can still speak with World War 2 veterans who fought in the War. There are also many millions of people who were children or under age for conscription but who still experienced the conflict, be it first hand or through their families. Film footage is readily available. WW2 was the first really documented war in terms of media. Propaganda was heavily employed and newsreels were used for morale boosting purposes as well as training, intelligence, subterfuge and deception.



This is an expensive hobby, far more so now than it was 20 years ago. Authenticity has improved, but the result has driven up the costs as well. What was good then is now considered unacceptable in many circles. Check and double-check before buying something for reenacting. Just because a dealer says, "It's perfect for reenacting," doesn't make it so.

### What is WW2 Reenacting?

Well, reenacting is different things to different people. Like any hobby, people are attracted to it for different reasons, but reenactors all have one thing in common: A passion for history!



Military reenacting is a kind of "first person history lesson." Reenacting provides an opportunity for first-hand experiences with equipment, uniforms, field gear, weapons, and vehicles of WW2. You can learn a great deal about World War 2 through research and documentaries, but not the personal experience.



While re-enacting you can experience sitting in a foxhole with snow falling all around you during battle. You can feel the rumble of a tank as it pushes through the trees. Experience the rush of hastily loading a weapon as a wave of enemy troops charge towards you.





Reenactors have a devout interest in the history they portray, and work hard to recreate the soldiers of WW2 as realistically as possible. To do an impression correctly requires a great deal of research.



The WW2 reenacting hobby continues to change and evolve. Units continue to raise the bar towards a higher level of historical accuracy, but it is important to remember that reenacting can be fun.



WW2 reenacting offers different kinds of events. The two most common events are: public events and tacticals.

Public events are usually done in a public park. These offer people an opportunity to see and touch uniforms, equipment, and weapons from WW2. It is also a chance for reenactors to educate and teach. Many myths and legends have been created around WW2 and public events provide the opportunity to inform people what the War was really like



A typical WW2 reenactment will last two to three days, with each unit establishing an encampment. Allied units will group together in an organized camp while Axis units will group nearby but in a distinctly separate area. Generally, these encampments will attempt to establish a general representation of soldiers in the field, organized in a military manner but modified slightly to permit the public display of particular items such as weaponry, personal gear, historical charts and pictures, and equipment.



Tactical events allow reenactors to participate in simulated war games. These battles can take place over the course of a few hours or a few days. Some tacticals can be fully immersive, while others are strictly for the fun of it.





Participating units bring restored World War 2 vehicles and heavy weapons to events. These vehicles and weapons include a Hetzer self-propelled assault gun, a Sdkfz-251 armored personal carrier, a PAK-40 anti-tank guns, as well as many others from various countries.



These vehicles and equipment can be costly to operate and maintain, and represent a significant investment for the units with them. Often, vehicle-mounted fully automatic weapons (machine guns) will be powered by propane gas fed into the breech and ignited by a spark plug.

Hand held weapons use brass-cased blank ammo, with ejected shells that can't be reused. Such spent casings can become prized souvenirs by younger spectators, who are permitted onto the battlefield only after it has been declared safe to enter.

**The WW2 HRS has strict  
Weapon Safety Standards.**

**Each Weapon and ALL Ammunition  
Is checked before the start of each event.**



Weapons will add a new dimension to your new hobby. Guns are NOT toys! They are not cheap and can put a major dent in your wallet. Once again, check and double-check prior to buying.



**The WW2 HRS has  
Authenticity Regulations  
That Units and Individual members must meet.**





## Impressions

Start with an easy impression. Don't go crazy and spend thousands of dollars (which is easier than you think) on an impression that you later wish you hadn't because you will never get your full money back.

Easy impressions are Russian, Partisan, GI infantry, British infantry and German infantry. These impressions are somewhat "generic" and you can move from one unit to another (GI to GI, Russian to Russian, etc.) without too much problem.

Hard and expensive impressions are Waffen-SS, Airborne (of any country), many of the minor Allied and Axis forces, and the armored force of any nation (you will need a vehicle for this). The first two require specialized uniforms, equipment and sometimes weapons to do this properly.

WW2 HRS members carry out a wide range of historical impressions, including those of The United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Poland, and Germany.



It is best to join a local unit that does what you're looking for. The best way to find units is to look on the WW2 HRS website. Talk to the unit members (face to face is best) and find out if this unit is what you want in both authenticity and friendship. Each unit will have varying uniform and weapon standards.

Check before joining.  
SEE UNIT WEB SITES FOR  
HISTORY  
UNIFORMS  
EQUIPMENT  
WEAPONS



Q: Do I have to have everything before joining a unit?

A: Nope! For prospective members most units have loaner gear to get you in field for your first event. This is a good way to try it out before investing in a full impression.

Q: How do I join a unit?

A: Contact the unit (s) that you would like to portray and find out if their rules and participation level matches your interests. The HRS sets general guidelines, but the individual unit has specific rules and regulations for their impression.

Q: I don't have a big budget, is there an impression for me?

A: Yes, most units offer to outfit new members for a limited time until they can budget their impression. Some have non-infantry impressions such as Aviation, Naval, Medical, etc. which can be less expensive to start out with.



Q: What is battle reenacting?

A: Reenacting a battle is a way one can gain a better perspective and insight to the conditions and events of WW2 beyond simply reading a book or watching a program on the television. The goal is to put the participant "in the battle" as much as possible, simply without using live ammunition. The uniforms and equipment used is either original or exactly reproduced in the finest detail in order to recreate the most authentic and realistic experience possible.





Q: Okay, so what exactly goes on at tactical?

A: These are private events, not open to the public, that recreate a weekend of battle between opposing forces. Units arrive and set up a period appropriate camps that immerses the troops with authentic equipment, food, and atmosphere. The battles last most of the day light hours.

Q: So if you aren't actually shooting each other, how does one know when they are hit?

A: It is based on situational awareness, assessment of cover and concealment, distance, line of fire and the honor system. When you "take a hit" or get "killed" during battle you remove your helmet/cover and fall to the ground - let people know you are out. Once you have taken your hit, you fall back behind your front line and wait 10 minutes to reset before rejoining 'combat.'

Q: Is the WW2 HRS a front for some extremist political group?

A: No, the WW2 HRS Inc. was formed in 1975 as a hobby to help educate the public about WW2. Axis units are represented in the HRS to contrast the Allied units. A good majority of the HRS membership have served, or currently serve in the military, law enforcement, or other responsible positions in their community. It would be hard to find more patriotic people than HRS members.



Q: If join a German unit Do I have to know German?

A: In short, no, it is not a requirement. German unit members are encouraged to learn and will be presented with basic in field and formation commands in field. Ideally, during "combat" - German should be spoken as much as possible, but realistically, English is tolerated.

Q: Are members insured?

A: Yes, but not in the sense of individual insurance. The WW2 HRS Inc. has a limited liability policy that covers the activities of members at designated events against damages and liability. Individual members sign event waivers holding themselves responsible for their own conduct and expenses.

Remember, this is a hobby, not the real military. No one is forcing you to join and no one is forcing you to stay. Hobbies are meant to be fun, and WW2 reenacting is one of the most enjoyable hobbies on this planet.



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.





### **Non-Political Statement/Disclaimer:**

Our focus is on the history of World War 2. We have no sympathy for the ideology of Nazism or fascism. Such beliefs are not welcome here.

Some World War 2 Historical Reenacting units portray the common German Infantry soldiers and associated support personnel. The goal is to promote awareness and understanding of the world history from 1939-1945; specifically the military history of WW2, through the staging of public educational exhibitions, lectures, displays and reenactments of typical battles fought between the Allied and Axis forces in WW2. German Army Reenacting units are not a para-military organization and/or associated with any such organization(s).

WW2 Historical Reenacting, although non-political, does use items from the Third Reich and symbols which may offend some. The use and display of the WW2 German National Emblem (Swastika) and/or other insignia is done as part of the accurate historical portrayal of the German Soldier of the period and is in no way meant to glorify National Socialism or any of its outgrowths.

The WW2 HRS is strictly a non-political organization, and its members are in no way affiliated with any real, radical political organizations, nor do we represent, embrace or advocate, the philosophies and or political goals of any radical, political, fascist, racist, anti-Semitic organizations and/or individuals and/or any supremacist doctrine. We are not Nazi's! We have no affiliations with either the hate groups of today or the political ideologies of Germany from 1933 to 1945 (NSDAP/Nazi party). We do not condone any activities that may be construed as exemplifying the Nazi regime within the framework of Nazi Party politics, nor do we tolerate any activities that may be construed as Pro-Nazi ideology.



The main protagonists in WW2 were of course the Nazis and their Allies and the British, Americans and Soviets along with their Allied Nations. It can be easily understood why a re-enactor would portray a Tommy, a G.I. or even Ivan.



It is more difficult understanding the reasons behind someone wanting to portray a soldier of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy or Imperialist Japan. The immediate assumption may be that the person doing so glorifies right wing idealism and may be inclined towards those extremist views. This is not so. The people engaged in this hobby are military and historical enthusiasts, collectors of Militaria, restorers and operators of Military Vehicles, modelers and photographers.



The furthest thing from an Axis Re-enactor's mind is rekindling the flames of racism, genocide and hatred. There is a





great awareness of these factors and as a result, an Axis re-enactor will usually be very well informed and if questioned, able to discuss the Holocaust, it's cause and effect and the resulting aftermath with the interested party. Just as a British or American re-enactor will research his or her unit's history, campaigns, deployment, uniform and equipment etc., a German re-enactor will be able to tell the observer all about his/her chosen unit and associated detail. What usually attracts a person to portraying "The Dark Side" is German industry and science has for centuries been seen as efficient, functional and innovative. If an individual leans towards the technical side of things, he or she will inevitable be drawn towards German design, functionality and innovation.



German scientists and engineers developed some of the most astounding machines and devices which are still being used today, be they in their original form or as modern derivatives. Sitting and talking with many "German" re-enactors, you will find a theme which runs through the community is that of admiration for the superb design and technology employed by Germans during WW2. Germans designed the first General Purpose machine Gun, culminating in the MG42 which is still unsurpassed as the best fixed barrel belt fed machine gun in the world. Germans built submarines and developed snorkel technology. Germans developed jet aircraft and guided missiles. Germans perfected small arms combat using mixed battlegroup tactics - Something employed by all armies today. Germans developed and issued purpose made camouflage garments. Germans perfected the assault rifle and were the first to issue them in great numbers.

**From HRS Treasurer**

**Wayne McCulley**

9th Infantry Division

WMcCulley45@Gmail.com



#### TREASURER'S REPORT

WORLD War II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY  
AUGUST 2015

#### "ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF JULY 31, 2015"

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$10,511.38
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$53,374.26
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$302.20
ACCOUNT TOTALS	\$64,187.84

#### INCOME FOR JULY 2015

May Membership Income	\$505.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$5.43
TOTAL INCOME	\$510.43

#### EXPENDITURES FOR JULY 2015

Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Reimbursement of Double Paid Eventbrite Memberships	\$25.00
Total Expenditures	\$37.80

Year To Date Membership Income	\$11,415.00
Year To Date Interest Income	\$20.80
Year To Date Miscellaneous Income	\$300.00
Year To Date Total Income	\$11,735.80
Year To Date Expenditures	\$7,633.18
Income Less Expenditures	\$4,077.62

Respectfully Submitted


Wayne McCulley

HRS Treasurer





# EVENTS

October		October
15-18		<b>WELCOME HOME, STARS AND STRIPES PRESENTS: REFLECTIONS OF HISTORY, 1860-PRESENT</b>
Oct		<p><b>Loc:</b> Stars &amp; Stripes National. Military Museum &amp; Library, 17377 Stars &amp; Stripes Way, Bloomfield, MO 63825 <b>Dates:</b> 15 - 18 October 2015 <b>Event Times:</b> 15-18 October 2015 <b>Fee:</b> NONE <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:papajoadfssf@sbcglobal.net">papajoadfssf@sbcglobal.net</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://welcomhomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com">http://welcomhomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com</a> <b>Authenticity Notes:</b> Per HRS Safety and Authenticity rules <b>Prohibited Vehicles/Items:</b> N/A <b>Restrictions on Minors:</b> Per HRS rules <b>Other restrictions:</b> NO live ammunition <b>Sponsoring Unit(s):</b> 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</p>
November		November





From: RONALD RUHL

This year the Franklin Park, IL WW2 event will be Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

9451 Belmont Ave Franklin Park ILL 60131

Park next to the police station

Reenactors will get a free breakfast Saturday from the American legion and limited supply of free blanks to German and American reenactors first come first serve.

Vendors of military needed

Any question email [fpmilitarydays2015@usa.com](mailto:fpmilitarydays2015@usa.com)

WEB Site: <http://franklin-park-military-days.weebly.com/>

## FRANKLIN PARK, IL MILITARY DAYS OCTOBER 17 - 18, 2015



### Schedule of Events

#### Saturday

Park Opens at 9am

Battles at 11am and 2pm

Navy Band Concert 5 pm

#### Sunday

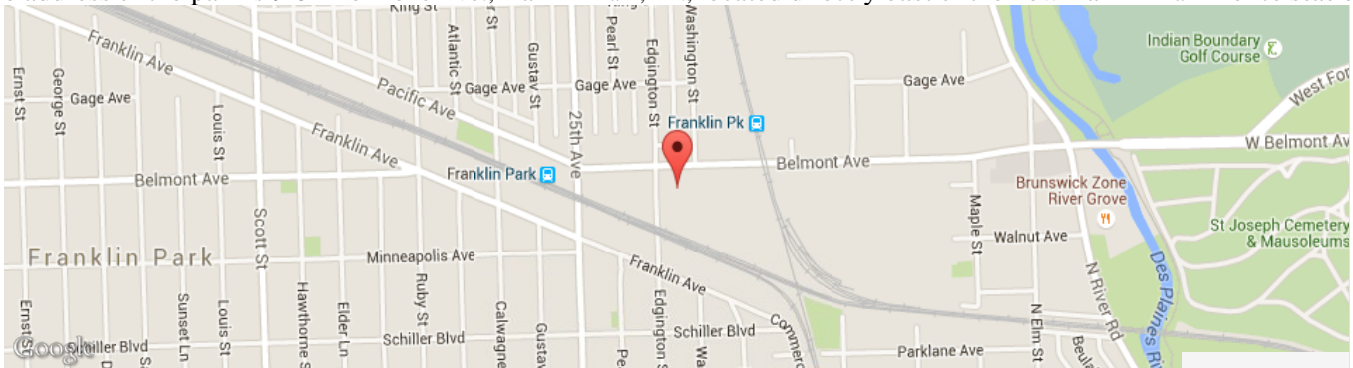
Park Opens at 9am

Battle at 1pm

Park Closes at 3pm

**Participants must be members of the WWII HRS or part of a WWII HRS recognized group.**

The address of the park is 9451 Belmont Ave., Franklin Park, IL., located directly east of the new Franklin Park Police station.



The address for the dance is American Legion Post 974  
9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, IL 60131

Special Thanks to American Legion Post 974, the Village of Franklin Park.

### The Park

Until 2013 the park was a unused shuttered factory. The property was purchased by Franklin Park and redeveloped into two sections. One, is the new Franklin Park Police station and the other is the new park that consists of walking trails, a pond, and a rolling landscape. This park will be the site of the WWII Living History portion of Franklin Park Military Days.

For the WWII Reenactors: Complimentary Breakfast Saturday  
Campfires allowed and firewood provided.  
Camping onsite encouraged.  
2 battles on Saturday and one on Sunday.  
Security provided by the Franklin Park Police.  
Inquire about free WWII heavy vehicle transportation.  
Limited supply of blanks provided for those participating in the battles.  
Area WWII veterans in attendance including a paratrooper from the 82nd Airborne





## WW2 HRS Board Members

Please send any correspondence to:  
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For more information visit our Website  
<http://www.WorldWarTwoHRS.org/>

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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**

<p><b>2015 Minutes</b></p> <p><a href="#">January</a> <a href="#">February</a> <a href="#">March</a> <a href="#">April</a> <a href="#">May</a> June July August September October November December</p>	<p><b>2014 Minutes</b></p> <p><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> <a href="#">September</a> <a href="#">October</a> November <a href="#">December</a></p>
<p><b>2013 Minutes</b></p> <p>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></p>	<p><b>2012 Minutes</b></p> <p><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>)</p>
<p><b>2011 Minutes</b></p> <p><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></p>	<p><b>2010 Minutes</b></p> <p><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></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

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





# MEETING MINUTES

## Minutes of the WWII Historical Reenactment Society Board Meeting 21 July, 2015, 7:32 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 Kapustka	NO
Axis Representative	Tyler Stevens	NO
Commonwealth Rep.	Bryce Seyko	NO
Edge Editor	Jeff Skender	NO
Business Manager	David Jameson	NO

HRS Members Present  
George Reinke, Kurt Gustafson  
Others: Robert Clouse – Representing 12<sup>th</sup> SS

### Approval of Agenda

July Agenda - Approved by BOD vote

### Reading of the Minutes

June Minutes - Read by DL  
June Minutes - Approved by BOD vote

### Officer Reports:

Vice President  
CB said that the annual HRS Scholarship winner will be announced on 8/1 via HRS media.  
Treasurer – Financial Report

## TREASURER'S REPORT WORLD War II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY JULY 2015

<b>Account Balances as of June 31st 2015</b>	
PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$10,044.18
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$53,368.83
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$302.20
<b>Account Totals</b>	<b>\$63,715.21</b>
<b>Income for June 2015</b>	
May Membership Income	\$1,080.00
Reimbursement for World War 1 Midway Village Insurance coverage	\$300.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$3.87
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,383.87</b>
<b>Expenditures for June 2015</b>	
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Event Support for Kennekuk World War 2 Days	\$290.00
Event Support of Rails to Victory Wristbands	\$58.41
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$361.21</b>
<b>Year To Date Membership Income</b>	<b>\$10,910.00</b>
<b>Year To Date Interest Income</b>	<b>\$15.37</b>
<b>Year To Date Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>Year To Date Total Income</b>	<b>\$11,225.37</b>
<b>Year To Date Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,595.38</b>
<b>Income Less Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,629.99</b>

Secretary –

New Events - No new events as of now, Ashtabula OH., Vincennes IN., Rockford, IL. events are in the works.  
HRS Membership - 1006 paid members  
2 traditional membership cards mailed out earlier this month. Possible 15-20 mailed so far this year. Exact numbers are not tracked since they are so minimal.  
15 Combat units with less than the minimum 5 members.

Commonwealth Rep - Not in attendance.  
Allied Rep - Not in attendance.  
Axis Rep - Not in attendance.

### Staff Reports

Press Corps – Not in attendance.  
Business Manager – Not in attendance.  
Event Development Group – Not in attendance.

### Committee Reports:

S&A – CB said Committee discussing proposed regulations concerning loaded side arms. The proposed Jeep regulations have passed the Committee.  
Unit Commanders Group – CB said nothing of note.  
Vehicle Committee – Jim Schouten said looking into how detailed regulations should be. He is looking to set date for completed set of draft regulations.

Civilian Committee – Not in attendance.

### Old Business:

12<sup>th</sup> SS Probationary Year Review – CB said that he was given information from TS stating that his only concern that is that the 12<sup>th</sup> SS should watch what the post in social media in the future since it may misconstrued. Robert Clouse (Representative from the 12<sup>th</sup> SS) said that they have been working on their public image. Vote to end 12<sup>th</sup> SS probation - Approved by BOD vote.  
Robert Clouse said was looking forward to the 12<sup>th</sup> SS continuing to be a unit with the HRS.

Event Support Payouts–  
Farminton, MN – WM said was still waiting on paperwork.  
S. Elgin – WM said event has been paid in full.

Draft Civilian Application and Proposal –

### Civilian Committee Proposal For Review of Non-Unit Attached Civilian Impressions

Whereas current civilian impression in the WWII HRS are virtually unregulated for safety and authenticity be it resolved that the Civilian Committee, a sub-committee of the Safety and Authenticity Committee, would encompass any non-unit attached civilian impression excluding any partisan impression which are expressly military in nature, and review these impressions to meet certain defined standards put forth by the Civilian Committee. The initial standards and any changes thereafter to the standards for the civilian impressions would be submitted to the WWII HRS Safety and Authenticity Committee for approval before enactment and implementation.

The membership process for any non-unit attached civilian would be to submit such information as designated by the Civilian Committee for approval of impression; upon approval of the impression the submitter would be given the WWII HRS membership information to enter personal information and pay dues; and be subject to regulation by the Civilian Committee to include mentoring and any possible disciplinary action for violations of WWII HRS safety and authenticity guidelines.

Vote to accept proposal - Approved by BOD vote





Electronic Waivers Review – Tabled for now.

#### Proposal for Elimination of Paper Applications –

JS suggested that the proposal be posted in the next Edge. DL mentioned that 98% of membership already use Eventbrite, so there would be very few members possibly affected. DL motioned for a BOD vote, it was not seconded.

#### New Business:

##### Proposal for Ad Hoc Special Committee Safety Review –

Whereas a request from several unit commanders to form an ad hoc committee for the purpose of developing a weapons and blank ammunition inspection it is proposed to form a Special Committee for Weapon Safety Inspection Review to be composed of 3 Axis, 3 US, 1 Commonwealth, 1 Soviet, 1 Other Nation(s) and 1 HRS Board Member (10 Members total) be it resolved that the proposed committee would develop an appendix to the HRS S&A rules in relation to weapons and blank ammunition inspection. If the results are approved by the Board, the final Draft can be submitted to the S&A Committee for a vote.

Proposal for HRS Background Checks – JS said that Unit Commander Rich Russo suggested that the HRS obtain background check on its members. CB said the cost would not be feasible unless membership dues were raised. DL said that there is also the time costs of getting the background checks. CB stated that other options such as unit performing background checks, using no costs checks such as units requiring FOID cards from their IL members is a no cost check.

Open Comments - None

Announcements: Next meeting August 18<sup>th</sup>

Adjourn: 8:29 pm

#### **HOW TO ATTEND a Board Meeting:**

Monthly teleconference Board meetings are open to all WW2 HRS members. Members do not need to register for the meetings nor do they need to contact the president or any board members. Members need to contact their unit commander for the call information to include phone number and password.

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.

### **WW2 HRS Board Elections**

The positions up for election this year are  
The President, Secretary, Axis Representative,  
and Commonwealth Representative.

These positions are elected in odd years,  
their current terms were for 2015 only.

The other Board Positions are up for re-election in even years  
(2016) and take office in January 2017.



I plan to run for WWII HRS President for the 2016-17 term. This will be my last term if I am reelected. When the Society just about hit bottom in the early 1990s a few people picked up the remains and declared, "Quality over quantity!" This decision has once again pushed the Society back up to over 1000 members to where it is today as the leading WWII reenactment group in the US if not the world. I believe myself and others in the recent past have carried that banner forward along with many members who see the importance of the WWII story for future generations. I think we, as an organization, are on the right path but need to continue to always press safety in our presentations and never let up on that. If we do let up, it is likely that some reenactor will be heading for the hospital rather than home at the end of the weekend. Avoidance of over complicating the functions of our Society is important as well but we should be open to experiment with new ways of operating. Lastly, those on the board serve the membership and need to have a keen ear toward the members. Losing that connection is always a danger for those in leadership of any group. One of my goals has been to communicate to the membership what the board is doing on their behalf. With the monthly communications, Facebook page, and Edge publications we have done that in my opinion. A few members are good in responses and constructive criticism but the WWII HRS Board will always welcome more communication from the membership. In any case, I would like to be elected to the WWII Historical Reenactment Society Board of Directors President for the 2016-17 term.

Jonathan Stevens 9th Infantry Division, WWII HRS

Others in current Board positions have not yet declared if they intend to run, run for a different position or not run again.





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.**

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## YOUTUBE

My videos are posted on my "Heinz Thiel" Channel  
If you search (Google) Heinz Thiel you should find them.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxFcEYP2-vd2TfMS2b3noDQ>



From **Matthäus Bachmeier**

### **What is it like to be in a battle-combat re-enactment?**

Being in a WW2 reenactment battle is nerve racking. The adrenaline rush surges as you drive into battle. Fighting along with your comrades is a feeling not many people can get. You know it's just a reenactment but you start to feel like you're in a real battle. The sounds, the sights, and smells are all there it's just what they would have experienced 70 plus years ago.

### **What is it like being around all the WW2 Equipment?**

Being around all this WW2 equipment has got to be one of the most educational and thrilling parts. You see working World War 2 tanks, jeeps, cannons, motorcycles and more. Seeing everything the medical equipment, food, home front items, uniforms, gear, weapons everything really shows how passionate we are and knowing that the public gets to see and learn this too is gratifying.

### **Did you experience Time Travel back to 1940?**

Being in any unit in the WW2 HRS you will experience a close bond with people and make many friends. Everyone helps out everyone. It's not just dressing up its doing what the soldiers did in World War 2 and do it to the fullest extent of accuracy. You feel like your back in time 70 plus years ago. You experience the foods they ate, the music, the camaraderie, the vehicles, everything. It's really overwhelming sometimes but it's a great thing to show the public how things were back then. There is just no better way than to live it and experience it in real life.

### **Why do you like being in 5th Company GrossDeutschland?**

Being a part of the Filthy Fifth has a meaning. It is not just a group of men and women hanging out its more than that. It is going and getting yourself covered with mud, it is helping one guy out with his gear because he is having a hard time, and it is sitting by the camp fire and sharing stories and laughs. Just seeing and riding in the KFZ 69 Horch is breath taking. This vehicle is the only one running in North America. Being part of this unit is so gratifying. Having the vehicles, the weapons, the gear, and the events all of it is just.. well its indescribable.



## Here is an idea about Further Reading By Josef Kleffman

Many of our fellow reenactors know just about their unit and that is it. To give a better overall impression they should know more about the history in particular that area they came from, and how far back in history they want to go will depend on the age of the person they are portraying.

I have compiled a list that I believe to be of help to members of the HRS, what I have written here is just a sample of the information of books in my personal library. Since I live in Central Illinois this information you would have read about in your local paper or hear the information on the radio.

The 1st category is Illinois History

The 1937 Chicago Steel Strike by John F Hogan/ This day also came to be known as the Memorial Day massacre. It was the rise of the United Steel Worker Union and their clash between Republic Steel and the Chicago Police Department

Buddy, can you spare a dime? by R.G. Bluemer/ It is a history of the CCC and WPA works that were carried out in the Illinois Valley from 1929-1940. It also is interlaced with local history that was happening in the same area during this time period.

Bloody Williamson a chapter in American Lawlessness by Paul Angle This book covers a history of the Illinois county with one of the highest crime and murder rates prior to 1930

The Forgotten Man by Amity Shlaes This book is a long one but it is worth the read, as it tells about everyday life, economy, politics, industry, the NRA, WPA, CCC. It will give the reader a well-rounded History of the Great Depression and why the people that lived through it were to become the Greatest Generation

Hard Times by Studs Terkel This is an oral history of the Great Depression, The book was 1st written in the 1970 and has been reprinted again. I would rate it with the Forgotten Man as top two books on the Depression. The book covers

interviews with Bonus Marchers, Hobos, Big Money, Men and Boys, Rise of the Unions, Farmers, The New Deal, Every day work, Newspaper men, Huey Long, Campus Life, Fine Arts Public Servants, Crime, Etc.

The 2nd category is US History:

Home Country by Ernie Pyle It is a collection of his Newspaper articles while he was a traveling journalist from 1935-1940 most are human interest stories, but funny and well written.

The New Age of Franklin Roosevelt 1932-1945 by Dexter Perkins It covers his rise into the Presidents seat, the Great Depression and the Second World War.

The American Home Front 1941-1942 by Alistair Cooke Cooke traveled throughout the US in the early part of WW2. At the time Cooke was working for the BBC, this series of articles were never published until after Cooke's death. The book gives a great snap shot of the US in the early 1940's.

The 3rd category is the Human Interest side, personal accounts

The Fortress a diary of Anzio and after by Raleigh Trevelyan Trevelyan was a Lieut in the Rifle Brigade(British Army) while at Anzio he was with the Green Howard in the 5th Div. He fought in the front until November 1944 when he was assigned to the Military Mission in Rome.

Pacific War diary 1942-1945 by James J Fahey Seaman First Class on board the USS Montpelier a light Cruiser. Fahey enlisted in October 1942 and had 4 weeks of basic training and was shipped out on the Montpelier. Keeping a diary was against Navy Regulations and Fahey is very blunt about his day to day life aboard the ship. For example "today I stood 24 hours at battle stations (Fahey was an ammo humper on a 40MM gun) all I got to eat was an apple and a bologna sandwich".

Battle at Best by S.L.A. Marshall These are 1st hand accounts in short story form by the soldier that were in the action. This book is a collection of Marshall's writings, there is also a few stories from the Korean War.

The Education of Private Urish Army serial #36 909 179 MOS 604- light machine gunner Urish is a local man living in Morton Illinois, he was drafted and sent through the Army replacement system, he is very up front about his feelings for the enemy and the US Army replacement system. Urish was assigned to the 11th airborne and served in the Philippines campaign from 1944 till 1945 when the 11th was assigned duty in Japan under the occupations forces. As a side note the 11th airborne was the only div that every man was both Glider and Airborne qualified. Urish did complete this training until after the war was over and he was station in Japan as many other men in his division

Blood Red Snow/ The memoirs of a German Soldier on the Eastern front by Gunter K Koscherrek Gunter was at Stalingrad and managed to escape, he served in the front lines as a heavy machine gunner throughout the war. His book is gritty and down to earth about day to day life on the Eastern front. He was wounded several times and at the end of the war he managed to escape a Russian POW Camp with the help of a US Army Doctor.





World War II Items For Sale  
Contact Ed Fahrner, WW II HRS, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
630-858-8567  
[fahrnerlsa@aol.com](mailto:fahrnerlsa@aol.com)

- M1 Carbine Magazine Pouches - Belt **\$25.00 Each**
- 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 **\$ 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**



WORLD WAR 2 HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY  
<http://www.WorldWarTwoHRS.org/>

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