

THE EDGE



OFFICAL JOURNAL OF THE



WORLD WAR 2 Historical Re-enactment Society

Military History Fest St. Charles, Illinois- February 2017 Photos by Heinz Thiel



THE EDGE



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN REENACTING



353rd Infantry Division Display
Military History Fest St. Charles, Illinois- February 2017 Photos by Heinz Thiel



Vintage 1943 U.S. Army Dog Tag Machine owned by Rich Russo
Military History Fest St. Charles, Illinois- February 2017 Photo by Heinz Thiel



March with us back into WWII history!

Join your local WWII
living history unit now!

The NEW WW2 HRS Banner
Military History Fest St. Charles, Illinois– February 2017 Photo by Heinz Thiel



Ronald J. Kapustka

Past Allied Rep and past Secretary Ron Kapustka has volunteered and the board has accepted him as Interim Secretary for the remainder of the term.

The board thanks Ron for stepping up and filling this important position.

Revived this year are WWII HRS Regional Events.

On March 24-26 "Weldonkrieg", the Southern Regional Event, will be taking place at the actual birthplace of the WWII tactical and the WWII HRS at the Weldon Springs Training Area in St. Charles, MO.

<http://soldierboy440.wixsite.com/weldonkriegofficial>

Also on March 24-26 "Delay the Inevitable," the Eastern WWII HRS Regional Event, will take place at Ft. Custer, in Augusta, MI featuring the RETO tactical battle.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/delay-the-inevitable-march-24-26-2017-hrs-eastern-regional-tactical-tickets-31608997362>

We hope that significant numbers of members will attend these events. If there are any other events, preferably tacticals, that would be interested in applying for Regional Event status please contact the board as soon as possible. Some funding assistance is available.

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Sometimes, V-Mail wasn't V-Mail

By Michael Krizsanitz

70th Tank Battalion Re-enactor WWII HRS

Tracing a soldier's letter home



An internet listing offered for sale a “V-Mail” sent from Oran in June, 1943, ostensibly by a 70th Tank Battalion member. It was being offered by a philatelist who specializes in “Postal Covers.” A “postal cover” is sometimes also known by its common everyday title - “envelope”.

I should mention that I had little information of what V-Mail actually was, beyond a letter that was microfilmed overseas, and reprinted upon arrival in the States.

Ordering the item, thinking it was a V-Mail envelope and corresponding letter, I was somewhat dismayed to find that it was the standard two sided V-Mail stationery, but one that had been filled out, censored, and (gasp) cancelled like a regular piece of mail.

I was, of course, expecting the envelope with a photocopy looking letter inside, but here I was, with a handwritten, two sided, original! At first I thought that someone had gone to incredible lengths to fake a WWII era letter from a serviceman to his sweetheart. The next thought was, the poor guy had nothing else to write home on, and had just used the V-Mail stationery in place of paper and an envelope.

Obviously, I needed to learn something more about V-Mail.



V-Mail Stationary as offered for sale

WWII “Victory” Mail

“The Post Office, War, and Navy Departments realize fully that frequent and rapid communication with parents, associates, and other loved ones strengthens fortitude, enlivens patriotism makes loneliness endurable, and inspires to even greater devotion the men and women who are carrying on our fight far from home and friends. We know that the good effect of expeditious mail service on those of us at home is immeasurable.”

(Annual Report to the Postmaster General, 1942).

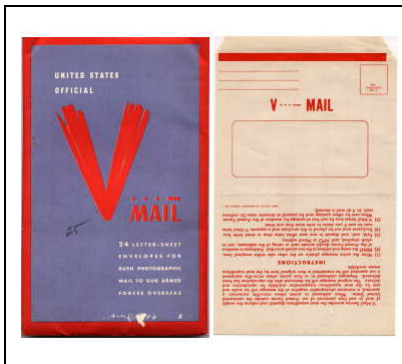
On June 15, 1942 the United States Postal Service began a new program aimed at reducing the amount of space it took to carry thousands of pieces of mail to and from our servicemen overseas. This would increase the space needed to transport war materials to our troops, as they carried the fight to the Axis.

As an example, 150,000 conventional letters filled some 22 mail sacks, and weighed approximately 1500 pounds. The same amount of mail on microfilm used one mail sack, at a weight of approximately 45 pounds. It was also thought that this would provide safer, faster mail service for the military overseas.

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There was an astronomical amount of mail, back before the age of immediate social media. In the year 1943, the army handled 570,633,000 pieces of mail, 1944 the number rose to 1,482,000,000, and finally in 1945, 2,533,938,330 individual items were handled by the Army Postal Service. During 1944-45, the Navy handled a total of 1,301,911,204. So one can see where microfilmed V-Mail was certainly a new and innovative way of securely processing such vast quantities of correspondence.



Various V-Mail Stationary Packages made available to the public via local merchants

The United States Post Office, the War Department, and Navy Departments worked to guarantee mail delivery for civilians and service members from the United States, as well as back from various Military Theaters of War.

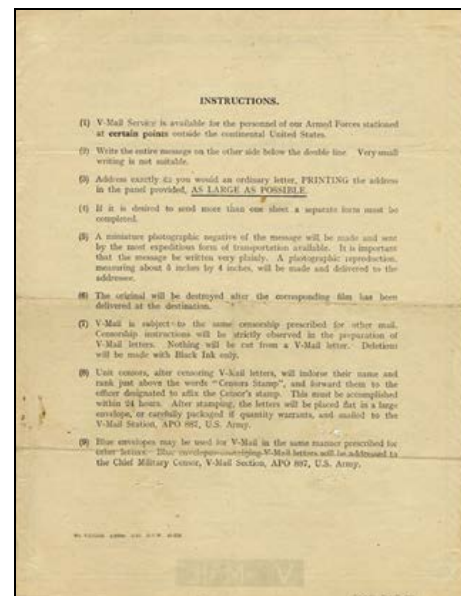
In order to accomplish this, the U. S. Post Office continued domestic dispatch and handling of mail.

The War Department established Army Post Office (APO) and Navy Post Office (NPO) numbers. The Post Office sorted V-Mail by respective APO and NPO post offices and sent it to one of three V-Mail stations in the United States. The three regions with corresponding V-Mail facilities were New York, San Francisco, and Chicago.

V-Mail stationary (sometimes referred to as blanks or templates) could be had, two sheets per day for free at a local Post Office, or for purchase on the civilian market via private printing concerns as seen above.

The single page had room for 700 typewritten words. Most service men simply wrote on them, or sent cartoons or personal greetings. Preprinted greetings were also eventually available.

The original 1st type stationary is shown below.



1st type V-Mail form – Instruction side



1st type V-Mail form – Stationary side

On later versions of the V-Mail, once the letter was written, it was folded closed upon itself to create its own envelope.

“Envelope” Type V-Mail – Stationary side

All above from postalmuseum.si.edu

“Envelope” type V-Mail form – Instruction side

A birthday greeting from “Daddy” in Germany



An example of a preprinted V-Mail greeting

trailblazersww2.org postalmuseum.si.edu

Military or Postal personnel could easily differentiate between normal mail and V-Mail, due to the smaller size, and red coloring of the V-Mail stationery. If sent by a member of the Military, no postage was required, and the word “free” was written in place of the postage stamp, as can be seen on the subject

V-Mail from Corporal Jones shown in the introduction.

The next step involved the V-Mail stationery being reviewed by a Military Censor. This was usually an Officer from the serviceman’s own unit, or as in the Army Air Force, a Ground or Staff Officer to whom the duty was delegated.

Different methods of censorship were used, from indelible black ink, to actual removal of words, phrases, or complete paragraphs from the document, using a razor blade. The removal method was normally not used on a stationery sheet intended for V-Mail processing, as holes in the stationery would jam in the Kodak Recorder machine.

Once scanned, the V-Mail was assigned a serial number. The film was then flown back to the US (or to an APO overseas) printed, and placed in an envelope. It was folded in such a manner that allowed the address to be seen via the window in the envelope, and sent to the addressee via the US Post Office (in the US) or via the APO or NPO overseas.

The original was retained, in case the film was lost in transit, or if a rescan was necessary due to it being illegible. In either case, after the mail was delivered, the serial numbers in that group were reported back to the center where originally scanned, and the originals were then destroyed.



Feeding V-Mail stationery into a Kodak Recorder Machine
postalmuseum.si.edu



World War 2 Historical Re-enactment Society



V-Mail as delivered in envelope after processing
nationalww2museum.org

V-Mail had some limitations however. V-Mail's microfilm processing was unable to print faint or blurry writing. Small penmanship was also discouraged and all letters needed to be printed clearly by pencil, pen, or typewriter. Enclosed objects and photographs were prohibited. Newspaper clippings, advertisements, keepsakes, and other inserts slowed down processing, and could jam the Kodak Recordek machinery.

"One particular jam came from lipstick! Sweethearts puckering up to send kisses from home left colorful lipstick residue that gummed up the microfilm machinery and was dubbed the "Scarlet Scourage." The pleas to the public to leave off signs of love and affection reminded many letter writers of V-Mail's impersonal elements. Not only did the V-Mail process not allow kisses, but the facsimiles couldn't carry the scent of a familiar perfume either."

In 1943, the War Department revised the limitation on sending photographs via V-Mail. After that date, photos of "infants born after a soldier departed for overseas or those under 1 year of age" were allowed, and could include the mother.

The images were limited to the upper left third of the form so that they would not be creased. The Chicago Daily Tribune offered photographic services to wives living with a 40-mile range of Chicago.

"It is considered well worthwhile. Service men have emphasized their hunger for letters from home, and family snapshots have added greatly to the pleasure brought by the mail. Imagine the unexpected thrill of a father in receiving a picture that, of all the pictures in the world, means to him the most!" (Apr 11, 1943).

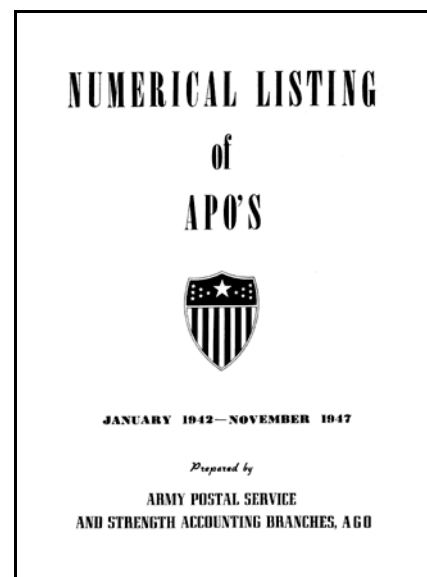
Researching the 1943 Jones V-mail

After the research into V-mail, I figured there had to be a simple explanation to all this, as the V-mail appeared to be genuine. I just had to look a little more, in order to find out how this item came to be created.

So, with my 70th Tank Battalion Unit History close by, I began to look at this V-mail a bit more closely. The serviceman was a Corporal Paul Jones, and he addressed the letter as Company A.

The Unit History does not show grades in the enlisted rosters, and a quick scan showed only a William Jones listed under Company A. A check of the other company and Medical Company rosters showed no Paul Jones. I would come back to that later on.

Next the date in question, June, 1943 was compared to the published APO list shown below.



*



CASABLANCA	MOROCCO	NY	758	1	12	42
HOSTAGANEM	ALGERIA			3	43	
ORAN	ALGERIA			5	43	
BIZERTE	TUNISIA			7	43	
PALERMO	SICILY			8	43	
ORAN	ALGERIA		1	6	44	
NAPLES	ITALY		1	7	44	
TOULON	FRANCE		27	8	44	
MARSEILLE	FRANCE		7	9	44	

Army Postal Service Page 164
Adjutant General's Office – 1949

On page 164, APO 758 is listed, and is correct for the date and location given on the V-mail.

A closer look was at the A Company Roster, in the Unit History. The original examination was rather perfunctory, and hurried, so a review was called for. This time Paul Jones was found.

It seems that when the original roster for Company A was typed up in 1949 for publication, the person compiling it separated Paul Jones from William Jones, placing Paul Jones before several soldiers named Johnson. William Jones appears afterward, in a more alphabetical correct manner. Now the name matched the company, the APO was correct, matching the date and location.

Next, the censor was researched. The examiner who passed the document as cleared for processing was legible on the reverse side, as Lt. Herbert Cross. A quick check of the roster of 70th Officers shows a Lieutenant Herbert Cross.

But still there remained the problem of the cancelled V-mail stationary. The answer to that one, and the final item needed to fully authenticate this V-Mail was hiding in a piece written for the National Postal Museum, and is reproduced here:

“However, not all letter sheets underwent microfilm processing. If a letter sheet was damaged, the writing too illegible to be copied, or a V-Mail processing plant was not available, then the letter was usually forwarded as it was”...
Lynn Heidelbaugh, March 2008

So far, efforts to trace Cpl. Paul Jones’s history after the war have been unsuccessful. But, the message he sent home to his wife, complete with two fingerprints he accidentally left on the stationary, still speak across the years.

Michael Krizsanitz
70th Tank Bn Re-enactor
WWII HRS

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Sources:
National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC.

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Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____

PASSED BY
U 03411 S
ARMY EXAMINER
For Herbert Ross
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

MRS PAUL JONES
Box 289
GRAFTON
W. VA.

CPL PAUL JONES
(Sender's name)
Co A 70th TANK BN
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. 758
86 Postmaster N.Y.
6/20/42 (Date)

Hello Darling
I received some more of your most welcome letters today & was really glad to get them. One was about Rev. Jones leaving, sorry to hear of it as I always liked him.
I haven't written for over a week because we have been traveling again. I have finally got enough of traveling, I just want to stay at home with you. and I don't care if it be hot or cold if you know what I mean.
Well Darling I have about run down so I will close with all my Love
ans. soon
Babe

V-MAIL
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 2

Original V-Mail of Cpl Paul Jones, 70th Tank Bn,
now at Roberts Armory Museum, Rochelle, Illinois



The EDGE is the WW2 HRS's own publication.

This is where we promote what we do.

The EDGE promotes and features the work of WW2 HRS Members.

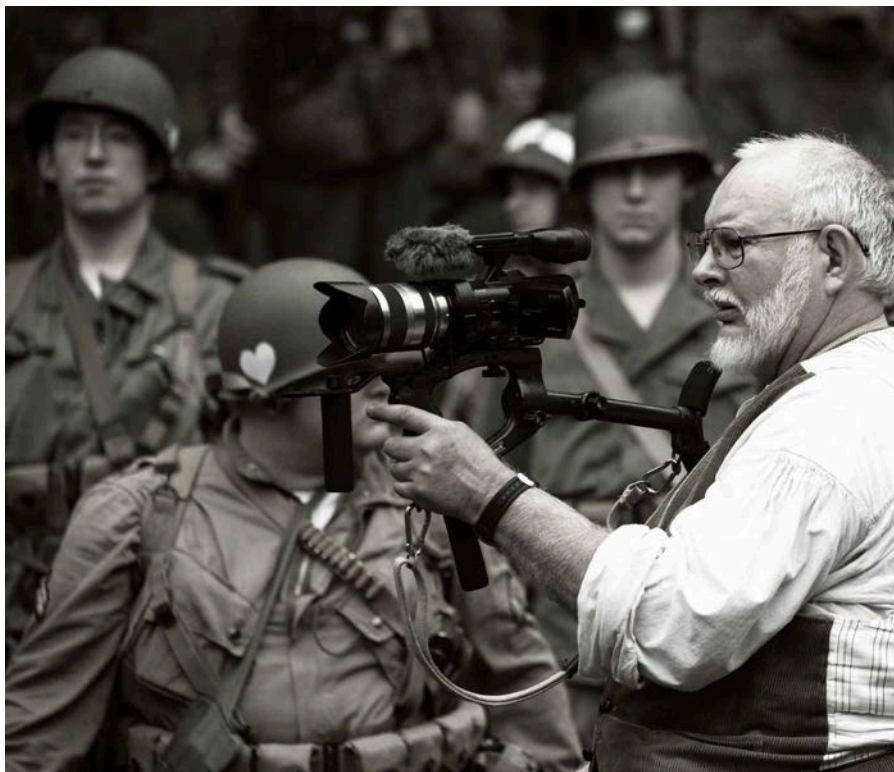
WW2 HRS Units are welcome to advertise their Events and Accomplishments in The Edge.

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

HOW TO SUBMIT an item for Publication within The EDGE

If your WW2 HRS unit has news it would like to published in The EDGE,
Or if are a WW2 HRS member and would like to submit an article or photo,
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
FEBRUARY 2017**

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF JANUARY 31ST 2017

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$5,531.38
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$47,459.37

Account Totals	\$52,990.75
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INCOME FOR JANUARY 2017

Interest from Money Market Account	\$4.53
Total Income	\$4.53

EXPENDITURES FOR JANUARY 2017

Liability Insurance	\$6,205.75
Director's and Officer's Insurance	\$744.00
Post Office Box Rental 1 year	\$86.00
Postage	\$3.35
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Admission for staff of HRS table at Military History Fest	\$15.00
Total Expenditures	\$7,066.90

2017 Membership Income	\$0.00
2017 Interest Income	\$4.53
2017 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
2017 Total Income	\$4.53
2017 Expenditures	\$7,066.90
2017 Income less 2017 Expenditures	(\$7,062.37)

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ANNUAL REPORT 2016
WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
For the Period January 1st through December 31st 2016
January 15, 2017

BEGINNING ACCOUNT BALANCES

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$9,940.90
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$53,401.12
Account Totals	\$63,342.02

2016 INCOME

Membership Income	\$12,640.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$54.58
Insurance Reimbursement from Rockford World War 1 Weekend	\$300.00
Total Income	\$12,994.58

2016 EXPENDITURES

Liability Insurance	\$6,205.75
Director's and Officer's Insurance	\$744.00
Event Support	\$3,328.67
Marketing	\$869.18
HRS Scholarship	\$750.00
Email Marketing Service	\$153.69
Post Office Box Rental	\$86.00
Membership Card Supplies	\$181.12
Refund of Membership Overpay	\$65.00
Postage	\$376.04
Illinois Secretary of State Fees	\$26.00
Bank Charge	\$7.50
Legal Fees for Review of Waiver Forms	\$1,600.00
Payment of Approved 2015 Event Support for Rails to Victory	\$155.88
Eventbrite Service Fees	\$1,733.79
Total Expenditures	\$16,282.62

Ending Account Balances

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$7,598.28
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$52,455.70
Total Ending Account Balances	\$60,053.98

2016 INCOME LESS 2015 EXPENDITURES **(\$3,288.04)**

HRS SUPPORT TO EVENTS IN 2016

Dundas Minnesota World War 2 Weekend	\$300.00
Rockford WW2 Weekend Vehicle Inspection Drawing Prizes	\$1,000.00
Rockford WW2 Weekend Thursday Evening Reenactor Meal	\$963.44
Rockford WW2 Weekend Sunday Morning Reenactor Breakfast	\$900.00
Advance to St. Lo Tactical, Haugen Wisconsin	\$165.23
TOTAL HRS SUPPORT TO EVENTS	\$3,328.67

Respectfully Submitted
Wayne McCulley
Treasurer
World War 2 Historical Re-Enactment Society Inc.



EVENTS


March	
10-13	OST FRONT 44 A WW II TACTICAL
Mar	<p>Loc: Camp Siman Events 10135 Oakland Tiff, MO 63674</p> <p>Dates: 10-13 March , 2017</p> <p>Event Times: Camping from 12 Noon Friday - 12 Noon Sunday, Tactical 9am - 4pm 11 March</p> <p>Registration Times: 6am - 9am 11 March</p> <p>Pre-Registration: (click here)</p> <p>Fee: \$15</p> <p>Contact: papajoad@20thcenturyqi.com</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/239129723166990/ http://fssf6-3.com/</p> <p>Authenticity Notes: Per HRS guidelines</p> <p>Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No Live Ammo</p> <p>Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS guidelines</p> <p>Other restrictions: N/A</p> <p>Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force, 6th CO 3rd REG HRS, Camp Siman Events</p>
24-26	WELDONKRIEG 2017 WWIIHRS SOUTHERN REGIONAL EVENT
Mar	<p>Loc: Weldon Spring Training Area (WSTA) 7301 Hwy 94 South St. Charles, MO 63376 (636-329-1200 x2401)</p> <p>Dates: March 24-26, 2017</p> <p>Fee: \$25.00 Includes Saturday Dinner</p> <p>Registration: (click here)</p> <p>Contact: Dave Goodwin: dpty635g@aol.com, Dave (Earl) Overschmidt: 38jager1@gmail.com Tim Scherrer: soldierboy440@yahoo.com</p> <p>Website: http://soldierboy440.wixsite.com/weldonkriegofficial</p> <p>Authenticity Notes: All German, American and other Western Front Impressions are Welcome. WW II HRS safety and authenticity rules apply & strictly enforced. All reenactors participating will have proper period hairstyles for their respective nationality.</p> <p>Prohibited Vehicles/Items: Authentic or Period vehicles only. Host unit(s) will be using several administrative vehicles to facilitate the event</p> <p>Other restrictions: No alcoholic beverages permitted on Weldon Spring Training Site. No smoking inside of buildings. Smoking in designated areas only. Non-period camping is not allowed. No live ammo of any kind, NO ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES, Pyro & smoke must be pre-approved, no exceptions.</p> <p>Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules Apply. Minors not accompanied by their parents must have signed/notarized permission slip identifying adult supervision.</p> <p>Limited Billeting (Barracks) available: There is a 60 bed barracks (open bay.. no bunks) available for use. Those wishing to use the barracks must bring their own cot and bedding. Priority of housing will go to Host Unit and then first come first serve.</p> <p>Sponsoring unit(s): 38 Jager (Axis) and 84th Railsplitters (Allied)</p>
April	
Apr	No events listed.

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May	
12-14	<p>ASSAULTING FORTRESS EUROPE, A WW II TACTICAL</p> <p>May</p> <p>Loc: Camp Siman Events 10135 Oakland, Tiff, Missouri 63674 Dates: May 12 – May 14 Event Times: Gate opens 12 noon 19 May, tactical 20 May, Camp siman closes 12 noon 21 May Registration Times: 6am - 9am 20 May Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$15 at the gate Contact: papajoad@20thcenturygi.com Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/1662323104066483/ Authenticity Notes: Per HRS Guidelines Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live ammo Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS Guidelines Other restrictions: Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force 6th CO 3rd REG HRS, Camp Siman Events</p>
19-21	<p>STRONGHOLD CASTLE WWII PUBLIC BATTLE REENACTMENT</p> <p>May</p> <p>Loc: Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center 1922 Illinois Route 2 N, Oregon, Illinois 61061 Dates: May 19-21, 2017 Event Times: Site Opens to Reenactor setup Thursday May 18 1:00 p.m.; Friday May 19, 2017 Historic vehicle convoy to town 6:00 p.m.; Saturday May 20, 2017 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Sunday May 21, 2017 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration Times: Friday May 19, 2017 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday May 20, 2017 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: None Contact: Military P.O.C. Richard A. Russo 5th Kompaine GrossDeutschland Vizsla25@sbcglobal.net Civilian and Women P.O.C. Shannon Larsen Feld Lazarette G.D. shannon.m.larsen@gmail.com Website: https://www.facebook.com/groups/232326487189608/ Authenticity Notes: HRS Safety and Authenticity rules apply. All World War Two era 1939-1945 Military and Civilian Impressions are Welcome. All reenactors participating will have proper hairstyles and eye glasses for their respective nationality. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: Authentic or Period Military vehicles only, All vehicles must have working brakes, proof of insurance and on board fire extinguishers. All WWII vehicles including tracked vehicles are welcome, weather conditions permitting tracked vehicles may be limited to camp sites, gravel roads and battlefield. Non tracked vehicles such as jeeps, motorcycles, lightweight trucks and armored cars may drive on grass areas conditions permitted. Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules shall apply. Minors not accompanied by their parents must have signed/notarized permission slip identifying adult supervision. Other restrictions: All participants must be a member of a recognized umbrella Organization or Society. No driving of vehicles after dark unless approved by host units. No Live Ammunition allowed on Site. All Blank Ammunition should be brought in Clear plastic bags for inspection at S&A. No Smoking in Buildings Motels: Pinehill Inn B&B 400 Mix Street Oregon, Illinois 61061 1-815-732-2067 Paddle Wheel Inn 1457 Illinois Route 2 Oregon, Illinois 61061 1-815-732-0900 Chateau Lodge 1326 Illinois Route 2 Oregon, Illinois 61061 1-815-973-6195 BATF Class III Firearms Contact: Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle 1-815-732-1101 202 S. 1st Street Oregon, Illinois 61061 oglesheriff@oglecounty.org Sponsoring Unit(s): 5th Kompaine GrossDeutschland; Feld Lazarette GrossDeutschland</p>



June	
09-11	RAILS TO VICTORY
Jun 	<p>Loc: Fox River Trolley Museum, South Elgin, Illinois Dates: JUNE 9-11th 2017 Contact: Rebecca Tulloch, US10th Mtn LHDG Website: http://www.railstovictory.com Registration: FREE ON-LINE Registration through JUNE 7, 2017. This year there shall be a \$10.00 FEE for all Walk On Registrations on site after June 7th. On-Line Registration: Eventbrite (click here) Camp Amenities: Flush Toilets on site. Camp sites are assigned on a first come first served bases. Event Times: - Friday, June 9: Reenactor check-in, 4pm to 10pm.; - Saturday, June 10: Reenactor check-in, 8 am to 9:15am; - Sunday, June 11: Reenactor check-in, 9am to 9:50am; - Daily morning formations and S&A check; - Museum Opens at 10 am on Saturday and Sunday; - Visit the Event Web Site for Additional event details (schedules, maps, and updates). Website: http://www.railstovictory.com Authenticity Notes: HRS safety and authenticity rules apply. Invited Vehicles/Items: All WWII vehicles including tracked vehicles are welcome, weather conditions permitting; tracked vehicles may be limited to the gravel road and battle field. Smaller vehicles such as Jeeps, Motorcycles, Kubels & Lightweight Trucks may drive on the grassy areas. Boats and other period water crafts such rafts are also welcome on the Fox River, but should contact us first prior to bringing out. River depth is only 2-3 feet in the vicinity of the museum. Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules Other restrictions: No alcoholic beverages permitted in the Museum and County Park. No digging, but camp fires are allowed in above pits and military stoves and grills. No firing of weapons in the encampment area in County Park by Forest Preserve Ordinance; but okay in the designated battlefield areas on museum property. Motels: Accommodations available in nearby Elgin and St. Charles Illinois: Hampton Inn, the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites and West Dundee's Marriott International-Courtyard & Towne Place Suites; and in St. Charles: Best Western, Country Inn & Suites, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Geneva Motel, Hampton Inn & Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Hotel Baker, Pheasant Run Resort, and Super 8. Restaurants: There are eating establishments with in a very easy walk of the museum ranging in variety from hot dogs to pizza. Sponsoring Unit(s): US10th Mtn LHDG; WW2 Girls Baseball Living History League; 28 Jager Division Regiment 83; 3rd Gebirgsjaeger Division</p>
July	
21-23	OPERATION PACIFIC
Jul 	<p>Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Okland, Tiff, Missouri 63674 Dates: 21-23 July 2017, Tactical 22 July Event Times: 22 July, tactical 9am-4pm Registration Times: 22 July 6-8am Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$15 Contact: papaoad@20thcenturygi.com Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/718541318302470/ Authenticity Notes: Per HRS Guidelines Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live ammo Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS Guidelines Other restrictions: Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force 6th CO 3rd REG</p>

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Delay the Inevitable March 24-26, 2017 HRS EASTERN REGIONAL TACTICAL

"Infamous Alfons" and members of the WWII HRS Re-enactment groups 5SS Sturmpanzer "WIKING" and US 45th Infantry I&R Platoon invite you to attend our World War II weekend of fun at the Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Michigan, just west of Battle Creek.

Event features:

Up to two nights in restored military barracks

High intensity tactical combat system

Saturday night banquet

After dinner entertainment or visit "Custer's First Stand" on base bar

THIS EVENT IS NOW CLASSIFIED AS THE "HRS EASTERN REGIONAL TACTICAL"!!

This does not affect non-HRS attendees ... please note that HRS members must select a separate ticket to take advantage of their membership.

ALL HRS "tickets" will cost \$10 cash "at the door" when you show up to register.

The Saturday banquet is an extra \$5 that must be paid for by credit card when you order your ticket.

You must preregister for this event to get your name on the security gate entry list!

Preregister at <http://delay2017.eventbrite.com/> by noon, Wednesday March 22.

You must be at least 16 years of age to attend this event.

Our event is open to all reenactors that can comply with our Safety and Authenticity standards.

We will be enforcing HRS Safety and Authenticity rules as this is an HRS "sanctioned" event.

For those bringing Class III weapons from out of state, Fort Custer Training Center 2501 26th Street Augusta, MI 49012-9205 is what you'd use for your ATF forms. Do not use this address for GPS directions – they will take you to the wrong gate!

**** NOTE! **** Due to security concerns, the military is becoming more concerned about the ammunition and pyrotechnics that are brought on the base. **NO LIVE AMMO!** No homemade pyro, only store bought, non-aerial (ala rocket) pyro. No ammo in the barracks area! **HAVE ALL YOUR BLANK AMMO PACKED IN SEE THROUGH ZIP LOCK BAGS** with YOUR NAME AND UNIT NAME CLEARLY MARKED to assist in Saturday distribution!! The Security Guards must see the tips of all ammo to ensure they are blanks – **THINK** like a security guard and pack the bags very loosely, **LESS THAN ½ FULL** so the bag can be laid out on a flat surface and contents inspected easily! The larger the bag the better! Have your weapons and ammo readily available for the security check and things speed up!

Belt fed ammo boxes are fine as-is, as the belted ammo is easy to inspect for live rounds. The completed boxes are then collected. Inspected ammo can be put into any kind of marked box or bag for easy carry. The ammo will be collected at the Security Gate by Wiking staff, to be taken to the Wiking Troop Tent on the edge of the tactical area. After your vehicle is inspected, you are welcome to stop at the Troop Tent, as that is also where ammo vendors will be set up. If you want to preload your weapon magazines, you are welcome to do so at this time, please provide a marked bag or box that the loaded mags can be stowed in for the night. After Saturday inspection, all units will pick up their ammo while deploying to the field.

BAYONETS will be allowed on base but **KEEP THEM SHEATHED** and **STOWED AWAY** until the Saturday tactical. **NO WEARING OF BAYONETS** in the barracks area. Anyone wearing a bayonet except for in the tactical will be escorted off base!

No other knives longer than 4" will be allowed on base.

The tactical will be using the objective based tactical system called "Rules of Engagement for Tactical Objectives" (RETO). The rules are a point-based system of tracking successful strategy during the tactical. More details at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WW2RETO/> or you can stay updated at the event Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/570562592968478/>

The Facebook group is private, so you have to ask to be included or be invited in by someone that is already a member.

There is no "scenario". The forces must use chain of command, reconnaissance and cooperation to win. You might think of this as a tactical with a little bit of "Capture the Flag" and "Scavenger" hunt thrown in!

The P.O.C. for any specific questions about event is

Alan Miltich

Email WikingPionier@Comcast.Net

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Weldonkrieg 2017

HRS SOUTHERN REGIONAL TACTICAL BATTLE

March 24-26, 2017

Members of the WWII HRS Re-enactment groups JAGERREGIMENT .38 (HRS) (Axis) and 84th Infantry Division (Railsplitters) (HRS) (Allied) invite you to attend our World War II weekend at Weldon Spring Training Area (WSTA) in St. Charles, MO, just west of St. Louis, Missouri. Considered the birthplace of World War II reenacting, Weldon Spring has hosted World War II tactical events since 1975. The 16,000-acre site includes improved roads and trails, barracks (limited space), shower facilities, outdoor camping areas and limited ruins to fight around.

Event features: military barracks (reserved at pre-registration), Tactical scenarios using locations at Weldon Spring that have not been used before and a Saturday night dinner that is considered the best ever offered at an event, "Come for the Dinner... stay for the battle!!". The cost of the dinner is included in the \$25.00 registration.

In January of 2014, before the first Weldonkrieg event, the event organizers were approached by 88mm Productions and Chris Grega to make a documentary about Weldonkrieg as an event, the hobby of WWII reenacting and the Weldon Spring training site's unique history. Chris will be screening Weldonkrieg on Saturday evening.

This event is open to all German, American and other Western Front Impressions. WWII HRS safety and authenticity rules apply and are strictly enforced as this is an HRS "sanctioned event". All reenactors participating will have proper period hairstyles for their respective nationality. You must be at least 16 years of age to attend this event. Minors attending this event must have signed/notarized parental permission slip if not accompanied by parent.

You can preregister for this event at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTnneDUN3R7prCCFCh-H_uGC0tLawQAYIPic5idq_FhXCVog/viewform.

Limited Billeting (Barracks) available: There is a 60 person barracks (open bay, no bunks) available for use. Those wishing to use the barracks must bring their own cot and bedding.

Water: The ground water at WSTS is non-potable (you can't drink it without getting sick) Standalone water points are available. Units/participants are required to bring water cans / bottled water for their soldiers.

Outdoor Vending: Vendors will have to pay the registration fee to sell items at Weldonkrieg 2017. There is no Indoor vendor space. Outdoor vending space is plentiful. The outdoor vendors will be in the vicinity of the registration building. Vendors will need to bring their own tables, tents/awnings and extension cords.

Safety is everyone's primary concern: NO LIVE AMMO! No homemade pyro, only store bought, non-aerial (ala rocket) pyro. All smoke and pyro must be inspected and pre-approved. All military vehicle operator's s will provide proof of a valid operator's license and provide a copy of valid Auto Liability Insurance at the time the military vehicle is inspected. Military vehicle drivers must have a class DOT approved fire extinguisher in their vehicle at all times.

Commanders will be responsible for "pre-inspecting" of their unit member's blank ammo and weapons. Commanders will be required to bring their signed "Commanders Ammo Safety Certification Form". All participants will attend the event Safety and Authenticity briefing/ inspection Saturday morning prior to moving to the field.

For those bringing Class III weapons from out of state, Weldon Spring Training Area (WSTA), 7301 Hwy 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63376 is what you'd use for your ATF forms.

The host unit's goal is to have a structured event that is more than just "Attack and Defend". Unit movement on such a large scale (300+ people and equipment) depends heavily on the use of the chain of command, communication and cooperation. Scenarios are used to test commanders and their units. Unit commanders serve as "Observer Controllers" for their units and assist the event organizers in moving the scenarios along. Previous scenarios have included: Down pilot, Defend/ Attack an airfield, emplacing/ breaching a minefield, Route reconnaissance and ambushes.

For more information visit the event website: <http://soldierboy440.wixsite.com/weldonkriegofficial> or visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=weldonkrieg%202017%20wwii%20eto%20reenactment%20private%20tactical%20battle>

The P.O.C. for any specific Allied questions about the event is Tim Scherrer Email soldierboy440@yahoo.com

The P.O.C. for any specific Axis questions about the event is Dave (Earl) Overschmidt Email 38jager1@gmail.com

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Battle for Stronghold Castle Public Battle Reenactment

May 19-21 2017

Location: Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center
1922 Illinois Route 2 North, Oregon Illinois



WWII at Stronghold Castle

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232326487189608/>

Check Event Discussion Page on Facebook for future updates

**P.O.C. Richard A. Russo vizsla25@sbcglobal.net
1-847-254-8826**

The first annual "Battle for Stronghold Castle" Public Battle Reenactment and Encampment will be held on 360 Acres of land owned by the Presbytery of Blackhawk at the Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center.

The event is hosted by 5th Kompane GrossDeutschland, Feld Lazarette G.D. and The Presbytery of Blackhawk. The event will be a fundraiser for the Stronghold Organization.

The Reenactment will provide Water, Firewood, Wooded Campsites, food and military vendors and a USO style dance. The site has a medieval castle, which the Axis forces will garrison this year. The castle building will be used to house reenactor displays a European style Bistro/café and German field Hospital.

The event is open to all 1940 era WWII military and Civilian Impression.

Reenactors must belong to a recognized umbrella group organization. ALL REENACTORS must take part in the Saturday and Sunday Morning Safety and Authenticity (S &A) inspection.

Military reenactors must bring all blank ammo packaged in clear plastic bags to the S & A Inspection.

Transportation assistance will be provided to a limited amount of heavy armored vehicles.

All reenacting vehicles must provide proof of insurance.

A USO Style Dance will be held in the site 225-person banquet hall in the Brubaker Center.

Hotel accommodations are available on site for a fee.

There are several motels available in the Town of Oregon located a few miles from the site.

Women Military, USO and Civilian Reenactors will be provided secure sleeping accommodation in the Castle Building, which has kitchen and flush toilet facilities on site.

We are looking for Men and Women Reenactors that do European peasant impression in particular. Secure display areas are available for those that have period collections of interest.

The battlefield will be improved with machine-dug trenches, foxholes and berms. If funding allows pyrotechnics and aircraft strafing runs will be included in the main battle reenactment.

Current plans include for two (2) main battle reenactments and one small Castle Battle based on the Historic Battle of Itter Castle (see information provided below) on both Saturday and Sunday.

The Battle of Itter Castle

Itter Castle is a small castle on a hill in Austria that was built during the medieval period in the 13th century. By the time of World War II, it was used by the Nazis to incarcerate prominent French prisoners. The castle was first seized by an SS officer in February 1943 and was being used as part of a prison facility by April of that same year. Notable prisoners over the next two years included former French prime ministers and generals, as well as a French tennis star and Charles de Gaulle's older sister. The commander of the prison fled on May 4, 1945 and many of the SS guards departed the castle soon afterwards.

American Lieutenant John C. Lee, volunteered to lead the rescue of the French prisoners at Itter Castle accompanied by Major Gangl and his German soldiers. German major, Josef Gangl, was commanding German anti-Nazi soldiers in the closing days of the war. The rescue party included 14 Americans, 10 anti-Nazi Germans, and two Sherman tanks. While in route, the small party defeated a group of SS troops that had been attempting to block a road. One of the tanks was left behind to guard a bridge on the route. When the Americans and Germans arrived, and freed the French prisoners at Itter Castle, Lee and Gangl placed their men in defensive positions throughout the castle, while the single tank was placed at the main entrance.

On the morning of May 5, 1945, a small force of Nazi SS soldiers began their attack on the castle. The Sherman tank provided machine gun fire for the soldiers inside the castle until it was destroyed by the SS troops. During the ensuing battle, French prisoners fought alongside the American and German soldiers against the Nazi SS. When a relief force of the American 142nd Infantry Regiment arrived, the SS were defeated.

German Major Gangl died during the battle from an SS sniper and has been honored as an Austrian national hero. American Lieutenant Lee received the Distinguished Service Cross and was promoted to Captain for his actions.

The Battle for Castle Itter remains a small, lesser known event of the end of the war. It's notable for being the only battle in which American and German soldiers fought together as allies and the only battle in which American troops defended a medieval castle.

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WWII Recreated
A Remembrance of our
Greatest Generation
Through Living History
June 23, 24, and 25, 2017

LOCATION
Elks Page Park
7883 S Lowell Park Rd.
Dixon, IL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Friday evening Sneak Peak
Saturday- 9:30 am to 5 pm
Sunday 10:30 to 3:30 pm

ADMISSION: \$5 individual or \$10.00 each car
All WWII veterans free admission!

Battle Simulations including US and German troops, Armored Vehicle Displays,
Weapons and Uniform Demonstrations, Authentic WWII Camps,
Tribute to WWII Veterans

Bring your military collectables to buy, sell, or trade at the Militaria Sale
Open to Public with indoor vending tables available for \$10.

For full event information see our website
<http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com/>

For sponsorship information please contact the event staff:

Picture credit: Danny J. Higgins

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Site Coordinator
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Reenactor Coordinator
Jonathan Stevens
630-221-1171
jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net

Danny J. Higgins



Presenting: Trooper Tyree's September 10-15, 2017

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN *Trooping the Colors* CONVOY

History & Scenery-It's what we are about!

Designed for 1, 2, 3, or 6 days-it's your choice

This 334 mile, figure-8, round-trip convoy begins from Townsend, TN. It will include; the Great Smoky Mountains Natl. Park, Newfound Gap, Clingmans Dome, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Wheels Through Time Museum, Cataloochee Valley, Cades Cove, the Tail of the Dragon Road, Fontana Lake, Oconaluftee Indian Village, and the Great Smoky Mt. Railroad!



Panorama from Cades Cove

Our memorable adventures are for those who love to drive their HM vehicles, who want more than a day outing but are unable to strap on a cross-continental expedition. Furthermore, our tours return to the starting point so there is little need for escort vehicles. We go to all the best places and take the back roads (both paved and unpaved). You'll overnight in unique accommodations where you have the option of staying in a cabin, lodge, motel, or camp out. Best of all, our tours are limited to 20 vehicles so there is little need for regimentation.

Contact Trooper Tyree at halftrackjohns@att.net . Have a look at our past convoys on YouTube by viewing the 2014 Missouri Convoy, the 2015 Santa Fe Trail Convoy or the 2016 Black Hills Convoy.

Note: The farthest point (Dellwood, NC) from our base at Tally Ho Inn is only 78 miles. This means that should you have a total breakdown you can have your vehicle towed back to base, if you have AAA's 100 mile towing, for free.

Contact: Terry Johns at halftrackjohns@att.net for more Information

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The Browning Automatic Rifle

By Kerwin Law



The Browning Automatic Rifle, aka BAR (spoken as B-A-R) got its start during WWI. Sometime prior to our involvement in WWI, the conflict had bogged down causing both sides to dig in and occupy several lines of trenches. Both sides were desperate to find a way to break through this relatively easy to defend and hold system of trenches. As with a lot of military problems, the delivery of an abundance of firepower to the enemy was deemed the solution. It was felt that some sort of man portable weapon with plenty of firepower was needed to provide an edge to troops trying to break through to the objective and end the stalemate. While the machineguns that ruled the defensive portion of WWI battlefields so well certainly had the firepower part down, they were just too heavy to be used successfully in an offensive role. Most of them weighed well over 40lbs not including their mounts. Although at the time, the British did have the Lewis Gun and the French had the Hotchkiss Portative (Portable) which came closer to the concept, it's just that with both weighing around 30lbs they proved to be quite a burden for one soldier on the advance. In 1915, the French came up with the 22 pound Chauchat light machine gun that could be fired and served by one soldier, but it proved to be too unreliable. This was especially so when it was later chambered in our .30-06 cartridge and issued to our "Dough Boys". As it turned out, the "Show-Show" as it was called by our troops, was probably the most hated automatic weapon in the history of modern warfare. Some claim the basic design was sound and that manufacturing was to blame, in any case a better weapon was definitely needed. Enter John Browning and his Automatic Rifle.

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In February of 1917 John Browning had submitted his automatic rifle to the US military for consideration. While the US was not at war at the time, they were aware of the shortcomings of some of the above mentioned and other “light” automatic weapons of the day. At 16lbs it was a good deal lighter than its closest rival the Chauchat and proved itself to be much more reliable. It was a gas operated, “built like a tank” rifle capable of semi and full automatic fire from a 20-round box magazine. A fairly rare 40 round magazine was also made in order to utilize it in the anti-aircraft role. In May of 1917 it was officially adopted as the M1918 Browning Machine Rifle (later called the Browning Automatic Rifle). The reason for the year discrepancy was so as to not confuse it with the 1917 Browning Machinegun. The US military placed orders for over 288,000 M1918 BARs at a cost of approximately \$120.00 each, but with WWI ending sooner than expected they cancelled the majority of the orders, thus leaving a bit over 100,000 manufactured by early 1919. As with many of John Browning’s gun designs he didn’t actually manufacture them on a large scale, he just sold the rights to those who did. For the BAR, he waived royalties and accepted a fixed settlement for the design, which some believe cost him over 12 million in 1918 dollars. These first BARs were made by Colt, Winchester and Marlin-Rockwell. Although the US military had big plans to utilize their new game changing weapon, for various reasons the M1918 didn’t see much action until about September of 1918, where the concept and rifle both proved their worth.



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After WWI, a few tweaks to the BAR were done, with Colt even making a few different commercial models. On the military side a M1922 Cavalry model was adopted, followed by the M1918A1 in 1937 (bipod, hinged butt plate) and finally the full auto only M1918A2 in 1940 (Bakelite butt stock-1942, carrying handle-late 1944). In the early 40s, Springfield Armory converted many of the earlier versions to M1918A2 configuration to give them a bit of a facelift. While the BAR was state of the art during WWI, in spite of these changes it was starting to show it's age as WWII approached. As with all weapons designs, the M1918 and its variants had a few drawbacks. The fact it didn't have a quick-change barrel is always brought up when discussing its shortcomings. Another one of the drawbacks was a fairly complicated design that made in the field repairs, such as firing pin replacement, slow and difficult. Accessing the chamber and gas system for cleaning isn't exactly a snap either. I can also attest that the reinstallation of the recoil spring is a real PITA, even in the comfort of my shop. It's reminiscent of installing a wet noodle up a wildcats backside. Regardless of the aforementioned, the BAR still filled an important role in the hands of our armed forces and filled it quite well in my opinion. Although, in hindsight, the US would likely have been better served by later adopting the British Bren Gun or even the Johnson LMG, but as the saying goes "you go to war with the army you have (and its equipment) and not the one you wished you had". Therefore, with WWII erupting, we decided to stick with what we had.



When the US became involved in WWII, our usage of BARs was limited to existing M1918, M1918A1, M1922 and those that were converted to M1918A2s. No appreciable amounts of original M1918A2s were made until early 1943, when IBM and New England Small Arms Corporation produced examples for approval. While the Bakelite butt stocks already approved for usage in 1942 helped alleviate the high demand for wood needed for rifle stocks, the amount of high grade steel needed for the new M1918A2 receivers presented another problem. A company called Saginaw Malleable Iron was able to come up with a solution with a variant of cast iron called ArmaSteel. This turned out to be quite a breakthrough in assisting the two manufacturing companies, as the ArmaSteel could be machined much quicker. This allowed IBM and NESA to make around 20,000 and 168,000 BARs respectively. Originally IBM was to make several thousand more, but it was later deemed more important for them to manufacture the M1 Carbine.

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With the bloodiest conflict known to mankind finally over, America again called on the BAR to deliver it's firepower twice more before it was declared obsolete. The first was when the US was drawn into the Korean War. With the normal BAR losses sustained in WWII and our usage of it elsewhere, it was deemed necessary to have more manufactured. The Royal Typewriter Company was given a contract for over 60,000. The last time it was used by our military in a major conflict was in the early stages of Viet Nam, until finally a combination of the M14 and M16 rifles and the M60 machinegun were used to supplant the old "veteran". In spite of the Browning Automatic Rifle being quite antiquated later in its service life, the fact it was able to be heavily relied upon through several major conflicts spanning 50 plus years, speaks volumes as to its importance to our country and its armed forces.

Kerwin Law January 2017
(kclaws@consolidated.net)



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Vehicle Coordinator

Jim Schouten, 90th Infantry Division

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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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

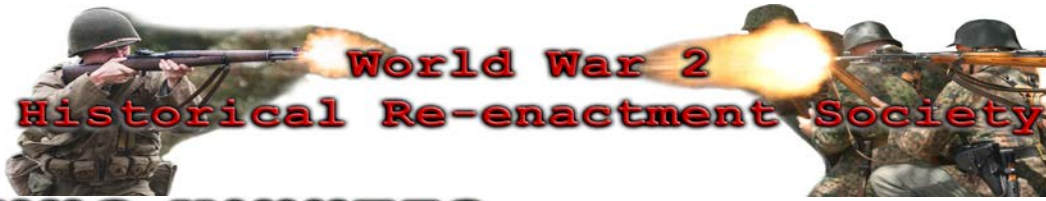


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MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society
Board Meeting
17 January 2017
Meeting Start 7:30 PM

Call to Order –

Welcome Corey Vaughn to the board in the position of Allied Representative

Board Members in attendance: Jon Stevens, Chuck Bolanis, Wayne McCulley, Corey Vaughn, Brian Jones, Dave Fornell.

Members in Attendance: Rich Russo, Dan Overschmidt, Dave Goodwin, Jim Schouten,

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Chuck B to approve agenda, Brian Jones seconded.
Agenda was approved by BOD vote.

Reading of the December Minutes

December Minutes were read by Jon S.
Chuck B motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Wayne M.
Minutes were approved by BOD vote.

Officer Reports:

Vice President:

Chuck B reported on request by 275th Infantry Division Unit Commander to disband as an HRS unit.
Vote on request was recommended by Chuck B., who motioned for a vote.
Seconded by Wayne M. 275th Infantry division charter disbandment was approved by BOD vote.

Chuck reported that Ray Kruger has been working with Craig Morehead concerning forming new unit.

TREASURER'S REPORT WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY JANUARY 2017

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER, 31ST 2016
PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account \$7,598.28
PNC Bank Money Market Account \$52,455.70
Wells Fargo Bank Account \$302.20

Account Totals \$60,356.18

INCOME FOR DECEMBER 2016 \$58.87

EXPENDITURES FOR DECEMBER 2016 \$45.20

More detailed report is published in the Treasurer's report section of The EDGE.

Secretary

WW2 HRS has 270 members thus far in 2017

Commonwealth Rep Nothing to Report.

Allied Rep

Corey V. expressed being excited about joining Board of Directors
Reported being contacted about concerning membership error

Axis Rep ...Nothing to Report.

Staff Reports

Rich Russo reported on Event Development activities

1. He has been contacted concerning having a WW2 event in the Dodgeville WI area as fundraiser for the Shriner's hospitals. No site or date have been determined. Rich is seeking a HRS unit to organize event. Ideally a unit from Wisconsin. Dave F. suggested publishing the request in The Edge.
2. Rich reported on plans for an event at the Stronghold Castle in Oregon IL on the weekend of May 20-21. He has been working with a local trucking firm for free hauling of armored vehicles. He has plans for corporate sponsorship of the event and has hopes of partnerships between attending units and corporate sponsors. Rich also has plans for seeking HRS event support. Brian Jones inquired if this would be a permanent date. Rich confirmed it was

Committee Reports:

S&A

Chuck B. mentioned needing report concerning HRS membership status of members of the S&A committee for 2017. Wayne said report would be sent.

Unit Commanders

Jon reported January Eventbrite link and password had been distributed to unit commanders.

Vehicle Committee – Jim Schouten

Stated Jeep inspection regulations would be forwarded to Jeff Skender for publishing in The EDGE and to be posted on HRS Website.
Rich Russo asked if there are Stuart tanks and Halftracks in the state of Illinois that might be available for Stronghold Castle Event. Dave F. said he had several leads.

Civilian Committee – Nicole Fornell Not in attendance

Old Business: None

New Business:

2017 Insurance Renewal

Jon reported that insurance rates are unchanged for 2017 and would be \$6,205.00.
Jon also reported the Quinn Insurance offers optional terrorism coverage for an additional \$150.00. Jon S. explained coverage. BOD decided to forgo terrorism coverage. Jon motioned to pay invoices for liability coverage and D&O coverage. Chuck B seconded. Payment was approved by BOD vote. Wayne M. will pay invoice from Quinn Insurance.

National/Regional Battles

We have received proposals from two events to be Regional battles Weldonkrieg in Missouri and Fort Custer in Michigan.
Jon reported that we have received proposals from two events to be Regional battles. Description was given of the proposals.
Dave F. recommended Weldonkrieg.
Jon S suggested we tentatively approve both events.
Dave Goodwin confirmed that Weldonkrieg is a spring battle.
Both Regional Events were later approved by Email vote of BOD.

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Recruitment-Displays

Jon S. explained plans for a HRS recruitment/display table at Military History Fest in St. Charles IL on the weekend of February 17-19. Rich Russo will be providing World War 2 vintage Dog Tag Machine for use at MHF. We will be printing dog tags for attendees giving a donation. Proceeds will be donated to local charity that supports Veterans.

Jon S. proposed that we order a new HRS banner for the display.
Jon motioned funding of \$200 be allocated for the banner.
Chuck B. Seconded.
Proposal was approved by BOD vote.

Resignation of Secretary

In December we received the written resignation of Doug Loge as Secretary of the WW2 HRS. We are currently looking for an Interim Secretary.

Open Comments:

Jon S. discussed that we are looking for addition staff for the table at Military History Fest. Jon S. and Wayne M. will be attending with Jim Schouten and John Olsen helping staff the table

Announcements:

Next meeting Tuesday, February 21st.

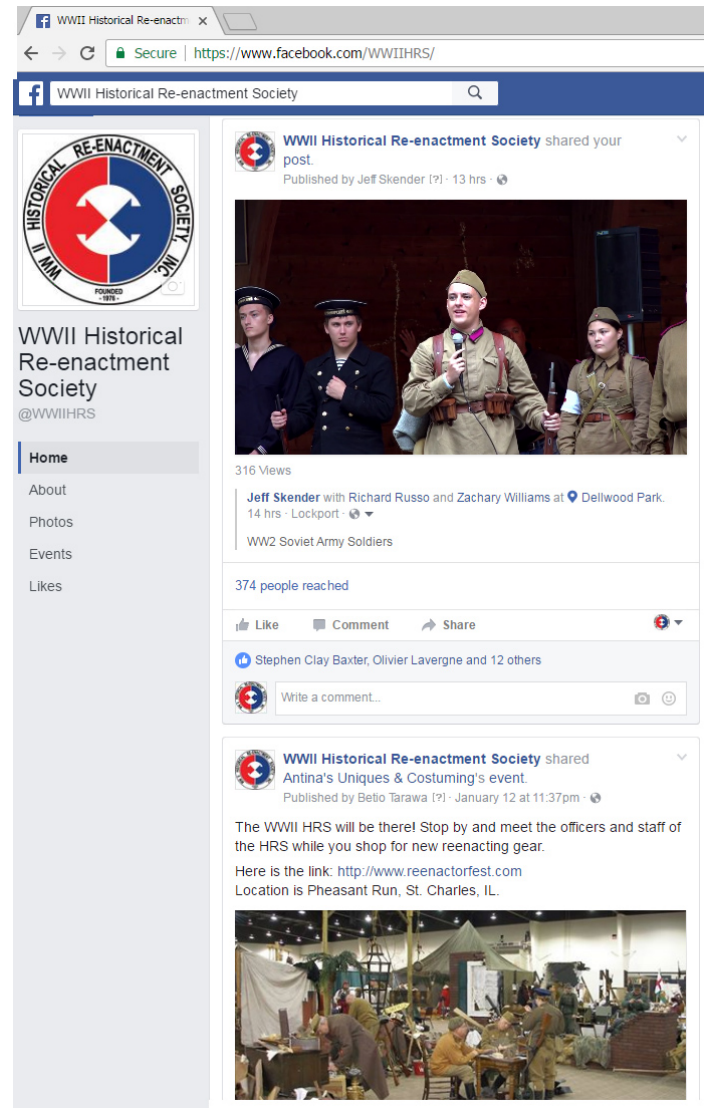
Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

All the HRS Board Meeting Minutes from the past six years are posted on the HRS WEB Site.
Current HRS By-Laws 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

Did You Know?

The World War 2 HRS has a Facebook Page!





For Sale

1941 Canadian C30 Lorry with rebuilt 1960 235 ci engine, new directional radial tires, road licensed, \$20,000.
Located at the Air & Military Museum of the Ozarks; 2305 E. Kearney St. Springfield, MO.



1945 British Daimler 'Dingo' armored scout car,
With operating No. 19 set, running & road licensed, \$25,000.
Located in Vincennes, IN at the Indiana Military Museum.

Contact: Terry Johns at halftrackjohns@att.net for photos & info.
Part trade for a good WWII jeep considered.

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20 Years of the Rockford Event (Part 1: The First Five Years 1996 to 2000)

By James E. Meldrum

I started going to the Rockford Event in 1996 and began re-enacting in 1999. Since then I have not missed a single year of the Rockford Event and have seen it grow from relatively humble beginnings to being one of the premier re-enacting events in the United States. Along the way, I have attended a few other re-enactments but I much prefer Rockford to all the others because of the people and because this event is by far the most photogenic I have encountered. I fell in love with the Rockford event and the people in it and decided that I would support it in any way that I could. I started photographing this event on film and while I am now doing digital photography as well, I continue to do all my re-enacting work on film just as with the historical images were, with all of the images you see here were all done on film.

Most of what we know of the world wars, especially World War 2, is through photography. I have long admired the military photographers on both sides and their work from this era and re-enactments like the Rockford Event have enabled me to obtain the same kinds of authentic images featuring depths of character and feeling as well as the kind of spectacular action you simply won't see anywhere else except perhaps in a movie.

Re-enactors at the Rockford Event should congratulate themselves on the fine job they have done! If it were not for the efforts and cooperation I have received from re-enactors over the years, I simply would not be able to present to you the body of work you see in this article nor would these pictures have earned the acclaim they have achieved. Thank you so very much - I couldn't have done any of this without you!

I've been doing photography for 50 years working initially with film and since 2013 I have started doing digital photography. All of the images in this article, however, have been done on film. Contrary to appearances and popular belief, I shoot all my re-enactment work using contemporary film cameras then develop and print them in my own darkroom using currently available chemistry and materials.

In terms of general photography, I shoot anything and everything but if I had to have a specialty, I would have to say that it is portraiture. I have worked professionally and my work has been recognized in various shows and numerous contests both nationally and internationally. For a retirement project, I look forward to doing a Master's degree in photography.



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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 1996 Photo by James Meldrum

I seek to make my photographs appear as authentic as possible first by using high-speed black and white film whose coarse grain structure approximates that of the 1940's photographic films. When shooting I make an effort to watch the background and control camera angle in order to exclude contemporary equipment and personnel.

The photos in this show/article were exhibited initially as a teaser show during the summer of 2016 at the Rockford Midway Village and Museum Center. The teaser show came down and then a larger show went up during the week of the 20th Anniversary of the Rockford Event. Quite a few of these have won prizes in various contests. Some of the show images also appeared in the commemorative souvenir booklet the museum sold at the 20th Anniversary Event. I now wish to share these with you in THE EDGE.

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 1996 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 1996 Photo by James Meldrum

Re-enactment photos, especially portraits, intrigue me for various reasons because they show how people from our modern time might have appeared during this conflict had they been born 75 years earlier. The difference between how contemporary people (especially those you know) normally appear and how these same people appear in an impression can be truly incredible. This difference is especially apparent with women's impressions.

My impression is that of a German *Kriegsbericht*/Propaganda Kompanie photographer and I belong to the HRS WW2 Press Corps. Most people come to a re-enactment to be something or someone they are not; I come to be myself.

Where possible I try to make male re-enactors appear heroic (and this goes for women as well) and lethal; female re-enactors I try to make look glamorous and elegant. I know this is playing to a stereotype, but these are my personal reactions to the re-enactors themselves and their impressions. As I watch, re-enactors seem to slip into and out of roles unconsciously and effortlessly - almost as if they were in a movie - and I try to use my poor skills to document them as they very ably rise to the occasion.

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2000 Photo by James Meldrum

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Mike Hofmann 9th Infantry Division

From: _____



To: _____

