

# THE EDGE

**THE OFFICIAL EMAGAZINE OF THE  
WORLD WAR TWO HISTORICAL REENACTING SOCIETY, INC**



**VOLUME 20, ISSUE 5**

**JULY, 2011**

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## In This Issue:

- “Incoming:” notes from around the HRS
- Board meeting minutes
- Lyons Farm Photo Collection
- Museum visit: Chanute Air Museum
- Equipment Review: K-ration cans
- Book reviews: the war from the German perspective
- Upcoming Events
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On the cover: Members of the French Army and the British Army's Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry take a break after fighting the Germans, Spring 1940...

Photo Courtesy Heinz Thiel, 5th Company, Grossdeutschland.

# ADMIN NOTES...

- Remember that the third (3rd) Thursday of every month is the HRS Board of Directors meeting. This meeting is held via teleconference, and is open to all members of the HRS. Joining in the teleconference is a good way to stay abreast of all the doings in the HRS. For a telephone code to join the teleconference, email Vice President Jon Stevens at [jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net).
- How would you like to make a difference in the HRS??? If so, the position of Secretary is currently open. If you would like to submit your name for the position, contact President David Jameson at [dmjameson@cox.net](mailto:dmjameson@cox.net).
- There has been a series of complaints from members who stated that “their” event was not included in The Edge’s listing of events. Remember, The Edge editor cannot list your event *if you don’t tell him*. To have your event listed, email The Edge editor at [mattandres@aol.com](mailto:mattandres@aol.com)
- The HRS Board is looking into a service that allows mass emailings. This will allow The Edge to be emailed to you, instead of having to go to the HRS website. If you would rather receive a mailed copy of The Edge, just let the editor know, and he will send you out a hard copy.

## ...THAT IS ALL

### Name This Soldier...

Q. This US nurse was the first woman to receive the Bronze Star during WWII. When paired with the Purple Heart medal she received for wounds sustained in combat, she was the first woman to receive two decorations during WWII. Who was she?

A. 1st Lieutenant Cordelia E. Cook, US Army Nurse Corps.

# Lyons Farm — 2011

**The Edge has a little treat for you — another photojournalism report by Heinz Thiele, the Propaganda Minister (war correspondent) from the 5th kompanie, GD division. That is Heinz' photographic work on this month's Edge cover. This month, Heinz provides us with a photojournalism project on Lyons Farm, 2011.**



**Somewhere in the deep jungles of New Guinea, the Australian 2/25th proves their superiority in jungle warfare.**



**Brave Polish fighter pilots take a break between missions, Battle of Britain, Spring of 1940.**

# Lyons Farm — 2011



The Imperial Japanese Army is triumphant on Bataan, Philippines, April 1942



Everyone showed up for the grenade toss competition!

# Lyons Farm — 2011



A Marine submachine gunner wades through a swamp on Guadalcanal, 1942



The 2nd Marine Division bivouac site

# Reproduction Evaluation:

## WWIIRations.com's K-ration cans

I recently ordered three sets of WWII Ration's reproduction K-ration cans. The cans are available in sets of three for \$9.99. The cans are the exact size of the originals, 3" x 1 1/16th of an inch. They are made in the earlier silver finish (they later came in gold and green), with the label lithographed like the originals. The set comprises the Cheese Spread w/ Ham; Beef and Pork Loaf; and Chopped Ham and Eggs. The cans are not filled with food, but are filled with a substance that gives the cans the feel of being full.

The only original I had to compare was a later war 1945-dated green colored can; however I was able to find six good quality period photos of K-ration cans. The repros compare favorably to the period photos. To test the durability of the cans, I wrapped them in a GI sock to keep them from rattling, then put them in a musette bag with some other equipment. I hiked for a few hours with the musette, then inspected the cans. None were dented, but one of the cans had a little of the lithography scratched off from the cans rubbing together.



WWII Rations' reproduction K-ration cans are accurate and affordable. Considering how many GI's stripped their K-rats instead of carrying the whole carton, and just stuck the cans in their pockets, this repro will surely bring an extra bit of authenticity to your impression. These repros are available at [www.wwiirations.com](http://www.wwiirations.com).

—Product reviewed by Matthew Andres, 81st Quartermaster Company

# Museum Visit: Chanute Air Force Base Museum

I recently took a trip to mid-state Illinois, to visit the museum on the grounds of the former Chanute Air Force Base. The museum is located on the grounds of the old base, and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 12 pm to 5 pm.



Though the museum is dedicated to the history of flight, I was mostly concerned with the exhibits pertaining to World War Two. Among these exhibits is a section that shows what the barracks looked like during WWII, as well as hundreds of museum-quality models of various airplanes.

Best of all, however, is a wing dedicated to the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American fighter pilots of WWII. Artifacts pertaining to the Tuskegee airmen include uniforms (below) and pictures (left), as well as autographed art work.

The museum contains over 50 actual airplanes, from different eras. From WWII, the museum has a C-47 (below), AT-6 Texan trainer, a P-51 Mustang, and a B-25 Mitchell.

One more thing I would like to mention is the friendly staff. I spent almost as much time talking with the staff as I did looking at the exhibits!

For more information on the Chanute Air Force Base Museum, see the website at: [www.aeromuseum.org](http://www.aeromuseum.org)



## Did You Know???

During WWII, the SS operated a brothel in Berlin called the "Kitty Salon." The Kitty Salon was bugged with listening devices, and was used to gain information from foreign dignitaries who would have said a little too much while pursuing love (or something close).

# Book Reviews

Skorzeny, O. (2006). *Skorzeny's Special Missions*. Minneapolis: Zenith Books.

Otto Skorzeny's autobiography of WWII is an immensely readable and insightful look into the mind of an SS commando. Skorzeny is best known for his daring assault on the Gran Sasso, which freed Mussolini from allied control. That story is well documented in this volume, yet most reenactor readers will already be familiar with the story. The true worth of *Skorzeny's Special Missions* is the documentation of Otto's battles to even establish a special operations wing, in the face of adversity provided by his senior leadership.

Bidermann, G. (2000). In *Deadly Combat: A German Soldier's Memoir of the Eastern Front*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press.

Gottlob Bidermann's account of war on the Eastern Front is a must read for any reenactor whose impression centers on the war between the Germans and the Soviets. Bidermann is an infantryman who rises through the ranks, gaining a battlefield commission and a hatful of awards fighting the USSR. Bidermann's observations of every day occurrences is exactly the type of detail that reenactors live for. Bidermann's paragraphs detailing his surrender to Soviet forces is bittersweet; it is hard for the reader not to feel sympathy for his plight.

Carell, P. (1991). *Operation Barbarossa In Photographs: The War in Russia as Photographed by the Soldiers Themselves*. Atglen, Pennsylvania: Schiffer Books.

Carell's 456 page book is a massive collection of photographs, many of which have not been seen in other publications. This volume would be indispensable for any German reenactor, as many of these photographs are relatively close-up, and show great detail in uniforms as well as how the soldiers wore their combat equipment. If there is any negative to Carell's book, it is a minor one—that the captions to the photographs often bear little impact on the photos themselves. Still, for a "reenactor's book," lack of quality captions will not be an issue.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS...**

**HERITAGE FARM**

**BRUNSWICK, OHIO**

**16-17 JULY**

**[WWW.BRUNSWICKHISTORY.COM/EVENTS\\_WW2](http://WWW.BRUNSWICKHISTORY.COM/EVENTS_WW2)**

**KENNEKUK WWII DAYS**

**DANVILLE, ILLINOIS**

**6-7 AUGUST**

**[HTTP://KENNEKUK.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://KENNEKUK.EVENTBRITE.COM)**

**WWII DAYS AT BLASTCAMP PAINTBALL**

**HOBART, INDIANA**

**13-14 AUGUST**

**[WWW.709TH.ORG](http://WWW.709TH.ORG)**

**For more information on these events, please see the HRS website at: [www.worldwartwohrs.org](http://www.worldwartwohrs.org).**

**To have your event listed in The Edge, contact the editor at:**

**[mattandres@aol.com](mailto:mattandres@aol.com)**

# 2011 HRS Regional Event—Mountain States

**Event Name:** 2011 Mountain States **Regional Location:** Fort Carson, Colorado **Dates:** 8-9 OCTOBER, 2011 (Columbus Day weekend) **Event Times:** (SAT – 1000 hrs – 1700 hrs) (SUN – 0900 hrs – 1230 hrs)

**Registration Times:** For pre-registered participants ONLY:

**CAMP RED DEVIL Gate 12 Open/Close Times:**

Friday 7 OCT - OPEN 1500 hrs - CLOSE 1900 hrs

Saturday 8 OCT – OPEN 0700 hrs - CLOSE 0930 hrs

Sunday 9 OCT - OPEN 0730 hrs - CLOSE 0830 hrs

**Pre-Registration:** Beginning 1 July and ending 2 OCT 2011. Unit CO's please e-mail participant information to ([cdr@worldwartwohrscolorado.com](mailto:cdr@worldwartwohrscolorado.com)). Barracks (male/female) available for up to 250 participants.

First come, first served. Male/Females latrines & showers.

**Event Fee: \$20 USD by check: For (HRS) to E. Ramirez 5.SS-Divison WIKING. E-mail:**

[cdr@worldwartwohrscolorado.com](mailto:cdr@worldwartwohrscolorado.com)). For The Regiment to D. Bryne. E-mail:

([www.ww2LivingHistoryRegiment.us](http://www.ww2LivingHistoryRegiment.us))

**Vendors of militaria** - \$20 (limit 3 tables). \* Must be a member of the HRS or other recognized organization.

**Website:** (<http://worldwartwohrscolorado.com>). "Non-members" of WIKING can see the full Event announcement with details. **Map:** You may use Google Earth link ([www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com)) and type in

Fort Carson to get a map. **Directions:** From I-25 take Exit 135 west (towards the mountains) two miles to Colorado Highway 115. Take 115 south (left turn) for 17 miles. Look for the sign posted along highway 115. Entry to the Battle site is on your left. Check in will be at the shack inside of Gate 12.

Times as noted above/under Registration Times.

**Authenticity Notes:** Western Front Axis/Allied impressions ONLY. ALL H.R.S Rules and By-Laws apply and are in effect beginning 1500 hrs 7 OCT 2011 and ending 1300 hrs 9 OCT 2011. \*Rules of Engagement will be provided upon arrival to all participants. Period era weapons or modified to appear of WW II era.

**Prohibited Vehicles/Items:** (Vehicles) Period era or visually modified to look like WW II armor/halftracks/wheeled & motorcycle vehicles ONLY. (Items) Fort Carson rules and regulations prohibit - ALCOHOL/Substances of any kind. LIVE ammunition of any kind. Pyrotechnics of any kind.

**Other restrictions:** Weapons MUST be blank fire, gas-fire or black-powder adapted ONLY. No firing after 10pm. No pets! No flares.

**Sponsoring Unit(s): This Event is co-sponsored as follows:**

Sponsoring Unit(s): HRS - 5.SS-DIVISION WIKING "reenacted" & WW II Living History Regiment



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