



USS Silversides – Muskegon, Michigan June 2018 by Heinz Thiel



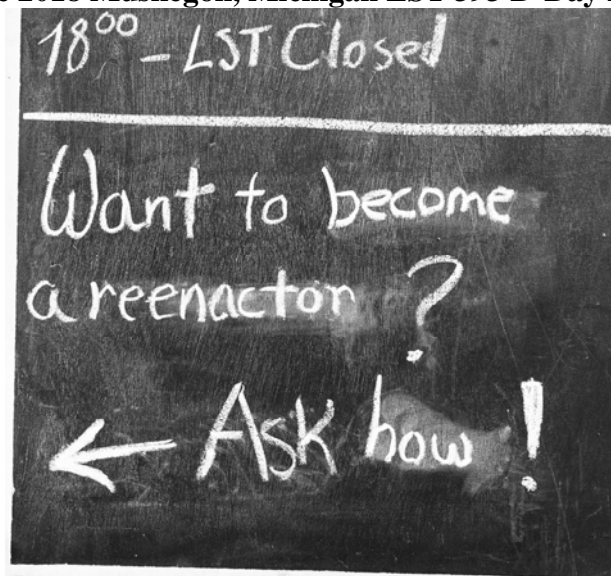


USS LST 393 – Muskegon, Michigan June 2018 by Heinz Thiel





Left German 5<sup>th</sup> SS Wiking British 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne 9th Parachute Batt U.S. 45<sup>th</sup> ID 505<sup>th</sup> Airborne (Sailors) Right  
June 2018 Muskegon, Michigan LST 393 D-Day Event



Heads Up: June 2018 I had the USS Silversides to myself for a few hours, shot a lot of video and photos,  
I will be creating a detailed video documentary about this World War 2 submarine – Heinz Thiel



## **WWII HRS Scholarship 2018**

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.

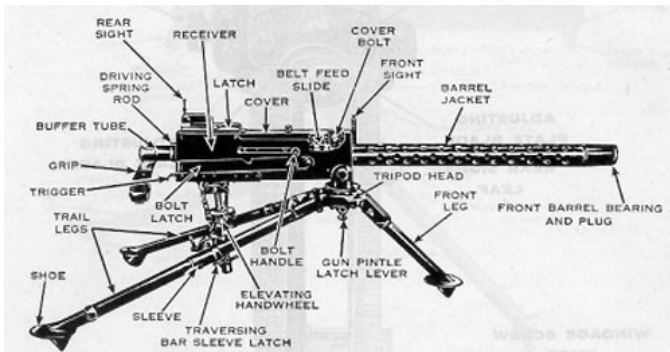
### ***Review:***

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.

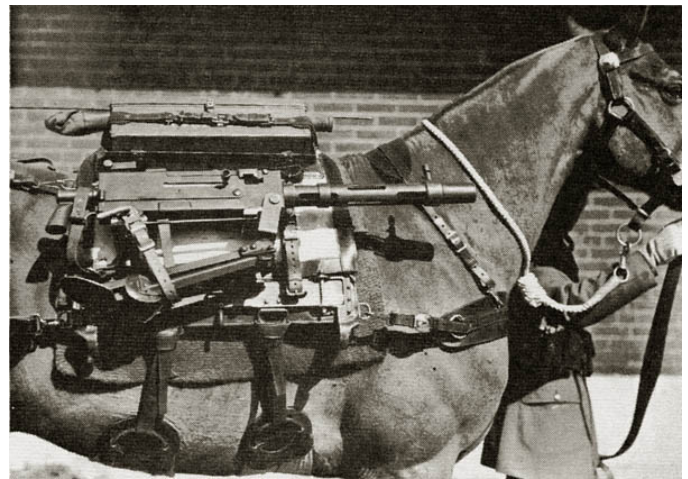




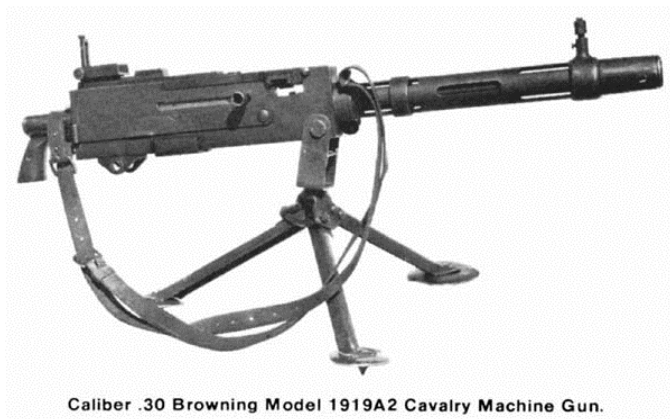
## The Browning 1919 Light Machine Gun By Kerwin Law



The Browning 1919 Light Machine Gun was initially designed for use in our early tanks. At the onset of our involvement in WWI, John Browning had come to the rescue and provided us with the excellent 1917 Heavy Machine Gun (MG). Although the 1917 MG was pretty much everything the military wanted at the time, its large water jacket did not fit well in the cramped spaces of our early tanks. So, before WWI would end, work would begin to modify the 1917 MG into a more suitable configuration for tanks.



In about 1930, the US Cavalry was first in modifying the 1919 MG for a more independent role. They would dub the design the 1919A1. Shortly after the Cavalry started work, the 1919A1 tank gun materialized. The military ultimately decided to call the Cavalry model the 1919A2 and leave the modified tank guns designation unchanged. Therefore, the design that was to be known as the 1919A2 actually predates the 1919A1. (Go figure!)



It wasn't long before a shorter barreled air-cooled machine gun was developed. It was adopted as the Browning Machine Gun, US Cal. 30, Model of 1919. These initial 1919 "Tank Guns" would be used in that capacity into the 1930s. Although it wasn't intended at first to be used outside of the tank, it did come with a simple tripod and tubular detachable shoulder stock. At some point, it was realized that this new lighter machine gun could also bridge the gap between the infantry's 100 lb. 1917 MG and it's 16lb Browning Automatic Rifle.

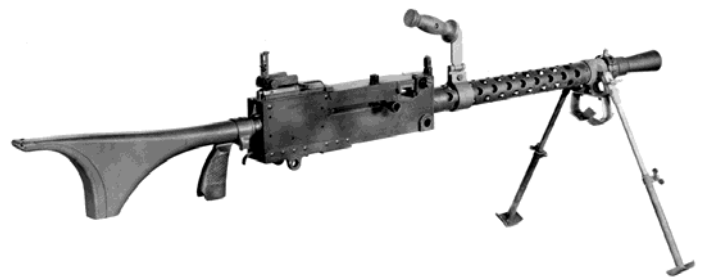


The 1919A3 was a limited production model that incorporated the best points and tested modifications aimed at solving the weak points of both the A1 and A2 models. In my opinion it would have been a great time to work on making barrel swaps quicker, but it wasn't to be. I suppose it was felt that its relatively slow rate of fire would help offset any barrel overheating problems adequately enough.





What evolved from the A3 effort is what would become the most common Browning 1919 MG model, the 1919A4. Changes included making the barrel somewhat heavier and going back to the original 1917 MG barrel length of 24". There would be two A4 versions, the "flexible" type for infantry and the "fixed" type for vehicles. From the time of its adoption in late 1935 to 1945, over 390,000 would be made. Rock Island Arsenal had been selected to manufacture the A4 initially, and then Buffalo Arms along with the most productive supplier, Saginaw Steering Gear Division of General Motors would pitch in later. Like most other Browning inventions, the A4 gave us a sturdy and reliable weapon, which was also quick to deploy owing to its combined weight of 45lbs with tripod. It was determined in early 1942 that the configuration of the 1919A4 for vehicles (fixed) was not ideal in certain placements on some tanks, so yet another modified variant was adopted as the 1919A5. There would only be a few thousand of these made, with many being converted back to A4s when more compatible mounts were utilized in later tank designs and some of the older offending tanks were rendered obsolete.



While this would produce what may be the most interesting and possibly coolest 1919 MG, I doubt those adjectives were used by those who actually had to use it. In theory the A6 created a lighter "total package" weapon that could be carried, quickly plopped down and shot by one soldier, but in reality, it was actually a couple pounds heavier than the A4 gun (less its tripod). So, in this case the 1919A6 proved to be "less is more" for the individual soldier. Many soldiers and arms experts have felt the quick deploy features weren't enough to offset the extra heft. In spite of its lack of critical acclaim, roughly 40,000 A6s would be made through 1945. It would be the last 1919 named light machine gun model we would use.

Now, after developing a very successful light machine gun that had proven itself to our military in the early stages of WWII, do you think they would leave well enough alone? Of course not! It seems, rightfully so, that they were envious of the German MG34 and MG42. The MG42 for instance, with its bipod and fairly light weight (25lbs) allowed it to be carried by one soldier and be put into action much faster than even the 1919A4. The trouble with modifying the A4 into something similar was, it was still basically a heavy machine gun that had been put on a diet. Regardless, work began to do just that and by early 1943 things started to take shape. Essentially a bipod, butt stock and carrying handle were fitted to an A4 to create the 1919A6.





Once again, the greatest gun designer to ever live was able to come up with a weapon, which by almost all accounts, was able to serve our military well for many decades. When you think about his ability to offer up brilliance at a time his country needed it most and his unselfish patriotism, as an American I have often thought "Thank God we had John Browning"

Kerwin Law 2018,  
[kclaws@consolidated.net](mailto:kclaws@consolidated.net)





## **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.

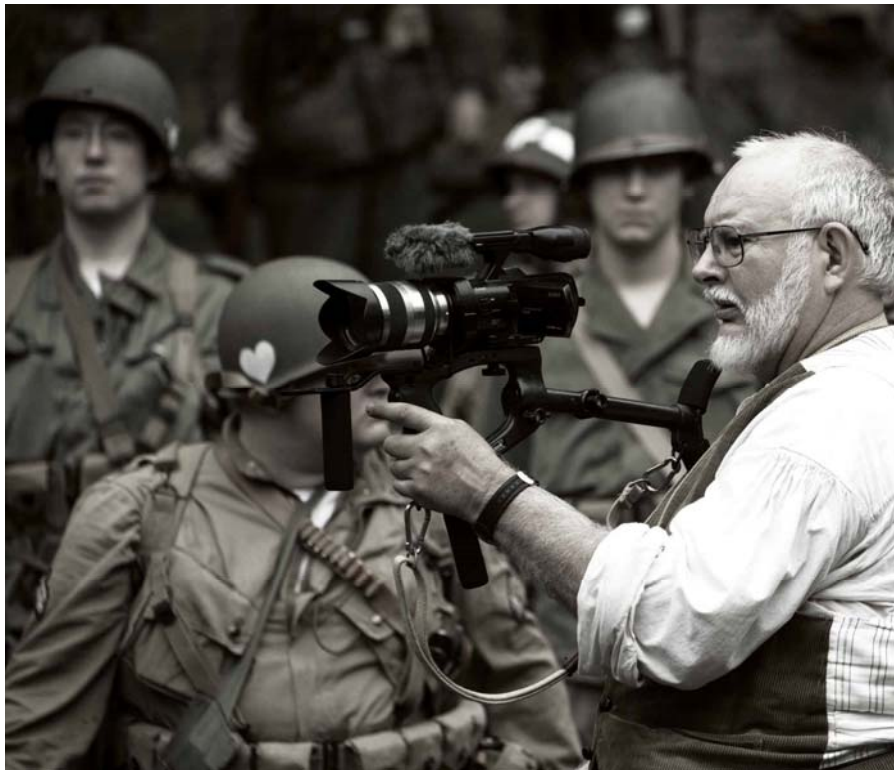
**ANY WW2 HRS Member can submit an item for publication here in the EDGE.**

### **HOW TO SUBMIT an item for Publication within The EDGE**

If your WW2 HRS unit has news it would like to publish 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](mailto: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 2018**

**ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF APRIL 30TH 2018**

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account | \$8,128.04         |
| PNC Bank Money Market Account        | \$44,516.25        |
| <b>Account Totals</b>                | <b>\$52,644.29</b> |

**INCOME FOR APRIL 2018**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Reimbursement for Insurance Rockford WW1 event | \$300.00        |
| Interest from Money Market Account             | \$3.78          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                            | <b>\$303.78</b> |

**EXPENDITURES FOR APRIL 2018**

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Liability Insurance for WW1 Rockford | \$699.00        |
| Email Marketing Service              | \$12.80         |
| Membership Refund                    | \$5.00          |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>            | <b>\$716.80</b> |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 2018 Membership Income                   | \$7,200.00   |
| 2018 Interest Income                     | \$15.79      |
| 2018 Miscellaneous Income                | \$300.00     |
| 2018 Total Income                        | \$7,515.79   |
| 2018 Expenditures                        | \$12,195.59  |
| 2018 Total Income less 2018 Expenditures | (\$4,679.80) |



## **WW2 HRS 2018 Membership Report**

As of 10 June 2018, we have 892 Members.

Unit commanders may request a report of member who have signed-up with their unit by contacting the WW2 HRS Membership Coordinator  
Jeff Skender at [GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com](mailto:GD5.Heinz.Thiel@Gmail.Com)





# EVENTS

| June  |  |
|-------|--|
| 09    | <b>18TH ANNUAL HEARTLAND MILITARY DAY</b>  |
| Jun   | <p>Loc: Museum of the Kansas National Guard 6700 SW Topeka BLVD Topeka, Kansas 66619<br/>Dates: June 9, 2018<br/>Event Times: 0700 - 1600<br/>Registration Times: 0700 - 0900<br/>Pre-Registration: not required<br/>Fee: none<br/>Contact: John Colyer <a href="mailto:nordland1@cox.net">nordland1@cox.net</a> Ed Gerhardt BG(Ret) 785)862-1020 <a href="mailto:office@kngmuseum.org">office@kngmuseum.org</a><br/>Website: <a href="http://www.kansasguardmuseum.org">http://www.kansasguardmuseum.org</a><br/>Authenticity Notes: All WWII HRS Authenticity rules will be enforced<br/>Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No live ammunition of any kind in event area<br/>Restrictions on Minors: WWII HRS rules will be enforced<br/>Other restrictions: No Alcoholic Beverages in event area during event times<br/>There will be restrooms available for those wishing to camp out Friday Night but all non-period tent ect need to be removed before 0800 Saturday<br/>Sponsoring Unit(s): 11SS Nordland</p>  |
| 16-17 | <b>WWII DAYS – OLD FALLS VILLAGE</b>   |
| Jun   | <p>Loc: Old Falls Village Museum, Pilgrim Rd and Hwy Q in Menomonee Falls<br/>Dates: June 16-17, 2018<br/>Event Times: (Public Hours) Saturday 10:00 – 5:00, Sunday 10:00 – 4:00<br/>Registration Times: Friday 12:00 pm – 9:00pm; Saturday 8:00 am– 12:00pm<br/>Pre-Registration: Online on Eventbrite (<a href="#">click here</a>)<br/>Fee: None<br/>Contact: Nancy Greifenhagen<br/>Website: Facebook (<a href="#">click here</a>)<br/>Authenticity Notes: All HRS Rules apply. Event is June, 1944, all theaters. Impressions should be appropriate to that time frame.<br/>Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No tracked vehicles allowed.<br/>Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules apply<br/>Other restrictions: Property is unfenced. All reenactors responsible for security of their personal belongings during event and after hours.<br/>Sponsoring Unit(s): C/401 GIR, 101st ABN Div; 41 Royal Marine Commandos</p>   |
| 22-24 | <b>WWII RECREATED, DIXON, ILLINOIS</b>   |
| Jun   | <p>Loc: Elks Page Park, 7883 Lowell Park Rd., Dixon, Illinois<br/>Dates: June 22, 23, and 24<br/>Event Times:<br/>- Friday June 22: Arrival, setup, evening public event preview, and militaria flea market. Please RSVP for a table.<br/>- Saturday June 23: 10am to 5pm open to the public, two public battles, weapons demos, veteran recognition, militaria sale<br/>- Sunday June 24: 11am to 4:00pm open to the public with one public battle; militaria sale<br/>Registration Times: Check in - Friday June 22 and Saturday June 23 7 to 9 am<br/>Pre-Registration: <a href="https://wwii-recreated-dixon-il-2018.eventbrite.com">https://wwii-recreated-dixon-il-2018.eventbrite.com</a><br/>Fee: None<br/>Contact: Jonathan Stevens (<a href="mailto:jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net">jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net</a>)<br/>Website(s): <a href="http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com">http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com</a><br/><a href="https://www.facebook.com/WWIIRecreatedDixonIL">https://www.facebook.com/WWIIRecreatedDixonIL</a><br/>Map: <a href="http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com/map.html">http://wwii-recreated-dixon.weebly.com/map.html</a><br/>Authenticity Notes: All HRS rules apply.<br/>Minors: All HRS restrictions apply<br/>Prohibited Vehicles/Items: All vehicles welcome.<br/>Sponsoring Unit (s): 9th Infantry Division</p> |



| July                           |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>20-22</b><br><br><b>Jul</b> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPERATION PACIFIC</b></p> <p>Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Okland, Tiff, MO 63674<br/>         Dates: 20-22 July 2018<br/>         Event Times: Gates open 12 noon Friday 20 July and close 12 noon Sunday 22 July, S&amp;A 8am Saturday and the Tactical will start @ 9am Saturday 21 July, night battle if enough interest on Saturday night.<br/>         Registration Times: Upon arrival Friday and Saturday morning.<br/>         Pre-Registration: (<a href="#">click here</a>)<br/>         Fee: \$15 at the gate<br/>         Contact: <a href="mailto:papajoadfssf@sbqglobal.net">papajoadfssf@sbqglobal.net</a><br/>         Website: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/189516611610019/">https://www.facebook.com/events/189516611610019/</a><br/> <a href="http://campsimanevents.webs.com/">http://campsimanevents.webs.com/</a><br/>         Authenticity Notes: All impressions which fought in the Pacific from all nations 1941-1945, camping from Friday to Sunday, secure on-site parking<br/>         Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO Live Ammo! All Period correct military vehicles ARE welcome.<br/>         Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS rules<br/>         Other restrictions: N/A<br/>         Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force, 6th CO 3rd REG HRS / Camp Siman Events.</p> |
| <b>21</b><br><br><b>Jul</b>    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SICILY: OPERATION HUSKY<br/>WWII LIVING HISTORY EVENT PUBLIC DISPLAY</b></p> <p>Loc: Walnut Blvd and Lake Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 Ashtabula county<br/>         Dates: July 21 2018<br/>         Event Times: 10-5pm Friday arrival camp out on the beach!<br/>         Registration Times: 7-10am Saturday<br/>         Pre-Registration: Email <a href="mailto:jkeaton@peoplepc.com">jkeaton@peoplepc.com</a><br/>         Fee: None free open to reenactors/ Open to the public<br/>         Contact: <a href="mailto:jkeaton@peoplepc.com">jkeaton@peoplepc.com</a> Text me at 216-904-3638<br/>         Website: See YouTube " El Alamein Re-enactment "<br/>         Authenticity Notes: American, German ,Italian , Italian Civilians Welcome<br/>         Prohibited Vehicles/Items: American can bring Jeeps and halftracks ..Ect / German can bring Kubelwagan , Motorcycles<br/>         Restrictions on Minors: Display only per HRS rules<br/>         Other restrictions: Period camping only . May camp out overnight Friday.<br/>         Sponsoring Unit(s): Battalion IX September</p>   |
| August                         |  |
| <b>Aug</b>                     | <p style="text-align: center;">No events listed.</p>   |





September

September

**28-30**

### **WALK BACK IN TIME 2018**

**Sep**



Loc: Audrain County Historical Society, 501 South Muldrow Street, Mexico, MO 65265  
Dates: September 28-30, 2018  
Event Times: Setup can occur from Thursday to Saturday. Friday is the school education day. The event runs from 10-4pm Saturday and Sunday, with Candlelight Tours on Saturday from 6-9pm  
Description: Walk Back in Time is the premier living history timeline event in the state of Missouri. It usually draws 300 participants in all time periods and 10-15,000 spectators. There is a WWII Battle on Saturday and Sunday. This year will feature the role of animals in support of the US military.  
Registration Times: Friday 1300-2100 and Saturday 0800-1000 in the 29th Panzergrenadier Camp  
Pre-Registration: Contacting the event coordinator is required for reserving your display area. NO EXCEPTIONS!  
Fee: There is no fee for the event, and the organizers provide a Saturday night meal to all participants  
Contact: Chris Adams, 573-680-1244, [cblackthorne@hotmail.com](mailto:cblackthorne@hotmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.audrain.org> and go to Walk Back in Time  
Authenticity Notes: WWIIHRS safety and authenticity rules apply.  
Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No firing of weapons between 2200 and 0800 at night.  
Restrictions on Minors: WWIIHRS rules apply  
Other restrictions: None  
Sponsoring Unit(s): 84th Infantry Division Railsplitters and 29th Panzergrenadier Regiment

October

October

**26-28**

### **ASSAULTING FORTRESS EUROPE**

**Oct**



Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Okland, Tiff, MO 63674  
Dates: 26-28 October 2018  
Event Times: Gates open 12 noon Friday 20 July and close 12 noon Sunday 22 July, S&A 8am Saturday and the Tactical will start @ 9am Saturday 21 July, night battle if enough interest on Saturday night.  
Registration Times: Upon arrival Friday and Saturday morning.  
Pre-Registration: ([click here](#))  
Fee: \$15 at the gate.  
Contact: [papaioadfsf@sbglobal.net](mailto:papaioadfsf@sbglobal.net)  
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/755780071295906/>  
<http://campsimanevents.webs.com/>  
Authenticity Notes: All impressions which fought in the ETO, MTO and Eastern Front. camping form Friday to Sunday secure on-site parking.  
Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live ammo, ALL correct Military Vehicles are welcome.  
Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS rules  
Other restrictions: NA  
Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force, 6th CO 3rd REG HRS / Camp Siman Events.



November

November

2-4

OST FRONT 44

Nov



Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Okland, Tiff, MO 63674

Dates: 2-4 November 2018

Event Times: Gates open 12 noon Friday 20 July and close 12 noon Sunday 22 July, S&A 8am Saturday and the Tactical will start @ 9am Saturday 21 July, night battle if enough interest on Saturday night.

Registration Times: Upon arrival Friday and Saturday morning.

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

Fee: \$15 at the gate

Contact: [papaioadfsf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:papaioadfsf@sbcglobal.net)

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/148497872443331/>

<http://campsimanevents.webs.com/>

Authenticity Notes: All impressions and nations who fought on the Eastern Front. camping from Friday to Sunday, secure on-site parking

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO Live Ammo! All Period correct military vehicles ARE welcome.

Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS rules

Other restrictions: N/A

Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force, 6th CO 3rd REG HRS / Camp Siman Events.





# WWII ★ DAYS ★

**JUNE 16-17, 2018**

**OLD FALLS VILLAGE  
FATHERS DAY WEEKEND**

**Saturday 10am-5pm  
and  
Sunday 10am-4pm**

**FIELD OF HONOR FLAGS DISPLAY  
PURCHASE AND HONOR A VETERAN WITH A FLAG**



AUTHENTIC MILITARY VEHICLES  
SKIRMISHES, DEMOS AND DISPLAYS  
USO DANCE SATURDAY NIGHT  
LIVING HISTORY DISPLAYS  
USO CANTEEN  
HOMEFONT GIRLS  
MILITARY VENDORS  
PRESENTATIONS  
FOOD AND BEVERAGES



SEE OUR WEBSITE AND  
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE  
DETAILS, SCHEDULE, AND VENDOR FORM

#### Upcoming Events:

Civil War Encampment July 21-22  
Halloween Fun Night October 19-20  
Silver Tea December 2



EXPERIENCE HISTORY



*Old Falls  
Village*

*Menomonee Falls Historical Society*

**Become a Historical Society member today!**

**Adults \$6.00 Children under 12 \$2.00 Under 5 FREE**

**WWII and Korean War Veterans FREE with Military ID**

**Military FREE in uniform, 1/2 off not in uniform with Military ID**

Old Falls Village Museum -- Pilgrim Road & Hwy. Q in Menomonee Falls -- FREE Parking

(262) 250-3901 [www.OldFallsVillage.com](http://www.OldFallsVillage.com)







# WWII Recreated

## A Remembrance of our Greatest Generation Through Living History

**June 22, 23 and 24, 2018**

**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:  
John Laschinski, 815-652-8644


Picture credit: Danny J. Higgins

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


Site Coordinator  
Wendi Schafer  
815-994-0186  
wcs93@yahoo.com

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

  VFW POST 540 and AUXILIARY

 KUNES COUNTRY AUTO GROUP of OREGON

 Jeff Bright RV CENTER 815-626-7878

 BLACKHAWK WATERWAYS





# Join the "Show Me" Missouri Convoy #2

September 28 - October 7, 2018



This 10-day convoy starts from and returns to  
the Auto World Museum in Fulton, MO!

## Convoy Highlights:

Let us **Show You**  
Missouri Wine Country & scenic Ozark hills  
National Churchill Museum  
Museum of Missouri Military History  
Historic Daniel Boone Home & Route 66  
Fort Leonard Wood's 3 U.S. Army Museums  
Montauk State Park & Resort  
Missouri's Capitol & much more!

## Point of Contact:

Trooper Tyree \* [halftrackjohns@att.net](mailto:halftrackjohns@att.net)

Convoy is limited to 25 vehicles



**"Show Me" Convoy Sponsors: Visit Fulton, Auto World Museum, Visit Hermann and Montauk Resort**

"First and foremost, the event kicks off with a tour of the National Churchill Museum. For those who arrive for our preliminary, we will depart from Auto World Museum at 10:30 AM, this allows time for people to arrive on Friday morning of Sept. 28, 2018. It is a short drive from Auto World down Westminster Avenue to the Churchill Memorial located at Westminster College in Fulton in central Missouri. We will begin with a luncheon at the college's Backer Dining Hall and what a place it is, it reminds me of St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, minus the regalia. During my recon of the museum last October, I was walked through our projected tour that begin at the Church of Saint Mary, the Virgin, Aldermanbury. This 16<sup>th</sup>-century church, which is now a functioning place of worship, was destroyed during the London Blitz of 1940. Designed by renowned architect, Christopher Wren, it was moved to Fulton, in honor of Winston Churchill's visit to Westminster College in 1946. We entered the church as the organist was delivering a recital just as those who participate in this convoy will experience. Next, we descended into Winston's Inner-Sanctum, where you will be immersed into the life and times of Sir Winston Churchill after a reception of tea and "bickies" (cookies to you non-Anglophiles). To conclude, we will have a group photo-op at the staircase overlooked by a statue of Winston beside a section of the Berlin Wall. Remounting, we will return to our host hotel to freshen up before our evening meal. Tiffany Genaro of Baymont Inn has reserved a block of twenty rooms for us that vary from basic rooms to jacuzzi rooms, all at a discounted rate. For those looking for posher accommodations, the Loganberry Inn B&B is where Margaret Thatcher and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Les Walesa have stayed. The B&B is located a short two-minute walk from the Churchill Museum. Joe Kalal is planning on attending as Winston Churchill and will be arriving in my Canadian LaSalle Staff Car.



The convoy officially begins at 10:30 AM the following morning, Saturday, which is when the *Walk Back In Time* event will occur in Mexico, Missouri, while the convoy stops at the Museum of Missouri Military History and makes its way to Hermann in the heart of Missouri's Wine Country. Any HRS personnel who attend *WBIT* event might consider taking part in our tour of the National Churchill Museum. If this is the case, please contact me at the email given and let me know you wish to partake in our tour of the Churchill Memorial. If you can only make the Churchill Tour there will be a small charge and advance registration is a requirement. If you do attend the Churchill Memorial Tour, please do so in Allied uniform, if possible. We will try and get you into a military vehicle, if not you may follow us in your car. Additionally, the convoy will make an appearance at the *WBIT* event on Sunday. Convoy participants are welcome to take part in all or any portion of the 10 adventures."

Thank You  
Terry Johns





## For Sale: 1941 Canadian Chevrolet C30 4X4

Came from Norway. Rebuilt 1960 Chevy 235 Engine and new radial directional tires (not shown). Roadworthy, titled and ready to roll.

Comes with manuals, tools, spare tires, racks holding Brit. .303 ammo cans, jerricans, CB/Radio, Aux. Generator.

Converted to 12 volts.

New exhaust, speedometer, lights, gauges, rebuilt radiator & brakes, new battery, etc.

Located at the Air & Military Museum of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO.

Asking \$17,000 part trade considered.

Terry Johns, 22 IPC  
halftrackjohns@att.net





## WWII HRS Board of Directors and Staff

Please send any correspondence to:  
WWII Historical Reenactment Society  
PO Box 861  
Champaign, IL 61824

### President

Jon Stevens  
9th Infantry Division  
630.221.1171  
[jstevensww2@SBCglobal.Net](mailto:jstevensww2@SBCglobal.Net)

### Vice President

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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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## **Minutes of the WWII Historical Reenactment Society Board Meeting 24 April 2018**

**Call to Order at 7:34** - Board Members Attending: Jon Stevens, President; Ron Kapustka, Secretary; Wayne McCulley, Treasurer; Corey Vaughn, Allied Rep; Matt Rademacher, Commonwealth Rep; Doug Strong, Axis Rep.

Members Attending: George Reinke, Brad Montegan, Jim Schouten

### **Approval of Agenda**

RK motioned to approve the agenda as Revised by JS. WM and CV seconded. Agenda was approved by BOD vote.

### **Reading of March Meeting Minutes**

The March, 2018 Minutes were read by RK. RK motioned that the March Minutes be approved as read. That was seconded by DS and WM. The March Minutes, as read, were approved by BOD vote.

### **Officer Reports:**

Vice President: CB is not able to attend the meeting. JS reported that there were two new Charters, the 3rd Gebirgsjaeger; and the 63<sup>a</sup> Legione CC.NN. d'Assalto "Tagliamento".

The 3rd Gebirgsjaeger received 7 Yes and 1 No vote by the S&A Committee. JS made a motion to accept the 3rd Gebirgsjaeger as a Probationary HRS Unit. RK seconded the motion. A BOD vote was taken and the motion was passed. The 3rd Gebirgsjaeger will be accepted as a Probationary HRS Unit.

The S&A vote on 63<sup>a</sup> Legione CC.NN. d'Assalto "Tagliamento" was 14 positive and 1 negative. JS made a motion to accept 63<sup>a</sup> Legione CC.NN. d'Assalto "Tagliamento" as a Probationary Unit. That was seconded by RK. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. The 63<sup>a</sup> Legione CC.NN. d'Assalto "Tagliamento" will be accepted as a Probationary HRS Unit. CB will contact both Units.

The balance of CB's report will be tabled until next month.

**Treasurer Report by Wayne McCulley**  
SEE the Treasures Report Section in this EDGE.

**Secretary** – Ron K reported that we have currently have 802 members and 12 Minor members for 2018 as of 4/24/2018.

**Commonwealth Rep** - Matt has nothing to report.

**Allied Rep** - CV reported that he spoke with Chris Kissinger about the 32nd ID. Chris is either going to get the members signed up or convert to a non-combat Unit.

**Axis Rep** - Doug has nothing to report.

### **Staff Reports**

**Membership Coordinator** –  
SEE the Membership Report Section in this EDGE.

### **Committee Reports:**

**S&A** – They are working on finalizing the two Incident Reports and should have more at next month's meeting.

**Unit Commanders** - No report

**Vehicle Committee** – Jim Schouten reported that he created a poll on the UC Group, which is functioning and since April 5th, has only one participant. Bill Sheets was invited to be part of the Vehicle Committee but has not responded yet. CV will check with him and advise Jim if Bill received the invite. Jim is not sure on how to proceed with the Vehicle Committee based on the lack of interest so far. JS suggested that Jim send out a final request for participation and go with the results as finalized after the second request for participation. George made a few suggestions as to how to get responses.

**Civilian Committee** – Nicole Fornell not in attendance, report tabled.

### **Old Business:**

**2018 HRS National Event** – JS sent out some requirements of the 2018 National Battle. They are:

1. Outline of event costs
2. Cost per person
3. Proof of permission from Range Control or AHJ
4. Insurance Requirements or proof of insurance
5. Security details, including parking plan
6. Space for 350 participants or more
7. Potable water supply
8. Adequate port-o-pots
9. Detailed adequate method of safety inspection
10. Outline of battle plan
11. A means for at least one dinner
12. Vendor area/swap (not required but a good idea)
13. Potential vehicle usage, restrictions, and transport costs
14. Address for ATF paperwork

This will be added to the FB page so anyone who has an interest has the necessary information on what to submit. CV suggested here be something added about lodging/camping, etc.

**Insurance** – JS received the full policy from the insurance company. The HRS did secure insurance for the WW1 Event at a cost of \$699.00, of which Midway Village paid \$300.00 and the HRS paid the balance. Lastly, insurance changes for the rest of the year will be as follows:

Due to changes in insurance, the WWII HRS will no longer insure all participants at HRS events. Only members receive coverage through the HRS liability insurance. This means that either non-HRS members can participate at their own risk by signing a non-member liability waiver which if they cause an accident they are responsible for any all claims resulting from the accident **or** they can provide a liability insurance policy to the HRS that covers the members of their unit. This policy would need to include the WWII HRS as an additional insured and potentially the location owner as an additional insured if the site requests this. A liability policy is greatly preferred and, in the future, we may no longer allow a "non-member waiver" for non-members to participate at HRS events.

Members should be ready to provide proof of current membership and identification at events if asked. Some events have mistakenly used the "non-member" liability waiver for current members. Please be careful to use the correct waivers so that in case of any legal actions there are no questions if a member has coverage under the HRS liability insurance.





#### New Business:

**Rockford Accident Report CB** finished his investigation and have provided the results, my conclusion, summary and recommendations. His report will be supplied to the BOD as well as his recommendations which will be reviewed and voted on at the May BOD meeting.

**Event support:** Alan Miltich submitted a request for \$400 for his "Delay the Inevitable" tactical in Ohio. JS explained the request. CV asked about funding support for vehicles at past events. JS reported that the event has 225 reenactors last year with 145 HRS members. RK and WM suggested support, however, at a reduced amount, based on expenditures. WM suggested the HRS supply \$250.00. CV agreed as did Doug Strong and Matt Rademacher. MR further suggested that the HRS come up with guidelines for vehicle funding and that the HRS consider coming up with a budget for vehicle transportation at future events. MR will start working on guidelines for vehicle transportation. DS proposed \$300.00 which was seconded by RK. A BOD vote was taken and \$300.00 was approved for funding. Alan Miltich will be notified.

**New event requests:** There was an event request for New Bedford, WI. JS will send the info out to the BOD for review before the May meeting.

#### Open Comments:

WM received the receipt for the Weldonkreig event but has not received the waivers yet. JS suggested that WM contact them one last time asking for the waivers before paying the receipt.

Jim Schouten mentioned that the recent increase in the insurance premium has caused a possible future shortfall in HRS funds. Membership dues should cover at a minimum, the mandatory operating costs of the organization. If dues need to be increased, the BOD should consider that. DS suggested a slight increase in dues to cover the possible shortfall. WM suggested that any dues increase be considered for 2019. JS mentioned that the By-Laws allow for a late fee. The BOD will look into the shortfall issue and make a decision in the near future. JS asked WM to prepare a report on the regular operating expenses for the past few years, with the event support numbers being taken out, and to send that out to the BOD.

**Announcements:** The next meeting May 15, 2018.

**Adjourn** RK motioned to adjourn, WM seconded. Approved by BOD vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.



## What do you do in the infantry? By Mike Kaczorowski

An after-action report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Pilsen trip  
Organized by the Czech KVH 4<sup>th</sup> Armored and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored in Europe.



(Pilsen 2nd ID Memorial)

For many years I have heard about the events organized in Europe by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored and its affiliates such as the Czech KVH 4<sup>th</sup> Armor, unfortunately part due to the cost of travel, work, time and the fear of the unknown I was uncertain about attending. Thankfully, this year I was able to finally commit to one of them and it left me with a regret that I wasted years not attending them.

Before you march, your back will already be stiff as starch. A primer on packing.

Tetris, is the favorite game of every reenactor I know, because before every event we attend we play that game, while packing our equipment into our, or our friends cars. That's normal mode Tetris, going on a trip overseas is playing Tetris on hard mode, because all we get are two little boxes, our carry on and our registered bag. Our major concern here is their weight and we have a tendency to pack a lot to events in the US. Thankfully, our reenactor friends in Europe that organize these events are quite helpful in creating a list of required and optional equipment that we need and that fulfill the authenticity standards. I highly recommend following this list precisely, it's there because it is needed and because it allows to portray the specific unit during the event the way it is supposed to. They also help avoid overpacking, or indecision of what to and what not to pack. Our friends in Europe can also help us with some of the gear such as heavy e-tools, if needed. This takes some coordination and for each country there is a coordinator that we can contact.





I would be foolish to omit the firearms aspect when it comes to packing, especially since in the US, they are not a problem to bring to an event. Alas, Europe has very strict laws on firearms, if you really want to bring your rifle legally, you should contact the country coordinator and ask him what forms you would need to fill out, if at all possible. However, these events are more about the aspect of being in the same fields, cities, forests as the GI's over 70 years ago than shooting blanks. Usually you will be able to borrow a replica, Denix M1 Garand, even though a post war replica, you will be happy that it weighs less than the real thing, especially after a few kilometers hike. I should note that in the recent year the UK has made their bladed weapons laws stricter as well. If you fly into the UK, you will be able to bring your bayonet, however if you decide to take the ferry to France, you might have your bayonet confiscated. It is best to coordinate your travel plans with other people coming on the trip and decide where you should fly in.

I personally did not fly in from the US to Prague, but rather drove from Poland and was able to bring more items from the optional list, however they did not exceed in any way they packing list as provided by the event organizers and I was able to fit everything, minus my Denix rifle into a standard duffle bag. I have in the past traveled to France twice bringing uniforms and equipment for the D-day anniversaries in 2015 and 2016 and had no problems bringing my bayonet or equipment flying into the country and packing, without going over the weight limit, what a standard infantryman would carry on D-day.



(How many times have I told you to stop tailgating me? Somewhere in a small village)

You march, you march, you march. The living history part of the event.



I was unsure what to expect, even though you exchange messages on a Facebook group made for the event and you know where to be and at what time, everything after that is unknown. I arrived together with two members of the Polish based Normandie '44 group who portray soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, the day before the event and stayed at a quiet hotel in Dily, just 10 kilometers from the border with Germany. We checked into our room, which was clean and comfortable, had a nice dinner and went for a walk. We even had time to prepare our equipment without a rush. The next day after breakfast we assembled in the staging area, where we had 6 CCKW's, 2 jeeps and a WC12 and a WLA waiting for us. We gathered our equipment and were assigned to squads, ours was composed of Americans (two of us, the sergeant being the other one, our First Sergeant was also an American), Poles and Czechs, other squads included Czech, British, Germans, French, Belgian, Dutch members. It was truly an international event.



(In the countryside, assembling for action)

After we assembled we mounted up on the CCKW's and drove a few miles away to a memorial where soldiers of the 90<sup>th</sup> ID were killed as their jeep triggered an anti-tank mine, in a little shrine there were still parts of the jeep. We participated in a standard memorial ceremony with someone from the US embassy giving a speech. Afterwards, we drove back to the assembly town and were fed goulash, courtesy of one of the locals, we even managed to get some beer! I was told by our event organizer and CO Martin Dusek, that this was it, we are moving out and starting the living history part!

Before I begin about the living history part I should add that I think we have the term living history confused in the US. Our "living history" events in the US are hardly what I have experienced in the Czech Republic.





(The Czech countryside offered many spectacular views)

We mounted up on the CCKW, the fat trucks, each filled with a squad, three total, equipment, a kitchen and supporting elements, over 50 in total got us somewhere in the middle of a field, for all I could tell, we could have been miles away from our starting point. There we finally began moving out in squads, using squad tactics, structured command, scouts, heavy weapons squads and jeeps. We hiked about 10 kilometers that day, unknown to us where we are going and what we are doing. This was not a weekend at Rockford with a list of battles and scenarios, with knowledge where you are sleeping, or when you are eating, or the ability to go to McDonald's. You had no clue what was going to happen next, your sergeant knew just as much as you and asking an officer what's next... well I don't think anyone dared to. You felt like a gear in a big machine, that was told to do things that were required to be accomplished. Just like the guys during the war, you were told to do something and you did it, without complaining to the NCO's, or officers. You had to let loose, you had to allow the thought that you are not in control, again, the same as the guys back then had to. The officers and NCO's were very well qualified, many of them with a military background and you just had to trust them as well as everyone else in your squad.





(Moving in, using squad tactics)



(Town ahead)





(Marching on)



(Tired, so very tired)



(Enemy ahead)





We were continuously sent to different positions in the AO, on guard duty, or patrol. Our first night was spent under the clear Czech sky in a field. Our trucks did not make it until much later in the night with our bedding, until then we just hoped to get some sleep by curling up by a tree, in a ditch, or wherever we could find any shelter from the wind. Even though it was May, the nights were pretty chilly especially with the terrain being scattered with hills. Our kitchen did not make it at all that night with food. We all assumed it was ambushed earlier in the day, hearing some gunshots far in the distance. However, around 2am a jeep with warm food arrived and within a few minutes we were attacked by Germans...the rest of the night went uneventful. We stayed there for a little while the next day expecting German movement, none came, we moved out to an area where we were expecting German activity and possible contact. This we encountered after a full-scale battle, we were able to eliminate, or capture the enemy. Tired, but happy we were extracted with our tracks to a rear area where we could finally eat warm, freshly prepared food by our kitchen. What a marvelous job the girls working in the kitchen did! This food lifted our spirits, refreshed us and prepared us for what was ahead. The kitchen truck and the girls followed us for the rest of the trip, helping us get through the cold, blisters and exhaustion.



(The convoy)

The next day followed a different schedule, we now were sent out by foot, and “liberated” villages, we moved into the city of Domazlice, taking positions and routes that the elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry took 74 years ago. We moved in, as if ignoring the everyday life of the citizens within, we checked windows for snipers, looked around every corner, turning off the modern cars, civilians and everything else around us. We were in Domazlice, in 1944, not 2018. We moved into the city square, where we were able to have some rest, even get some ice cream, take photos reenacting those from the war, pose for photos with the public, or chat with some of the puzzled onlookers.



(Domazlice, moving into the city center)



(City center, Domazlice)





The next days followed a similar scenario, we would be trucked somewhere, move out by foot, throughout the countryside, using squad tactics, liberate a small town, or village, or be involved in a firefight in some of the most unexpected places. For everyone else it was May 2018, but not for us. On the last day we spent out “fighting” we were moved to a rear area which was composed of a house with attached barn buildings and a beautiful yard. There was an American flag waving on a flagpole. The girls were cooking up some delicious supper, we were told we could sleep in the attic of a barn under a roof, there was nice fresh cut grass under our feet, which felt like walking on feathers. So, we walked for a while, smoked and joked, feeling like we were in a sanatorium.



(Life in the rear is peaceful)





(First night under a roof)

Sweat till you get there, the hard way. We got there, the end of the trip.

Following that great break, we said our goodbyes to the owner of the estate and drove to Pilsen, where we set up tents and our camp. These were the most relaxing days of the trip, we had a lot of free time, besides guard duty. We could explore the town, have a meal at a restaurant, beer, buy ice cream and even use a real toilet for the first time in a week! The citizens of Pilsen welcomed us warmly, taking photos with us and asking us questions. We were even able to meet a few veterans from the 2<sup>nd</sup> ID, I happened to talk to a nice gentleman who was from Michigan and used to live in Chicago on Touhy Ave. That made me somewhat homesick, especially since I spent the past 4 months prior to the trip in Europe.





The icing on the cake for the trip was a giant parade through Pilsen. The parade convoy stretched out for quite some length, hundreds of people lined the streets, there were at least a few thousand total there. Waving at us, carrying American flags, T-shirts and whatever else they had that had an American motif on it. I think I had a little tear go down my cheek as we entered the parade route, I was so proud to be an American. But, the tear came because I thought about the US soldiers that were here during the war, that defeated the Germans, endured hardships that even those we endured on our trips could not compare and liberated oppressed people. After that we made our way to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ID monument where very nice wreaths were laid down upon. We did not have a wreath, we didn't even have a bouquet from a florist, what we had, were flowers that followed us from the beginning of the trip, that were given to us in every village and town, that decorated the sides of our trucks. Those flowers we laid, were of the same kind that they received from the people that they liberated, in the same manner we did and now they made their way to the monument in their honor. It was a beautiful accent to end the trip. The parade and the ceremony at the monument happened on Saturday, after return to camp there was a concert in the main square and time for us to enjoy the evening. The next day there was still a ceremony at the Patton memorial, unfortunately for me and my Polish friends it was time to pack and return home. The morning was filled with goodbyes as we parted ways, I think I tried to shake the hand of every guy and gal that was there with us the entire way, I might not have spoken to everyone during the trip as you operate within your squad, but everyone there is a friend of mine now.



(Pilsen Parade)





Opinions, opinions, everyone is entitled to them.

I took about two weeks before I sat down to write this AAR, to give myself some time to decompress and to put a perspective on it and on what we do in the US. I have done quite a bit in my short WWII reenacting career, which is just now on the verge of 10 years. I can say that only just now I have started “reenacting” and participating in living history events. It’s just not the same setting up a display on the weekend with McDonald’s and Starbucks within reach.

I highly recommend to everyone who has not gone on one of these trips to do it. Save up if you have to, get a side job, maybe even skip all US based events for a year. The next two years in Europe are going to be amazing. It is going to be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, there is only going to be one 75<sup>th</sup> not two. What you will experience on these trips is nothing like what you experience in the US, going through an entire country in a huge armored column with a participation in the hundreds, setting foot in the same places as the US GI in 1944. I think that would be the pinnacle of someone’s reenacting career, doesn’t matter if it is your first or 41<sup>st</sup> trip, if you have been on these trips, you don’t need to be reminded how awesome they are, maybe just reminded that you need to be there. THERE IS NO US BASED EVENT that will give you what these upcoming events will.

If you are interested in these events please check out the following Facebook groups, if you are curious about travel arrangements from the US and how that looks like in detail do not hesitate to contact me, same goes if you have any detailed questions about the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Pilsen event. It was impossible to fit every detail of it in just one article.





Special thanks to:

Martin Dusek , the rest of the officer staff and everyone from the Czech team involved in organizing this event.

Our gals in the kitchen “The Best of the Best”

Our drivers.

KVH 4<sup>th</sup> Armored

2<sup>nd</sup> Armor in Europe

2<sup>nd</sup> Squad “Loud and Proud!”

Normandie 44' for driving me to the event. ([www.facebook.com/Normandia44/](http://www.facebook.com/Normandia44/))

Platoon Sgt Heath Hammond of Hollywood, California.

Ssgt Michael Bogert of Los Angeles, California.

Contact information for future events in Europe:

2nd Armored in Europe

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Website: <http://www.4tharmored.cz>



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