Members of the WWII HRS:

You are invited to participate in a research study, entitled
“Hallow This Ground: How Reenactors and Living Historians Use Archival Sources.”

The study is being conducted by Tonia Sutherland (PI) TNS10@pitt.edu
Of the University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences
135 N. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA, 15206
Dr. Richard J. Cox serves as Faculty Sponsor.

The purpose of this research study is to assess and analyze how reenactors and living historians use archival sources. Your participation in the study will contribute to a better understanding of the needs of reenactors in terms of archival sources and what kinds of sources support reenactors’ and living historians’ claims to authentically representing the past.

You are free to contact the investigator at the above (email) address to discuss the study.

You must be at least 18 years old to participate, and you must be an active reenactor or living historian.

If you agree to participate:
• An audio-recorded interview, lasting approximately 60-90 minutes will be conducted.
• You will answer questions about your reenactment / living history practices and your research practices.
• You will not be compensated.

If you have any questions about the study please contact the researcher above via email.

If you agree to participate, please email TNS10@pitt.edu.

Thank you.

____________________
Tonia Sutherland
Doctoral Candidate & Teaching Fellow
School of Information Sciences
University of Pittsburgh
www.ischool.pitt.edu
http://toniasutherland.com
A State of Illinois program
Has preserved thousands of veterans’ stories

Thousands of Illinois veterans have shared their stories for future generations. And there’s room for more. To preserve the stories, Secretary of State Jesse White, an Army veteran, started the Illinois Veterans History Project in 2005 to record the names and accounts of veterans and civilians who served the country during war. The project has received about 6,500 submissions. White and other state officials encourage other vets to share their stories.

White said, “Young people who were weren’t even born when some of these individuals served in the military, will get a chance to go to our website and pull up information on how life was back during the war and some of the things they experienced.”

The Illinois Veterans History Project preserves the stories of veterans and civilians who served in wars from World War I to the present. The archive is available online and lists the veterans’ dates of service, the branches they served in and their units. Veterans can include written personal stories, as well as videos.

“We’re asking people to come forward to let us know what they experienced while they were in the military so we can make this a part of history,” said White, who as secretary of state is also Illinois’ chief archivist. People will be able to go to our website, pull up the stories and hear about the experiences of these veterans.

One of the veterans in the archive is 92 year old Clyde Brubaker of Litchfield. He flew B-26 bombers over Europe during World War II and was injured during his first mission in May 1943 when an anti-aircraft shell exploded outside his plane.

“I was hit on the right side of my face,” Brubaker said. “The fragments went all over the cockpit. I was stunned. The other crewmembers got me back in the radio compartment. The pilot in the left seat was just grazed. He was able to continue flying the mission.”

Brubaker flew 65 bombing missions during the war. “Our planes were often hit,” he recalled. “On one mission, my plane had 20-some holes in it. That wasn’t unusual. As long as it didn’t hit a vital part of the aircraft or crew member, it wasn’t a big deal.”

To participate in the Illinois Veterans History Project, veterans or their family members can obtain an Illinois Patriots Information Form from the secretary of state’s office, driver service facilities and Illinois public libraries.

Additional information, and downloadable forms, are available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/veteransproject.html

From HRS President
Jonathan Stevens, 9th Infantry
jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net

WWII HRS Scholarship 2013

"The WWII HRS 2013 scholarship winner is Ben Pugh of 2/SS-Panzer Pioneer Battalion 5 Wiking.

Ben’s essay and picture will be published in the next Edge.

The runner up is Tim Cliffe of 2nd Panzer."
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event Times</th>
<th>Registration Times</th>
<th>Pre-Registration</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Authenticity Notes</th>
<th>Prohibited Vehicles/Items</th>
<th>Restrictions on Minors</th>
<th>Sponsoring Unit(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>ARMED FORCES TRIBUTE &amp; WW2 WEEKEND</td>
<td>Sonneman Park, Vandalia, Illinois</td>
<td>October 12 and 13, 2013</td>
<td>08:00 till 17:00 each day</td>
<td>07:00-09:00 each day</td>
<td>Mat Hanabarger at <a href="mailto:wildlandsequipment@gmail.com">wildlandsequipment@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>No Charge</td>
<td>Mat Hanabarger at <a href="mailto:wildlandsequipment@gmail.com">wildlandsequipment@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/events/364255923704379">http://www.facebook.com/events/364255923704379</a></td>
<td>All HRS Safety &amp; Authenticity Rules apply</td>
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<td>C Company, 1st BN, 502nd PIR, 101st AB</td>
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<td>18-20</td>
<td>WELCOME HOME, STARS AND STRIPES REMEMBERS WW II</td>
<td>Stars &amp; Stripes National Military Museum &amp; Library, 17377 Stars and Stripes Way, Bloomfield, MO 63825</td>
<td>18-20 October 2013</td>
<td>9am - 5pm 19 October 2013</td>
<td>3-7pm 18 October 2013 &amp; 7-9am 19 October 2013</td>
<td>Eventbrite Link: <a href="http://ssrwwii.eventbrite.com">http://ssrwwii.eventbrite.com</a></td>
<td>Free to re-enactors, nominal fee for the public</td>
<td>Gary Adkins: <a href="mailto:papajoa@20thcenturygi.com">papajoa@20thcenturygi.com</a> or Sean Burton: <a href="mailto:ALEX6357@aol.com">ALEX6357@aol.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://welcomehomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com">http://welcomehomestarsstripesrememberswwii.webs.com</a></td>
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<td>NO live ammo of any kind.</td>
<td>HRS rules apply</td>
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<td>BATTLE OF ARDEN</td>
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<td>October 19, 2013</td>
<td>9 am until 5 pm</td>
<td>6 am until 8 am</td>
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<td>Darren Byrnes - <a href="mailto:ww2repro@comcast.net">ww2repro@comcast.net</a></td>
<td><a href="http://home.comcast.net/~30thhrs/arden1.html">http://home.comcast.net/~30thhrs/arden1.html</a></td>
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2013 Armed Forces Tribute
World War II & Vietnam War
Re-Enactments

October 12th at 8:00am until October 13th at 5pm CDT
Location At Sonnemann / Greer Park
Vandalia, IL 62471

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 12th
8:00AM - 5:00PM
1st Battle - 1000PM (Vietnam)
2nd Battle - 3:00PM (WWII)
All Day Swap Meet
Living History & Vehicle Displays

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 13th
8:00AM - 5:00PM
1st Battle - 1000PM (Vietnam)
2nd Battle - 2:00PM (WWII)
All Day Swap Meet
Living History & Vehicle Displays

This Event is FREE To The Public So Plan Ahead To
Attend This Fun Filled Weekend That The Entire Family Will Enjoy.
You Will See....
• Military Vehicle Displays • Living History Encampments
• World War II & Vietnam War Battle Re-Enactments
• Weapons & Equipment Demonstrations
• Swap Meet Vendors • Military Collectibles
• Food Vendors and Much More

This Event Brought To You By:
WILDLANDS OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT
For More Information Call Us At: (217) 690-9239
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167th Signal Photo Company  
And 9th I.D.  
wolfiejo@yahoo.com

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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. Please contact your unit commander for more information regarding date, time, and log on information.
All of the HRS Board Meeting Minutes from the past five years are posted on the HRS WEB Site. Current HRS By-Law call for these official business reports to be re-published here in The Edge. See the BOD Minutes Page at [http://WorldWarTwoHrs.org/Business.htm](http://WorldWarTwoHrs.org/Business.htm) for past meeting Minutes.

### WWII HRS Minutes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Minutes</th>
<th>2012 Minutes</th>
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About Us

The World War Two Historical Re-enactment Society is an organization of over 1200 men and women members from coast to coast, as well as Canada and Europe. Our mission is to bring the history of World War Two to life with public displays, simulated battles, participation in parades, and a variety of other community activities.

The society strives to honor and preserve the memory of those who served in World War Two, as well as preserve the artifacts of that period.

Our members carry out a wide range of historical impressions, including those of The United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Poland, and Germany.

Our focus is entirely on the military history of World War Two. We have no sympathy for the ideology of Nazism or fascism. Such beliefs are not welcome here.

If this exciting and rewarding hobby appeals to you, please consider joining us. Our hobby is dependent upon the talents and enthusiasm of its members and there is always room for new interest! Please contact any of our board members today for more information.

The Web Site Is Hosted by Socket.NET
PFC Earl Bell, Infantryman with the 14th Armored Division

Earl served with Patton’s Third Army and liberated concentration camps. I have a picture of Earl that I kept in my college dorm room in his WWII Class A’s. Because of his experiences, he almost never spoke of it.

Finding Master Sergeant Bloyd
Part 2 - The Google Search
By LTC Tim A. Scherrer

Finding Master Sergeant Gerald Bloyd:
This is a series of articles regarding discovering the service of a family member in WWII. This is the researching of a story inside my family and comparing it to the facts that can be found in other sources. I don’t know how many articles this will be, because the research is still underway. I hope to prove each month a series of new details as my detective work figures out exactly who was MS Gerald Bloyd.

Part 2: I decided to start with a basic internet research using his name. I quickly got a few hits and garnered quite a lot of good information.

Gerald served with the 93rd Bomb Squadron, which was part of the 19th Bomb Group (Heavy). He earned a Silver Star, Purple Heart and an Air Medal. The air medal confirms the family lore that he was an “enlisted pilot” although he was most likely an aircrew member versus an actual pilot. The Purple Heart is pretty obviously awarded and doesn’t need much explanation. He died in captivity with the Japanese. The next award does need explanation. A Silver Star is not something taken lightly in the military. It is earned with gallantry under fire and is rarely awarded. This means Gerald did something pretty significant. This deepens the mystery about my lost relative.

He is listed as being buried in the American Cemetery in Manila in Plot A, Row 15 Grave 128, with a date of death of 31 May 1942. His death is also listed as a “DNB,” which means died in the line of duty but not in battle. This is as expected from the family story. It also shows he survived less than six months after the war began. His home of record for enlistment is listed as Scott County, IL. He is one of 20 that died in WWII from Scott County. My mom is from Schuyler County and my father from Cass County.

A quick Google maps search shows that Scott County is located between Jacksonville and Pittsfield, IL. This is further south than where I initially thought. Scott County today is still highly agricultural with a population of only 5,300 people with a county seat of Winchester. When Gerald was born, the county was nearly double that size, with a population of over 10,000, the largest number of inhabitants in its 175 year history.

A quick search discovered the 93rd Bomb Squadron, known as the Indian Outlaws, is still in service today flying B-52s out of Barksdale AFB. During WWII it was part of the 19th Bomb Group. It was one of the first B-17 squadrons and at that time flew C/D models. While called a Flying Fortress, the B-17C/D lacked many of the armaments of the later B-17s. The gun turrets on the top and bottom were not added until well in production of the E model, and it also lacked a tail gunner. Instead of a ball turret, it had a “bathtub turret”, which was a .50 cal machine gun mounted in a bathtub looking contraption to allow the gunner to defend the aircraft, but only from behind and below. The waist guns were mounted in blisters on the sides of the aircraft.
The flight crew of a B-17C was 7 and a B-17D was 8. They consisted of a Pilot, Co-Pilot, Navigator, Bombardier, Flight Engineer, Radio Operator, Left and Right Waist Gunners. The difference between a C and D model would be one additional gunner. As a Master Sergeant, Gerald would have held one of the enlisted positions on the aircraft. I can also guess as a senior sergeant he probably held a more technical position on the aircraft and wasn’t a gunner. That really narrows down to the possibility of being a Flight Engineer, Radio Operator or Bombardier. While bombardiers later in the war were all officers, early in WWII it was considered an enlisted position. That makes sense since this is operating a weapons system and for only a short period of time, much like a gunner. It was probably an additional duty to some other task.

This is all pretty good information, but every answer to me raises more questions. At least I have a good starting point and it points in the right direction.

In Part 3 we will look at the aircraft of the 19th Bomb Group (Heavy).

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A Big Thank You to Experimental Aircraft Association's WarBird Squadron 4 for hosting the B-17G Aluminum Overcast Tour Stop 6-8 September 2013 at Lewis Airport in Lockport, Illinois.

WarBird Squadron 4 aircraft often make appearances at WW2 Re-enactments in the mid-west.

Most of you maybe familiar with Tom Buck’s TBM Avenger.

John O’Connor’s F8F Bearcat or Rudy Frasca’s Wildcat.

Tom Buck is the current Commander of WarBird Squadron 4.

Please Thank Tom and WarBird Squadron 4 for all there appearances at our events. www.warbirdsquadron4.org
My Date with Flying History
By Heinz Thiel
WW2 HRS Press Corps

Dave Stevens of WarBird Squadron 4 got me exclusive access to B-17G Aluminum Overcast. That is right I had this airplane to myself. In silent glory I was able to walk right up-to and in-to this piece of history! I experience my own time warp back to 1945.
7:00 AM  5 September 2013  or is this 1945, 1944?

I am almost in total disbelief at what I am seeing in front of me.
No Fence, No Security… I can walk right up and touch it.
I take out my camera and walk a full circle around this B-17 snapping a photo every few steps.

At any moment I expect security to come out … but no…
Instead I am greeted with a friendly hello and handshake.
It is media day for Aluminum Overcast.
I am expected, along with other local TV station and Newspaper Reporters.

Soon the flight crew will come out and wash the windows check the oil and prepare the aircraft for today’s Media flight.
But for the next hour I get a private tour of this amazing piece of flying history.
I start doing what I came to do… and set up my video camera’s and record this days activities.
**Brief History of B-17 Aluminum Overcast**
The Experimental Aircraft Association's B-17G-VE, serial number 44-85740 – nicknamed Aluminum Overcast, was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Corps on May 18, 1945. Although delivered too late to see action in World War II, the airplane has an interesting history.

**First Owner**
Purchased as surplus from the military inventory for a mere $750 in 1946, the airplane has flown more than 1 million miles. It has served as a cargo hauler, an aerial mapping platform and in pest control and forest dusting applications.

**Return to Military Roots**
The airplane's return to its military roots began in 1978, when it was purchased by a group of investors who wished to preserve the heritage of the magnificent B-17. The group, "B-17s Around the World," was headed by Dr. Bill Harrison. Their goal was to return the B-17 to its former glory.

**Donation to EAA**
The economic reality of simply maintaining a vintage bomber, let alone the cost of restoration, prompted the group to donate the B-17 to the Experimental Aircraft Association in 1983. Since that time, an extensive program of restoration and preservation was undertaken to insure Aluminum Overcast would be a living reminder of World War II aviation for many years to come. The restoration has taken more than 10 years and thousands of hours by dedicated staff and volunteers at EAA Oshkosh, Wisconsin, headquarters.

Aluminum Overcast proudly carries the colors of the 398th Bomb Group of World War II, which flew hundreds of missions over Nazi-held territory during the war. Aluminum Overcast commemorates B-17G #42-102515 which was shot down on its 34th combat mission over Le Manior, France, on August 13, 1944. Veterans of the 398th helped finance the bomber's restoration.

**The Plane**
When the airplane was sold in 1946, most of the original military equipment had been removed. Over the years, these items have been located, restored and returned to Aluminum Overcast. These include:
The Norden bombsight located in the nose of the airplane
Restoration of the navigator's position also located in the nose of the airplane
Installation of the waist guns located on each side of the bomber
Rebuilding the radio compartment, including original communications equipment
Returning the airplane's floor to its original specifications
Installation of a complete tail turret assembly
Installation of a replica top turret just behind the pilot and co-pilot seats

Even those too young to have lived through World War II can appreciate the history associated with this airplane. The Flying Fortress was one of the airplanes that helped the Allies achieve victory in World War II. The B-17 is an important part of both U.S. and aviation history. It can help us understand the technology of the times, the era in which the aircraft was developed and the human sacrifices which make today's freedoms possible.
EAA’s BOEING B-17G Aluminum Overcast FLYING FORTRESS SPECIFICATIONS

Wing span .......................................... 103 feet, 9 inches
Length .............................................. 74 feet, 4 inches
Height .............................................. 19 feet, 1 inch
Typical weight ...................................... 40,000 pounds
Fuel ................................................ 100LL Avgas
Fuel capacity ....................................... 1,700 gallons
Fuel consumption .................................... 180 GPH
Typical fuel load ................................... 1,000 to 1,200 gallons
Oil ................................................. Phillips 25W60
Oil use per hour .................................... 4 gallons
Cruise .............................................. 165 MPH
Turning radius ...................................... 85 feet
Footprint .................................... 66 pounds per square inch / 21 feet (between mains)
Minimum Runway ................................. 5,000 feet x 100 feet
I have seen B-17's in movies and photos in books. These gave me the Mighty Flying Fortress view of the plane. As soon as I got inside reality sunk in. The walls were paper thin, just by tapping on them I was afraid of leaving a dent. It is small and cramped (everywhere inside this airplane). This seemed like a death trap… a flying coffin.
In a few hours I would meet the men who actually flew this plane, fired these guns, and dropped those bombs. There stories will appear here in the next issue of THE EDGE.
After I took these photos I went to back of the plane and just sat in silent reflection. My mind drifted ... and for a while I was in back 1944 preparing for the next mission over Germany. A bit of fear set in ... I hope can do my part and preserve this history for future generations.
Midway Village Museum
World War II Days brings history pages to life in Rockford

Midway Village is normally a tranquil afternoon getaway and a great place for a walk or jog. Except for one weekend in September when there is ear-piercing artillery fired from Soviet and U.S. tanks, dozens of half-tracks and other 1940s-era military vehicles scurrying about, with stirring speeches from Gen. George Patton, and active encampments of Allied and Axis troops. It is World War II Days; this 17th annual event is the largest World War II-era reenactment in the United States with more than 1,200 uniformed re-enactors from 40 states representing soldiers from the United States, Great Britain, France, Poland, Ukraine, the Soviet Union, Japan, Italy and Germany.

“This is pretty authentic,” said former history teacher and Shirland School Superintendent Ed O’Brien, who portrays a U.S. Colonel. “The people here do a lot of research. We’re trying to honor those who served and teach.”

Midway Village President David Byrnes said Rockford is the ideal city to host the re-enactment because of its ties to World War II. “Rockford is home to Camp Grant, one of the largest induction Centers to the Army,” he said. “A lot of Rockford companies supported the war efforts. World War II really gave us an economic boom until the early 1980s.”

====== Text from the Rockford Register Star Newspaper ======

* * THE EDGE * VOLUME 22 * ISSUE 9 * OCTOBER 2013 * Page 22 of 36 * *
A record breaking crowd of 8,623 visitors attended World War II Days (2013) at Midway Village Museum. The two-day event drew the largest number of visitors to date for any Midway Village Museum special event.

“This attendance marks a milestone for our museum,” said Midway Village Museum President David Byrnes. It is one thing to crack open a book and read about history. It’s another to see those pages come to life.

World War II Days began in 1996 with about 100 re-enactors. The event is now the country’s largest re-enactment depicting World War II with about 1,200 re-enactors from around the country on hand. Visitors traveled from throughout the Midwest to view field battles and learn about World War II military history and civilian life in the 1940s.

Re-enactors represented soldiers from the United States, Great Britain, France, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Italy and Japan. Civilian re-enactors depict home front war activities as well. In addition to the action on the battlefields, skirmishes in the Village, demonstrations and displays in the buildings, and wood encampments are popular among the visitors.
I studied photography in the nineties, spending hours in the darkroom, developing film, and making prints; correcting my photographs manually before the dawn of Photoshop. It was a great learning experience in the field of photography that opened my mind into the world of light and different perspective.

After my life took a different path, I gave up on pursuing photography professionally, and it wasn’t until about 7 years ago when I became a part of a restoration project of a WW2 B-17 bomber. I have picked up my camera again and started documenting our progress. Then about 2 years ago, I became more serious and involved in photographing our building achievements when I saw the progress we were making. With that, my interest in aviation grew and I was no longer only documenting the restoration of our airplane project, but also started attending various air shows, and was fortunate to get to know some great aviation enthusiast. With the build and being part of aviation world, my interest in the WW2 history grew.

When I attended my first reenactment event at Rockford WW2 days in 2011, I knew right away that I found a new passion – photographing the reenactors. I was blown away by their hard work, incredible preparation, and the details that went into recreating every character these inspiring men and women portray.

Thank You So Much!
Lucas

Photos By Lucas Ryan
Photos By Lucas Ryan
Photos By Lucas Ryan
Subject: .30 Caliber Blank M1909- Ammunition Safety Message

AMMUNITION SAFETY MESSAGE

A mishap occurred during the first week of May 2013 in which two M1 Garand Rifles blew apart. This occurred during the rendering of funeral honors at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. As a result of this mishap two American Legion Members received serious injuries. This mishap was caused by the inadvertent use of .30 Caliber Grenade Cartridges instead of the .30 Caliber Blank Cartridges. The grenade cartridge generates more pressure than the blank cartridge and is not designed or intended to be fired with a blank firing adapter.

The significant physical difference between the Blank Cartridge and the Grenade Cartridge is that the Blank Cartridge has 6 Crimps and the Grenade Cartridge has 5 crimps.

WARNING

• Do not fire .30 Caliber Grenade Cartridge in the M1 Garand Rifle
• Only .30 Caliber Blank Ammunition Received from the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command should be fired
• If an Organization’s Ammunition Source is unknown that ammunition should be inspected for the presence of Grenade Cartridges

If you have questions, please direct them to Mr. Robert Weissman, U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Center- (973) 724-3056, or robert.j.weissman.civ@mail.mil
Do you have a good re-enactment picture or video? Then Send it in to me for publication in The Edge or The Point.

Heinz Thiel  GD5.Heinz.Thiel@GMail.Com

My Ultra-Modern Video Equipment verses Bryan Ilyankoff’s period correct film camera.

It does not matter when or where it is from. Good Re-enactment Pictures and Videos are Timeless. Send them In.
The 167th Signal Corps put on an excellent display at Rockford 2013.

The Half Hour GI Shave! By Troy LaFaye. Look for the video … Due out Dec. 2013.