



THE EDGE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE



WORLD WAR 2

Historical Re-enactment Society

Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois – September 2016 Photos by Heinz Thiel



THE EDGE



**PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN
REENACTING**



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois – September 2016 Photos by Rebecca Tulloch



ARMED FORCES DAY





“Forces’ Sweetheart” to release album at 100

By Michael Krizsanitz, 70th Tank Btn Re-enactor, WW2 HRS



Likely by the time you read this, Dame Vera Margaret Lynn’s new album “Vera Lynn 100” will have been on sale for far fewer weeks, than years she has been on earth. Known during the war as “The Forces’ Sweetheart”, singer Lynn turns 100 years of age on March 17, 2017.

The album will feature Lynn’s original vocals set to re-orchestrated versions of some of her most famous songs, making Lynn the first singer in history to release a new album at age 100.

Born in East Ham, Essex, to father Bertram Samuel Welch and mother Annie Martin, she began performing publicly in 1924 and adopted her grandmother’s maiden name as her stage name when she was performing in 1928. Her first radio broadcast was in 1935, and in 1936 her first solo record “Up the Wooden Hill to Bedfordshire”, was released on the Crown label.

During the Second World War

Best known for her 1939 recording of the popular song “We’ll Meet Again”, Lynn became known as “the Forces’ Sweetheart” after the Daily Express held a contest during the Phony War, an eight-month period of military inactivity at the start of World War II, asking British servicemen to name their favorite musical performers. Vera Lynn won hands down.

In 1941, Lynn began the “Sincerely Yours” radio program, which, not unlike the later “Command Performance” broadcasts involving Americans, sent messages and performed songs most requested by British troops serving overseas. Lynn also visited new mothers in hospitals and sent their personal messages to their husbands in the service. Her effect on English morale cannot be measured, nor overstated.

The year 1942 brought “The White Cliffs of Dover”, written in admiration of the RAF pilots of the Battle of Britain (nicknamed ‘Bluebirds’), which had taken place in 1940. Lynn appeared in the film “We’ll Meet Again”, in 1943.

During the war, Lynn was a member of the Entertainments National Service Association or ENSA, which was not unlike USO performers in its purpose, and travelled in the Far East, giving outdoor performances to troops; in much the same manner as Bob Hope was doing with US troops later on. Lynn received the Burma Star (a military campaign medal instituted during the war for service in the Burma Campaign) in 1985, for performing behind the lines for guerrilla units in Japanese controlled areas.

Along with Marlene Dietrich, Vera Lynn also recorded an English version of a famous German marching tune “Lili Marlene”, which had been adopted by the Tommies fighting in the desert.

After the War

Vera Lynn continued to set entertainment records throughout her career. In 1952, “Auf Wiederseh’n Sweetheart” topped the US charts for nine weeks, becoming the first record by a British performer to do so. Lynn also appeared as a regular on “The Big Show”, Tallulah Bankhead’s US radio program. Her 1950s popularity topped in 1954 with a number-one hit “My Son, My Son”.

In 1960 Lynn left Decca Records after working with them for some 25 years and joined EMI, recording the song “The Day After Tomorrow” for the 1962 musical “Blitz!”. Characters in the play were depicted as listening to the song while in a London bomb shelter.

The 1964 film Dr. Strangelove ends with clips of Atomic and Nuclear explosions accompanying Vera Lynn’s song “We’ll Meet Again”. 1966 saw the album “Hits of the Blitz”. Contrary to oft repeated Vera Lynn lore, she neither sang nor recorded “Rose of England” during the war and it was only in 1966 when a record producer selected it for her album “More Hits of the Blitz” that she sang it for the first time.

Among her many and varied honors, Lynn was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1969, and was advanced to Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in the 1975 Queen’s Birthday Honors for charitable services.

Vera Lynn was the subject of the television program “This Is Your Life” on two occasions, in October 1957, and again in December 1978. She hosted her own variety series on BBC1 in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and appeared in a 1977 TV special “Vera Lynn in Nashville”. In 1979, on their album “The Wall”, Pink Floyd released a song titled “Vera”, referencing Vera Lynn and the song “We’ll Meet Again”.

In 1995, Dame Vera Margaret Lynn sang outside Buckingham Palace in a ceremony that marked the golden jubilee of VE Day. This was her last public performance. In September 2009, at the age of 92, Lynn became the oldest living artist to make it to number 1 in Britain, with her album “We’ll Meet Again: The Very Best of Vera Lynn”.

And so, at her 100th birthday, Vera Lynn will release yet another album, of songs covering most of an entire century, many recorded when her country needed her most.

“We’ll meet again,
Don’t know where, don’t know when,
But I know we’ll meet again, some sunny day...”

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One U.S. Representative voted NO in 1917 and 1941...

By Michael Krizsanitz

70th Tank Battalion Re-enactor WWII HRS



Jeannette Pickering Rankin opposed U.S. Military intervention in both World Wars. A pacifist, in 1917 Rankin joined some 49 other House members who cast dissenting votes on the War Declaration. Six Senators also joined in the vote against, and 8 Senators did not vote at all.

On December 8, 1941, Rankin became the sole vote against declaring war, after President Roosevelt asked in his famous speech, for Congress to consider that *"A state of war has existed between the United States, and the Japanese empire..."*

So, how did one person end up in the unique position to not only vote, but vote *against* both wars?

Early History

Jeannette Rankin was born in June, 1880, in the Montana Territory. She was one of six children born to Olive Pickering, who was a schoolteacher and rancher John Rankin. Her brother, Wellington, would become the state's attorney general, and associate justice of the Montana Supreme Court.

As the oldest, Rankin helped care for the younger children, in addition to sharing in daily farm chores. A hard worker, she helped maintain ranch machinery, and once built a wooden sidewalk for a building owned by her father. Rankin saw that while women worked alongside the men, they had no voice in political discussion, nor the right to vote.

After graduation from high school in 1898, Rankin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Montana in 1902. After college, she turned down several proposals of marriage, was a dressmaker in Montana, and then designed furniture in Boston, while living with her brother as he attended Harvard. In 1908, she travelled to California to become a social worker. Finding that this was the career she had been seeking, Rankin then attended school in New York, until 1909. She settled in Spokane, Washington, briefly was a social worker, then attended the University of Washington and became involved in the women's suffrage movement

Politics

Rankin worked as a lobbyist for the National American Woman Suffrage Association. In November 1910, Washington voters approved an amendment the right to vote to women, the fifth state to do so. In February 1911, Rankin became the first woman to speak before the Montana legislature. She spoke about women's suffrage. In November 1914, Montana passed an amendment granting women unrestricted voting rights. She also advocated for greater involvement of women in government.

First Congressional Win

Managed by her brother Wellington, Rankin's campaign in the congressional election of 1916 for one of Montana's two at-large House seats, found her elected by over 7500 votes to become the first female member of Congress.

After her term began, Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare on all Atlantic shipping brought Congress together to review the problem. On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany. The war vote occurred in the House on April 7. Rankin's vote was one of fifty votes against. At the time she said, "I wish to stand for my country, but I cannot vote for war." Interviewed years later, she stated, "I felt the first time a woman had a chance to say no to war, she should say it."

While Jeanette Rankin may have stood upon high moral ground in many people's view, she suffered for her vote, in great disproportion to the male members of Congress who voted in opposition. Singled out for criticism, some in the suffrage movement considered her vote to be treasonous. One champion of Rankin however, was a New York Representative who would be quite famous later on as the Mayor of New York City, Fiorello LaGuardia.

By 1918, women had been granted voting rights in the majority of states, but Rankin campaigned for voting rights for all women in the US. After reapportionment in Montana, she ran for the Senate in 1918 and lost. The year 1919 saw the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Return to Private Life

1924 saw Rankin living on a small Georgia farm with no modern conveniences. She travelled the country making speeches for the Women's Peace Union and the National Council for the Prevention of War. In 1928 she founded the Georgia Peace Society, which lasted until 1941. Rankin served as a lobbyist for pacifist causes ranging from banning child labor, to advocating for woman & children's rights.



The photo shows Rankin in 1939, before the House Naval Affairs Committee, in opposition to building military facilities on Guam.

Back to Congress

In 1940, Rankin won the July primary, and the general election, awarding her a term in Congress for the second time. Appointed to several committees, she joined in the discussions concerning US involvement overseas. In the weeks leading up to December, 1941, President Roosevelt was quoted many times from his October 30, 1940 address, *"I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars"* ... Elected politicians on both sides of the aisle heard from their constituents, many of whom remembered World War I, and wanted to stay out of Europe's problems. But, for months leading up to December, news stories concerned our troubles with the Japanese Empire, while also reporting on the two-year-old European conflict.

Monday the 8th

The United States experienced varied responses to the Pearl Harbor attack, ranging from panic, to extreme patriotism. When President Roosevelt addressed the joint session of Congress on December 8, 1941, the attitude of the country was universally against the perpetrators of the "sneak-attack" on Hawaii.

The President delivered his speech at 12:30, and the vote commenced afterward, passing both the Senate, and the House by 1:10 pm. A total of 389 Representatives voted in the House, of which nine were female, Rankin was the sole hold out dissenting vote, which was 388 -1. The Senate vote was unanimous. As the vote was carried out, and Rankin cast hers, other members and persons in the gallery reportedly hissed at her. Several members including Everett Dirksen asked her to vote with the rest, in order to make the resolution unanimous, or to abstain, but Rankin refused.



Once the proceedings concluded, a group of reporters cornered Rankin in a phone booth in a cloakroom, where she telephoned for help, and stayed inside until the US Capitol Police arrived to escort her to her office. A photograph was taken as she called, and published the next day across the country.

She was quoted as saying *"As a woman I can't go to war, and I refuse to send anyone else."*

Thus Jeanette Rankin became the only person to have voted against a declaration of war, in both worldwide conflicts. Controversy continued however, with a flood angry calls and telegrams to her office. Even from her brother Wellington, who had bankrolled her original political career, who was furious. He telephoned her, stating *"Montana is 100 percent against you."*

Two days later, when the war declaration against Germany and Italy came to a vote, Rankin abstained. Jeanette Rankin realized her political career was over, and did not run for re-election in 1942.

Rankin continued to be a pacifist for the rest of her life, engaging in activities protesting US involvement in Viet-Nam. In 1968, she organized an anti-war march in Washington, that was the largest women's march since the suffrage movement in 1913. She passed away on May 18, 1973 at the age of 92.

When asked if she had ever regretted her voting decisions, she replied *"Never. If you're against war, you're against war regardless of what happens. It's a wrong method of trying to settle a dispute."*

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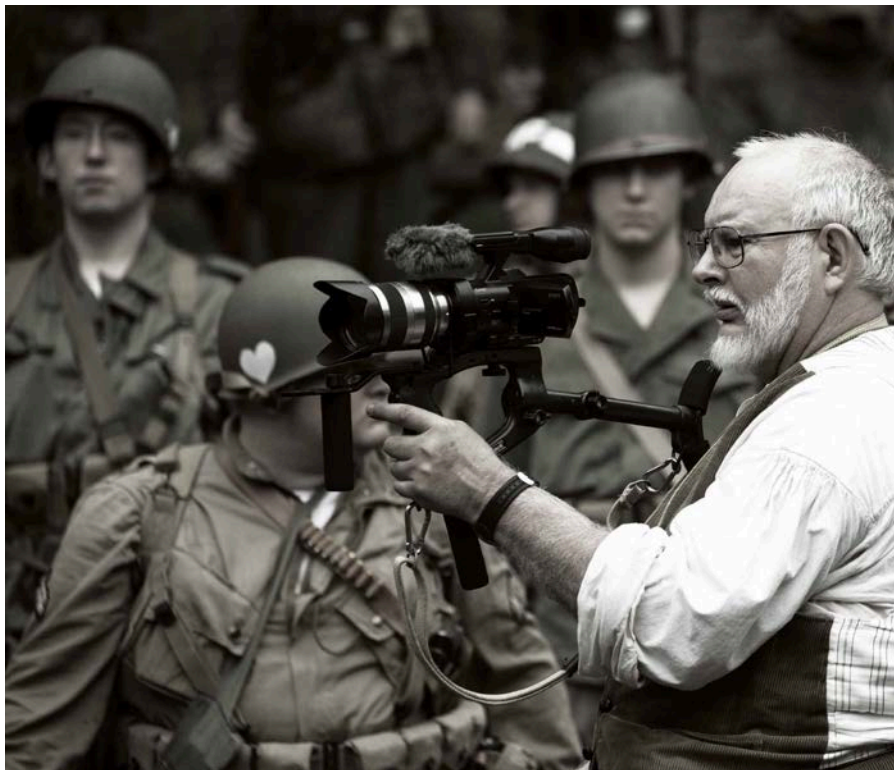
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If your WW2 HRS unit has news it would like to published in The EDGE,
Or if are a WW2 HRS member and would like to submit an article or photo,
Then simply e-mail it to me and I will put it in The EDGE.

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.



Treasurer Wayne McCulley



TREASURER'S REPORT

WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY MARCH 2017

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF FEBRUARY 28TH 2017

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$9,102.57
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$47,460.83
Account Totals	\$56,563.40

INCOME FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Membership Income	\$4,431.99
Interest from Money Market Account	\$1.46
Total Income	\$4,433.45

EXPENDITURES FOR FEBRUARY 2017

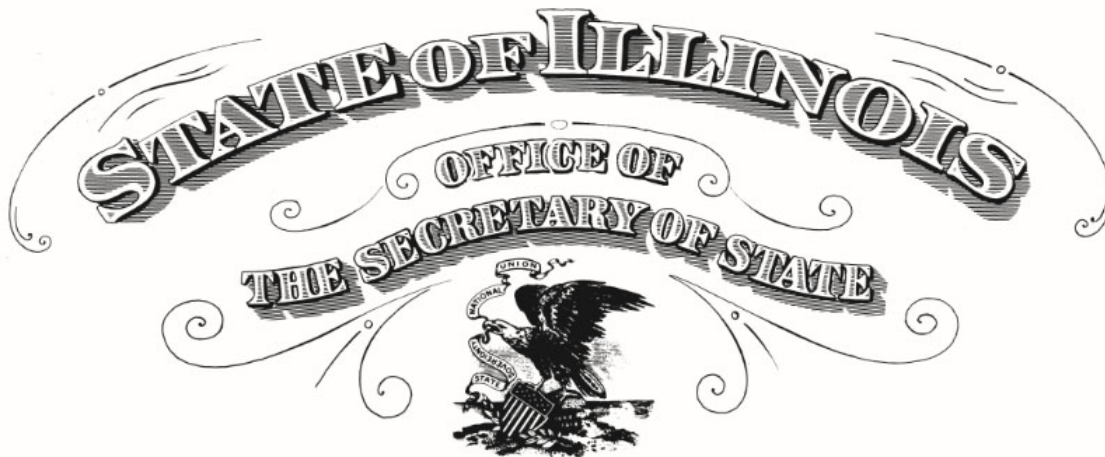
Eventbrite Service Fees	\$659.08
Military History Fest Table supplies	\$20.93
WW2 HRS Promotional Banner	\$107.99
Military History Fest table staff admissions	\$50.00
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Illinois Secretary of State Annual Report	\$10.00
Total Expenditures	\$860.80

2017 Membership Income	\$4,431.99
2017 Interest Income	\$5.13
2017 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
2017 Total Income	\$4,437.12
2017 Expenditures	\$7,927.70
2017 Total Income less 2017 Total Expenses	(\$3,490.58)



File Number

6264-192-4



To all to whom these Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

I, Jesse White, Secretary of State of the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that I am the keeper of the records of the Department of Business Services. I certify that

WORLD WAR TWO HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY, A DOMESTIC CORPORATION, INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE ON JANUARY 22, 2003, APPEARS TO HAVE COMPLIED WITH ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ACT OF THIS STATE, AND AS OF THIS DATE, IS IN GOOD STANDING AS A DOMESTIC CORPORATION IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.



Authentication #: 1706300484 verifiable until 03/04/2018
Authenticate at: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com>

***In Testimony Whereof, I hereto set
my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of
the State of Illinois, this 4TH
day of MARCH A.D. 2017 .***

Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE



EVENTS

May	May
12-14	ASSAULTING FORTRESS EUROPE, A WW II TACTICAL
May	<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: papaioad@20thcenturyqi.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	STRONGHOLD CASTLE WWII PUBLIC BATTLE REENACTMENT
May	<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@20thcenturyqi.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>



ARMED FORCES WEEKEND COMMEMORATION WWII BATTLE REENACTMENT MAY 20-21, 2017

- Vintage WWII aircraft flyovers
- Hundreds of Uniformed Re-enactors
- Vintage WWII Tanks, Jeeps, and Motorcycles
- Period Style USO Show
- Activities for All Ages
- Food and Beverages Available



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8TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY HISTORIC MILITARY TIMELINE WEEKEND DUNDAS, MN

**SATURDAY 10AM-5PM & SUNDAY 10AM-3PM
LOCATED ON HWY 3 JUST SOUTH OF NORTHFIELD**

\$8 WITH A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM

\$10 WITHOUT, AGES 7-12 \$6

KIDS UNDER 7 & WWII VETERANS FREE



**REENACTORS FROM LOTS OF DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS
MILITARY VEHICLES, AUTHORS, VETERANS, MILITARY SWAP MEET,
WWII THEMED BATTLES, CIVIL WAR ARTILLERY,
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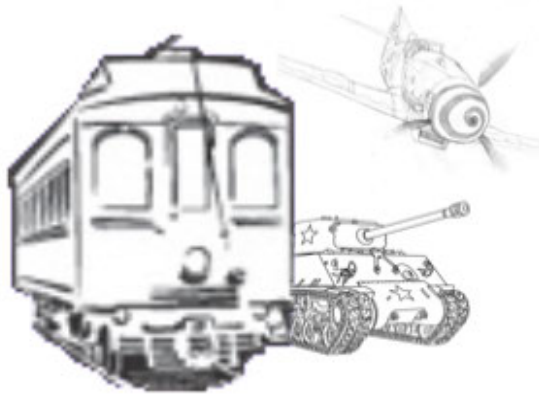
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MAY 20-21, 2017

HOSTED BY RICE COUNTY STEAM & GAS ENGINES, INC.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF WWII VETERAN HAROLD ROY - 82ND AIRBORNE



RAILS TO VICTORY

June 9-11, 2017



Join us for the 7th annual Rails to Victory WW2 reenactment at the Fox River Trolley Museum in South Elgin, Illinois, just West of Chicago. RTV is a Western Front European Theater event for both military and civilians. RTV will once again be presenting the Occupied France Trolley Adventure along the 3 miles of trolley tracks on the Fox River. This is an opportunity for reenactors to immerse the public into history by putting them on a trolley and leading them through various period skits and battles. Wooded picturesque and sloping terrain along the Fox River offer unique and interesting landscapes for both reenactors and spectators. There will also be a large scale Western Front Field Battle in and around the Museum's bone yard with railroad obstacles for defensive positions. All vehicles including tracked vehicles are welcome to participate.

A period WW2 Girls Baseball Home Front Game will once again be played on Sunday and Reenactors are encouraged to come over to watch the game and cheer on their favorite team; whether it be the Rockford Peaches, Kenosha Comets, Racine Bells, or South Bend Blue Sox.

Camp Amenities: Flush Toilets on site. All Campsites are assigned on a first come first served basis. The event is hosted by the US 10th Mtn Living History Display Group, 28th Jager Division Regiment, the 3rd Gebirgsjaeger Division, and A League Of Our Own WWII Girls Baseball Living History League.

Visit
www.RAILSTOVICTORY.com
for more Details and to Register.

PRE-REGISTRATION - NO CHARGE
Thru June 7th.

ON-SITE REGISTRATION - \$10.00 Walk-On Fee





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

Publicity Coordinator
Charlie Thomas
815-973-4933
cethomas@grics.net

Site Coordinator
Dale Grobe
815-284-9881
dalebob65@hotmail.com

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

Danny J. Higgins



Open House



AMERICAN LEGION POST 974

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Calling ALL Reenactors

American Legion 974 of Franklin Park is doing
an open house your help is needed to tell our story.

one day event living history display wanted

WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam Era wanted.

11 to 5 Sunday set up Sunday morning

you can do displays set up indoor or out door

Lunch Served

Sunday August 27, 2017

11 AM-5PM

For more information call or email

Ken Bishop

847.774.8356

americanlegion974@yahoo.com

*Veterans, and their Families
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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



The M1 Anti-Tank Rocket Launcher

By Kerwin Law



When the tank became an effective tool of war during WWI, a means to counter it was sought soon thereafter. Early tanks were primarily designed to support infantry attacks and not fight other tanks, so until they were up-gunned later on, they weren't too effective in fighting other tanks. So, artillery, anti-tank guns and special grenades were the first countermeasures employed to stop the advance of enemy tanks. Then in 1918, the Germans came out with the 13mm Mauser Tankgewehr. This was believed to be the first shoulder fired rifle designed specifically for the anti-tank (AT) role. Unlike artillery and AT guns, AT rifles were much quicker to deploy by a single soldier and counter unexpected enemy tank assaults. While AT grenades were also rapidly deployed individualized weapons, the AT rifle gave the soldier a much better chance by being effective well beyond grenade throwing distance. It wasn't too long before several other countries followed the Germans and developed their own AT rifle, as well as rifle launched AT grenades. Despite the stiff recoil, the AT rifle seemed like the best man portable AT weapon, that is until between the wars when tanks became much more heavily armored. A better solution was needed.





The solution happened to be this funny looking stove pipe of a weapon called the M1 Anti-Tank Rocket Launcher. Two things were brought together to make this new wonder weapon a reality. As the name implies, one was a rocket, which had been around as a weapon for centuries. The other was the shaped or hollow charge, which had also been around a long time, but generally was not thought of as a weapon until between the world wars. While most understand the basic concept of a rocket, a shaped charge allows a fairly small warhead to pack a pretty big punch by concentrating the explosion through an inverted cone. A tank doesn't necessarily have to be blown to smithereens to disable it, you can just bore a hole in the armor and let the blast and metal fragments in the confined space play havoc on the crew. The United States was the first to field a hand held rocket propelled AT weapon. The Germans soon followed suit by copying captured ones and later making their own called the Panzerschrek (Armor Terror). As a side note, the British also came out with a somewhat similar weapon called the PIAT (Projector, Infantry, Anti-Tank) during WWII, but it used a spring and a booster charge to "project" it and not a rocket.



While rocket pioneer Robert Goddard had envisioned tube fired rockets as a weapon prior, two US Army officers can claim most of the credit for this new invention. Initially in 1933, Leslie Skinner was put in charge of the newly created, one man branch at the Ordnance Department to study our military's use of rockets. Skinner had an interest in rockets early on in life, so he likely considered this a dream job. He had been making and launching his own rockets for amusement for years. He was not even deterred in his hobby when in 1915, one of them set fire to the army post hospital roof where his father worked. So those of you with potentially dangerous hobbies take heart, you too may be able to help your country out someday. In this position at the Ordnance Department, he was able to test certain rocket weapon concepts until 1938, when he was transferred to Hawaii. It seemed the military had lost interest in further weaponizing rockets. That is, until the Germans used the massed tank attacks starting in the later part of 1939. Soon after, Skinner was "back to the drawing board" working with rockets. Then in mid-1941, the second vital player, a man by the name of Edward Uhl was brought in to work with Skinner.





Together, they worked out the early problems associated with the weapon, like warhead construction and firing mechanism, etc. Then, by mid-1942 they had a pretty decent rocket and launcher that was ready for testing. It was taken to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, where a demonstration of a few different shaped charge firing spigot mortars was being held. The rocket launcher prototype stole the show, with Uhl and many of the other officers on hand themselves being able to hit a moving tank. Skinner and Uhl had brought 9 rockets and only one had missed. Now, if you can invent an AT weapon that makes several crusty old generals look like tank busting aces their first time out, then you my friend have struck gold. After the demonstration General Barnes, upon closer inspection of the weapon was reported to have said "it sure looks like Bob Burns' Bazooka". This is where the more common name for the M1 Anti-Tank Rocket Launcher originated. For those of you who don't know who Bob Burns and what his Bazooka was, he was a comedian of the day, who had a horn like instrument made out of pipe and a funnel.



After a few more modifications by the Ordnance Department, the new AT weapon was officially adopted in late June 1942 as the M1 Anti-Tank Rocket Launcher. General Electric (yes, they do bring good things to life) was selected to manufacture it soon after. It weighed about 13 lbs. and was a bit over 54 inches, with a bore of 2.36" (60mm). Because the rear end of the tube was open, the recoil was virtually nonexistent, although the tradeoff was a nasty back blast. Another drawback was that it required two conventional household "C" batteries to fire the rocket, which were later shown to be problematic in cold weather. In addition to anti-tank rockets, the Bazooka was ultimately able to launch smoke, incendiary and gas rockets which increased its usefulness. In July the following year the M1A1 was adopted. Changes included a different sighting set up, modified electrics, addition of a muzzle flash deflector and sling mounts among other things. Then when Airborne Command stated the need for a more compact version, the two piece M9 Rocket Launcher variant was adopted in late 1943 which featured a magneto ignition system that eliminated the aforementioned cold weather battery problems and a revised sighting system. Then when the coupling that joined the two tubes was deemed problematic, the M9A1 with its improved coupling started being manufactured in late 1944. While General Electric made all of the M1 series and the majority of the M9 series, Cheney Bigelow of Massachusetts made around 40,000 of the M9A1s. The final version of the 2.36"/60mm rocket launcher of this era was the aluminum M18 Rocket Launcher, of which 500 were produced by GE at the very tail end of WWII. It's believed a few hundred were sent to the Pacific theater in WWII, but it's unclear if any were used before the war ended. All told, almost 500,000 launchers and 15 million rockets were made, making it quite prevalent on WWII battlefields later in the war.



While there are a multitude of stories documenting the AT rocket launchers effectiveness in combating enemy armor, its critics love to point out the fact that as German armor improved, it became less effective. Which of course is true, but you can also say that about every other AT weapon we had at the time of its adoption. The fact is, there simply is no flawless weapon of any kind, unless of course if you believe everything you read on the internet and are inclined not to include AKs and Glocks in that list.

Kerwin Law January 2017
(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.



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

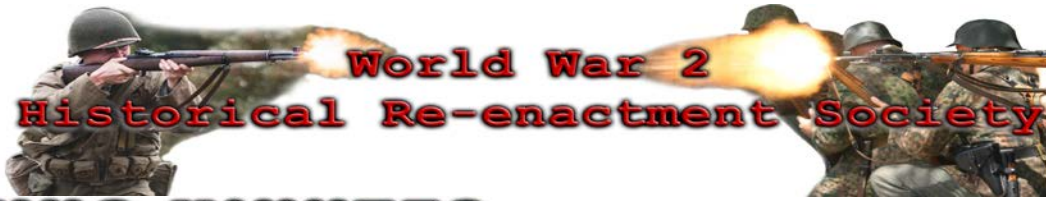
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MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society

Board Meeting

21 February 2017

Meeting Start 7:30 PM

Call to Order - roll call

Board Members: Jon Stevens, Wayne McCulley, Chuck Bolanis, Corey Vaughan

Other Members: Mike Alexander, Ron Kapustka, Dave Goodwin, Dave Overschmidt, Jim Schouten

Approval of Agenda

Jon presented the agenda. Chuck motioned agenda be approved. Corey seconded. Agenda was approved by BOD vote.

Reading of January Meeting Minutes

Wayne read Minutes of January meeting. Chuck motioned that the minutes be approved. Corey seconded. Minutes were approved by vote of board.

Officer Reports:

Vice President:

End of probation review: 10th SS Frundsberg probationary report has been received recently by the S&A committee. Chuck suggested more time be given. So far vote has been positive.

Units to be Disbanded : 33rd US Infantry Division. Chuck motioned unit be disbanded. Corey seconded. Motion was approved by BOD vote. 33rd Infantry Division has been disbanded.

Probation: The following combat units had less than 5 members in 2016. 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion; 117th Infantry Regiment, B Co.; 1st Marine Division, Fox Co., 2/5; 250th Infantry, Division Azul; 4th Armored Div., 704th Tank Destroyer Batt. Chuck read list of units. Chuck motioned that the units be put on one year probation to be reevaluated in 2018. Corey seconded. Motion was approved by board vote. Jon suggested representatives reach out to units.

Chuck explained that a new unit charter was in progress. The unit will be 33rd Armored Regiment 3rd US Armored Division. Charter is expected to be received soon. Jim Maxey will be the Unit Commander. Ray Krueger is writing the charter

A 2nd new unit charter is expected to be arriving soon. The unit will be 2nd SS Division Das Reich.

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

Total Income	\$3.67
Total Expenditures	\$7,066.90

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

Secretary –

Jon reported that WW2 HRS has 612 members year to date.

Commonwealth Representative: Absent.

Allied Representative:

Corey asked about compiling a list of non-reenacting groups that we work with such as Honor Flight. BOD concluded that compiling such a list would be a good idea.

Axis Representative: Absent.

Staff Reports: None Present.

Committee Reports:

S&A: Chuck reported on new S&A committee member Courtney Stark from 9th Soviet Airborne Brigade. Chuck was seeking new member to represent Soviet Women's impression. She accepted and was welcomed aboard. As reported in Vice President's report 10th SS Infantry Division is the only open S&A poll.

Unit Commanders:

Unit Commanders have been sent membership information.

Vehicle Committee:

Jim Schouten reported on conversation with Rich Russo concerning a social media area for vehicles owners. Discussed expanding vehicle section of Rockford Facebook. Jon suggested reaching out to Dave Fornell about expanding area of Rockford Vehicle page. Jim asked for suggestions of administrators of this section.

Jim brought up complaints after Rockford concerning reenactors riding on fenders of vehicles. Asked if HRS wants to work on protocols. Concerned about feet hanging from tracked vehicles. Jon expressed concern board agreed. Jim would work on it and send to S&A. Jim needs help with managing new HRS vehicle page. Chuck said he would setup the HRS Vehicle page.

Civilian Committee: No members attending.

Old Business:

2017 Insurance Renewal –

Jon reported the insurance bill has been paid. The check has been deposited. We are waiting for the policy from Quinn Insurance.

Regional Battles – Regional battles Weldonkrieg and Fort Custer were approved by email vote and have been listed.

Military History Fest Report – HRS table at Military History Fest was a success. HRS board members and staff talked to members and made dog tags.

New Business:

Interim Secretary – Ron Kapustka volunteered to be Interim Secretary. Corey Motioned that Ron be appointed. Chuck seconded. Motion was approved by board vote. Ron Kapustka is now Interim Secretary.

Membership Coordinator – Jon suggested that a Membership Coordinator position be filled to assist the Secretary & create a membership database. Jon has been talking with Jeff Skender who is interested in the position. Role would be to administer member database. Some concern was expressed about Jeff's time availability. Chuck would like more info Jon agreed. Tabled.



Open Comments: Ron discussed national battles need more info. Mike Alexander reported on completion of 53. Aufklarungs-Abteilung Sd. Kfz 222 armored car replica. He also reported on decision to merge with 7th panzer. Jon asked for written statement from 7th panzer concerning disbandment and merger before any action is taken.

Announcements: next meeting March 21

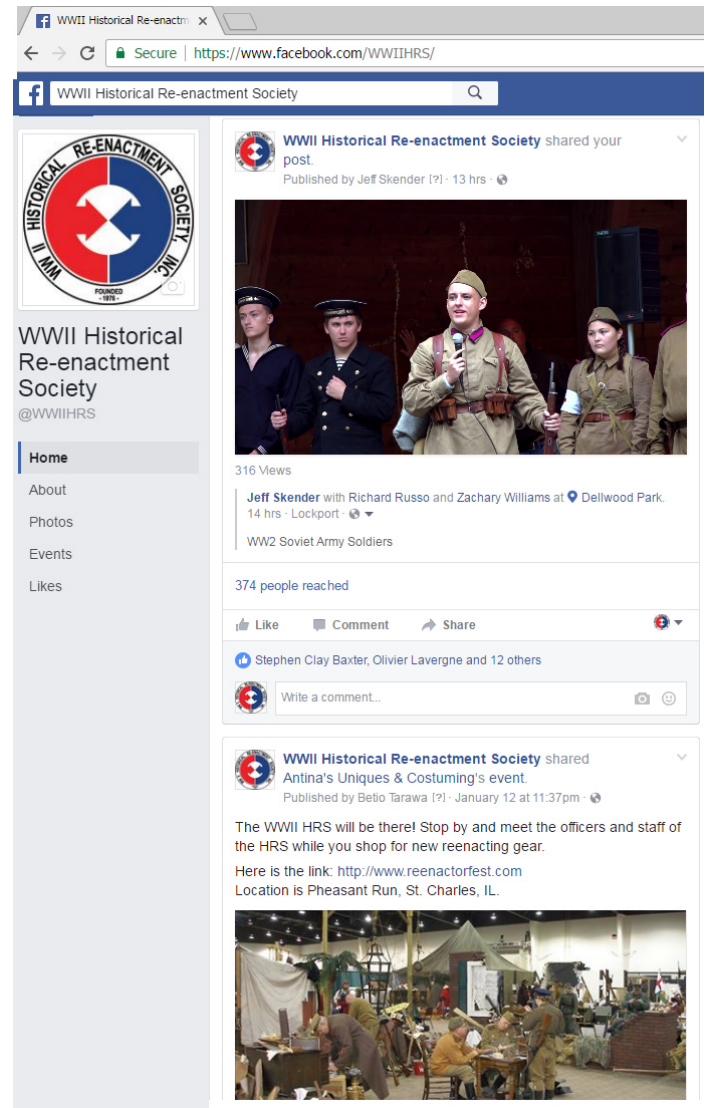
Adjourn

Jon motioned to adjourn and Corey seconded. Motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

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!





20 Years of the Rockford Event (Part 2: The Second Five Years 2001 to 2005)

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.

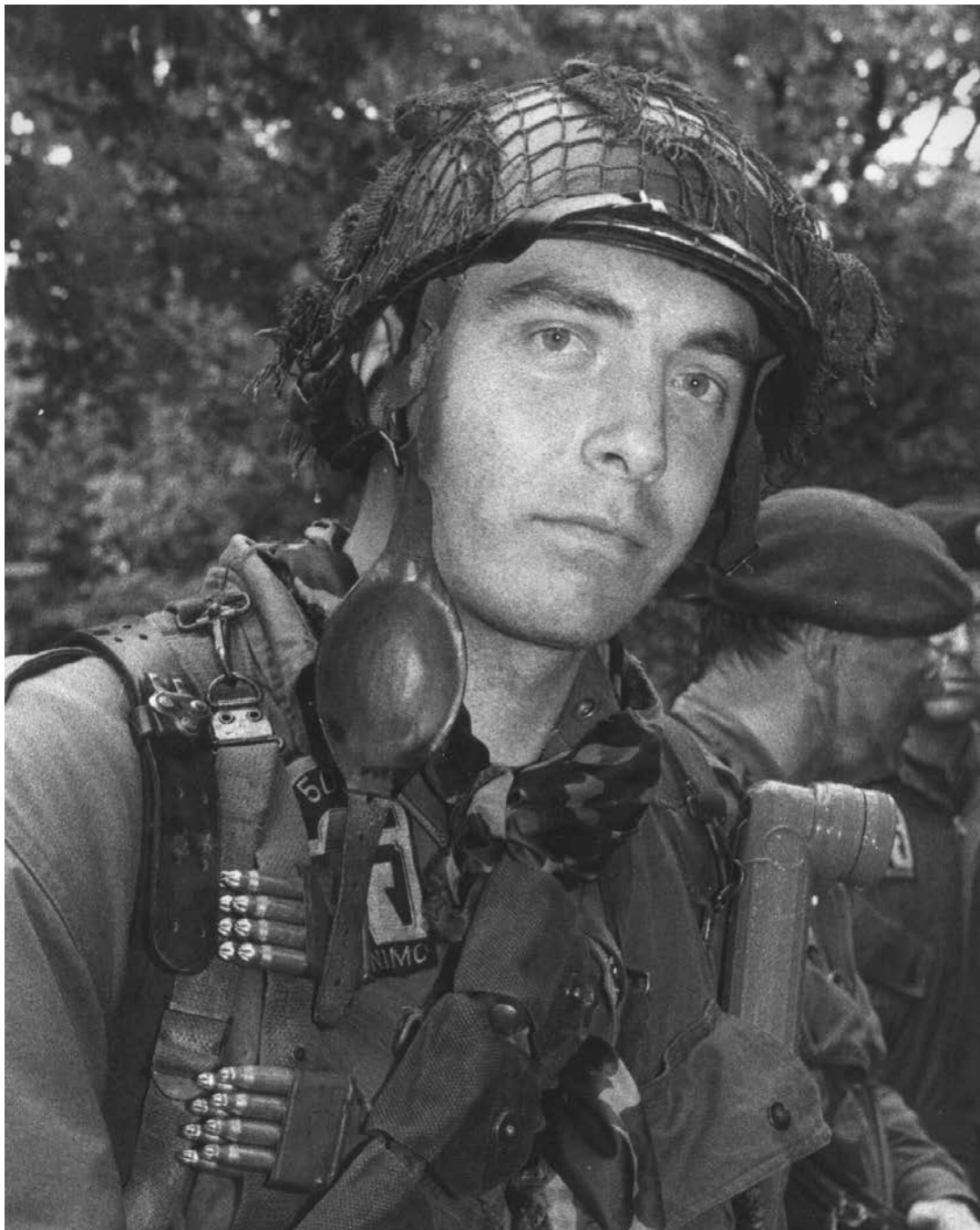




Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2001 Photo by James Meldrum

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.



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2001 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2001 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 *Kriegsberichtler*/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.



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2001 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2002 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2002 Photo by James Meldrum



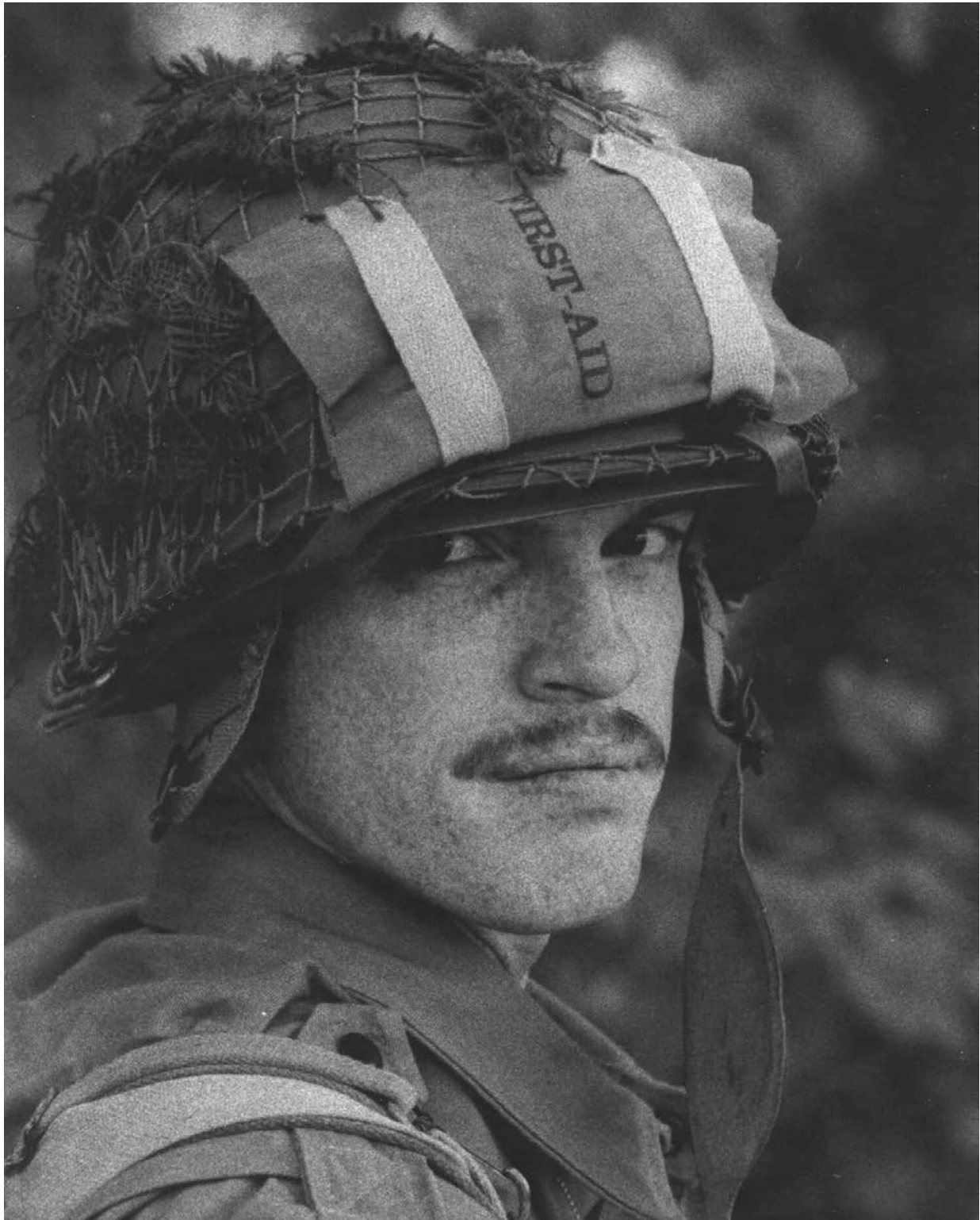
Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2002 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2002 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2003 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2003 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2003 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2003 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2003 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2004 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2004 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2005 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2005 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2005 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2005 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2005 Photo by James Meldrum



Mike Hofmann 9th Infantry Division

From: _____



To: _____

