

Memorial Day Morocco, Indiana 2017 Photos by Heinz Thiel

THE EDGE * VOLUME 26 * ISSUE 5 * JUNE 2017



**March with us back
into WWII history!**

Memorial Day Morocco, Indiana 2017 Photos by N. Stevens



Memorial Day Morocco, Indiana 2017 Photos by Heinz Thiel





WWII HRS Scholarship 2017

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

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

Eligibility:

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

Requirements:

1. The student should write a 500-word essay describing their qualifications and justification for receiving the HRS scholarship including the student's future plans in reenacting.
2. A letter of recommendation from the student's unit commander. If the student is the unit commander, then another unit commander acquainted with the student can supply the recommendation.
3. Unofficial transcripts or a letter from the student's college or university stating the student's current major and GPA.
4. A recent picture in WWII uniform of the student.

Deadline: July 1

Notification: August 1

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

Review:

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



Robert Capa, Huston Riley, And the Magnificent Eleven

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

June 6, 1944 - D-Day.

Robert Capa - Photographer.

Huston Riley - Infantryman.

11 surviving photos, of three rolls taken?

The invasion of France.



"The Face in The Surf", Robert Capa, © 2016 Time Inc.

Robert Capa was a war photographer and photo journalist, perhaps the greatest combat photographer in history.

Capa was born Endre Friedmann to a Jewish family in Budapest, Austria-Hungary in 1913. Originally aspiring to be a writer, at the age of 18, accusations of ties to communism forced Friedmann to leave Hungary, and he travelled to Germany, enrolling at the Berlin University, working as a darkroom assistant, and for the first time as a photographer at Dephot, a photo agency.

Growing to be devoted to photography, Friedmann left Germany in 1933, after the Nazi party rose to power. Friedmann, felt that he had to leave due to the persecution of Jews, and relocated to Paris, France. Finding it difficult to obtain work, Friedmann changed his name to the more American-sounding name, Robert Capa, to avoid religious discrimination then common in Europe.

Capa's first published photograph was of Leon Trotsky in Copenhagen in 1932.

Combat Photographer

In 1936, Capa travelled to Spain, photographing the Spanish Civil War. It was during this time that Capa published "The Falling Man", which ostensibly showed the death of a Republican soldier. In later years, the photo would be widely panned by scholars and historians alike as having been faked. In any case, Capa's career was off and running.

Capa accompanied author Ernest Hemingway to photograph the war, and Life magazine published an article about Hemingway in Spain, accompanied by photos by Capa.



© Cornell Capa - Magnum Photos

1938 also found Capa on assignment in China, documenting the resistance to the Japanese invasion. Having left from Paris to look for work, and to escape Nazi persecution, Capa was working for Colliers when the US entered WWII. Fired by Colliers later, Capa hired on with Life Magazine.

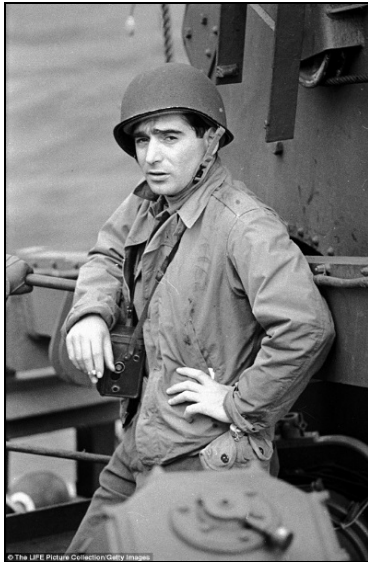
Though technically an alien from an enemy country, Capa moved about the European theater as a photographer for the Allies.

Capa captured images during the Sicilian and Italian campaigns. Present in Naples, he photographed the post office bombing among other subjects.



D-DAY

Ultimately selected as one of four photographers to be allowed to accompany the first wave with invasion forces on June 6, 1944, Capa landed at approximately 0630 at Omaha Beach along with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 16th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, coming ashore on the eastern part of Fox Green Beach. He began taking photos as he worked his way up to the beach, taking cover as he moved. He later estimated it took him some 30 minutes to move the 100 yards up onto the beach.



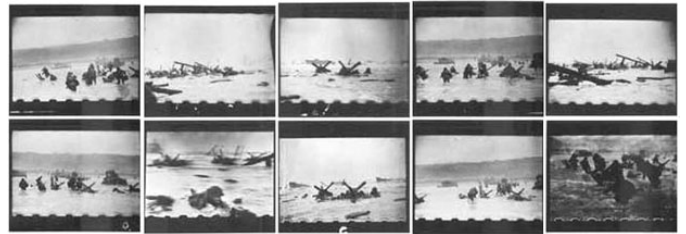
Robert Capa, D-Day - Getty Images

Capa used two cameras and several rolls of spare film, and *it is said* that he took 106 exposures in the first two hours of the invasion. Spending 90 minutes on the beach, Capa finally decided he had seen enough.

LCI 85 came ashore at 0835 hours. About 90 men of Able Company of the 1st Medical Battalion, along with some 100 other headquarters personnel were aboard. Capa approached the LCI, having decided to evacuate himself from the beach area. As the LCI began to offload, approximately 20 men had stepped off into the water, and Capa had just been assisted onto the ramp, when the LCI was hit by artillery. Several personnel were killed, others wounded, and still more were thrown into the water. LCI 85 left the beach, and was met by the USS Samuel Chase. Capa, along with the wounded, was transferred onto the troop ship, and taken back across the Channel to England.

New controversy and “The Magnificent Eleven”

The commonly held story, for some 70 years, was that Capa exposed 106 frames of film, and then evacuated himself from the beach, because his nerves were shot, rushed back to London, and a lab tech screwed up his film. The June 14, 1944 issue of Life, stated that some of the photos were not focused properly, due to Capa trembling as he took them. Capa always denied this. He is attributed in several accounts however, as having stated he was shaking so badly after 90 minutes under fire, that he could no longer load film into his camera. In January 1947, Capa published his account in the book “*Slightly out of Focus*”.



John G Morris, Capa’s editor at the time, noting Capa’s incredible courage, said that looking at the photo of the Infantryman passing by him, it is obvious that Capa has his back to the Germans. After hearing this comment by Morris in his interview, I wondered personally just how Capa was positioned, as it seems he is looking slightly downward at the soldier. Was Capa *standing*, with his back to the enemy, when that exposure was made?

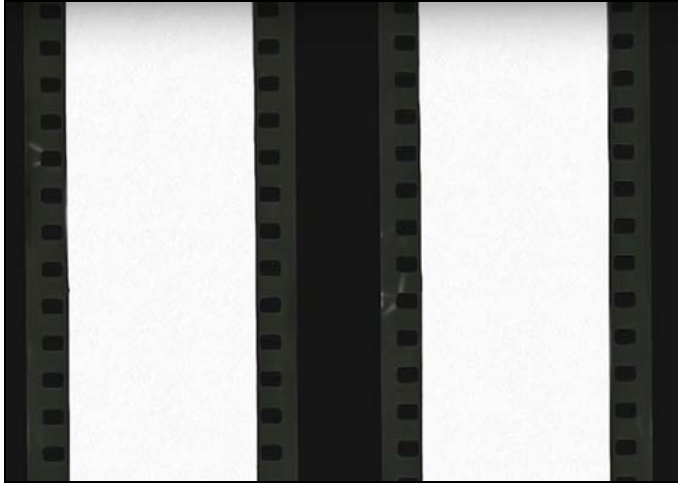
So Capa left on the LCI, transferred to the troop ship, taking the film with him, and passed it on to Life’s London Bureau’s photo lab. Then the film was damaged by an over excited darkroom assistant who put the negatives into a dryer that was set too hot, and melted the emulsion off the film. The Laboratory assistant was said to have been a 15-year-old boy named Dennis Banks. This is the first part of the controversy, as initially the blame was laid upon Larry Burrows, another Life employee. Burrows continued with Life Magazine, and was killed while covering the Vietnam War. In 1998, Editor John Morris put the blame onto Banks, in his book “*Get the picture, A personal history of photojournalism*”. This is not the last commentary on the subject by Morris however.

In 2014, Morris, told Christiane Amanpour in an interview, that Capa may have never even taken the photos that were supposedly lost.

Morris shared, “*It now seems that maybe there was nothing on the other three rolls to begin with. Experts recently have said you can't melt the emulsion off films like that and he just never shot them,*” Morris said.



"So I now believe that it's quite possible that Bob just bundled all his 35 together and just shipped it off back to London, knowing that on one of those rolls there would be the pictures he actually shot that morning... So we may not have lost anything at all that he had shot."



Part of the actual film shot by Capa on June 6, 1944 with no images exposed.

The Face in the Surf

So, who exactly was the soldier in the iconic photograph taken on that June morning, wading through the surf, against incredible odds, not knowing if he would see the end of the day?

Several men would appear over the years, like the photo of the Sailor kissing the Nurse, each saying they were the man in the photo. For some time, the soldier in the photograph was identified as Edward Regan. Later, the daughter of Alphonse Joseph Arsenault claimed her father was that man. But one soldier emerged as a more distinct possibility, due to the time that he and Capa landed, among other factors.

In 1984, on the D-Day anniversary, Life published an interview with Edward J. Regan, who said he was the infantryman in the picture. Regan made this claim on what he saw as his resemblance to the man in the photograph. But Regan was in King Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, coming ashore at 0725 hours in the second wave. Capa landed with the 1st Infantry an hour before this, with the first wave. Additionally, Regan's company landed on Easy Green Beach, some 2,900 yards west of where Capa landed on Fox Green Beach. Capa had finished taking pictures of men in the water before King Company came ashore. Regan could not have been the man in the photograph.

As for Alphonse Joseph Arsenault, it seems that there was never much debate, and not a lot has been published concerning his daughter's claim.

Enter researcher Lowell L. Getz, and his interpretation of the timelines, U. S. Army units, and actual landing locations of those units. He has identified PFC Huston Riley of Section 2, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division.

According to Getz:

Capa originally was scheduled to land on the western part of Easy Red Beach. However, after action reports show that five of the six sections of Easy Company, including the landing craft to which Capa was assigned, drifted to the left and came ashore on the eastern part of Fox Green Beach. Capa then began taking photos, as he made his way some 100 yards up to the beach.

Huston Riley, along with Fox Company, landed 10 minutes behind schedule, at 0640 hours. The Company had been scheduled to land in the eastern section of Easy Red Beach. LCVPs carrying sections 2, 4 and 5 were swept eastward during their run into the beach. They landed on the eastern part of Fox Green Beach, intermixed with landing craft of Easy Company, 16th Regiment, where Capa had landed.

Riley's story, according to Getz, is as follows-

Riley's LCV hit a sand bar while still more than 100 yards from shore. The boatswain lowered the ramp. When Riley stepped out, he dropped into a deep runnel just beyond the sand bar and went in over his head. He first tried walking on the bottom until his head reached the surface. When he no longer could hold his breath, he activated the two Navy M 26 belt life preservers around his waist. He bobbed to the surface with his chest and head above the water. Unfortunately, he then provided an opportune target for the Germans firing at troops in the water. Riley stripped off the preservers and held them front of his chest (*which the soldier in the photo appears to be doing - MK*). Riley, now mostly submerged in the water, made a smaller target as he pushed his way toward the beach. Because of the weight of his pack, rifle, ammunition and other equipment, it was slow going. Although time had no reference points with all the noise and confusion around him, Riley estimated it took at least half an hour to make his way to the beach.



While still lying prostrate at the water's edge, Riley was hit by small arms fire. Two bullets entered the front side of his neck and lodged in his back. Two men quickly came and helped him reach cover, one of whom, Riley later recalled, had a camera around his neck. The photographer was Capa, and somewhere between the moment when Riley reached the surf and when he was being lifted, wounded, out of the water, Capa made the photo. He struggled onto the beach, assisted by a sergeant and the photographer and Riley's first thought was, *What is a photographer doing on this beach?* Riley asked the sergeant what company he was from. Easy Company was his answer. Despite his wounds, Riley continued across the beach and moved up to the shingle embankment at the far side of the beach. Here survivors of the three sections of Fox Company attempted to organize themselves.



Later when interviewed, Riley claimed that Capa helped him out of the water, "I was surprised to see him there... and I thought, What the hell is he doing here? He helped me out of the water and then he took off down the beach for some more photos."

So... Is the soldier in the photo, Huston Riley?

Unfortunately, this far into the future, it will never be possible to determine with any certainty.

Riley's account, Capa's timeline, and the events of the Infantry Companies they were with, fit the circumstances. There is a facial similarity to Riley.

And Riley *WAS* in the right place, at the right time, to be the soldier in Capa's picture.

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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.

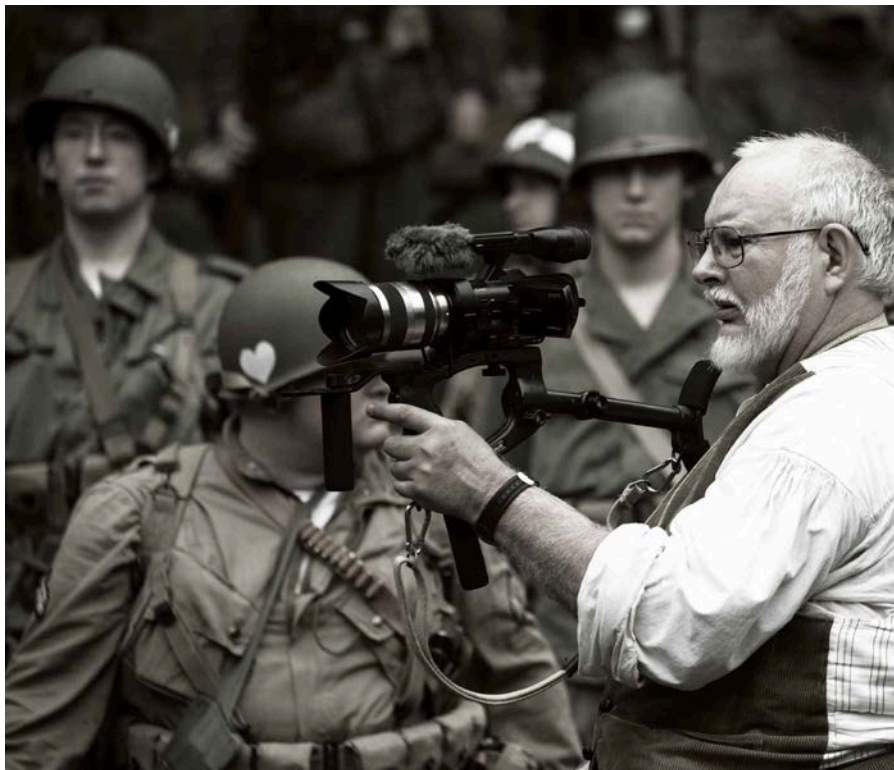
ANY WW2 HRS Member can submit an item for publication here in The EDGE.

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.



Treasurer Wayne McCulley



TREASURER'S REPORT

WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY MAY 2017

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF APRIL 30TH 2017

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$9,774.50
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$49,467.24

Account Totals

\$59,241.74

INCOME FOR APRIL 2017

Membership Income	\$2,260.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$3.79
Insurance Reimbursement for Midway Village World War 1 weekend	\$300.00
Total Income	\$2,563.79

EXPENDITURES FOR APRIL 2017

Eventbrite Service Fees	\$333.76
Event Support Delay the Inevitable	\$1,250.00
Postage	\$6.70
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Total Expenditures	\$1,603.26

2017 Membership Income	\$8,760.00
2017 Interest Income	\$11.54
2017 Miscellaneous Income	\$300.00
2017 Total Income	\$9,071.54
2017 Expenditures	\$9,883.78
2017 Income less 2017 Expenditures	(\$812.24)

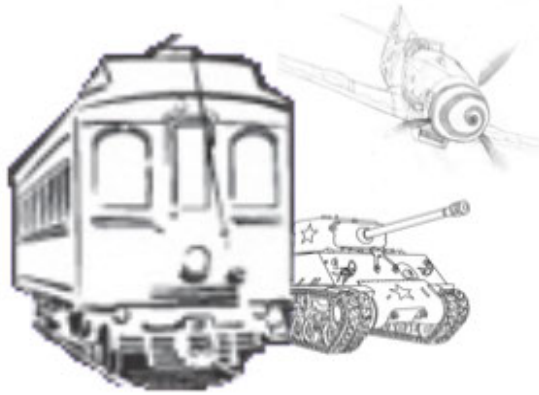


EVENTS

June	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 as 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>
23-25	WWII RECREATED, DIXON, ILLINOIS
Jun	<p>Loc: Elks Page Park, 7883 Lowell Park Rd., Dixon, Illinois Dates: June 23, 24, and 25 Event Times: - Friday June 23: Arrival, setup, evening public event preview, and militaria flea market. Please RSVP for a table. -Saturday June 24: 10am to 5pm open to the public, two public battles, weapons demos, veteran recognition, militaria sale -Sunday June 25: 11am to 4:00pm open to the public with one public battle; militaria sale Registration Times: Check in - Friday June 23 and Saturday June 24 7 to 9 am Pre-Registration: https://wwii-recreated-dixon-il-2017.eventbrite.com Fee: None Contact: Jonathan Stevens Website(s): http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com https://www.facebook.com/WWIIRecreatedDixonIL Map: http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com/map.html Authenticity Notes: All HRS rules apply. Minors: All HRS restrictions apply Prohibited Vehicles/Items: All vehicles welcome. Sponsoring Unit (s): 9th Infantry Division</p>



July	
21-23	OPERATION PACIFIC
Jul	<p>Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Okland, Tiff, Missouri 63674</p> <p>Dates: 21-23 July 2017, Tactical 22 July</p> <p>Event Times: 22 July, tactical 9am-4pm</p> <p>Registration Times: 22 July 6-8am</p> <p>Pre-Registration: (click here)</p> <p>Fee: \$15</p> <p>Contact: papajoad@20thcenturygi.com</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/718541318302470/</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:</p> <p>Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force 6th CO 3rd REG</p>



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 Geldrgsjaeger Division, and A League Of Our Own WWI 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

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Danny J. Higgins



Open House



AMERICAN LEGION POST 974

9757 PACIFIC AVE, FRANKLIN PARK, IL

[HTTP://WWW.LEGIONPOST974.WEBS.COM/](http://www.legionpost974.webs.com/)

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
Still Serving the Community*



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



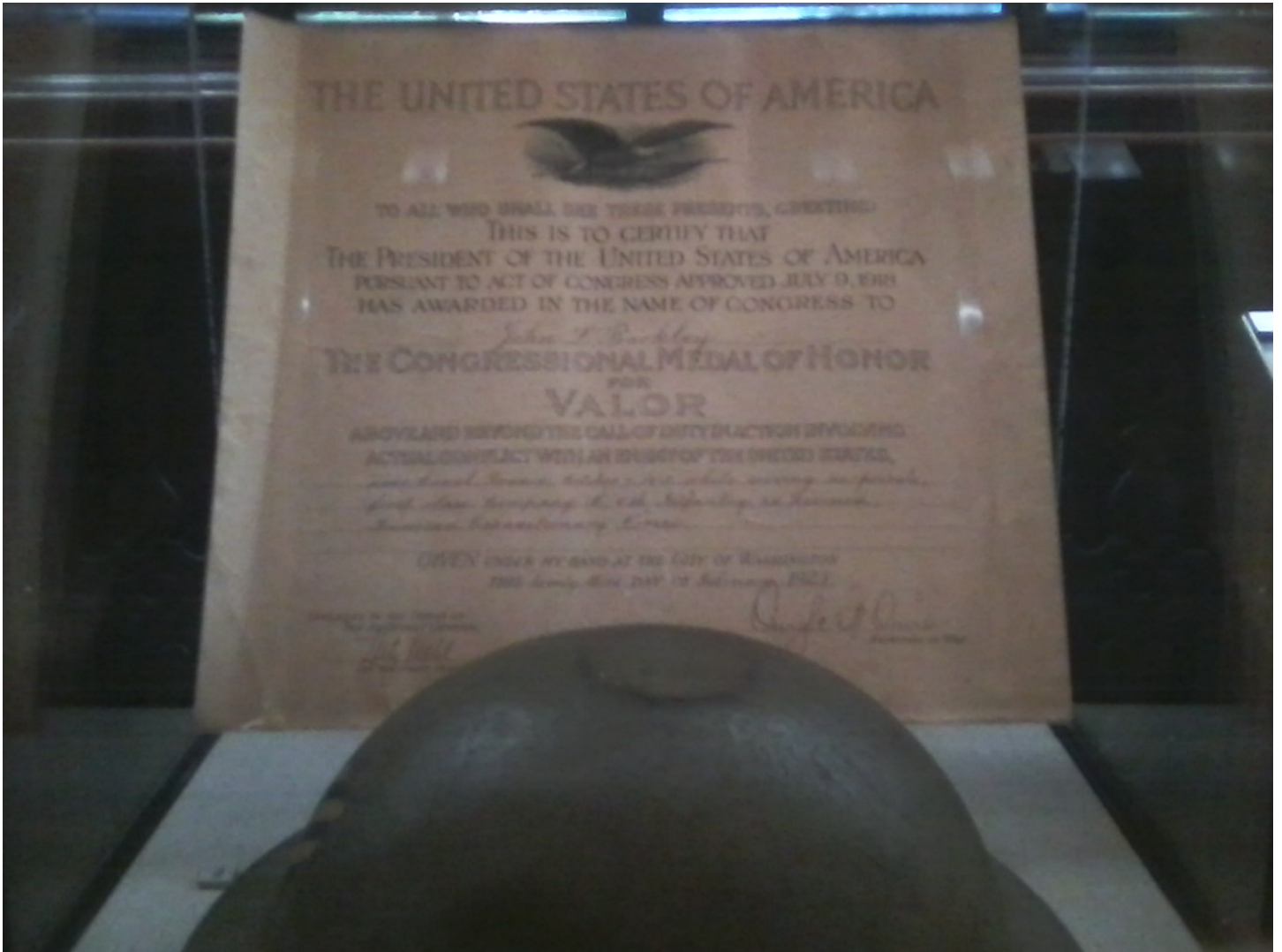
The National World War 1 Museum and Memorial Kansas City, Missouri



Photos By Kerwin Law



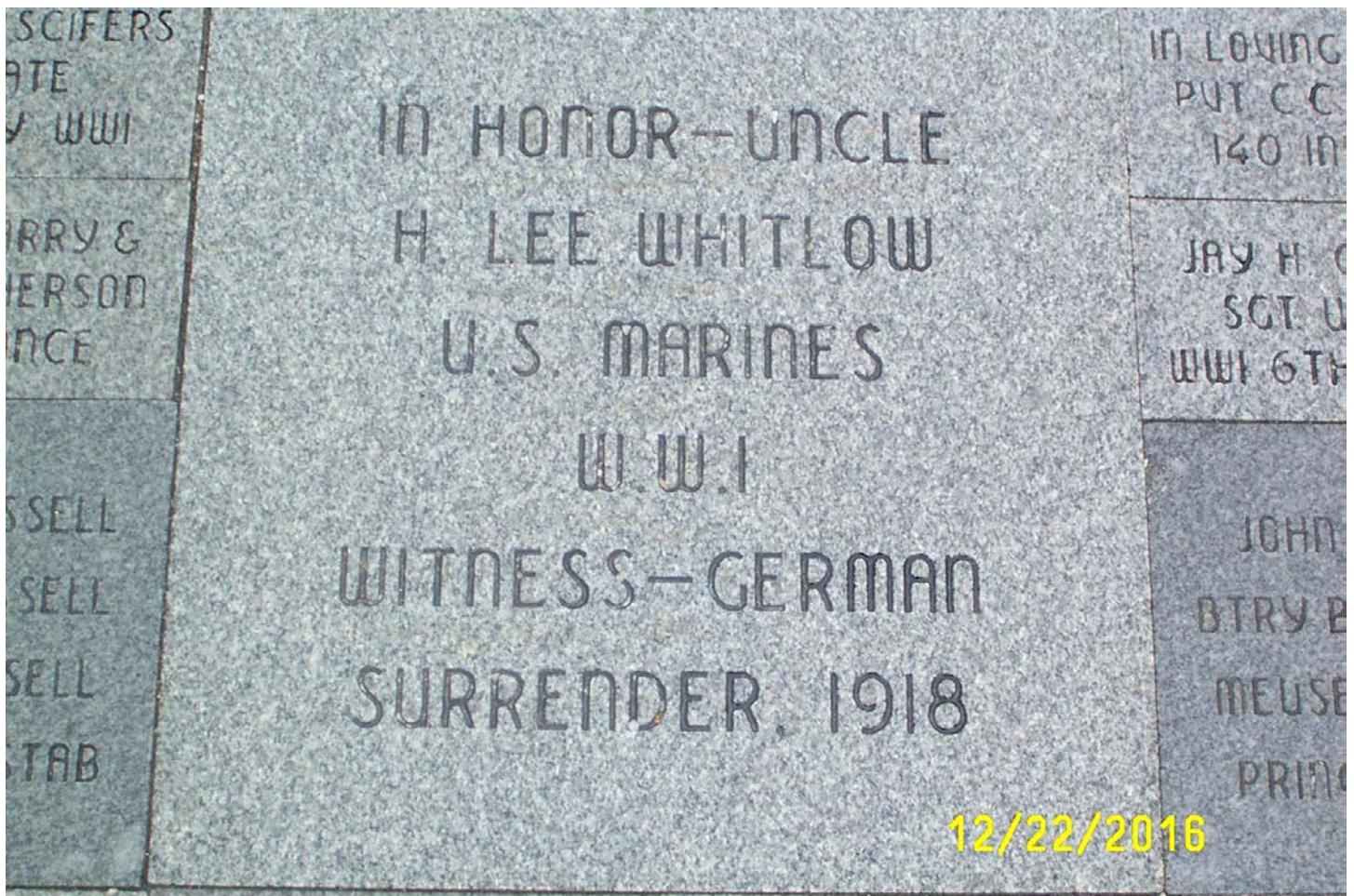
Photos By Kerwin Law



Photos By Kerwin Law



Photos By Kerwin Law



Photos By Kerwin Law



Photos By Kerwin Law

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

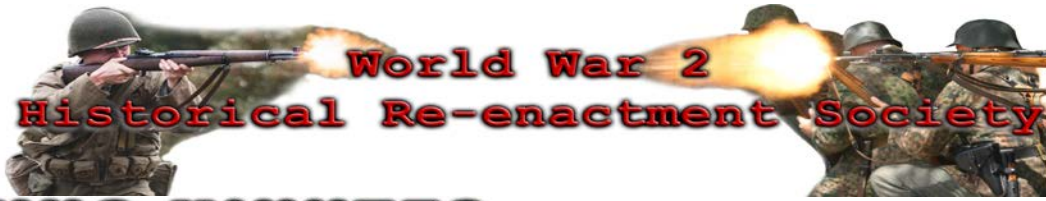
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1-800-SOCKET-3



MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the WWII Historical Reenactment Society 18 April 2017

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm.

Board Members:

President: Jon Stevens,
Treasurer: Wayne McCulley
Secretary: Ron Kapustka
American Rep: Corey Vaughan
Commonwealth Rep: Brian Jones

Other Members Present: Matt Rademacher, Jim Schouten

Approval of Agenda

A motion to accept the Agenda, was made by Wayne McCulley, seconded by Corey Vaughn, and after a Board vote, were accepted.

Reading of March Meeting Minutes

The March, 2017 Minutes, were read by Ron Kapustka. Ron Kapustka motioned that the minutes be approved. Corey Vaughn seconded. The Minutes were approved by a majority vote of board.

Officer Reports:

Vice President: In CB's absence, Jon Stevens led a discussion on the following:

Das Reich Aufklarung. These guys are working on their charter and will be completing it soon.

507th PIR. A new charter was submitted.

33rd Armored Regt. A S&A vote was taken and S&A approved them.

All three charters will be tabled until next month when CB is available to further report to the Board.

There were no units to dissolve, no units to put on probation and no units at the end of their charter review period.

Treasurer Report By Wayne McCulley
SEE the Treasures Report Section in The EDGE.

Secretary – Ron Kapustka

Ron reported that there were 91 new members in April, 2017 for a total to date of 883 as of today.

Commonwealth Rep-Brian Jones

Brian spoke about 1st Canadian and 10th Commando and they both said they were bringing their membership numbers up.

American Rep- Corey Vaughn

Still no response from David Jameson about 2nd ID. Corey will try Facebook and Jon Stevens will check on the e-mail address.

Axis Rep No Report, tabled until May.

Staff Reports

No staff members present.

Membership Coordinator – Jeff Skender -

We now have a WW2 HRS Microsoft Access Database.

It is under construction - but functional.

All the 2017 Eventbrite membership Info is in the database along with our list of Chartered HRS Unit (both active and disbanded).

The Database is capable of generating many different reports.

The Database can Print Membership Cards.

Next step is to pull-in past years Eventbrite membership info into the database.

Jon Stevens asked for the database to track Events, that can be done but Jeff recommended waiting on that until all the membership stuff in the database is fully functional.

Members will not have access to that database. However, if a member needed information from the database, they would contact the Board, state a proper purpose, and a report could be generated for them.

Committee Reports:

S&A Has been very quiet, No report, tabled.

Unit Commanders Jon reported all is quiet. Some UC do not seem to be getting the updated membership info.

Vehicle Committee Jim Schouten Received some feedback from 2nd Panzers and Chuck Roberts group regarding armor and riders. Jims primary concern was to come up with a SOP for use of vehicles at events. Jon Stevens suggested they deal with the SOP first and once that's done, move on to battlefield etiquette. The committee will concentrate on movement of vehicles while in and around the public. Jon Stevens asked about people riding on vehicles. Jim reported there has been feedback both for and against this practice, however, there seem to be certain instances that would be appropriate for this action. Jim suggested we concentrate on the safety aspects and not the historical authenticity of the practice. Brian Jones added that tracked vehicles are the more dangerous vehicles and this should be not allowed. Wheeled vehicles don't seem to have the issue. Jim mentioned that people can be put inside vehicles, not ON the vehicles. It was mentioned that the Iola event has been cancelled partially due to a vehicle accident last year. A discussion continued about some sample rules or guidelines that could be applied to vehicles. Jim will continue to work on the suggested standards or guidelines with the committee.

Civilian Committee Nicole Fornell No report, tabled.

Old Business:

Payout – Delay the Inevitable & Weldonkrieg Jon Stevens reported that \$1250.00 was earmarked for each event. Wayne received an Invoice for \$1,250.00 for dinner reductions at Ft Custer which had 125 attendees, and an Invoice for Weldonkrieg for \$1250.00. A discussion was held that Regional Events should apply for funding. We still need the waivers before the checks can be released. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka, which was seconded by Brian Jones. A vote was taken and passed. The two checks will be cut and Wayne will hold them until we receive the waivers for each event.



New Business:

There are two events asking for funds. The Danville, IL Event and the Dundas, MN Event .

Danville requested \$365.00 for porta-pots, \$75.00 for reenactor meal and \$250.00 for fuel for the excavator to do battlefield work. A discussion was held that the HRS funded about \$350.00 two years ago for porta-pots. Brian Jones mentioned that events should be encouraged to be self-sufficient. The HRS can assist with nominal funding, but events need to look for other sources of funding as well. Wayne reported that in his past years being involved, this is only the second time they have asked for money. Ron Kapustka asked how many attendees are HRS, to which Corey replied about 90 HRS and 115 overall. Corey suggested we grant some of their request, and suggest they find some alternative sources of funding. Brian Jones agreed. Wayne suggested we fund the entire amount. Ron Kapustka suggested with the \$2,500.00 already granted, we need to keep that in mind. Ron Kapustka suggested we give them \$350.00 and that was amended by Ron Kapustka to be increased to \$500.00, which was seconded by Brian Jones. A vote was taken and it was passed. The funding request will be granted up to \$500.00.

Dundas, MN requested \$300.00 for porta-pots. Jon Stevens responded to Matt Hanson that we need a proposal from the porta-pot company showing the cost. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka, seconded by Corey Vaughn. A vote was

taken and passed that the funds will be released upon receipt of the proposal and the waivers for the event.

Open Comments:

Jim Schouten brought up dues and that dues should reflect what the HRS is spending each year. If dues do not equal what is paid out, dues should be increased. However, if the expenditures are less than what we take in, perhaps the dues need to be decreased. Wayne reported that for 2016, we paid out more than we brought in, but in 2014 and 2015, we probably paid out less than we brought in. Brian Jones suggested a cap be put on the amount of a funds request to be awarded to events. A discussion was held regarding some sort of caps for funding requests and different types of caps for different types of events. Jon Stevens stressed that we need invoices, proposals or some sort of paper to support the request.

Announcements: The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Adjourn Ron Kapustka made the motion, seconded by everyone. A vote was taken and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.



20 Years of the Rockford Event (Part 4: 2011 to 2015)

By James E. Meldrum

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. Re-enactments like Rockford have enabled me to obtain the same kind of authentic images featuring depths of character and feeling together with the spectacular action that you simply will not see anywhere else except perhaps in a movie. Indeed, other photographers and critics have told me that my work resembles movie stills in many respects.

I started going to the Rockford Event as a spectator in 1996. Some re-enacting friends loaned me a uniform in 1998 so I could go out on the field as a military photographer to be able to shoot pictures on the field - and I was hooked - from there it was all downhill; I began re-enacting in 1999. I discovered what an effort it is to maintain one's mental focus when photographing on the field amidst of the noise and confusion of the battle, the incredible pictures you could get, and what an adrenaline high it is. On the battlefield, you are in the raging heart of the action.

Since then I have not missed a single year of the Rockford Event and have seen it grow from relatively humble beginnings to being perhaps the premier re-enacting event in the United States. As a photographer I have watched this event grow ever larger, from being an event where I could be everywhere to one where I have to pick and choose events to shoot because there is so much happening that I could not possibly be everywhere to cover it all. Along the way, I have attended a few other re-enactments but I much prefer Rockford to the others. Why?

Because of the people, and because this event is by far the most photogenic I have encountered. I fell in love with this event and the people in it and decided that I would support it in any way that I possibly could. I rapidly learned the validity of the old photographer's maxim that if you love your subject it will love you back.

Re-enactors at the Rockford Event should congratulate themselves on the tremendous job they have done! If it were not for the re-enactor's efforts and cooperation I have received over the years, I simply would not be able to present this the body of work; Thank you so very much - I couldn't have done any of this without you!

I started photographing this event on film and while I am now doing digital photography, I continue to do all my re-enacting work on film just as with the historical images were. Re-enacting also extends to the technical side of photography as well in this respect. As a re-enactor and photographer, I have to work under all sorts of lighting conditions and in all situations just as an actual military photographer would have to do.





Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2011 Photo by James Meldrum



I have been doing photography for 50 years and work with both film and digital photography. 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. All of the images in this article, however, were done on film. Quite a few of the images you have seen in this series of articles have won prizes in photo contests.

In terms of general photography, I shoot anything and everything and seek to be proficient in as many genres of photography as possible. If I had to have a specialty, however, I would have to say that it is portraiture. Portraits of re-enactors intrigue me because they show how people from our time might have appeared during this conflict if they had 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 obvious with women's impressions.

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

Contrary to appearances and popular belief, I shoot all my re-enactment work on film using contemporary film cameras then develop and print them in my own darkroom using currently available chemistry and materials like the historical photos were. I conceal my modern camera in a rucksack as part of my impression whenever the event is open to the public and when I am not using it to preserve the integrity of my impression. My Leica cameras are Russian copies and, while historically accurate, are for appearances only.

I seek to make my photographs appear as authentic as possible by using high-speed black and white film whose coarse grain structure approximates that of the 1940's photographic films and the technology associated with processing them. When shooting I make a concerted effort to watch the background in the picture and control camera angle in order to exclude contemporary equipment and modern people. While shooting, I also try to give equal representation to both Allied and Axis impressions and I try to present both sides in the best way possible.

The Rockford Midway Village and Museum Center first exhibited these photos in this show/article as a teaser show in the summer of 2016. During the week of the 20th Anniversary of the Rockford Event the teaser show came down and then a larger and more comprehensive show went up. When selecting the pictures for the show I had to make some very hard choices because of restricted display space and as a result, some excellent work did not make it into the show. Some of these 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.

Finally, I try to make male re-enactors appear heroic (and women too) and lethal where possible; 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 they 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 2011 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2012 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2011 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2013 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2013 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2013 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2013 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2014 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2014 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2015 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2015 Photo by James Meldrum



Mike Hofmann 9th Infantry Division

From: _____



To: _____

