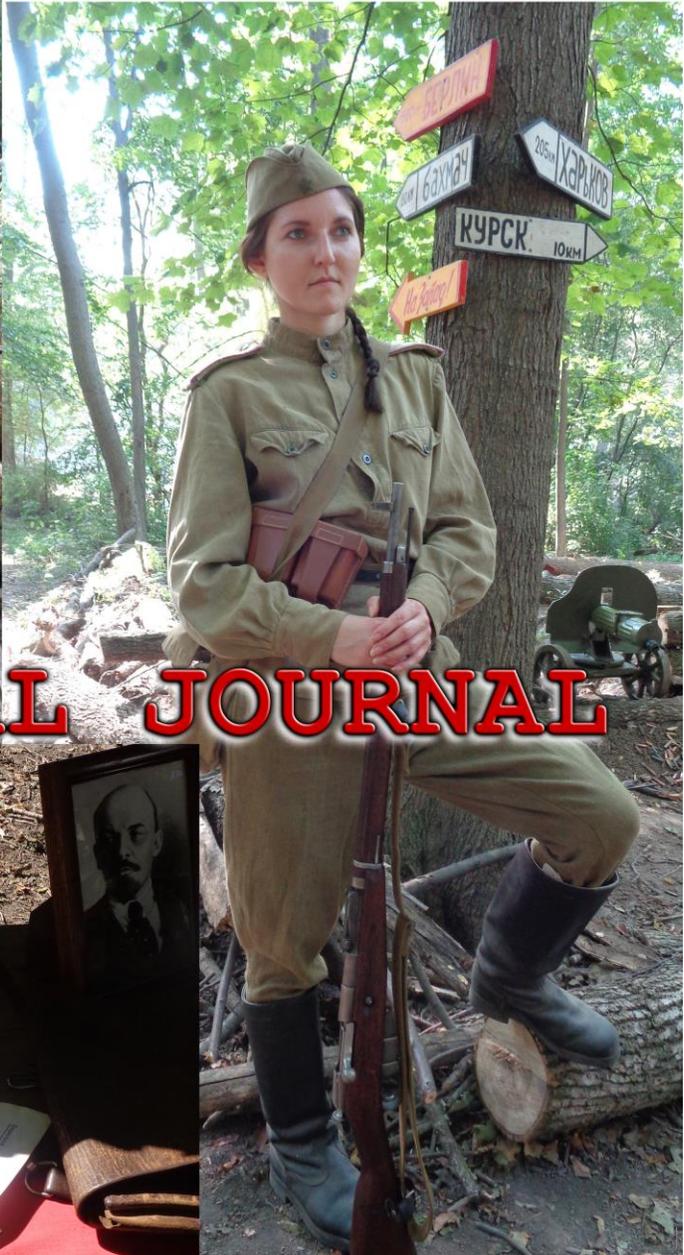
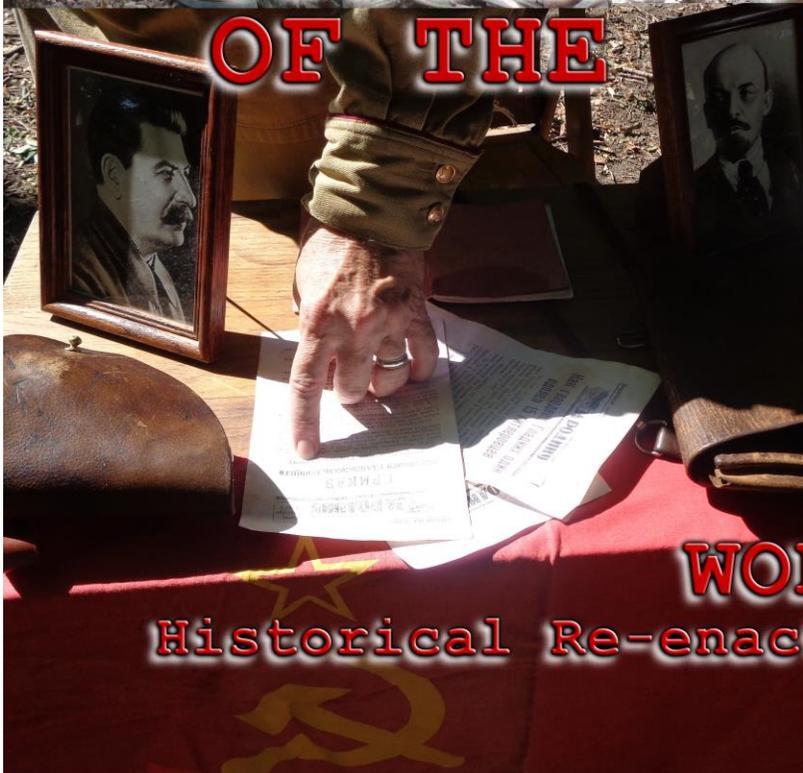


THE EDGE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE



WORLD WAR 2 Historical Re-enactment Society

Rockford, Illinois September 2017 by Jeffrey Wade



THE EDGE

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN REENACTING



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The Railsplitters Living History Company September 2017 by Tim Scherrer



Lockport, Illinois September 2017 Photos by Piotr Krawerenda





WW2 HRS Elections

Board members shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) calendar years and may run for re-election. The terms shall be staggered beginning in 2015 with terms for the President, Secretary, Axis Representative, and Commonwealth Representative to be one year for 2015 only.

The President, Secretary, Axis Representative, and Commonwealth Representative shall be elected in odd years. (2017)

The Vice President, Treasurer, Allied Representative shall be elected in even years. (2018)

All Directors must be members of the Society. All candidates running for a position on the Board of Directors must have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least the previous two years prior to the candidate's proclamation of candidacy. Any candidate, or member or the board may not be a relative of any other board members, to include father, son, daughter, mother, and any other relationship including first cousin. This also includes relationships by marriage like son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, and stepsons and daughters. Additionally, no two board members may reside in the same residence if not related. A relative of a board member may run for an office in the HRS, as long as the terms of the sitting board member and candidate do not overlap in any way.

Any individual wishing to run for a Board position, who is at least 21 years of age and has been a member in good standing of the Society for at least two years, may announce his or her candidacy for office by September 1 of an election year.

A written statement of intent and goals shall be delivered to at least two (2) Board members and the editor of the Society's publication(s).

1. Every member in good standing shall be informed of the list of candidates and office sought through the SOCIETY newsletter and via email.
2. Elections shall be held each year in November.
3. Elections shall be conducted through valid electronic means which will be announced to the membership two weeks in advance of the election.
4. Voting shall last for 14 days.
5. Results shall be announced no later than December 31 of the election year via email notification to every member in good standing and in the SOCIETY newsletter.
6. A result with less than a 3% difference in votes for the office President between the top two candidates will require a run-off election following the same vote procedure in December of the election year.



My goal was to get inside the history I had long read and walk a mile in the boondockers of the WWII men. This opened a great experience for me and a different appreciation for WWII. I have met many interesting people and had many interesting experiences in the HRS that I never thought possible. Of all the reenacting experiences I have had, to including firing numerous WWII weapons, sleeping in foxholes, marching in a column of dust, meeting many WWII veterans, and riding on WWII tanks and trucks, the near penultimate experience was to pilot a WWII Higgins boat this past year at Robert's Armory. What other activity offers so many experiences to those who study WWII history!

In any case, I would like to be your HRS president for one more term. If there is another person interested in guiding the HRS in the future, I would be more than happy to give any training in preparation to run for HRS president. The job is not easy and is time consuming; however, if you work hard the reward is to attend an event and to see many WWII troops that just might just be "THERE" walking out of a history book. I want to expand the representation of 28 states in the HRS and attract more units from the eastern part of the US and south. I want to attract more members to take posts and be active in the various HRS committees: For example, the Vehicle Committee is developing well however the Civilian Committee needs more engagement. I would further want to redevelop the HRS National Battle in 2018 and support more development of tactical battles, especially immersion type events. Thanks for the past support to the members and I look forward to seeing all in the field!

Jon Stevens

The HRS election time is once again here and no others have indicated their desire to run for this office. Two years ago I wrote that I would not run again for WWII HRS president. In this situation, I will seek one more term. I have been the HRS president for 5 years and have greatly enjoyed it. Within that time the HRS has maintained a good safety record, introduced electronic membership renewal, continued to expand our membership, and increased our chartered units. Much of this success is due to the team members on the HRS board who have worked hard to solve problems and improve the organization.

My reenacting experience has mainly been with the 9th Infantry Division since 2005. In 2014 I became unit commander of the 9th and this has also been a great experience. Around 2010 I also joined the 2nd Marines as my secondary unit. This is a great honor for me as the Second Marines was chosen to be represented because my father fought in that outfit during WWII. Through both of these units, I have learned much of what I set out to do when I joined the HRS in 2005.



Ladies and Gentlemen of the HRS:

My name is Ronald J Kapustka, from Chicago, Illinois and I am running for re-election to the position of Secretary with the HRS. I have previously served as both the Secretary and Allied Representative of the HRS. I am a practicing attorney, licensed in both Illinois and Wisconsin, and I feel that my business and legal real-world experience will be beneficial to the HRS and its members.

I have been involved with reenacting since 2002, when I started with Vietnam. In 2003, I got involved in WW2 when I joined Easy Company, 2/506th, 101st Airborne. I was with that Unit for 6 months, after which a group of ten split away and formed my current Unit, C Company, 1/502nd, 101st Airborne. I have been the CO of the Unit since 2003, running the Unit as a Private, until 2009, when I assumed the rank of Captain. I previously let others, more experience in reenacting help me direct the Unit during the early years, taking advantage of their leadership and guidance, until I assumed the rank of Captain.

I have been a member of the HRS since 2003; have seen things done different ways, some I agree with others I don't. I have started my own successful Unit, which has kept a great core group of 20+ members since its formation in 2004. My Unit stays together because I try to lead by example and I try to make decisions that benefit the Unit as a whole, rather than one man or one small group.

I, Matt Rademacher, wish to announce my candidacy for the position of Commonwealth Representative with the WW2 HRS.

I have been reenacting nearly my entire life, starting off around age 9 as a WW1 French orphan. I began collecting military antiques at age 12, and shortly thereafter focused my collecting efforts on England and the Commonwealth nations of WW2. I have been a British reenactor almost exclusively for the past 15 years. I am currently a member of the HRS Safety & Authenticity committee. I am a military vehicle owner, and a believer that no impression is ever complete; there is always something that can be improved or a detail that can be added. As Commonwealth Representative, I hope to use that philosophy to continuously improve the HRS as an organization, as well as the hobby as a whole.

In the real world, I served 12 years with the US Army Reserve, achieving the rank of Captain. I was an Engineer officer (Essayons), and deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 with a Route Clearance Company. I have a BA from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, with a major in History and minor in Military Science.

Tally ho, lads!
-Matt Rademacher



Throughout all of my reenacting experiences I have been passionate about the induction and education of new reenactors. I have done quite a bit of writing and creation of manuals and documents designed to help new recruits to know what to do, how to do it, and how to avoid common pitfalls. I also am deeply passionate about teaching the public and staying true to an educational mission of reenacting.

I have been encouraged to run for the board of the HRS as the Axis Rep and I am willing to serve if people want me to.

Sincerely,
Doug Strong

Dear HRS Members:

I have been reenacting since 1983. In that time I have I have done numerous time periods including but primarily I have focused on 14th Century English, US Civil War, Old West, US Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII. For the last 4 years I have been very actively involved in WWII reenacting. Finding WWII reenacting was just the breath of fresh air I was looking for. WWII was the thing that consumed by early years. Building WWII models, reading WWII books, and watching WWII TV and movies filled my youth. I am so happy to have found WWII reenacting and it has become a wonderful aspect of my life.

I have spent the vast majority of my life in school in one form or another. My Bachelor's degree from Cornell College is in Theater, Speech, and Medieval and Renaissance Studies. I have three Master's degrees; Communication Education from Southern Illinois University, Special Education from National Louis University, and School Administration from Northeastern Illinois University. I also have a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from National Louis University. My professional experience is as an educator as well. I started my career as a university level communications professor. From there I moved to being a high school Special Education teacher at a therapeutic school for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. I am now the Principal of that same school where I taught.



WWII HRS Scholarship 2017

Dear HRS Members,

It is my pleasure to announce this year's recipient of the WW2 Historical Re-enactment Society Scholastic Scholarship. Based on suggestions from the Scholarship Committee and per my recommendation to the Board, we voted to award the 2017 WW2 HRS Scholarship to Mr. Christopher Robert Seitz of the 401st Glider Infantry Regiment, 101st Infantry Division. Mr. Seitz will receive the full \$500 scholarship for this upcoming school year. We had three fine candidates this year. I'd like to thank Mr. Justin Kephart of the 90th Infantry Division (US) and Mr. Mitch Antolik of the 353rd Infanterie Division (German 353rd) who came in a close 2nd and 3rd. I would like to thank the following HRS members who graciously took the time to review all the applications this year; they are Melissa Lenczewski, Mike Hoffman, Dave Jeglinski and Tim Scherrer.

The WW2 HRS wishes to congratulate Christopher on his scholastic success and is grateful for his passionate devotion to World War 2 reenacting and living history.

Regards,
Chuck Bolanis,
World War 2 Historical Re-enactment Society, Vice President
3./SS Panzergrenadier Regiment 21 "Frundsberg", Unit Commander

Here is the letters submitted from Mr. Sietz.

Chris Seitz:
Since long before college, I knew that pursuing a profession in history was what I wanted to do with my life. Thus, this September I will be starting my fourth and final year at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and plan to graduate in May with a degree in Public and Policy History, with a minor in archaeology. My love of history has been so evident to my history professors that I was hired by the university to be a history tutor, helping fellow students learn and understand historical concepts. With the combination of education and experience, I plan to pursue a career in museum work, working as a curator to manage and care for historical artifacts, and present them to the public.

For the past six years, I have been reenacting as an enlisted man in the 401st Glider Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Reenacting with this unit has allowed me to have a special glimpse into the past, not through the eyes of leaders, but through the eyes of the common soldier, the true champion of the war. I have been given the chance to not only see the big events of the war, but to better understand it on a very personal level. It has also allowed me to share a unique aspect of WWII that is often overshadowed in the eyes of the general public by role of the paratroopers, which is the glider program. While

paratroopers played a very important role, glider troops also fought valiantly, crashing in perfectly good aircraft to bring the fight to the Germans. I reenact to keep alive the memory of the brave glider riders who served during the war, and to show the public how truly important the glider program was in winning the war. I intend to remain in the 401st for years to come, because they have become a second family to me. Their dedication to the hobby, to the remembrance of those that have served, to each other, and to the past is what inspired me to pursue my love of history.

If I am awarded this scholarship, the money will go towards my college tuition, and will ultimately help me achieve my goal of working in the field of history. With the experience that I have gained through years of reenacting, I will be able to not only preserve artifacts of the past, but be able to go a step farther and use the extensive collections often only found at museums to better share the unique stories of those who lived in the past. They provide a physical connection to history, as well as preserving it for future generations. Museums even offer reenactors, on a number of occasions, the opportunity to share their knowledge and bring history to life. This is an important relationship that museums and reenactors have, a relationship that I plan to pursue by being a part of both worlds, and hope to see grow in the future.



Chris Seitz - 401st GIR, 101st Airborne Division (Blecke)



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



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
SEPTEMBER 2017**

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 31, 2017

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$8,633.28
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$49,484.19

Account Totals	\$58,117.47
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INCOME FOR AUGUST 2017

Membership Income	\$255.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$4.21
Total Income	\$259.21

EXPENDITURES FOR AUGUST 2017

Eventbrite Service Fees	\$30.57
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Event Support for Dundas MN WW2 weekend	\$300.00
Domain Renewal	191.93
Refund of double paid memberships	\$15.00
Total Expenditures	\$550.30

2017 Membership Income	\$10,690.00
2017 Interest Income	\$28.49
2017 Miscellaneous Income	\$300.00
2017 Total Income	\$11,018.49
2017 Expenditures	\$12,935.00
2017 Income less 2017 Expenditures	(\$1,916.51)



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

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30TH 2017

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$7,517.73
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$49,488.12
Account Totals	\$57,005.85

INCOME FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Interest from Money Market Account	\$3.93
Total Income	\$3.93

EXPENDITURES FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Food for Rockford Thursday night Sandwich meal	\$1,102.75
Total Expenditures	\$1,115.55

2017 Membership Income	\$10,690.00
2017 Interest Income	\$32.42
2017 Miscellaneous Income	\$300.00
2017 Total Income	\$11,022.42
2017 Expenditures	\$14,050.55
2017 Income less 2017 Expenditures	(\$3,028.13)

WW2 HRS 2017 Membership Report

As of 30 September 2017 we have 1110 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



EVENTS

November	November
<p>11</p> <p>Nov</p> 	<p align="center">18TH ANNUAL OTTAWA VETERANS DAY EVENT PARADE OF SOLDIERS</p> <p>Loc: Forest Park 600 N Locust Ottawa, Kansas Dates: WWII Event Saturday 11/11/2017 Event Times: 0800 – 1700 WWII Public Battle 1400hrs Registration Times: Saturday 0800 – 1300 to sign waivers Pre-Registration: They usually provide Lunch for reenactors so we will need to know how many are coming for the meal tickets. E-mail rayshumate@hotmail.com or nordland1@cox.net. Fee: No Fee but free will donations will be accepted. Contact: Ray Shumate at rayshumate@hotmail.com or John Colyer nordland1@cox.net Website: (click here) Authenticity Notes: All US time period impressions welcome WWII impressions and Battle will be conducted under all WWII HRS Authenticity and Safety rules. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO LIVE AMMO ON EVENT SITE NO ACHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING EVENT TIMES. Restrictions on Minors: WWII HRS RULES WILL BE ENFORCED. Other restrictions: Camping: Overnight camping Friday is allowed there will be restrooms and port a potties in the park non-period tents ect need to be removed from the display area before the event starts. Sponsoring Unit(s): 11th SS Nordland</p>
<p>10-12</p> <p>Nov</p> 	<p align="center">WADE HOUSE FALL TACTICAL</p> <p>Loc: Old Wade House Historic Site, Greenbush, WI Dates: 10 NOV – 12 NOV, 2017 Event Times: 1500 Hrs, November 10 – 1200 Hrs, November 12, 2017 Registration Times: Friday, November 3, 1500-2300 hrs; Saturday, November 4, 0600-0800 Pre-Registration: Strongly preferred (click here) Fee: \$12.00 for the event; additional \$10.50 for a barracks spot (subject to availability, first come first served) Contact: 401gliderhq@comcast.net Website: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1521887244725518 Map: (click here) Authenticity: WWIIRHS rules apply. Setting is Fall, 1944 ETO. Prohibited Vehicles: Wheeled vehicles allowed. Contact us regarding tracked vehicles. Restrictions on minors: Per HRS rules Motels: In neighboring Plymouth, WI Sponsor of event: C/401GIR (WWIIRHS)</p>



WWII HRS Board of Directors and Staff

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Champaign, IL 61824

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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

WEB Site Is Hosted by Socket.NET





MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the WWII Historical Reenactment Society 15 August 2017

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

Board Members:	President:	Jon Stevens
	Vice President:	Charles Bolanis
	Treasurer:	Wayne McCulley
	Secretary:	Ron Kapustka
	American Rep:	Corey Vaughan
	Commonwealth Rep:	Brian Jones
	Axis Rep:	Dave Fornell

Other Members Present: Matt Rademacher, John Boroom, George Reinke, Jim Schouten

Approval of Agenda

A motion to accept the Agenda, as amended, was made by RK, seconded by WM, and after a Board vote, was accepted.

Reading of July Meeting Minutes

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

Officer Reports:

Vice President:

New Charters:

2nd SS, Das Reich Aufklarung; CB spoke with the Unit Commander and they have had a Unit Commander change, so they will delay their Charter submission until further notice. They will be removed from the New Charters until further notice. no status change. They still intend to submit a charter, so it will be tabled for now.

33rd Armored Regt. They have no status change, so they will be removed from the New Charters until further notice.

CB has received two New Submissions. The first is 115th Infantry Regiment, US 29th Infantry Division. It is with the S&A Committee for now. Frank Bartolo has a Russian Unit as of now and will be chartering the US Unit for now, as they did not want to proceed with their Russian impression, the 150th Soviet Rifles.

Based on the new Charter submission, CB made a motion to disband the 150th Soviet Rifles, seconded by Dave Fornell and the Unit will be disbanded.

A second submission is from Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Regiment, 4th Infantry Division charter by Mike Kowalski. It will be submitted to the S&A Committee. CB spoke with them at the Indiana event, and CV also spoke with them there as well.

FeldLazarett Großdeutschland, Doug Slygh, still owes their end of the year Review. CB will follow up with them for their Report. DF mentioned they had an issue with the color of their tents, which they are correcting.

CB received a charter submission from the Soviet 50th Infantry, 2nd Rifle Regiment. Their charter will be submitted to the S&A Committee.

Treasurer Report By Wayne McCulley

SEE the Treasures Report Section in The EDGE.

Secretary

RK reported that there were 20 new members in August (17 Individuals, 3 Family Members) and 2 Minor Memberships. We have 1051 Members as of today.

Commonwealth Rep

BJ reported that Carl Bogar, 10th Commandos, was still not receiving the monthly password. He was directed to contact JS directly. JS reported that he has not yet contacted JS. They will be given another month to get their membership taken care of.

Allied Rep

CV reported that all is quiet and CB covered what CV was going to discuss.

Axis Rep

DF reported there is nothing new. DF mentioned he has been working on the Rockford event recently.

Staff Reports

Membership Coordinator See the Membership Report Section in The EDGE.

Committee Reports:

S&A

CB reported that there was a discussion going on regarding the 29th ID; modern eyewear and the ability how to enforce the usage of period eyewear. Andrew Geisert applied for and was accepted as the newest member of the Committee. DF seconded the choice.

Unit Commanders

Nothing new to report by JS.

Vehicle Committee – Jim Schouten

Jim asked if there was a decision reached about the gas cards to be available at Rockford. DF asked how many were given out, and JS reported there were 20 of them. Jim also reported that the Vehicle Committee came up with a rough draft of the new Vehicle Guidelines. It was sent to CB for review, was revised and re-sent. They are waiting for a response. Jim is on hold until he receives a response from the Board. Jim will resend the Revised Guidelines to all Board members through JS. Jim did check 6-8 Vehicles at the Indiana Event and they were all in compliance.

Civilian Committee – Nothing to Report, except that there will be S&A for civilians as well.

Old Business:

2018 HRS National Event – committee

JS asked about putting together a Committee. JS asked if BJ would consider being on the Committee. BJ suggested Jon Grosshardt to be on the committee and agreed to assist in finding committee members or directing calls to McCoy. The WW2HRS is still one of the groups "recognized" by Fort McCoy. DF reported about the logistics necessary to plan and put on an event. BJ suggested that an invite be sent out in "The Edge". DF will post something on FB about the "invite" to be on the Search Committee. CB will be the main "point of contact" for the Committee.



Event Support Funding for 2017 (To Date):

WM reported
Weldonkrieg \$1250 - Paid and Cashed
Kennekuk \$355 - Paid and Cashed
Delay the Inevitable \$1250 Paid and Cashed
Dundas MN- \$300 Paid but has not been cashed
South Bend- \$400 Has been approved. Have not received either invoice or wavers. Check has not been issued.
Total Authorized \$3555.00
Total that has actually paid out \$2855.00

Rockford Support Funding:

JS led the discussion on the Event Funding. The Board seemed to agree that the Sunday breakfast was to be repeated. The 353rd was the only Unit that had a field kitchen that could do it. DF said that the cost would be \$900.00. This would cover the purchase of the food and the work performed by the 353rd. Last year, the 353rd served approximately 200 meals, with the max being served was 300. They would plan on food for 250 meals, with some food in reserve. JS also contacted the TSG Field Kitchen, but they have not gotten back to JS about whether they were interested. RK made a motion to use the 353rd Field Kitchen at a cost of \$900.00, which was seconded by CB. A vote was taken and was passed. The 353rd will be used for the Sunday breakfast, as in past years.

The discussion then centered on gas cards. DF suggested that if we were to do them, that the cards be awarded only to HRS members. DF mentioned that there were 5 other units that bring vehicles, like armor. They were approx. 40 Jeeps last year. BJ asked how "armor" gets on the list, and DF mentioned that Scott Koelling was in charge of that. It was decided that gas cards would not be awarded in 2017. DF mentioned that perhaps someone needs to go around the area and ride around and spot check vehicles. If an "un-inspected" vehicle was seen, it should be brought to the attention of Scott Koelling. DF will bring the vehicle issue to the attention of the park police who can check on the vehicle inspections as the vehicles enter the battlefield. Perhaps an arm band or something like a magnet can be attached to a vehicle that can be used to show that the vehicle was inspected and is permissible. The use of magnets was discussed and it was decided that this would be the best idea. A "2017 magnet" will be designed by the Vehicle Committee.

JS then mentioned the Saturday coffee and doughnuts idea was probably too much to handle on Saturday with all that was going on that morning. DF brought up the idea of using food coupons or food tickets for doughnuts or coffee or a lunch at the French Cafe, to be used by the reenactors when wanted. CV asked if the museum would be willing to do something this year for food. DF reported that the money used for Thursday dinner last year was to entice people to be there on Thursday for the school groups on Friday. DF will speak to Nicole whether the French Cafe can handle the food issue. JS reported that thought behind the sandwiches on Thursday was to provide a meal to keep people on-site Thursday night as they set up for Friday night. DF suggested that their kitchen could possibly be used for a Thursday meal IF there were clean-up volunteers who would assist Thursday night. JS will reach out to the TSG Field Kitchen to see if they could do a Thursday dinner.

New Business:

New Event – Ottawa, KS This is a new event that was submitted and was approved.

Website Domain Renewal - The website domain will be renewed for the next three years. No vote was necessary as this is a "regular" expense of the Society.

WWII Eastern Front Event - We received a Funding Request for the OstFront Event. Jon Boroom reported that they wanted to provide a Saturday evening hot meal for the reenactors. A German and a Russian cook would be used. The request was for \$200.00. John gave a short report on the event and would be using the food as an incentive to attend. Jon expected there to be 100 attending, 50 per side. DF made a motion to approve a "not to exceed \$200.00 funding request", which was seconded by CB. A vote was taken and it was approved.

WW1 Event MN – We received a request for insurance for a WW1 event. Jon Boroom reported on the WW1 event, which is to be held at a public living history event, in Shakopee, MN. The venue requires an insurance policy to enable the reenactors to do weapons demonstrations. The event must "show" the insurance policy to the event, to show that there is some policy in effect. DF discussed the WW1 event at Rockford using the HRS insurance in the past. Jon anticipated 20 guys attending, of them, half would be HRS members. BJ suggested that HRS members be the ones who ran the safety inspections. BJ asked if any HRS board members or committee members would be in attendance. CV mentioned the poll taken last year whether the HRS wanted to support other eras and the members were not in favor of supporting other eras. DF led a discussion about the use of the insurance by other eras and ask that the other eras pay their portion of the insurance cost for that particular event. CB discussed the reluctance to offer the HRS insurance "for sale". JS asked Jon if the proposal was "that the WW1 event use the HRS insurance, with the event paying back the HRS for that portion of the insurance that was provided to non-HRS members". CB read an excerpt from the HRS website that we are a WW2 society. RK made a motion based on the proposal as confirmed by Jon, which DF seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

Open Comments:

CV mentioned the possibility of German reenactors being "attacked" based on the recent news events. CV suggested that Jeff Skender start interviewing German reenactors on "why they reenact German" to give their side of the story. DF also discussed that issue and how the HRS can support the issue with the German reenactors. CB asked that we hold off on that idea for now.

Announcements: Next meeting September 19

Adjourn

RK made a motion to adjourn, seconded by WM. A vote was taken and passed. Their meeting was adjourned at 9:30



The US Army WWII Chaplain: Part 1 By LTC (ret) Tim A. Scherrer

I've always had an interest in WWII Chaplain items, but I never thought I would acquire a complete set. When looking at it earlier, I found the most challenging part to get was the altar set. They are exceedingly difficult to obtain with one being issued per chaplain. Usually about one set a year hits the marketplace a year and it goes for over \$1,000+. When I was selling M-1 helmets, I did paint and sell a few chaplain helmets. One of my chaplain's helmets was even fraudulently listed as the helmet worn by the chaplain in Saving Private Ryan. I knew it was mine because the picture was from my kitchen table!



This all changed back in January of 2017 when I got a text. It was from a fellow Central Missouri Honor Flight guardian and Vietnam vet friend. A friend of his was looking to dispose of some WWII items. I contacted the lady and she invited me over to her recently passed dad's house after work. When I arrived she started handling me different items, specifically a large very full garment bag and a large black briefcase. The garment bag had all of her father's uniforms, dry cleaned and hung in a moth proof bag after the war, and then the briefcase. I opened it with disbelief and it was his chaplain's field set.



Later that day I was posting some pictures of this rare gift and I jokingly posted on Facebook, "if anyone has a chaplain's field organ, let me know." I received a message an hour later from a friend of mine. He gave me the contact info of a guy that had one about an hour away and it was for sale (at a reasonable price too)! Four days later I had the organ, and I set about piecing the other parts together. So that's how it all got started.



Rev. Harold Franklin Reisch: WWII Chaplain



Reverend Reisch returned to the states and became the pastor of the Olivet Christian Church near Columbia, MO. He later served the Dripping Springs Christian Church in Columbia. He also served as guest pastor at many mid-Missouri churches, including those in Macon, Boonville, Concordia, Jacksonville, Laddonia, Fulton and Millersburg.

Rev Reisch served as the Missouri House Representative for the 119th District from 1968 to 1986. He continued to preach every Sunday he was in the legislature. He was married to his beloved wife Bess in 1944, despite her calling him a “wolf in minister’s clothing” after they first met. They had two daughters. Rev Reisch passed away in 2015 at the age of 94 in his home in Columbia.

Born on the 5th of August, 1920 in Springfield, IL, Harold Reisch attended Springfield Junior College, Illinois Wesleyan College and seminary being ordained by the Church of the United Brethren. He served as pastor of two small rural churches near Springfield until 1944 when he was commissioned in the Chaplain Corps of the US Army.

Chaplain Reisch served with several units, ending with the 15th Field Hospital and an Ordnance Battalion. His autobiography writes virtually nothing about his wartime service before V-E Day, just postwar time. Perhaps his experiences weren’t that interesting, or he just couldn’t talk about them. He was one of the youngest chaplains in the US Army, having joined at the age of 23.



Basic Qualifications for Appointment:

To become eligible for original appointment as a Chaplain, a candidate had to be at the time of preliminary examination:

- A male citizen of the United States.
 - Between the ages of 23 and 34 years.
 - Regularly ordained, duly accredited by, and in good standing with some religious denomination or organization which held an apportionment of Chaplain appointments in accordance with the needs of the service.
 - A graduate of both 4-year college and 3-year theological seminary courses.
 - Actively engaged in the ministry as a principal occupation in life and be credited with 3-years' experience therein.
- (Officers in the Reserve Corps could also be appointed based on some additional qualifications).

Faith Breakdown of Chaplains in the ETO, 1st of May 1945

Roman Catholic	863
Baptist	441
Methodist	342
Lutheran	201
Presbyterian	171
Disciples of Christ	127*
*Including Chaplain Reisch	
Episcopal	102
Congregational	91
Jewish	67
Evangelical	60
Reformed	
United Brethren	27
Salvation Army	23
Others, miscellaneous and unknown	281

The US Army Chaplain Corps

The Army planning factor for the number of chaplain's that were needed was 1 per every 1,000 troops. The Chaplain Corps of the US Army in WWII was 8,896 strong at the end of WWII. Army chaplains were commissioned as First Lieutenants and attended a 6 week training course. In 1942 the course was run at Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. It was moved after 4 cycles to Cambridge, MA to the Harvard Divinity School. Harvard operated the school with upwards of 450 students per class until 1944 when the demand was decreased. The school was moved to Ft. Devens, MA and then to Ft. Olgethorpe, GA. In 1946 it moved to Carlisle Barracks, PA. Air Corps Chaplains were given an additional two weeks of training in San Antonio, TX. Of the 8,302 chaplains that enrolled in the course, 8183 graduated, a 98.%% graduation rate. Chaplains were expected to minister to all faiths regardless of their endorsement and not proselytize for that denomination. The U.S. Army Chaplain School history page describes the training as such:

"Some schools conducted exercises where chaplains coordinated their activities to actual troop movements and terrain. Chaplains had to find soldiers with simulated wounds and give them proper treatment. They also selected a site for a cemetery, and they wrote burial reports and condolence letters. Chaplains entering jump school faced some of the most physically demanding training. To minister to paratroopers, chaplains needed to bond with men, and jumping with them was the most important way to form that bond."





Key chaplain tasks included:

- Supervision of the spiritual welfare of the command.
- Conduct of religious services, including funerals.
- Spiritual ministrations to the sick and wounded.
- Correspondence with relatives of deceased personnel.
- Coordination of the religious work of the various welfare societies.
- Supervision and coordination, within limits prescribed by the CO, of the training and work of the Chaplains of subordinate units.
- Recommendations as to assignments and transfers of Chaplains.
- Providing the services of Chaplains for units requiring them.
- Preparation of estimates and allotment of funds for religious activities not specifically charged to other agencies of the command.
- Preparation of reports relative to religious and moral activities of the command.



Chaplains in Combat

The MOS of 5310, Chaplain, had the third highest casualty rate of any officer MOS after Infantry and Air Corps flight crews. In the ETO twenty four chaplains were killed in action, 66 were wounded in action, and 8 were captured and later released. They received 4 Distinguished Service Crosses, 6 Legions of Merit, 48 Silver Stars, and 133 Bronze stars. Between all the services and theaters, the US military lost 186 chaplains killed in action. Chaplains were integral parts of their units and served both military and civilians in their area.



The Four Chaplains

This is taken from the Four Chaplains memorial foundation:

<http://www.fourchaplains.org/the-saga-of-the-four-chaplains/>

It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche. Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been blasted and sunk. The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester.

The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three was fired. The one that hit was decisive—and deadly—striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line.

Captain Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters. Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited. Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them. Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P.



Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

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HAILGRAM *07-5649*

SS DORCHESTER, AMERICAN 5600 GROSS TON ARMED CARGO PASSENGER VESSEL WAS TORPEDGED AND SUNK WITHOUT WARNING AT 0055 ZONE PLUS 3 TIME FEBRUARY 3 1943 IN APPROXIMATELY 59-10 NORTH 49 WEST. 6 SURVIVORS

AMERICAN CITIZENS LANDED BOSTON FROM BLUE 1 GREENLAND BY THE USCGC MOJAVE MARCH 4 1943 AT 1030 ZONE PLUS 4 TIME. 678 PERSONS UNACCOUNTED FOR. DORCHESTER ENROUTE NEW YORK FOR GREENLAND WITH GENERAL CARGO AND LUMBER AND 60 SACKS MAIL. VESSEL ON BASE COURSE 11 DEGREES TRUE NOT ZIGZAGGING AT SPEED OF 10 KNOTS.

SEA WAS LIGHT WITH GOOD VISIBILITY TO 2000 YARDS AND WIND NORTHWEST FORCE 3. 1 TORPEDO STRUCK STARBOARD AFT OF AMIDSHIPS SINKING VESSEL IN APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES. NO AVOIDING OR COUNTER ACTION TAKEN. SHIP WAS ABANDONED IN LIFEBOATS AND LIFERAFTS. APPROXIMATELY 230 PERSONS REPORTED SAVED. AT NO TIME WAS SUBMARINE SIGHTED. SURVIVORS RESCUED BETWEEN 0200 AND 1000 ZONE PLUS 3 TIME FEBRUARY 3 1943 BY VARIOUS

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Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety. "Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox. One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

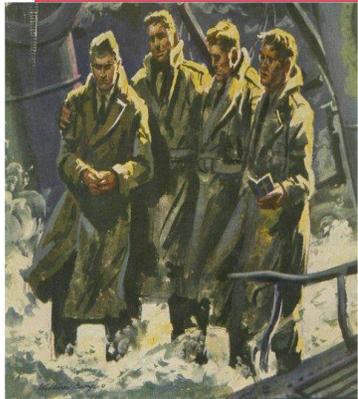
Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves. "Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act. Ladd's response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person

can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers. Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains. "Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness. The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA. A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.





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