



Fort Custer MI Tactical March 2017 Photos by Doug Slygh

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THE EDGE

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN REENACTING



March with us back
into WWII history!

Fort Custer MI Tactical March 2017 Photos by Doug Slygh

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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.

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Just what IS the origin of the famous Mr. “Kilroy”? So many accounts – Which one was first?

By Michael Krizsanitz
70th Tank Battalion Re-enactor WWII HRS



Perhaps no other symbol, gag, or character is as WWII recognizable as “Kilroy”. There are as many veteran stories of having seen this during the war, it seems, as there are veterans to tell them.

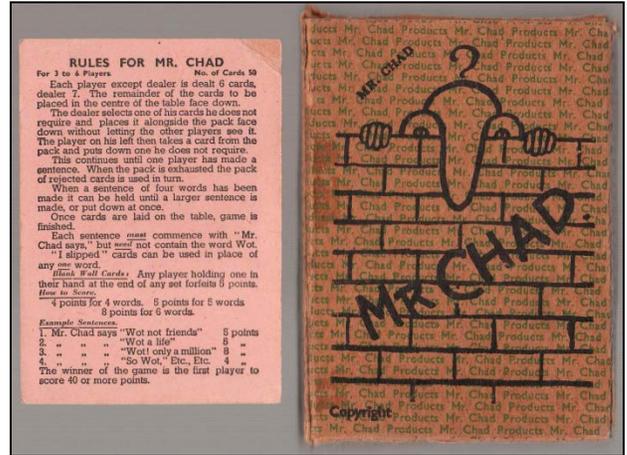
Every battle ground or rear area, of every theater, has spawned these stories of having seen “Kilroy” scrawled on a wall somewhere –supposedly placed there before the troops arrived.

Like the ubiquitous “Jody” of cadence fame, who was always there to take care of your home, girl, automobile, job, or anything else you left back at home, “Kilroy” was the graffiti they say was already awaiting you when you hit the beach, knocked over the next enemy town, or went down the wrong alley when carousing in London.

Origins

There are plenty of stories concerning who or where “Kilroy” originated. The one constant in soldiers stories was that “Kilroy” was ALWAYS there before you got there. No one ever saw who put it there. Many credited UDT or Combat Engineer troops, who cleared the way in beach operations.

Apparently many servicemen had occasion to mention the character to those at home, because by 1945, news stories concerning the everywhere “Kilroy” were surfacing. In Australia, “Foo” was a hold over from WWI, but eventually became the fellow with the large nose looking over the wall.



**The Search for Kilroy
Wartime Mr. Chad ‘fill in the blank’ card game**

The graffiti part of the equation, is a little guy said to have been first seen in England, always complaining about shortages and rationing. He was called “Mr. Chad”, and his slogan was “Wot! No _ _ _ _” (fill in the blank). “Mr. Chad” was used in a humorous way to draw attention to WW2 shortages. During this period of austerity, things we take for granted were unobtainable. “Mr. Chad” would use such captions as "WOT! No Oranges?", "WOT! No Petrol?", or for the ladies, "WOT! No Stockings?". Gradually over time, the two seem to have merged, perhaps due to GI’s who saw the Mr. Chad graffiti in England.

In 1945, “Kilroy” began to find his way into news stories. Purported to be the first story chronicling the “Kilroy” story was published on December 2, 1945 in the Nevada State Journal. But an existing article from November 14, 1945 appeared in a paper in Lewiston, Maine. Stars & Stripes did not feature the story until January, 1946.

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“Kilroy” was supposed to be Sgt. Francis J. Kilroy Jr, of Everett, Massachusetts.



But Sgt. Kilroy, a 21-year-old soldier from Everett, said he wrote "Kilroy will be here next week" on a bulletin board at a Florida airbase while ill, and the phrase was picked up by other airmen and taken with them overseas. Kilroy also added that a friend of his, Sgt. James Maloney, wrote the phrase on the bulletin board. Maloney continued to write the shortened phrase when he was shipped out a month later, and other airmen soon picked up the phrase. Francis Kilroy himself only wrote the phrase a couple of times. Somehow that doesn't seem like an auspicious beginning to an endearing symbol of our GI's in WWII.

"KILROY" MYSTERY IS FINALLY SOLVED

"Kilroy Was Here" Appeared on Walls, Buildings, on Every Front.

BOSTON, Nov. 13-AP—One of the Army Air Force's top wartime mysteries has been solved.

It concerned the identity of "Kilroy", whose name became legendary at air bases all over the world.

Such inscriptions as "Kilroy was here" appeared on walls and bulletin boards wherever there were air force units from Kalamazoo to Karachi and eventually a million AAF men were asking: "Who is Kilroy? How does he get around so much?"

An Army Public Relations man identified the legendary figure today as Sergeant Francis J. Kilroy, Jr., of Everett, and Kilroy explained.

"It all started at Boca Raton Army Air Field in Florida," Kilroy said, while he was ill with the flu.

A friend, Sergeant James Maloney of Philadelphia, scribbled "Kilroy will be here next week" on a bulletin board in the barracks. A month later, Kilroy said, he and Maloney were transferred to different air fields, but wherever Maloney went he continued writing the catchy messages. The idea spread and in no time air force men everywhere were doing it.

Kilroy said he wrote "Kilroy was here" only a couple of times in his 32 months of service and that when he arrived for combat duty in Italy the bases were full of signs.

"No matter where I went," Kilroy said, "I always found the darned thing had been written before I got there."

By the time Kilroy got overseas, the thing was getting out of hand and members of his "family" were beginning to appear in the legend.

One sign at an Italian base read: "Kilroy's cousin, Corduroy, was here."

Lewiston, Maine 11/1945

Kilroy Was Here; Mystery Message Traced to Source

EVERETT, Mass., Dec. 1. (U.P.) The mystery of world war II's most frequently chalked inscription—"Kilroy was here"—apparently has been solved.

Veterans, who have seen that curious phrase on buildings, aircraft fuselages and piers wherever Americans have fought, will be happy to know that Sgt. Francis J. Kilroy, jr., 21-year-old Everett soldier, was responsible.

Now awaiting a discharge at Davis-Monthan field, Tucson, Ariz., Kilroy informed his parents here that while he was hospitalized earlier in the war a friend scrawled on a bulletin board at a Florida airbase: "Kilroy will be here next week." Airmen carried it overseas and left millions of veterans guessing until now.

Nevada State Journal 12/1945

Enter the American Transit Association, sponsors of the radio program "Speak to America", which held a contest, offering a full size actual railway trolley car as first prize to the man who could prove he was "Kilroy". Some 40 men stepped forward claiming that they were responsible, but one had a plausible story, and witnesses to bear out his tale. (Incidentally, this is the story most accept as correct).

James J. Kilroy, was a shipyard worker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy, Massachusetts, where he claimed to have used the phrase to mark rivets he had checked. The builders were paid by the number of rivets they put in. A riveter would make a chalk mark at the end of his shift to show where he had stopped and the next riveter had started. Dishonest riveters would erase the previous worker's mark and chalk a new mark farther back on the same seam, giving themselves credit for part of the previous riveter's work. Kilroy stopped this by writing "Kilroy was here" at each chalk mark. Ships were being sent out before they had been painted, and when sealed areas were opened for maintenance, sailors found his unexplained name. As a joke, they began placing the graffiti wherever they (the US forces) landed or went, claiming it was already there when they arrived.

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James Kilroy entered the Transit contest. He explained the practice of discouraging the dishonesty at the shipyard was borne out by witnesses, and he was declared the winner. Kilroy won the trolley car, which he gave it to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up in the Kilroy front yard for a playhouse.



Kilroy became the US super-GI who always got there first — wherever GI's went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places. It was said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, and the underside of the Arch de Triumphe.



After WWII, the Kilroy legend lived on. Bugs Bunny, having rocketed to the moon thinking he is the first to have set foot on it, finds that "Kilroy" beat him to it.

An anecdote says that an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Truman, Stalin, and Churchill while at the Potsdam conference. The first person to use it was Stalin. He emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"

Eventually, James Kilroy faded from the scene, his 15 minutes of fame having played out. Kilroy passed away on November 24, 1962 in Massachusetts where he had lived his entire life. He is credited with being "That Kilroy" in almost every obituary, or write up that can be found.

Among NASA people, a tale that gets passed about from time to time says that after speaking about "One small step for mankind", Astronaut Neil Armstrong jokingly reported that "Kilroy" had **not** been there.

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The EDGE is the WW2 HRS's own publication.

This is where we promote what we do.

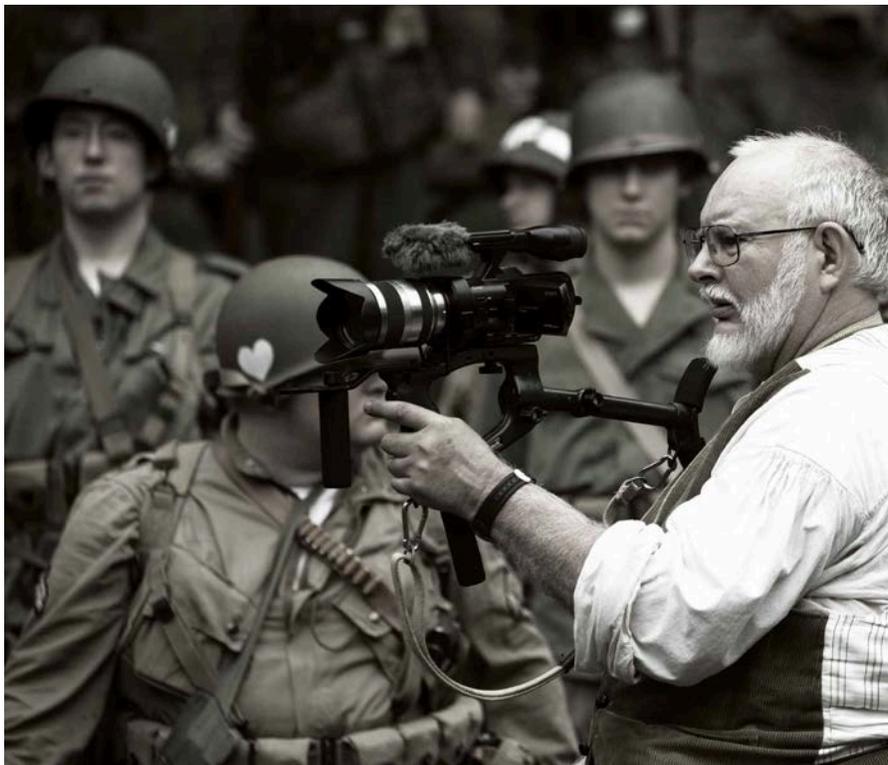
The EDGE promotes and features the work of WW2 HRS Members.

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.

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Treasurer Wayne McCulley



**TREASURER'S REPORT
WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
APRIL 2017**

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF MARCH 31ST 2017

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$8,817.76
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$49,463.45
Account Totals	\$58,281.21

INCOME FOR MARCH 2017

Membership Income	\$2,070.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$2.62
Total Income	\$2,072.62

EXPENDITURES FOR MARCH 2017

Eventbrite Service Fees	\$308.43
Office Supplies	\$17.58
Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing	\$16.00
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Total Expenditures	\$354.81

2017 Membership Income	\$6,500.00
2017 Interest Income	\$7.75
2017 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
2017 Total Income	\$6,507.75
2017 Expenditures	\$8,280.52
2017 Total Income less 2017 Total Expenses	(\$1,772.77)

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EVENTS

May	May
05-07	KENNEKUK WWII DAYS
May	<p>Loc: Kennekuk County Park – Danville, IL Dates: May 5-7 Event Times: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday – 10:00 AM to 3:45 Sunday Registration Times: 5:00 PM to 10:PM Friday night- Saturday 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: None Contact: Robert Leinweber Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/331335023929386/ Authenticity Notes: As per HRS rules Prohibited Vehicles/Items: None Restrictions on Minors: As per HRS Rules Other restrictions: None Sponsoring Unit(s): 9th Soviet Airborne Brigade</p>
12-14	ASSAULTING FORTRESS EUROPE, A WW II TACTICAL
May	<p>Loc: Camp Siman Events 10135 Oakland, Tiff, Missouri 63674 Dates: May 12 – May 14 Event Times: Gate opens 12 noon 19 May, tactical 20 May, Camp siman closes 12 noon 21 May Registration Times: 6am - 9am 20 May Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$15 at the gate Contact: papajoad@20thcenturygi.com Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/1662323104066483/ Authenticity Notes: Per HRS Guidelines Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live ammo Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS Guidelines Other restrictions: Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force 6th CO 3rd REG HRS, Camp Siman Events</p>
19-21	2017 ARMED FORCES DAY HISTORIC MILITARY TIMELINE EVENT
May	<p>Loc: Dundas, Minnesota Dates: May 19-21, 2017 Event Times: Saturday 10AM – 5 PM; Sunday 10AM – 3PM Registration Times: Opens Friday 12PM – 10PM, Saturday 7AM, Sunday 9AM Pre-Registration: Please email ricecountywwii@gmail.com if your unit is planning to attend and provide the name of your group, head count, and the amount of space needed for your display. Fee: None – Free for Reenactors. Contact: Mat Hanson (mchanson81@yahoo.com), Jon Boroom (ivanthecutthroat@hotmail.com), or the event email address at ricecountywwii@gmail.com . Website: http://ricecountywwii.yolasite.com Authenticity Notes: All HRS Safety and Authenticity Rules Apply. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: N/A Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules Apply Other restrictions: Sponsoring Unit(s): Fox Co 2/502nd PIR 101st Airborne</p>

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<p>19-21 May</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STRONGHOLD CASTLE WWII PUBLIC BATTLE REENACTMENT</p> <p>Loc: Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center 1922 Illinois Route 2 N, Oregon, Illinois 61061 Dates: May 19-21, 2017 Event Times: Site Opens to Reenactor setup Thursday May 18 1:00 p.m.; Friday May 19, 2017 Historic vehicle convoy to town 6:00 p.m.; Saturday May 20, 2017 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Sunday May 21, 2017 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration Times: Friday May 19, 2017 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday May 20, 2017 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: None Contact: Military P.O.C. Richard A. Russo 5th Kompaine GrossDeutschland Vizsla25@sbcglobal.net Civilian and Women P.O.C. Shannon Larsen Feld Lazarette G.D. shannon.m.larsen@gmail.com Website: https://www.facebook.com/groups/232326487189608/ Authenticity Notes: HRS Safety and Authenticity rules apply. All World War Two era 1939-1945 Military and Civilian Impressions are Welcome. All reenactors participating will have proper hairstyles and eye glasses for their respective nationality. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: Authentic or Period Military vehicles only, All vehicles must have working brakes, proof of insurance and on board fire extinguishers. All WWII vehicles including tracked vehicles are welcome, weather conditions permitting tracked vehicles may be limited to camp sites, gravel roads and battlefield. Non tracked vehicles such as jeeps, motorcycles, lightweight trucks and armored cars may drive on grass areas conditions permitted. Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules shall apply. Minors not accompanied by their parents must have signed/notarized permission slip identifying adult supervision. Other restrictions: All participants must be a member of a recognized umbrella Organization or Society. No driving of vehicles after dark unless approved by host units. No Live Ammunition allowed on Site. All Blank Ammunition should be brought in Clear plastic bags for inspection at S&A. No Smoking in Buildings Motels: Pinehill Inn B&B 400 Mix Street Oregon, Illinois 61061 1-815-732-2067 Paddle Wheel Inn 1457 Illinois Route 2 Oregon, Illinois 61061 1-815-732-0900 Chateau Lodge 1326 Illinois Route 2 Oregon, Illinois 61061 1-815-973-6195 BATF Class III Firearms Contact: Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle 1-815-732-1101 202 S. 1st Street Oregon, Illinois 61061 oglesheriff@oglecounty.org Sponsoring Unit(s): 5th Kompaine GrossDeutschland; Feld Lazarette GrossDeutschland</p>
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June	
09-11	RAILS TO VICTORY
Jun	<p>Loc: Fox River Trolley Museum, South Elgin, Illinois Dates: JUNE 9-11th 2017 Contact: Rebecca Tulloch, US10th Mtn LHDG Website: http://www.railstovictory.com Registration: FREE ON-LINE Registration through JUNE 7, 2017. This year there shall be a \$10.00 FEE for all Walk On Registrations on site after June 7th. On-Line Registration: Eventbrite (click here) Camp Amenities: Flush Toilets on site. Camp sites are assigned on a first come first served bases. Event Times: - Friday, June 9: Reenactor check-in, 4pm to 10pm.; - Saturday, June 10: Reenactor check-in, 8 am to 9:15am; - Sunday, June 11: Reenactor check-in, 9am to 9:50am; - Daily morning formations and S&A check; - Museum Opens at 10 am on Saturday and Sunday; - Visit the Event Web Site for Additional event details (schedules, maps, and updates). Website: http://www.railstovictory.com Authenticity Notes: HRS safety and authenticity rules apply. Invited Vehicles/Items: All WWII vehicles including tracked vehicles are welcome, weather conditions permitting; tracked vehicles may be limited to the gravel road and battle field. Smaller vehicles such as Jeeps, Motorcycles, Kubels & Lightweight Trucks may drive on the grassy areas. Boats and other period water crafts such rafts are also welcome on the Fox River, but should contact us first prior to bringing out. River depth is only 2-3 feet in the vicinity of the museum. Restrictions on Minors: HRS Rules Other restrictions: No alcoholic beverages permitted in the Museum and County Park. No digging, but camp fires are allowed in above pits and military stoves and grills. No firing of weapons in the encampment area in County Park by Forest Preserve Ordinance; but okay in the designated battlefield areas on museum property. Motels: Accommodations available in nearby Elgin and St. Charles Illinois: Hampton Inn, the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites and West Dundee's Marriott International-Courtyard & Towne Place Suites; and in St. Charles: Best Western, Country Inn & Suites, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Geneva Motel, Hampton Inn & Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Hotel Baker, Pheasant Run Resort, and Super 8. Restaurants: There are eating establishments with in a very easy walk of the museum ranging in variety from hot dogs to pizza. Sponsoring Unit(s): US10th Mtn LHDG; WW2 Girls Baseball Living History League; 28 Jager Division Regiment 83; 3rd Gebirgsjaeger Division</p>
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>

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July	
21-23	OPERATION PACIFIC
Jul	<p>Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Okland, Tiff, Missouri 63674 Dates: 21-23 July 2017, Tactical 22 July Event Times: 22 July, tactical 9am-4pm Registration Times: 22 July 6-8am Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$15 Contact: papajoad@20thcenturygi.com Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/718541318302470/ Authenticity Notes: Per HRS Guidelines Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live ammo Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS Guidelines Other restrictions: Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force 6th CO 3rd REG</p>

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KENNEKUK WWII DAYS

*** May 6-7 ***

KENNEKUK COUNTY PARK - DANVILLE, IL

FREE OF CHARGE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



**OPEN TO ALL WORLD WAR TWO IMPRESSIONS FROM ALL THEATERS OF
OPERATIONS INCLUDING HOMEFRONT**

SATURDAY 10 AM TO 4 PM & SUNDAY 10 AM TO 3 PM

LIVING HISTORY DISPLAYS — BATTLE RE-ENACTMENTS

VINTAGE BUILDINGS - ROAD NETWORK FOR WHEELED VEHICLES

BATTLEFIELD ENTRENCHMENTS— RE-ENACTOR SWAP MEET

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK : KENNEKUK WWII REMEMBRANCE DAYS

Contact Robert Leinweber (RALeinweber@scwr.org) for more information

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

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



Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center Oregon, IL 61061
info@strongholdcenter.org 815-732-6111
WWW.STRONGHOLDCENTER.ORG

For more information contact Richard A. Russo vizsla25@sbcglobal.net 1-847-254-8826

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

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

\$8 WITH A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM

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

KIDS UNDER 7 & WWII VETERANS FREE



**REENACTORS FROM LOTS OF DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS
MILITARY VEHICLES, AUTHORS, VETERANS, MILITARY SWAP MEET,
WWII THEMED BATTLES, CIVIL WAR ARTILLERY,
WEAPONS DEMONSTRATIONS, FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE**

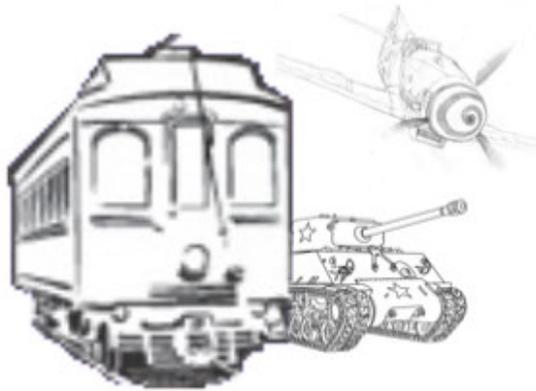
WWW.RICECOUNTYWWII.YOLASITE.COM

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

MAY 20-21, 2017

**HOSTED BY RICE COUNTY STEAM & GAS ENGINES, INC.
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF WWII VETERAN HAROLD ROY - 82ND AIRBORNE**

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RAILS TO VICTORY

June 9-11, 2017



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

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

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

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

PRE-REGISTRATION - NO CHARGE
Thru June 7th.

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



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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:

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

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

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

Picture credit: Danny J. Higgins

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*

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Presenting: Trooper Tyree's September 10-15, 2017

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN *Trooping the Colors* CONVOY

History & Scenery-It's what we are about!

Designed for 1, 2, 3, or 6 days-it's your choice

This 334 mile, figure-8, round-trip convoy begins from Townsend, TN. It will include; the Great Smoky Mountains Natl. Park, Newfound Gap, Clingmans Dome, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Wheels Through Time Museum, Cataloochee Valley, Cades Cove, the Tail of the Dragon Road, Fontana Lake, Oconaluftee Indian Village, and the Great Smoky Mt. Railroad!



Panorama from Cades Cove

Our memorable adventures are for those who love to drive their HM vehicles, who want more than a day outing but are unable to strap on a cross-continental expedition. Furthermore, our tours return to the starting point so there is little need for escort vehicles. We go to all the best places and take the back roads (both paved and unpaved). You'll overnight in unique accommodations where you have the option of staying in a cabin, lodge, motel, or camp out. Best of all, our tours are limited to 20 vehicles so there is little need for regimentation.

Contact Trooper Tyree at halftrackjohns@att.net . Have a look at our past convoys on YouTube by viewing the 2014 Missouri Convoy, the 2015 Santa Fe Trail Convoy or the 2016 Black Hills Convoy.

Note: The farthest point (Dellwood, NC) from our base at Tally Ho Inn is only 78 miles. This means that should you have a total breakdown you can have your vehicle towed back to base, if you have AAA's 100 mile towing for free.

Contact: Terry Johns at halftrackjohns@att.net for more Information

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The Colt 1911 Pistol

By Kerwin Law



Remington Rand 1911A1 Left Side

By the early 1900s semi-automatic pistols were starting to come of age. Several designs like the C96 “Broom Handle” Mauser and the M1900 Luger were starting to catch the attention of militaries around the world. These pistols had overcome many of the problems associated with the earlier semi-autos by being sturdy and reliable. Several years prior, the United States had retired their single action revolvers in 45 Long Colt for the 1892 Colt double action revolver in 38 Long Colt. While the 45LC cartridge was a proven fight stopper, the 38LC was shown to be lacking. This became apparent in the Philippines when the US came up against the Moro tribe of fanatical jihadist Muslims (sound familiar?) With the help of leather bindings, narcotics and visions of 72 virgins, they could often absorb a cylinder full of 38LC and keep on ticking. Shortly after, the old single actions were brought back out of retirement and later still the 1909 New Service revolver in .45 caliber was adopted as stop gap measures. While these moves helped to make up for the short comings of the 1892 Colt revolver, the rapid fire and fast reloading of these relatively new semi-auto pistols were becoming more attractive to the US military.

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Remington Rand 1911A1 Right Side

Around 1904 John Thompson (who later invented the Thompson sub-machinegun) and Louis La Garde headed an Army Ordnance board to determine what the ultimate solution to the 1892 Colt revolver problem should be. They decided the US needed a new semi-auto pistol in addition to a new fight stopping cartridge. Since the development of the pistol and cartridge were somewhat drawn out and tend to overlap, I will try to keep the two separated to avoid undue confusion. The first thing the board was to address was the cartridge. Using the rather primitive cartridge effectiveness tests of the day, they felt a return to the .45 caliber was needed. With that established, the US Government later asked the Frankford Arsenal, Union Metallic Cartridge (UMC) and Winchester to come up with a suitable .45 caliber pistol round. After several revisions, these three, with the later addition of Colt and John Browning, finalized what was to be one of the most famous and effective cartridges in the world. It was called the .45 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol). In the summer of 1911, it was adopted and officially named the "Cal. .45 Automatic Pistol Ball Cartridge, Model of 1911". In the never ending fast/light bullet versus heavy/slow bullet debate, it proved that fat was where it was at. Without a doubt, many thousands of our countries enemies have been given a dirt nap via the 45acp, often times with minimal ordnance expenditure.

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Colt 1911 Navy Left Side

The first testing of candidates for a potential new semi-auto US service pistol predates the Thompson/La Garde board's recommendations and the 45ACPs development by a few years. At the end of 1899 our military started comparing pistols from Colt (M1900), Mannlicher (M1894) and Mauser (C96). Overall, the John Browning designed M1900 showed the most promise and was able to be kept in consideration. Further testing and development led to the M1902 model with its revised rear sight and hammer, in addition to an added slide stop and increased ammunition capacity. Then the M1900/1902 pistols were able to beat out the DWM Luger (7.65mm) and Mauser's latest semi- auto (7.63mm & 9mm) that were brought in for comparison. It was starting to look like the M1902 Colt pistol was well on its way to adoption, until the Thompson/La Garde board's .45 caliber recommendation in 1904. Meeting this new hurdle ushered in the beefed up M1905 pistol, where at the official 1907 Pistol & Revolver Trials showed it to have some fairly serious problems to overcome. At these trials, Colt's Browning designed pistol faced its stiffest competition yet from the likes of Savage, DWM, Knoble, Bergmann, White-Merrill and three revolvers from Colt, Smith & Wesson and Webley-Fosbery. Still more refining led to the M1907 & M1909 pistols which fixed some flaws, but it wasn't until the later revisions of the M1910 model were able to finally seal the deal for one of the greatest military pistols of all time. The Colt Automatic Pistol, Caliber .45, Model of 1911 was officially deemed our new service pistol. Whew! If all those revisions and models didn't give John Browning ulcers, nothing could. But, even more revisions were asked for and later incorporated into the 1911A1 which was adopted just before his death in 1926. Now, this is purely conjecture on my part, but still more revisions to get approved and the poor guy dies a few months later? Coincidence? You decide. Who knows, if John Browning had lived another decade, there may have been a 1911A7. ☺

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Colt 1911 Navy Righth Side

From 1911-1945, several companies pitched in to manufacture the 1911/1911A1 pistols, with total production ultimately exceeding 4 million. Colt, Remington-UMC, Springfield Armory and North American Arms of Canada were selected to make the 1911. When the 1911A1 was adopted, Colt switched over and produced the upgraded pistol through 1945, with Ithaca, Remington-Rand, Union Switch & Signal and Singer coming on board closer to the WWII era. With a few rare exceptions, no more new USGI pistols have been needed to be made beyond 1945. The 1911 series of pistols proved themselves to be an excellent sidearm for our soldiers. They were hard hitting, very reliable and accurate enough. I know on that last point some veterans are booing and hissing, but It's not my fault Uncle Sam made you qualify with a worn out pistol.

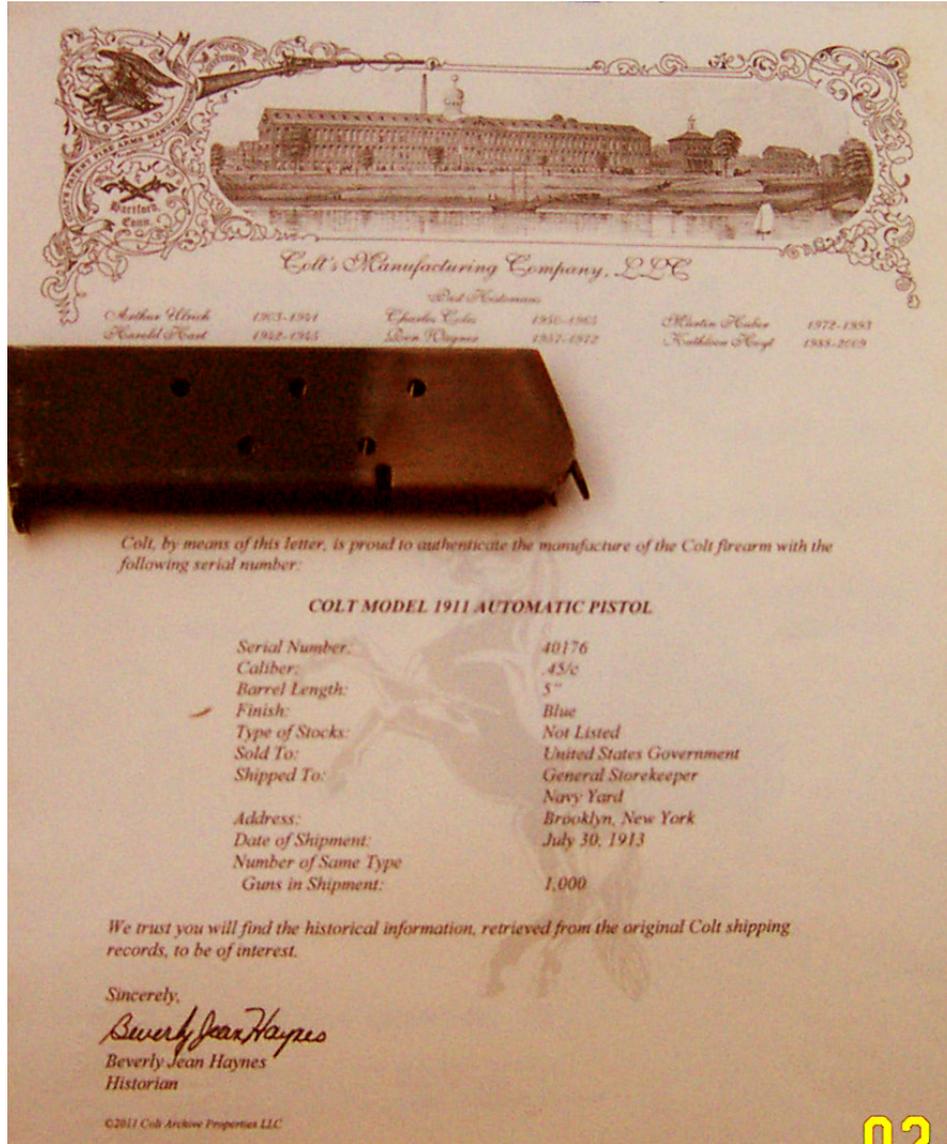


Holster

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Its 70+ year span as our standard pistol says a lot about our military's confidence in the 1911/1911A1 pistols. During its service life, when you factor in all the admirable traits you'd want in a military pistol and cartridge, I don't think any of its foreign contemporaries even came close. But like everything else, as time goes by advancements and improvements are made. Now, the higher capacity double action and striker fired pistols have inevitably pushed the finest combat pistol of its day to the wayside.



Colt Factory Letter

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.

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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.

www.WorldWarTwoHRS.Org

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MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society
Board Meeting
28 March 2017

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Board Members:	President:	Jon Stevens,
	Vice President:	Chuck Bolanis
	Treasurer:	Wayne McCulley
	Secretary:	Ron Kapustka
	American Rep:	Corey Vaughan
	Commonwealth Rep:	Brian Jones

Other Members Present: Matt Rademacher, Dave Overschmidt, Dave Goodwin, George Renke

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the March, 2017 Meeting was amended by Corey Vaughn with the addition of the 33rd Armor to the Vice Presidents Report. A motion to accept the Agenda, as amended, was made by Wayne McCulley, seconded by Corey Vaughn, and after a Board vote, were accepted.

Reading of February Meeting Minutes

The February, 2017 Minutes, were read by Wayne McCulley. 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: Chuck Bolanis

New Charters: A discussion was had regarding the 33rd Armored Regiment, Easy Company, and their intention to adhere to the standards of the WW2HRS. Specifics, the removal of the "pin-up" which is a magnet and would be removed; facial hair standards will be followed. Corey Vaughn spoke with Ray Krueger who is working on their paperwork, who also confirmed that the Unit will be revising their charter so that it conforms to WW2 HRS standards. Chuck reported that there were enough votes from the S&A Committee, but the Unit asked for another month to revise their paper charter and resubmit it. Chuck asked that the vote on the charter be tabled for one more month. Wayne mentioned the wearing of cavalry boots, and Chuck confirmed that the Unit absolutely wants to follow the standards. The unit will be wearing coveralls because of a safety issue. Corey added that he spoke with Craig who has historical evidence of tankers wearing coveralls. Jon mentioned that the unit may want to address the coverall/safety issue in their revised charter.

End of probation review: 10th SS Jon Stevens led the discussion on the 10th SS Charter. Jon mentioned questions about crew members uniforms, which was confirmed by Chuck Bolanis. Jon asked for questions about the 10th SS, which there were none. Jon made a motion to accept the 10th SS as a fully chartered unit, which was seconded by Wayne and Corey. A vote was taken and the 10th SS was added as a full chartered unit.

Dissolve:

Probation (under 5):

#10 British Commando: Brian Jones spoke with Carl Bogar a year ago and was told he was going to get the membership in line. Brian would try to contact Carl one again. Chuck made the motion to put them on a one year probation, seconded by Wayne, Ron and Corey. A vote was taken and the Unit will be put on a one year probation.

2nd US Inf Div, 23rd Regt. Corey e-mailed the unit on March 9th with no response. Chuck made the motion to put them on a one year probation, seconded by Ron. A vote was taken and the Unit will be put on a one year probation. Chuck asked if because that was David Jameson's unit, would that affect his position with the Society. Jon answered it wouldn't because he would still be a member of the HRS.

Treasurer Report By Wayne McCulley

SEE the Treasures Report Section in The EDGE.

Secretary – Ron Kapustka

Ron reported that there were 133 new members in March, 2017 for a total to date of 792. That includes 14 Minors and 1 Associate membership.

Commonwealth Rep-Brian Jones

Brian had nothing further, other than what he mentioned about

American Rep- Corey Vaughn

Has been in contact with those units that had less than 5 members. He spoke with members of F 2/5 USMC, 1st Canadian Parachute Batt; 4th Armored Div, 704th Tank Destroyer Batt and all are either working on or have met the minimum member number. Corey also asked if non-HRS events can advertise their events in *The Edge*. Jon said that if there was an HRS connection, they can advertise in *The Edge*. Chuck mentioned that requests will be dealt with separately on a case-by-case basis. All Board members agreed. Corey's last comment was that Custer went very well and was well run, it being the first Regional Event.

Axis Rep No Report

Staff Reports

No staff members present.

Committee Reports:

S&A Chuck Bolanis reported all is quiet.

Unit Commanders Jon reported all is quiet.

Vehicle Committee – Jim Schouten No report, tabled.

Civilian Committee – Nicole Fornell No report, tabled.

Old Business:

Membership Coordinator –

Jeff Skender - assist Secretary to create a membership database.

Jon led a discussion on this whereby Jeff would work on creating and maintaining the database, which would greatly assist the Board. A motion was made by Ron to accept Jeff Skender which was seconded by Dave Overschmitt. A vote was taken and Jeff was accepted as the Membership Coordinator.

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New Business:

WW1 Event request for insurance

Jon Stevens discussed the WW1 Event request made by Dave Fornell for insurance. Corey discussed the survey question made of the membership. The votes were: to do only WW2 37%; WW1 was 28%; Korean War was 17%; and Vietnam was 16% of the vote. George Renke discussed the need for the HRS to support WW1 based upon the Centennial of WW1 occurring in 2017 and the intertwining of WW1 and WW2. Matt Rademacher added that most conflicts are connected and that the WW2 HRS should "stick to what it knows" and stay with WW2. He brought up the issue of unit patches and other issues in which WW2 differs greatly from WW1. In addition, there are no WW1 Standards of Authenticity. He suggested that the WW2 HRS act as a "parent" organization for WW1 reenacting. Jon mentioned that the main reason for the alliance is the providing of insurance for Midway Village. Chuck said that his concern is that while we are supplying the insurance, the WW2 HRS has no say in the safety aspects of the WW1 event and no ability to police the safety issue at the WW1 event. Chuck agreed that we should support the event but that the HRS needs to be involved more with management of the safety aspects. Jon asked whether adding that the safety inspections be overseen by HRS safety members, if that would help. Chuck mentioned possibly a review of the WW1 safety and authenticity standards by the HRS. Corey suggested that the HRS "partner" with the WW1 event. Chuck reminded that the event is reimbursing the HRS for the insurance. Brian added that having HRS members at the event is a good thing. Ron added that it would be a good idea that HRS S&A members attend and assist the event staff with their inspections. George said that, in his opinion, the WW1 safety inspections seem to mirror those of the WW2 events. Jon reported there were 1200 at the September, WW2 event and George compared that to 200 at the WW1 event, and that the amount at the WW1 event is a more manageable number of reenactors to be inspected. Jon wrapped up the comments and asked for a vote on insuring the WW1 event at Rockford, but that the safety inspection must have HRS representatives who are designated by the HRS and are solely responsible for performing the inspections, with the \$300.00 reimbursement from the event. Chuck added that the HRS members were managing the safety inspections. A motion to accept was made by Chuck, which was seconded by Brian. A vote was taken and the vote passed.

A discussion was held about events where HRS S&A members do not attend. Chuck mentioned that he has asked the committee members to always get involved and assist the event staff at any event they attend. A suggestion was that every Unit have a designated S&A officer. It was confirmed by Jon and other members of the BOD, that one of the requirements of a charter was to designate a Safety officer for every unit.

Chuck suggested that we change the title under "Board of Directors" for "Allied Representative" to it's proper term "American Representative" as per the By-Laws stated below. Chuck will mention it to the website director. This was confirmed by the BOD.

1. Member Representatives

There shall be three (3) representatives of the general membership, one (1) each from the American impressions, Axis impressions, and British Commonwealth impressions.

Open Comments:

Dave Goodwin reported on WeldonKrieg which had 237 attendees and 37 vehicles with no incidents or issues. He will be sending a formal report to the BOD in the near future.

Announcements: The next meeting will be April 18, 2017.

Adjourn Chuck made the motion, seconded by everyone. A vote was taken and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

All the HRS Board Meeting Minutes from the past six years are posted on the HRS WEB Site.

Current HRS By-Laws call for these official business reports to be re-published here in The Edge.

See the BOD Minutes Page at <http://WorldWarTwoHrs.org/Business.htm> for past meeting Minutes

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20 Years of the Rockford Event (Part 3: The Third Five Years 2006 to 2010)

By James E. Meldrum

I started going to the Rockford Event in 1996 and began re-enacting in 1999. Since then I have not missed a single year of the Rockford Event and have seen it grow from relatively humble beginnings to being one of the premier re-enacting events in the United States. Along the way, I have attended a few other re-enactments but I much prefer Rockford to all the others because of the people and because this event is by far the most photogenic I have encountered. I fell in love with the Rockford event and the people in it and decided that I would support it in any way that I could. I started photographing this event on film and while I am now doing digital photography as well, I continue to do all my re-enacting work on film just as with the historical images were, with all of the images you see here were all done on film.

Most of what we know of the world wars, especially World War 2, is through photography. I have long admired the military photographers on both sides and their work from this era and re-enactments like the Rockford Event have enabled me to obtain the same kinds of authentic images featuring depths of character and feeling as well as the kind of spectacular action you simply won't see anywhere else except perhaps in a movie.

Re-enactors at the Rockford Event should congratulate themselves on the fine job they have done! If it were not for the efforts and cooperation I have received from re-enactors over the years, I simply would not be able to present to you the body of work you see in this article nor would these pictures have earned the acclaim they have achieved. Thank you so very much - I couldn't have done any of this without you!

I've been doing photography for 50 years working initially with film and since 2013 I have started doing digital photography. All of the images in this article, however, have been done on film. Contrary to appearances and popular belief, I shoot all my re-enactment work using contemporary film cameras then develop and print them in my own darkroom using currently available chemistry and materials.

In terms of general photography, I shoot anything and everything but if I had to have a specialty, I would have to say that it is portraiture. I have worked professionally and my work has been recognized in various shows and numerous contests both nationally and internationally. For a retirement project, I look forward to doing a Master's degree in photography.



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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2006 Photo by James Meldrum

I seek to make my photographs appear as authentic as possible first by using high-speed black and white film whose coarse grain structure approximates that of the 1940's photographic films. When shooting I make an effort to watch the background and control camera angle in order to exclude contemporary equipment and personnel.

The photos in this show/article were exhibited initially as a teaser show during the summer of 2016 at the Rockford Midway Village and Museum Center. The teaser show came down and then a larger show went up during the week of the 20th Anniversary of the Rockford Event. Quite a few of these have won prizes in various contests. Some of the show images also appeared in the commemorative souvenir booklet the museum sold at the 20th Anniversary Event. I now wish to share these with you in THE EDGE.

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2006 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2006 Photo by James Meldrum

Re-enactment photos, especially portraits, intrigue me for various reasons because they show how people from our modern time might have appeared during this conflict had they been born 75 years earlier. The difference between how contemporary people (especially those you know) normally appear and how these same people appear in an impression can be truly incredible. This difference is especially apparent with women's impressions.

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

Where possible I try to make male re-enactors appear heroic (and this goes for women as well) and lethal; female re-enactors I try to make look glamorous and elegant. I know this is playing to a stereotype, but these are my personal reactions to the re-enactors themselves and their impressions. As I watch, re-enactors seem to slip into and out of roles unconsciously and effortlessly - almost as if they were in a movie - and I try to use my poor skills to document them as they very ably rise to the occasion.

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2006 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2007 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2007 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2008 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2008 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2008 Photo by James Meldrum



Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2009 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2009 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2010 Photo by James Meldrum

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Midway Village Museum Rockford, Illinois Year 2010 Photo by James Meldrum

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Mike Hofmann 9th Infantry Division

From: _____

 **To:** _____

