

THE EDGE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE



WORLD WAR 2 Historical Re-enactment Society

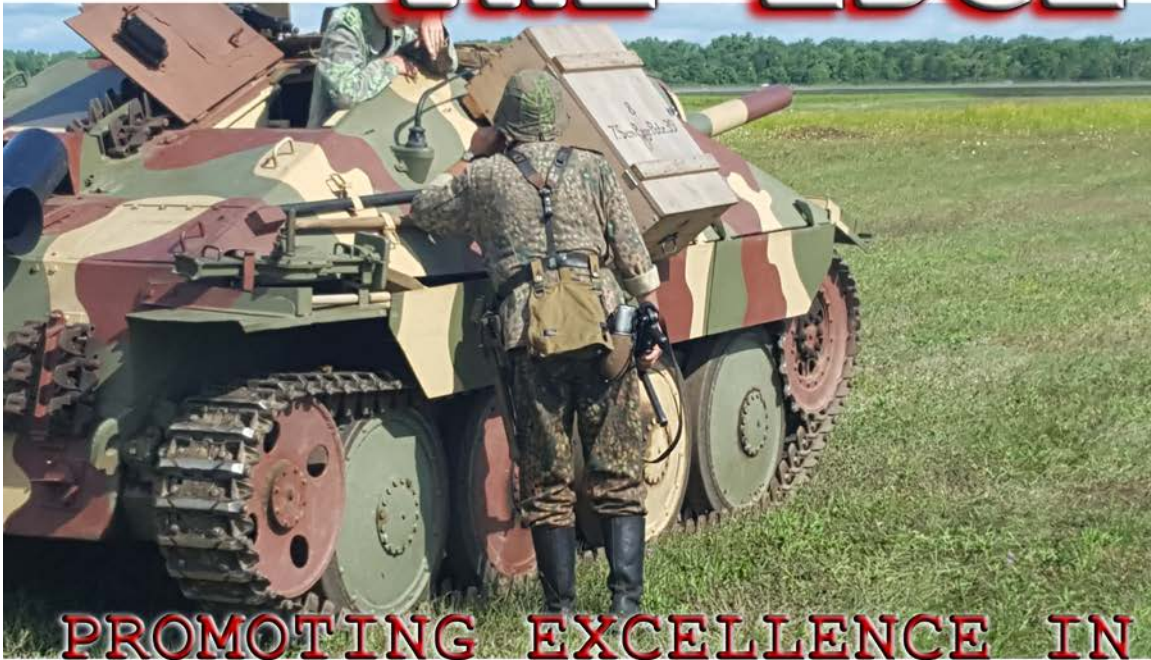
Normandy, France OMAHA BEACH – June 2016
Photos by Lucas Ryan (See the story at the end of this issue)

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THE EDGE * VOLUME 25 * ISSUE 08 * SEPTEMBER 2016



THE EDGE



2/SS Pz.Pi.Btl.5, Wiking
Photos by Steve Roersma taken at Thunder Over Michigan – August 2016

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Ozaukee County Wisconsin – Pioneer Village May 2016
Photos By Peter Mowat - WW2 HRS Press Corps

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2016 WWII HRS Board Elections

The positions up for election this year are
Vice President,
Treasurer,
and Allied Representative.

The terms are for two years. The qualifications to run for a board position are listed below and found in the WWII HRS bylaws under “**ARTICLE X: ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**, Section 3. Board of Directors Elections”:

“Any individual wishing to run for a Board position, who is at least 21 years of age and has been a member in good standing of the Society for at least two years, may announce his or her candidacy for office by September 1 of an election year. A written statement of intent and goals shall be delivered to at least two (2) Board members and the editor of the Society's publication(s).”

The expectations for any WWII HRS board member is to regularly attend board meetings, participate civilly in any discussions and decisions on WWII HRS business, and be available at events if needed. This means the position does require time and effort. If you have neither time nor effort please do not apply! In general the duties of the Vice President are to chair the Safety and Authenticity Committee, to regulate the new and existing unit charters, and encourage new units to seek an HRS charter. The Treasurer is to track and report on the organization finances and regularly report to the board and membership a complete picture of the financial situation. The Allied Representative's job is to ensure the needs of the Allied units, including Soviet units, are well met for the organization along with other assigned duties.

If you think you can meet these requirements and serve your fellow members, submit a no longer than one page written statement of your intentions for a position, a bio, and why you are qualified to serve on the board. Also include an image of yourself in your WWII uniform. This will be sent to the membership through the HRS media so the members can make their choice. The deadline is September 30 and the candidates will be announced in the October issue of the Edge. A committee of three people will review the submissions and make sure all seeking a board position meet the qualifications. Voting will take place in November.

Send all submissions to President Jon Stevens at jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net.



July 2016 Press Release New HRS Media Coordinator Position Created

HRS Axis Rep. Dave Fornell was appointed by the Board of Directors as the interim media coordinator for the society in an effort to develop promotional support for HRS events. He was asked to fill the position of media coordinator to get the position started and plans to step down after establishing promotional materials and defining what the role is for future appointees.

Fornell worked as a journalist and editor for local newspapers in the Chicago suburbs for 12 years before becoming editor of two medical magazines, spending the past 9 years covering cardiology and radiology. His job requires a lot of social media interaction, video production and website content management, so he was chosen for the temporary role based on that experience.

He plans to create sample press releases and tip sheets instructing members organizing events on how to promote their events to gain more public and re-enactors. This information will be shared on the HRS website when completed. He is also reviewing the HRS' social media and Website for make suggestions to enhance page views, likes and enhance service to HRS members.

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.

WW2 HRS Units are welcome to advertise their Events and Accomplishments in The Edge.
ANY WW2 HRS Member can submit an item for publication here in The EDGE.

If your unit has news it would like to 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.

Heinz Thiel - WW2 HRS Press Corps
GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com

I am willing to spend a day with your unit to get photos and video.
Please contact me if you would like some special coverage of your unit or event.

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Treasurer Wayne McCulley

**TREASURER'S REPORT
WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
AUGUST 2016**

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF JULY 31, 2016

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$12,310.72
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$52,432.70
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$302.20

Account Totals

\$65,045.62

INCOME For JULY 2016

Membership Income	\$435.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$4.98
Total Income	\$439.98

EXPENDITURES FOR JULY 2016

Eventbrite Service Fees	\$50.46
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Postage	10.29
Total Expenditures	\$73.55

2016 Membership Income	\$10,435.00
2016 Interest Income	\$31.58
2016 Miscellaneous Income	\$300.00
2016 Total Income	\$10,766.58
2016 Expenses	\$9,440.93
2016 Total Income Less 2016 Expenditures	\$1,325.65

Respectfully Submitted by
Wayne McCulley
Treasurer
World War Two Re-Enactment Society Inc.





EVENTS

September

September

22-25

WWII DAYS MIDWAY VILLAGE, ROCKFORD IL.

Sep



Loc: Midway Village, 6799 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL

Dates: September 22, 23, 24, and 25

Event Times:

Thursday Sept. 22: 9:00am Gates open for setup

Friday Sept. 23: 9:45-2:15pm School tours No personal vehicles allowed in Living History Campsite

Saturday Sept. 26: 11:00am-5:00pm Museum is open to the public Sunday Sept. 24: 11:00am-4:00pm Museum is open to the public 7:00pm Park closes to everyone **Registration Times:** Registration will be located at the hospital, we will have signs pointing you in the right direction.

Thursday Sept 22, 7pm-10pm

Friday Sept 23, 5pm until 10pm

Saturday Sept 24, 7am-10am

Sunday Sept 25, 9:30am-10am

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

Fee: Free if you pre-register. Onsite registration: \$10 processing fee.

No organization membership fee: \$10

Contact: Scott Koelling (SKoelling@aol.com), 2.Panzer Division - Overall coordinator

Website: <http://www.ww2rockfordevent.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ww2rockfordevent>

Authenticity Notes: Any WWII impressions may set up authentic camps. Partisans welcome and will be subject to S&A Inspection.

ALL camps are assigned, so please check in with Dave Fornell

(WWIIdave@comcast.net) for an assignment.

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No overnight vehicles permitted in campsite area.

Sponsoring Unit (s): 2nd Panzer Division, 353rd Infantry

23-25

WALK BACK IN TIME 2016

Sep



Loc: Audrain County Historical Society, 501 South Muldrow Street, Mexico, MO 65265

Dates: Sept. 23-25, 2016

Event Times: 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

Registration Times: All day Thursday, All day Friday and Saturday 0800-1000 in the 29th Panzergrenadiers Camp

Pre-Registration: Display space is reserved on a first come first served basis. You need to contact the event coordinator Chris Adams at cblackthorne@hotmail.com. Even if you have attended this event in the past do not assume you have the same area.

Fee: None

Contact: Chris Adams, 573-680-1244 or cblackthorne@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.audrain.org>

Authenticity Notes: WWII HRS safety and authenticity rules apply. All theaters are welcome, ETO, PTO, and MTO.

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No firing of weapons between 2200 and 0800 at night.

Restrictions on Minors: WWII HRS rules apply

Other restrictions: None

Sponsoring Unit(s): 84th Infantry Division Railsplitters and the 29th Panzergrenadier Regiment

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October	
October	
01-02	MISSOURI MILITARY HISTORY WEEKEND 2016
Oct	<p>Loc: Missouri Military History Museum, 2302 Militia Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dates: Oct. 1-2, 2016 Event Times: 10:00am - 4:00pm each day. Setup on Friday starting in the afternoon. Registration Times: Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Pre-Registration: Space is limited so please contact the event coordinator to reserve your display area, Chris Adams at cblackthorne@hotmail.com Fee: None Contact: Chris Adams, 573-680-1244 or cblackthorne@hotmail.com Website: None Authenticity Notes: WWII HRS safety and authenticity rules apply. All theaters are welcome, ETO, PTO, and MTO. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No firing of weapons except during designated demonstration times. Restrictions on Minors: WWII HRS rules apply Other restrictions: None Sponsoring Unit(s): 29th Panzergrenadier Regiment</p>
	
14-16	WINTER LINE, A WW II MTO TACTICAL
Oct	<p>Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Oakland, Tiff, MO 63674 Dates: 14-16 October 2016 Event Times: 12noon 14 October - 12 noon 16 October 2016 Tactical 9am - 5 pm on 15 October. Camping from Friday - Sunday Registration Times: 0600 - 0800 15 October 2016 Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$15 at the gate Contact: Gary Adkins papaoad@20thcenturygi.com Website(s): https://www.facebook.com/events/1132691540108726 http://campsimanevents.webs.com http://fssf6-3.com Authenticity Notes: Per HRS Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live Ammo Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS Regulations Other restrictions: N/A Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force 6th Co 3rd REG HRS / Camp Siman Events</p>
	
November	
November	
04-06	1944 OST FRONT WW II TACTICAL
Nov	<p>Loc: Camp Siman Events - 10135 Oakland Tiff, MO 63674 Dates: 4-6 November 2016 Event Times: Gate opens 12 noon 4 November, Event 9am - 4pm 5 November, gate closes 12 noon 6 November 2016 Registration Times: 7-9 am 5 November Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$15 at the gate. Contact: papaoadfssf@sbcglobal.net or sapphiredragon495@gmail.com Websites: https://www.facebook.com/events/557586434419564 http://fssf6-3.com http://www.6thcorpslhc.com http://campsimanevents.webs.com Authenticity Notes: Per HRS regulations Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live ammo. Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS regulations Other restrictions: All blanks need to be in a clear plastic bag. End blocks, stripper clips and belts may be preloaded, all Magazines must be empty for inspection. Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force 6th CO 3rd REG</p>
	

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LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT'S

WORLD WAR II EVENT SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change

DELLWOOD PARK

Rte. 171 & Woods Drive
Lockport, IL

SAT., SEPT. 10TH

- 9:00 a.m. - Park Opens/Flag Raising Ceremony
(Performing Arts Center)
Hosted by the Lockport VFW Post 5788

Re-enactor Safety and Authenticity Check
(Performing Arts Center)
- 10:15 a.m. - WWII Weapons Demonstration
(Performing Arts Center)
- 11:30 a.m. - Battle (Battlefield)
- 1:00 p.m. - Andrews Sisters Musical Revue by the
Legacy Girls (Performing Arts Center)
- 3:00 p.m. - Battle (Battlefield)

Field Hospital Demo at German Camps
following Battle
- 4:00 p.m. - Music & Dance Lessons of the Era
featuring Grand Avenue Big Band
- 6:30 p.m. - Bridge skirmish
- 8:00 p.m. - USO Show featuring
The Chicago Experience
- 10:30 p.m. - Park Closes

SUN., SEPT. 11TH

**Food Court &
Beer Garden
available**

- 9:00 a.m. - Park Opens/Flag Raising Ceremony
(Performing Arts Center)
Hosted by the Lockport VFW Post 5788

Re-enactor Safety and Authenticity Check
(Performing Arts Center)
- 10:15 a.m. - WWII Weapons Demonstration
(Performing Arts Center)
- 11:30 a.m. - Battle (Battlefield)

Field Hospital Demo at German Camps
following Battle
- 12:30 p.m. - WWII Girls Baseball Living History Demo
Meet the Rockford Peaches!
(Baseball Field)
- 1:00 p.m. - Andrews Sisters Musical Revue by the
Legacy Girls (Performing Arts Center)
Hosted by the Dellwood Foundation
- 3:00 p.m. - Battle (Battlefield)
- 5:00 p.m. - Camp Closes



Hospitality Tent for
WWII, Vietnam & Korean War Veterans

Sat., 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Located in Beer Garden

Sponsored by

Kozol Brothers & AARP

Enjoy appetizers & beverages



First Midwest Bank


BANK WITH MOMENTUM



815-838-3621

WWW.LOCKPORTWWII.COM





See Back for
Other Event Themed
Experiences

Midwest's
Largest

20th Anniversary


WWII

DAYS

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

Saturday September 24th 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Sunday September 25th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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- ★ Over 40 Authentic Military Vehicles
- ★ Over 1,200 Reenactors
- ★ Battles with Pyrotechnics
- ★ Skirmishes, Demos & Displays
- ★ Andrews Sisters Live Musical Performance **NEW!**
- ★ Militaria Sales Vendors from around the Midwest
- ★ Tour General Patton's Mobile Command Center **NEW!**
- ★ Affordable Food



Midway Village Museum
Rockford
HISTORY MUSEUM

Admission:

- ★ \$14 Adults
- ★ \$7 Children
- ★ Museum Members are Free
- ★ Free Parking

Golf cart shuttles available for guests with special needs.

Save The Date

TICKETS: ONLINE WWW.MIDWAYVILLAGE.COM, MUSEUM STORE & AT THE GATES | INFO: 815-397-9112

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



20th Anniversary

WWII

DAYS

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

 **Dinner with General Patton**
Thursday, September 22, 6-8 p.m.

NEW!

Participants will enjoy a tasty meal and hear a first-person presentation by General Patton who stands out in the American conscious better than any other general. As a combat general he was unequalled, fearless, brave to a fault and keenly aware his destiny was out of his hands. Hear about his experiences, see photos and artifacts, and receive a special tour of the General Patton Mobile Command Center, new to the event this year!
\$35 per person for adults and children; \$30 museum members.
Space is limited and preregistration is required by Thursday, September 15.
Visit the website or call 815-397-9112 for ticket price and to register.
The dinner is held at the museum center on the museum grounds.

 **Behind the Lines Tour**
Friday, September 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Returning

Experience the WWII Days Event the evening before it opens to the public with a behind the scenes look. Participants will interact with reenactors, get an up close look at vehicles, and experience displays. Also included is a tour of the 150 yard, 3 bunker trench system and a copy of the 20th Anniversary souvenir book!
\$15 per person, preregistration is required by Monday, September 19 and space is limited. Please call 815-397-9112 to secure your space. The tour is held on the event site on the museum grounds.

 **USO Dance**
Saturday, September 24, 7-11 p.m.

Returning

Listen to the featured swinging sounds of the Moonlight Jazz Orchestra. Guests are encouraged to attend the USO style dance in 1940s attire. A bar and concessions are available for purchase.
\$7 cover at the door, registered reenactors are free of charge.
The dance is held at the Indoor Sports Center, 8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park, IL.

MIDWAY VILLAGE MUSEUM | 6799 GUILFORD RD., ROCKFORD, IL | 815-397-9112 | WWW.MIDWAYVILLAGE.COM

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



Advance On Saint Lo – Prelude to Operation Cobra Tactical Event

Location: L.E. Phillips Scout Reservation, 2900 16th Street, Haugen, Wisconsin, 54841.

Dates: Friday, October 7th to Sunday, October 9th, 2016.

Event Times: Check-in Friday, 4pm – 10pm and Saturday, 7:30am to 8:30am. S & A at 8:45am.
Scenarios go from 9:15am to 5:30pm. Saturday evening meal at 6:30pm.

Registration Times: Until midnight, October 4th. You must pre-register, no walk-ons allowed.

Pre-registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advance-on-st-lo-wwii-reenactor-tactical-event-tickets-25364120768>

Fee: \$20.00 for tactical and Saturday evening meal.

Additional \$15.00 if staying overnight 1 or 2 nights.

Barracks style accommodations, bunk beds with mattresses, restrooms, showers, limited availability.

Contact: Ross Hedin (Event Coordinator), ross_hedin@yahoo.com, 763-267-3704

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/274470642927491/>

Authenticity Notes: All WWII HRS authenticity rules will apply and be strictly enforced. Timeframe is July, 1944, European Theater, Normandy area of France. All Allied and German impressions correct for the ETO and that time period are welcome. No partisan or civilian impressions allowed and this event is not open to public spectators. Rules of engagement will be designed to make the event as realistic as possible. Battle scenarios will be objective oriented. Units must maintain squad strength to be an effective fighting force.

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: **NO LIVE AMMO!** Authentic or period reproduction vehicles are allowed but use on site may be limited depending upon weather conditions.

Restrictions on minors: All participants must be at least 18 years old.

Other restrictions: No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances. No pyrotechnics or smoke allowed. No digging holes. No smoking in or around buildings, allowed in wooded areas only, please leave no trace.

Sponsoring Unit: 105th Engineer Combat Battalion, 30th Infantry Division, St. Paul, MN.
Ross Hedin



THE HITLER CHANNEL PRESENTS: A BRIDGE TO TIME



A JOURNEY

T. J. SOTIROPOLOS

*



Dear Edge,

I would like to ask that you give my new book a blurb in the next issues.

I enlarged and expanded my book.

It now has over 100 photographs and while I was in the process of finally getting the remainder of the typos out it dawned on me that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the WWII HRS!

With that realization I added over 30 photos of the first three years of reenacting WWII at Weldon Spring, MO-1975-1977.

What is my book about? Above all it is a WWII story. It is also two books in one; my novel of what might have happened if Britain's SOE plan to assassinate the leader of the Third Reich had went into effect is the bulk of the pages, which is encapsulated within my story of how I became so engrossed in the Second World War and how the WWII HRS came about. Unlike fictional tales such as: *THE INGLOURIOUS BASTARDS* or *THE DIRTY DOZEN*, I pumped as much fact into the story as I could adding footnotes into the reality of the story as it progresses.

We founded the WWII HRS when I was a baby-faced 25 year old. When I turned sixty I felt it was time to give myself a birthday present-a trip to *Mein Mutter's Family Heimat*-Germany. My trip included nine countries and of course I visited as many WWII sites and museums as possible including the place where my dad's cousin crashed his P-38 fighter-bomber. During my three week vacation I spent two nights at Hitler's RSD Headquarters in Obersalzberg and as I walked along his favorite walk to the Mooslahnerkopf overlook I could not help but think, "If I was that British sniper where would I choose to take a shot at Hitler from?" It wasn't long before I saw the spot that warm Bavarian July day.

Three months later, after viewing that Brad Pitt movie mentioned earlier, I thought, "My idea for a story is a far better than that TIB film." So I began writing and now, seven years later, you will (God willing) find me at the Red Barn autographing copies of same where it will be offered for \$20 (less than the \$21.95 Amazon price) and if you are a registered WWII Days participant in period clothing you qualify for a \$5 discount.

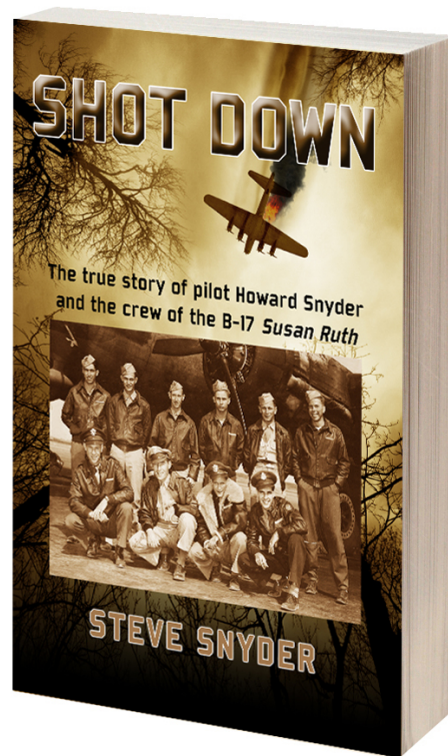
Thank You

Terry Johns

(T.J. Sotiropoulos, my father's Greek birth name)

I plan to offer this commemorative 40th anniversary issue until 2018.

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SHOT DOWN

The true story of pilot Howard Snyder and the crew of the B-17 *Susan Ruth*

Shot Down is about author Steve Snyder's father, Howard Snyder, the ten man crew of the B-17 *Susan Ruth*, and the unique experiences of each man after their plane was knocked out of the sky by German fighters over the French/Belgium border on February 8, 1944. Some men died. Some were captured and became prisoners of war. Some evaded the Germans for a while but were betrayed, captured, and shot. Some men evaded capture and were missing in action for seven months. The stories are all different and are all remarkable.

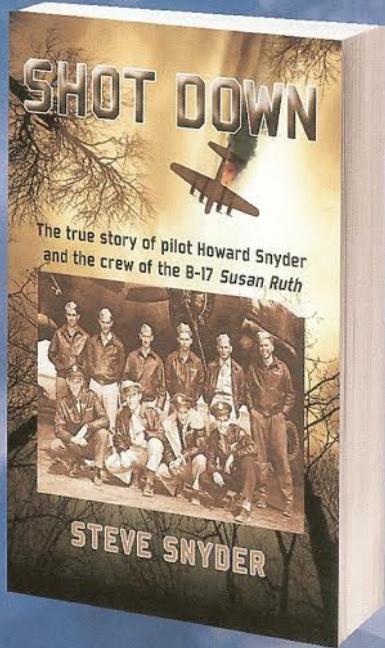
Through personal letters, oral and written accounts, military records, and interviews – all from people who took part of the events that happened 70 years ago, the stories of the crewmen come alive. Further enhancing their stories are more than 200 time period photographs of the people who were involved and the places where the events took place.

Even before the dramatic battle in the air and the subsequent harrowing events on the ground, the story is informative, insightful, and captivating. Prior to the fateful event on February 8, the book covers the men's training, their journey to England, life while stationed there, and numerous combat missions. Everything is centered around the 306th Bomb Group stationed at Thurleigh, England of which the crew of the *Susan Ruth* was a part.

To add background and context, many historical facts about the war are entwined throughout the book so that the reader has a feel for and understanding of what was occurring on a broader scale. Thus, it is a fascinating account about brave individuals, featuring pilot Howard Snyder, set within the compelling events of the war in Europe. You will be given an insider's seat to the drama surrounding a remarkable group of young airmen and the courageous Belgian people who risked their lives to help them.

In 1989, a memorial to the crew of the *Susan Ruth* was dedicated at Macquenoise, Belgium and every year celebrations are held to honor and remember the men who are now all gone but not forgotten. It's Our Duty To Remember.

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Set within the framework of World War II in Europe, Steve Snyder's book, **SHOT DOWN**, is about the dramatic experiences of each member of a B-17 crew after their plane, piloted by the author's father, was knocked out of the sky by German fighters over the French/Belgian border on February 8, 1944.

Some men died. Some were captured and became prisoners of war. Some evaded the Germans for awhile but were betrayed, captured, and shot.

Some men were missing in action for seven months but evaded capture through the help of courageous Belgian patriots who risked their lives to help them. The stories are all different and are all remarkable.

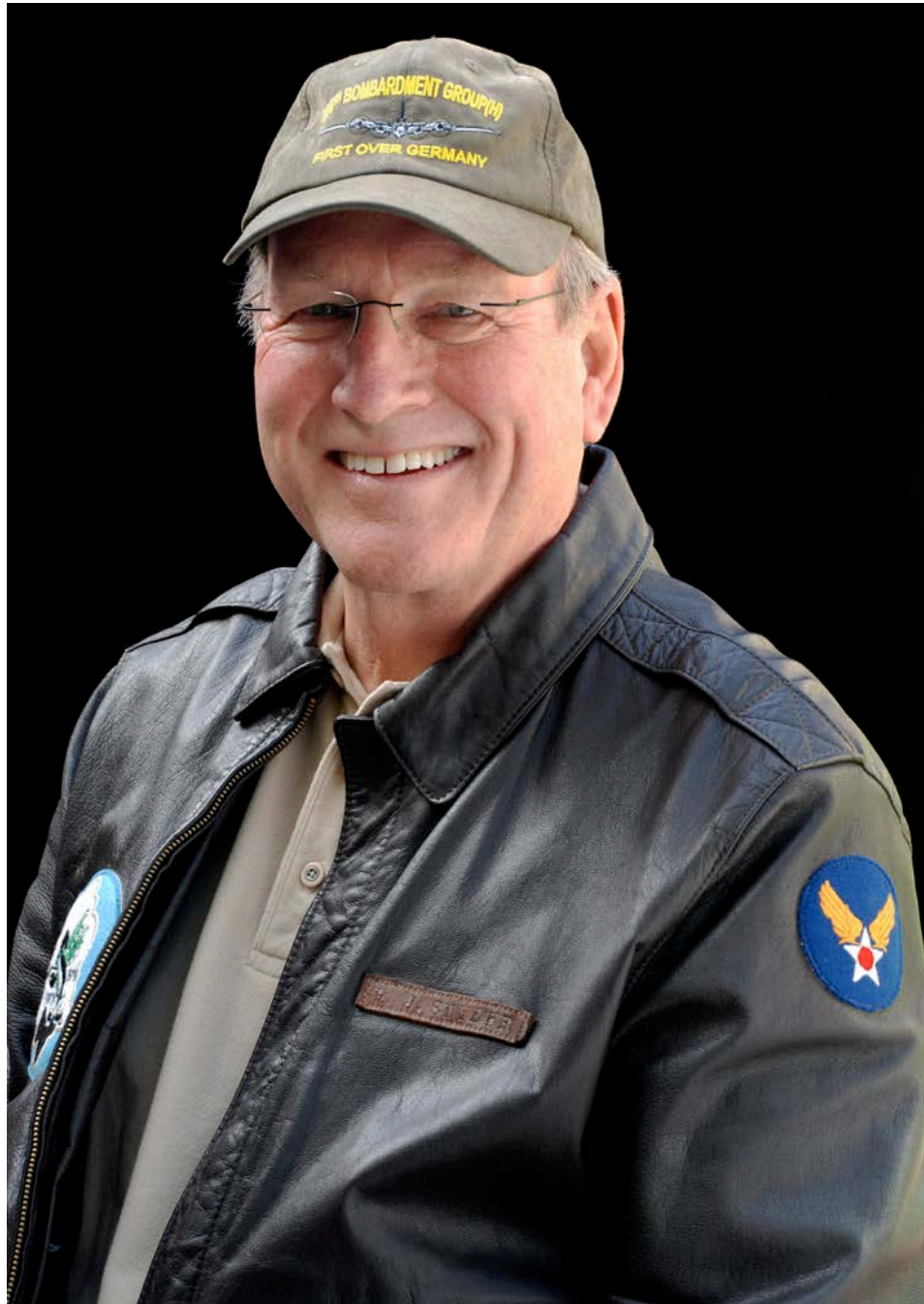
Since being released in August 2014, **SHOT DOWN** has won 19 book awards in the categories of Military History, War & History, Historical Non-Fiction and U.S. History. The hardcover book has more than 200 time period photographs of the people who were involved and of the places where the events took place.

www.SteveSnyderAuthor.com

AVAILABLE AT
BARNES & NOBLE

AND ON
amazon
.com

Available wherever books are sold - Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, etc



To learn more, go to the book website at <http://SteveSnyderAuthor.com>



Reproduction Military Vehicles Or How to make even more of your expendable income disappear

Mike & Sonya Saltsgaver

Due to the ever increasing prices of military vehicles, both European and US, many reenactors choose to recreate these vehicles from scratch. The level of quality varies between true masterpieces, to low budget “airsoft” level representations. The HRS vehicle committee has been working on the development of standards they hope members can use as tools to ensure their reproduction vehicles provide an accurate and acceptable portrayal of the real thing. A guideline for Jeeps and Kubelwagens is already in the works, and one for motorcycles will also be published. The veterans, general public, and fellow reenactors deserve our best efforts.

Sonya & I have been working on a reproduction Kubelwagen. A company in New Mexico has been making reproductions for several years now, but some of the compromises in their construction take away from an authentic appearance (ex. wheels, fenders, ground clearance). We found correct 16 inch wheels & reproduction tires (I had to look to Hungary, Germany, and the Czech Republic for those) and reproduction fenders from Michigan. To get the correct ground clearance for the body, I changed the front and rear suspension components. VW Thing front control arms and early 60’s rear spring plates & torsion bars did the trick. Other bits & pieces to give the Kooble a more authentic look were fabricated in my shop.



What we started with



Tear down & re-build

*



Suspension modifications



New Tires & Wheels



New Fenders



Almost there

It's been a fun project & the end result is a vehicle that I'm not too embarrassed to park next to a real Kubelwagen. There are still a few things that could be done, but only a real Kubel owner will spot what they are. Sonya & I have enjoyed using it at reenactments and feel it is a good tool for educating the public about the vehicles of WW2.

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History of Jäger Regiment 38

A reenactment Unit

By Bruce D. Enlow, Esq.



The historical reenactment unit I/Jäger Regiment 38 (JGR38), began in 1976 as one of the original reenactment units of the WWII Historical Reenactment Society (HRS). Many of the core units of the HRS were formed in St. Louis, Missouri in the mid-1970's. JGR 38 was formed by a WWII veteran Art Obermeyer. Initially the unit was designated "Kampfgruppe Obermeyer" and then was renamed as I/Jäger Regiment 38.

The unit JGR 38 has had several commanders during its history, Art Obermeyer, Paul Brown, Rich Ottersbach, Scott Hayes, and presently Dave Goodwin.



Before discussing the aspects of WWII reenacting, there is a beckoning for a short discussion of the actual unit's history. It is fitting that a reenactment unit with a significant history should represent a German Army Regiment with a significant history. Infanterie-Regt. Feldmarschall Graf Moltke (1.Schlesisches) Nr.38 was formed on January 26th, 1818. It was initially numbered as the 35th regiment, then 37th and finally in 1829 the Infanterie-Regiment 38. The Regiment had been garrisoned in Glatz throughout its history. The title Fusilier-regiment was added in 1860. In 1848-49 the regiment was deployed to fight revolutionaries in Frankfurt and Baden. In the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, the regiment fought at the Battle of Königsgrätz, a pivotal battle of that war. In the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 the regiment fought at the Siege of Paris.

*



In 1891 they took the title von Moltke after Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, Prussian General and progressive Chief of Staff during the Bismarck wars and had died earlier that year. In the First World War the Regiment served on the Western Front notably at the Battles of the Somme and Cambrai. The Regiment was disbanded after WWI pursuant to the Treaty of Versailles.



In 1934 the Regiment was reconstituted as an Artillerieführer Division as a cover until the unmasking as on October 15, 1935

as Infanterie-Regiment 38 as part of 8. Infanterie-Division. The Regiment was again garrisoned in Glatz. The Regiment served in the first wave in the invasion of Poland. The Regiment also partook in the battle of France and occupation duty. In the Spring of 1941 the Regiment was moved to East Prussia and participated in the invasion of Russia. In November, 1941 the Regiment was returned to France and reclassified as Jäger Regiment 38 on June 30th 1942. The Regiment returned to the eastern front for the remainder of the war. The Regiment surrendered to the Soviet Army in Moravia in May, 1945



In the same manner, the hobby has grown in stages as well. The early years of WWII reenacting were quite different from the realities of today. At one time the HRS published a quarterly magazine "the Point" and a monthly newsletter "the Edge". It was always fun to get something in the mail that kept you connected to the hobby. However, as with most publications of today the digital age has replaced the hard copy.

In the beginning there were no reproductions and reenactors wore all original uniforms and equipment. Military vehicles were introduced very early in the history and have continued to become a main staple of any event. Most of the early reenactors had initially been military collectors. Throughout the history there has been a healthy tie between the two hobbies of collecting and reenacting. It is not surprising as the handling and study of original items gives the reenactor great insight and a connection to the period. It was not long before reproduction uniforms began to emerge from companies like New Columbia and Janke. A cottage industry of reproductions also sprung up. German uniforms would be fashioned from modifying Swedish or Marine Corps surplus. The quality of these modifications varied greatly.

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However, original field equipment still was the most favored choice. The Heer units had a significant advantage of having readily available and inexpensive Zeltbahnen. The Waffen SS units were at a significant disadvantage until affordable reproductions became available on the market.



In the early years Weldon Springs, Missouri had been a favorite venue for tactical events. Other notable early venues for tactical events which the unit enjoyed attending were Joliet, Illinois, Rensselaer, Indiana, and Blast Camp. Many of these events were in the dead of winter and parkas and great coats were essential. In spite of the weather, those events were a lot of fun and well worth the long drive even though you may get your feathers ruffled over hit calling. The HRS National Battle was always a tactical event and on Saturday night the annual meeting was held. During that time tactical events were favored by the society. In this new century the emphasis has changed to public events, the largest being at Rockford, Illinois. This event has become the de facto "HRS National Battle".



Reference materials were also limited in the early days of reenacting. Any old school German reenactor will remember his first copy of the Brian L. Davis book published in the 1970's. Although it may seem limited in its scope today, it was a bible for the early Heer reenactors at the time. Two of the most significant events which substantially changed the hobby are the collapse of the eastern block and the internet. These events opened the world to sharing information and trade of material stowed away behind the iron curtain. Over the past decade a whole new venue of good reproduction items have become available at reasonable prices. Further, the market now offers a cornucopia of reference books on very specific subjects such as rations, Soldbuch, and accessories. This has also spurred an available market for reproductions and originals items to supplement a German impression. All of these venues have provided today's reenactor the opportunity to build an impression with significant depth. Fortunately the unit has been able to sustain and grow with the hobby in its 40 year history.



The unit has historically been of medium size, hosting approximately 25 members throughout its history. The unit has consistently fielded motorcycles, Kubelwagen, and trucks. In the past several years the unit has hosted and co-hosted tactical events. The unit hosted an eastern front tactical event at Macon, Missouri. A few years ago the unit co-hosted a Bulge tactical event with the 35th Infantry at Camp Clark.

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In the last three years the unit has co-hosted a return to the Weldon Springs tactical event with the 84th Infantry Division. This event has been well attended and enjoyed by the “old Hares” and young alike. The unit has also been extras in an independent film “Rhineland”. Probably the key element of why the unit has survived so long is a strong sense of “Kameradschaft” within the unit. The young Turks of a unit become the old Hares, membership is fluid as people come and go or even pass away. The hobby evolves as society and technology change. As items become harder to acquire with time there is a hope that accurate reproductions become available. However, Kameradschaft is an element which cannot be bought or copied; it must be genuine and organic if a unit is to survive.



Here are Some **Jäger Regiment 38** event photos:
Grüß Gott
Bruce D. Enlow, Esq.
Furchtlos u. Trew!



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Jäger Regiment 38 event photos
By Bruce D. Enlow, Esq.

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The M1 Rifle

By Kerwin Law July 2016



The US Rifle, Caliber 30, M1 was a world class rifle at the time of its adoption in 1936. It was a sturdy and reliable gas operated semi-automatic 8 shot rifle, which really gave our troops an edge in battle. It's rapid fire and quick reloading capabilities proved invaluable in warfare. Although dated and obsolete by today's standards, it still measures up pretty well in my opinion. In the never ending quest to procure advanced weapons to stay ahead of one's adversaries, the M1 rifle was quite ground breaking at the time. Although it was not the first self-loading battle rifle ever utilized by a nation, it's solid design and wide distribution to US forces have secured the legendary M1s place in history. Like all weapons, it was not without its flaws, but it did almost everything it was envisioned to do very well. None other than General George S. Patton agreed, calling it "the greatest battle implement devised" While all the M1s history and details are too voluminous to list here, I'll try to hit on a few details that may be of interest to the reader.

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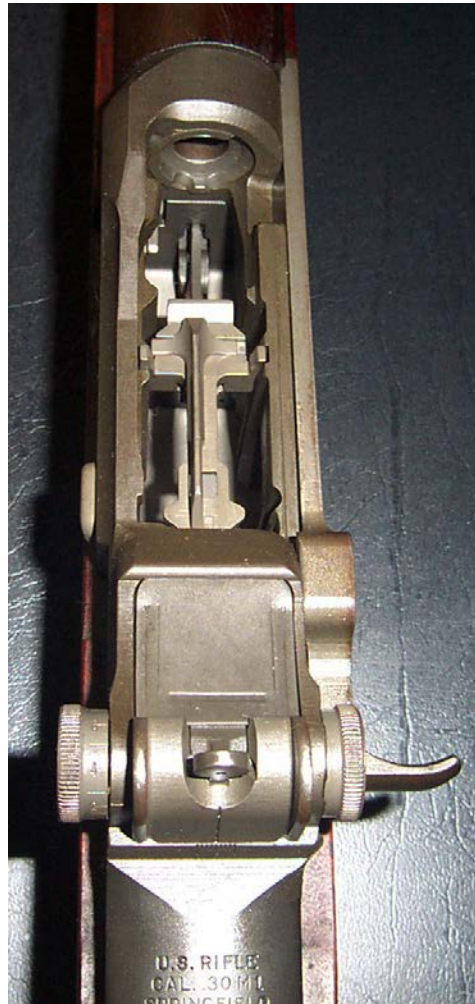
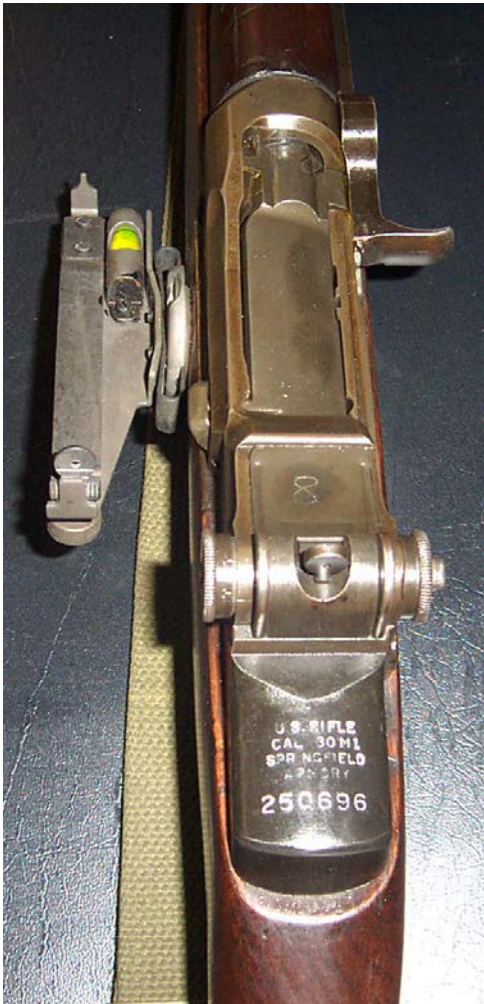
After America's involvement in WWI, our military leaders especially came to appreciate the usefulness of portable weapons with heavy firepower in armed conflicts. It was decided in the twenties to pursue a semi-automatic infantry rifle. The military set forth certain design parameters such as weight, caliber, etc. After several designs were submitted, a rifle by Canadian born John Cantius Garand showed a good deal of promise. On a side note, it's said he wanted his name pronounced gehr-und not ga-rand. Good luck with correcting that today. Anyway, Mr. Garand, however you choose to pronounce his name, was shortly thereafter hired on as a machinist by the government arsenal in Springfield Massachusetts. Although his earlier rifle and subsequent designs eventually didn't pan out, he finally hit on one in the 1930s. This rifle was designated the US Semiautomatic Rifle, caliber 30, M1. After several modifications and a slight name change, the rifle was deemed suitable for our military's use in 1936. The US Rifle, Caliber 30, M1 was now officially our main battle rifle. Even after its adoption, the rifle was still continually being refined and modified by John Garand and company at Springfield Armory. Another thing of noteworthiness is, Mr. Garand never received any royalties on his designs from our government because he signed over all his M1 related patents to them.

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Unlike several semi-auto rifles of its day that utilized the Bang System or a blowback design, the M1 used the gases produced by the fired cartridge to work the action. Although the gas system was one of the areas modified prior to WWII, it still worked on the same principle. As it turned out, the gas system was one of the rifles strong points and for the most part gave very little trouble. The gas operation tends to tame the .30-06s recoil a bit as an added bonus. One feature that draws criticism is it's en-bloc clip. After the last round is fired, the clip is ejected with an audible "PING". In my opinion, this particular criticism is overblown. Granted, it does tell the enemy the rifle is out of ammunition, which is not a good thing, but it takes about 3 seconds to reload it. Therefore, the enemy has to (A) know you are alone and (B) has to expose himself and fire at you, or close the gap with you, all in less than 3 seconds for this to be a tactical advantage. I have read where WWII vets claimed to have shot a few rounds then threw out a spare clip so they could play a "dirty trick" on the enemy. If there's one thing I've learned studying WWII history, it's that you never want to say never, but I still think it was mostly a non-issue. But then again, as someone who has only used his M1 on the rifle range who am I to say? You make the call on that one. One deserved dig on the M1 is the inability to easily top off the clip while it's in the rifle. When playing as a WWII reenactor I have witnessed this shortcoming first hand. When I happen to have 2 blanks left in the rifle, 3 "Jerries" tend to show up. When I have 3 left in the rifle, 4 of them seem to appear and so on. A fully loaded rifle as often as possible, is always a good thing. Another dig on the rifle is the unofficially named affliction called the M1 Thumb. While in my opinion it's really not a design flaw exactly, it still goes into the "bad" column. As many of you know, sloppy and/or incorrect clip loading of the M1 Rifle can reward you with a smashed thumb or any other appendage that happens to be in the way of the bolt as it is heading home. While I don't think any Purple Hearts were given out for this "injury", it's quite a painful inconvenience. Sometimes learning the hard way can motivate you to do something the right way. On a more positive note, the rifle's sights were very advanced for a combat rifle. The relatively fine windage and elevation adjustments coupled with positive repeatable clicks were quite a bit better than what was used on every other military rifle in use at the time. Now, you can make the argument that most of the time our soldiers left the sights alone in combat and I would agree with that, but a good rifleman who knows how to take advantage of those sights would be deadly "way out there" on the battlefield.

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The M1 Rifle was manufactured during WWII by Springfield Armory and Winchester, then after the war by Springfield Armory, Harrington & Richardson and International Harvester. There were a few foreign made ones as well. Total US production was just over 6 million, which spanned from 1936-1957. The only officially adopted variants were the M1c (July 1944) and M1d (Sept. 1944) sniper rifles. While both are technically WWII rifles, only the M1c is believed to have seen action in very limited numbers in the later stages of the Pacific Campaign. The M1d is not believed to have seen combat till the Korean Conflict, but as stated above, “never say never”.

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Although officially replaced by its cousin the M14 in 1957, the M1 soldiered on for many more years. There are reports of it remaining in our military's inventory in substantial numbers into the 70s and even 80s. The Navy even modified some to 7.62 NATO to extend its usefulness. Like a lot of our surplus military rifles of the 20 Century, it was given and loaned to our allies. Dozens of countries used the rifle at one time or another. As time went on, several M1s were sold off to the public by the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM) till the 90s, and then a federally chartered organization was established called the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) which continues today. Although M1 rifles through the CMP will be available for a while, the train is leaving the station. So If you haven't already, you'd better get "on board".

Kerwin Law 2016

(kclaws@consolidated.net)



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HOW TO ATTEND a Board Meeting:

Monthly teleconference Board meetings are open to all members. Members do not need to register for the meetings nor do they need to contact the president or any board members.

They need to contact their unit commander for the call information to include phone number and password. This creates less of a choke point and gets the information out to more with less hassle.

The monthly board meeting time/dates will change to accommodate the board members time schedules.

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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>2015 Minutes</p> <p>January February March April May June July August September October November December</p>	<p>2014 Minutes</p> <p>January February March April May June July August September October November December</p>
<p>2013 Minutes</p> <p>January February (canceled) March April May June July August September (canceled) October November December</p>	<p>2012 Minutes</p> <p>January February March April May June July August September (canceled) October November December (<u>No quorum</u>)</p>
<p>2011 Minutes</p> <p>January February March April May June July August September October November December</p>	<p>2010 Minutes</p> <p>January February March April May June July August September October November December</p>

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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

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MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the WWII Historical Reenactment Society

Board Meeting

19 July 2016

Meeting Start 7:35 PM

Welcome and Roll Call:

Position	Name	Present
President	Jonathan Stevens	YES
Vice President	Chuck Bolanis	NO
Secretary	Doug Loge	YES
Treasurer	Wayne McCulley	YES
Allied Representative	Ron Kapustka	NO
Axis Representative	Dave Fornell	YES
Commonwealth Rep.	Brian Jones	YES

HRS Members Present

Jim Schouten, Matt Rademacher, Chris Adams, George Reinke

Approval of Agenda

The July agenda was approved by BOD vote.

Reading of the Minutes

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

Officer Reports:

Vice President – Not in attendance

Treasurer –

TREASURER'S REPORT

WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY

July 2016

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30, 2016

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$11,949.27
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$52,427.72
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$302.20
Account Totals	\$64,679.19

INCOME FOR JUNE 2016

Membership Income	\$465.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$5.16
Total Income	\$470.16

EXPENDITURES FOR JUNE 2016

Eventbrite Service Fees	\$53.94
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Total Expenditures	\$66.74
2016 Membership Income	\$10,000.00
2016 Interest Income	\$26.60
2016 Miscellaneous Income	\$300.00
2016 Total Income	\$10,326.60
2016 Expenses	\$9,367.38
2016 Total Income Less 2016 Expenditures	\$959.22

Secretary – DL said

Current membership total – 977 which is similar to last year's totals at this time.

Membership cards mailed – 544 for the year so far.

New events – New events are listed on the HRS website.

Commonwealth Rep – BJ said that 10 Commandos unit had a few members sign up recently.

Allied Rep – Not in Attendance at this time.

Axis Rep – DL said nothing new as far as units are concerned. DF asked if DL asked he received the event request paperwork yet. DL said no, but he did receive an email that it was complete from the event organizer. DF mentioned an upcoming Rockford work day.

HRS Media Staff Reports

Media Coordinator - Dave Fornell – Looked at FB page for HRS and it has close to 2000 like which is good for an organization with about 1000 members.

Periodical Editor – Jeff Skender - Not in attendance.

Webmaster – John Olsen - Not in attendance.

Social Media Editor/Coordinator – Vacant.

Society Archivist & Library – Vacant.

Other staff and Groups

Business Manager – David Jameson – Not in attendance.

Event Development Group – Rich Russo – Not in attendance.

Committee Reports:

S&A –

JS said is still getting information on Jagerdivision 28.

Unit Commanders –

JS said HRS membership registration information was posted several times on the group.

Vehicle Committee –

Jim Schouten said he would bring up discussion on motorcycles again to the group. He will also start recruiting vehicle inspectors for the Rockford event. He asked DF to add the vehicle inspection site location to the Rockford event website/maps.

Civilian Committee – Nicole Fornell - Not in attendance.

DF said Nicole has received a request to join the group.

Special Committee Safety Inspection Review – Mike Blazejack - Not in attendance. JS said he received message that Mike was busy, but will have some information in August.

Old Business:

Legal Review of Waivers – JS said he received the \$1600.00 invoice for the attorney review of the documents. DL asked why the invoice dated 3/6/16 was only received by the BOD a few weeks ago. JS said he only received it around 6/18/16 from David Jameson. DL suggested that the invoice payment be made after more discussion and the conference call with the attorney. A BOD vote was called to pay the invoice and it passed.

Announcements: Next BOD meeting 16 August, 2016

Adjourn: 8:35pm

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Normandy 2016

By Corey Vaughn July 2016



In June I was very blessed to have the opportunity to travel to Normandy with some awesome people, organized by Mike Kaczorowski. I can never express how amazingly, wonderfully, beautifully overwhelming Normandy was, and overwhelming in the absolute best sense. There is an energy, a presence, which you can feel over there. It surrounds you. I suppose any Historic Site has it. It's a sense that the world was changed on that ground. It is a feeling that the outcome of what happened right where you are standing, had an everlasting impact on every human being that would follow.

I didn't travel over there for myself. I did it for those under the white crosses. I did it so that I could be able to bring back my experiences, to better teach today's people, about those that willingly gave up their lives, so that we can live as we'd like and have EVERYTHING that we have.

I want to share 2 stories from the trip:

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1) So, we knew going over that we would have one night of navigating through Normandy, on foot, in full gear, at night. But, we didn't know where we would be navigating to. We were roused after a brief sleep, geared up, and hoped in the cars, where we arrived at a civilian estate. We were taken down one dirt hedgerow road, and our French contact Stephane Bourjaillat took me aside, pulled out a map, and showed me the route we were to take.

Our objective: reach La Fiere Bridge. You can google it, but in summary, the bridge was one of the hottest and most crucial engagements that the unit I mainly reenact (505 PIR, 82nd Airborne) participated in.

If all I saw over in Normandy was La Fiere Bridge, I would have been a happy man still.

So, I and three others head out. We're in pure hedgerow country and hedgerow lanes; we can't see our hands in front of our faces. Here we are, pitch black, alone, and with a healthy dose of fear. And yet, it was so so SO much less than what was experienced 72 years ago. There came a point in the hike, where I knew that La Fiere was straight ahead. We could see a lantern at the manor. The feeling I had was indescribable. The best I can do, is to say that it was humbleness, reflection, and an attempt at understanding. We were doing exactly the same thing that Heroes did for us 72 years ago.

In addition, we later fully realized, that one of the hedgerows we walked down was the exact same place where a trooper was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Going back to that spot in the daylight was so extremely humbling, as well as visiting La Fiere in the daylight, and trying to understand the fierce battle that raged on that small bridge.

One trooper said during the battle that there was "no better place to die". All I could think, was holy crap, and 'thank you'.

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2) We also visited the American Cemetery before we hit the beaches.

The way it's set up, is after you park, you walk through a bunch of trees, bushes, etc. it obscures your view. Finally, the vegetation suddenly ends, and you're hit all at once, with the white crosses.

As soon as I saw them, I broke down. I cried like I hadn't cried in a long time. I couldn't speak. I won't even attempt to describe it.

You have to experience it yourself.

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The one thing I will say though, is after visiting the Cemetery, and then going and standing on the beaches; I was overwhelmed. Again: indescribable. I'm even having a hard time as I type this. People died, for me. They willingly walked into Hell, knowing that this could be it. They knew that this could very well mean laying their life down for someone they had never met. And they stepped forward into Hell, rifles in hand, with no hesitation.

Today, we can read, collect, and teach about the war all we want. We can do SO many things, but even with traveling to Normandy, we can never fully understand this love of Country and Freedom that these men had.

We can never fully appreciate their sacrifice.
All we can do, is tell their story.

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Reenacting is complicated and frustrating; any hobby is. But, we need to keep this in mind: we're wearing the clothes of Heroes.

We walk on ground consecrated by their blood. Live your days, and see and take in all that those who fought and died can no longer do. Live for those that gave up their lives. You owe it to those that didn't come home to live a fulfilling life.

Remember, always, and say Thank You.

Never forget "when a few men decided to turn the earth into a graveyard...,
as soon as we stop remembering, as soon as we cease to be haunted by its remembrance, then we become the gravediggers."

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"We cherish too
the poppy red
that grows on fields
where valor led
It seems to signal
to the skies
that the blood of heroes
NEVER DIES."

*



Normandy, France OMAHA BEACH – June 2016
Photos by Lucas Ryan

From: _____



To: _____

