

THE EDGE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL

OF THE



WORLD WAR 2
Historical Re-enactment Society

Danville, Illinois May 2017 by Alexia Thoms



THE EDGE

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN
REENACTING



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WWII HRS Scholarship 2018

In 2010 the membership approved the creation of an HRS scholarship. The effort behind the scholarship was twofold. The primary goal is to assist the younger members of our organization in their pursuit of higher education. Secondly, we desire to grow interest in historical reenacting as an educational endeavor which is part of the mission of our Society. The scholarship will be awarded to a full time undergraduate or graduate student. The preferred majors are history, museum studies, or archeology however all HRS member students are encouraged to apply. The award can be used towards tuition or books and will be paid to the student's college or university to be credited to their account. Note that any family or relations of any board of directors or staff of the WWII HRS will be ineligible for this award.

Please send the applications to the WWII HRS Vice President. The amount of the award is \$500.

Eligibility:

1. Must be a current member of the WWII HRS in good standing in at least their second year of membership.
2. Must provide proof of being a full-time student, undergraduate or graduate, at an accredited college or university.
3. Must demonstrate a minimum GPA of 2.75.
4. Must currently be a history or associated major, however if there is not any history or associated major that apply then all majors are eligible.
5. Must not have been awarded a previous WWII HRS scholarship.

Requirements:

1. The student should write a 500-word essay describing their qualifications and justification for receiving the HRS scholarship including the student's future plans in reenacting.
2. A letter of recommendation from the student's unit commander. If the student is the unit commander, then another unit commander acquainted with the student can supply the recommendation.
3. Unofficial transcripts or a letter from the student's college or university stating the student's current major and GPA.
4. A recent picture in WWII uniform of the student.

Deadline: July 1

Notification: August 1

An article highlighting the student will be published in the Society publication, The Edge, after the scholarship is awarded.

Review:

A committee consisting of an Allied, an Axis, and a Commonwealth WWII HRS member, preferably involved in education, will review and give recommendation to the Society board of directors for awarding the scholarship based on the submitted applications.



The Browning 1917 Heavy Machine Gun By Kerwin Law

Just after the United States entered WWI, it began looking for an improved machine gun to replace the relative few it possessed. These various designs would include the 1895 Colt, 1904 Maxim, 1909 Benet-Mercie, 1914 Hotchkiss, 1915 Vickers and the Lewis machine gun. With the water-cooled machine guns ruling the roost on the European battlefields so well, the time had come to find an American made counterpart. Fortunately, the search wouldn't take too long. They would have to look no further than John Browning. If you factor in all his other brilliant gun designs, it should come as no surprise that his latest weapon proved to be more than up to the task. As would be the case with his BAR, John Browning would accept millions less when he sold the government the rights to his design. He said "If that suits Uncle Sam, it's alright with me". How's that for patriotism?



When official testing was being done at the Springfield Armory in mid-1917, one of his water-cooled machine guns fired 20,000 rounds with no parts breakages and only 3 stoppages. These few stoppages were thought to be the fault of the ammunition. Another 20,000 or so were fired with only one part failure and a few more stoppages, of which were blamed on belt loading. Then, another test gun Browning brought was fired for 48 minutes straight with no malfunctions whatsoever. Well now, I think we have a winner here. Soon after, the Browning Machine Gun, US Caliber .30, Model of 1917 was adopted. An interesting note, the machine gun was even demonstrated to the public just outside of Washington DC in early 1918. Don't you just love the good old days?



The next task was to get them into production and fast. Well, production did happen, but not exactly fast. New England Westinghouse, Remington and Colt would be selected to manufacture the 1917 Browning MG and as with many weapons rushed into production, teething problems existed. These problems included faulty heat treating, leaky water jackets and bad barrels. As these problems were sorted out, the three companies would go on to make 68,000 before the war would end. (I would like to point out that in my research there was not a consensus of production totals, so I have used the prevailing numbers throughout) Of this total, it's believed that only about 30,000 actually made it to Europe by 1918. Unfortunately, of these, only about 1,100 were able to make it to the front lines and into combat. Although this was a limited test sample, it was felt to be a sufficient number to prove that the design was robust and reliable. It seems Uncle Sam was indeed satisfied with his new water-cooled machine gun.





In the interwar years, modifications were made, such as receiver reinforcement and improvements to the belt feeding system. The several upgrades approved were not done on a wide scale though. That is until the Rock Island Arsenal was given the task of implementing the desired changes to several thousand of them. At some point a few other government arsenals pitched in, which left almost no 1917 Brownings in original configuration. Because of the many changes that were ultimately made, the military felt that a new model designation was warranted. So, in late 1939, the M1917A1 Browning Machine Gun was adopted. In addition to these modified guns, from 1942 to 1945 the Rock Island Arsenal would go on to manufacture nearly 54,000 new M1917A1 MGs for the war effort. Those, coupled with WWI production and the few thousand produced immediately after WWI to finish out contracts, would put well over 125,000 1917/1917A1 MGs into the US military's hands by 1945.

As with the Thompson Submachine Gun and Browning's own BAR, it would take the second World War for the M1917A1 MG to really prove its value. In its intended role as a static defense weapon, it was outstanding. Whether it was in North Africa, Europe or the Pacific campaign it just ran and ran. Probably the biggest knock against the M1917A1 was the fact that it was a heavy beast. It was 100+ pounds with gun, mount, water and accessories. The weight it seems wasn't perceived to be as much of a problem in the static trench warfare of WWI, as it would be in the next world war. I'm sure moving this thing up hills and such in combat was no fun, but there had to be some comfort in knowing you could fire it for days in an effort to repel attacks on your position. (For some heroics involving the M1917A1 look up John Basilone) To help alleviate portability issues, it would be mounted on vehicles and even moved with mules and handcarts.



The M1917A1 would again be relied upon in Korea, where its sustained fire capabilities would prove invaluable against the human wave attacks our troops encountered. In the extreme cold of Korea, one problem with a water-cooled MG was encountered, and that is obtaining an adequate water supply. It was soon learned that the human by product that's used to make yellow snow, could also keep your Browning running cool and happy. While Korea would mark the last time the US would heavily rely on the water cooled M1917A1 MG in combat, it would not completely disappear from inventories for many years to come. The much lighter air-cooled M-60 with its quick-change barrel would officially take over as our standard machine gun in 1958, thus helping to bring about the end of a long and successful career for another Browning weapon design.

Kerwin Law 2018



The EDGE is the WW2 HRS's own publication.

This is where we promote what we do.

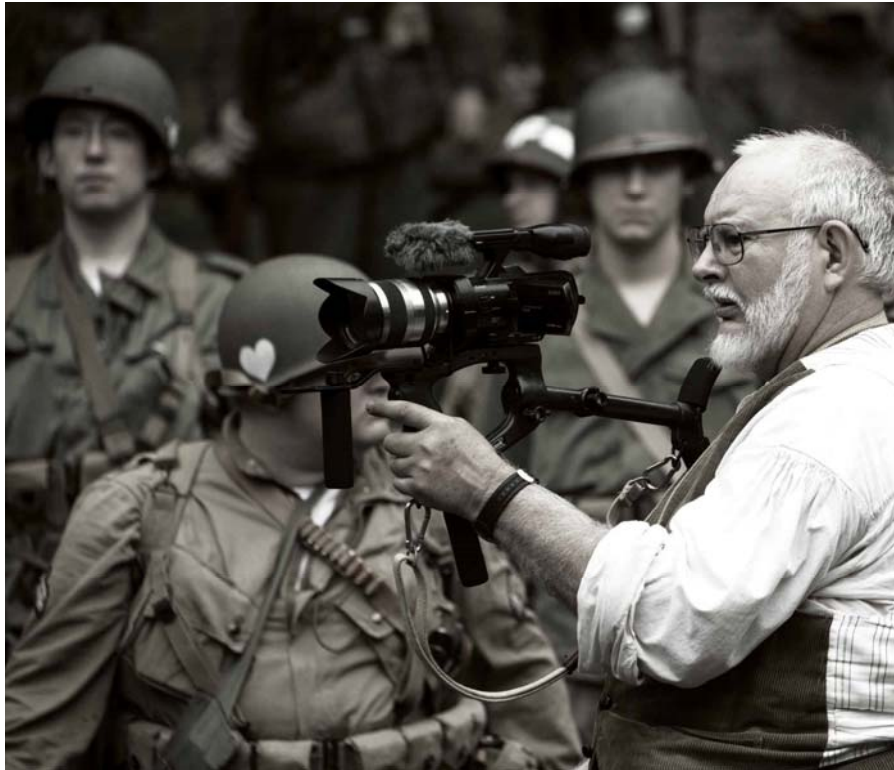
The EDGE promotes and features the work of WW2 HRS Members.

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.



Heinz

You may want to tell our Edge readers about this WW2 Machine Gun Demo Video I just up-loaded to YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVU5jh4cdmE>

Terry Johns





Treasurer Wayne McCulley



**TREASURER'S REPORT
WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
MARCH 2018**

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$6,342.46
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$49,508.73
Account Totals	\$55,851.19

INCOME FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Interest from Money Market Account	\$3.80
Total Income	\$3.80

EXPENDITURES FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Liability Insurance Extended Coverage January 31st- March 8, 2018	\$519.12
Directors and Officer's Insurance	\$744.00
Military History Fest table staff admissions	\$70.00
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Illinois Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing	\$16.00
Illinois Secretary of State Annual Report	\$13.00
Total Expenditures	\$1,374.92

2018 Membership Income	\$0.00
2018 Interest Income	\$8.27
2018 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
2018 Total Income	\$8.27
2018 Expenditures	\$1,481.17
2018 Total Income less 2018 Expenditures	(\$1,472.90)



**TREASURER'S REPORT FOURTH QUARTER 2017
WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
MARCH 15TH 2018**

BEGINNING BALANCES 4TH QUARTER

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

TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCES **\$57,005.85**

4TH QUARTER INCOME

Membership Income	\$1,600.00
PNC Bank Money Market Account Interest Income	\$12.34
Reimbursement from Midway Village for Thursday Eve. Meal	\$551.38

TOTAL 4TH QUARTER INCOME **\$2,163.72**

4TH QUARTER EXPENDITURES

Food for Rockford Sunday Breakfast	\$900.00
2017 WW2 HRS Scholarship	\$500.00
Event Support for Big Lake Minn. Event	\$163.42
Rockford Vehicle Inspection Supplies	\$48.63
Email Marketing Service	\$38.40
Eventbrite Service Fees	\$191.68
Postage	\$3.35

TOTAL 4TH QUARTER EXPENDITURES **\$1,845.48**

ENDING BALANCES 4TH QUARTER 2017

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$7,823.63
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$49,500.46

TOTAL ENDING BALANCES **\$57,324.09**

2017 MEMBERSHIP INCOME	\$12,280.00
2017 INTEREST INCOME	\$44.76
2017 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$851.38
2017 TOTAL INCOME	\$13,176.14
2017 EXPENDITURES	\$15,906.03
2017 INCOME LESS 2017 EXPENDITURES	(\$2,729.89)



ANNUAL REPORT 2017
WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
For the Period January 1st through December 31st 2017
March 15, 2018

BEGINNING ACCOUNT BALANCES

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$7,598.28
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$52,455.70
Account Totals	\$60,053.98

2017 INCOME

Membership Income	\$12,280.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$44.76
Insurance Reimbursement from Rockford World War 1 Weekend	\$300.00
Reimbursement from Midway Village for Thursday meal at WW2 days	\$551.38
Total Income	\$13,176.14

2017 EXPENDITURES

Liability Insurance	\$6,205.75
Director's and Officer's Insurance	\$744.00
Event Support	\$5,321.17
Eventbrite Service Fees	\$1,712.10
Marketing	\$193.92
HRS Scholarship	\$500.00
Email Marketing Service	\$153.60
Post Office Box Rental	\$86.00
Membership Card Supplies	\$307.89
Refund of Membership Overpay	\$65.53
Postage	\$349.51
Illinois Secretary of State Fees	\$26.00
Domain Renewal	\$191.93
Vehicle Inspection Supplies	\$48.63
Total Expenditures	\$15,906.03

ENDING ACCOUNT BALANCES

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$7,823.63
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$49,500.46
Total Ending Account Balances	\$57,324.09

2017 INCOME LESS 2017 EXPENDITURES **(\$2,729.89)**



HRS SUPPORT TO EVENTS IN 2017

Delay the Inevitable	\$1,250.00
Weldonkrieg	\$1,250.00
Kennekuk (Danville) WW2 Days	\$355.00
Dundas Minn. WW2 Weekend	\$300.00
Midway Village WW2 Days (\$551.38 reimbursed by Midway Village)	\$2,002.75
Big Lake Minn. Event	\$163.42
TOTAL HRS SUPPORT TO EVENTS	\$5,321.17

Respectfully Submitted
Wayne McCulley
Treasurer
World War 2 Historical Re-Enactment Society Inc.

WW2 HRS 2018 Membership Report


As of 29 March 2018, we have 785 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



World War 2 Historical Re-enactment Society

EVENTS

April	April
<p>27-29</p> <p>Apr</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">RAILS TO VICTORY</p> <p>Loc: Fox River Trolley Museum 361 South LaFox Street South Elgin, IL 60177 Dates: April 27-29, 2018 Event Times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday, April 27th: School Day Presentations, 9a-2p; - Friday, April 27th: Reenactor check-in, 4pm to 10pm.; - Saturday, April 28: Reenactor check-in, 8 am to 9:15am; - Sunday, April 29: 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). <p>Registration Times: FREE ON-LINE Registration through APRIL 25, 2018. Registration: Eventbrite (click here) Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebecca Tulloch, US10th Mtn LHDG and - Robert Hodill, 3rd Gebirgsjaeger Division <p>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 battleeld. 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 battleeld areas on museum property. Camp Amenities: Flush Toilets on site. Camp sites are assigned on a rst come rst served bases. 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, Faired 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 iment 83; 3rd Gebirgsjaeger Division</p>



May	
4-6	KENNEKUK WII DAYS
<p>May</p> 	<p>Loc: Kennekuk County Park – 222296 Henning Rd. , Danville, IL Dates: May 4-6 Event Times: Fri 1 PM – Sun 3:45 PM Registration Times: Fri 5 PM – 10 PM / Sat 7 AM – 8:30 AM Pre-Registration: click here Fee: None Contact: Robert Leinweber Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/141748406624073/ Authenticity Notes: All period impressions welcome from all theaters of operation of WWII Prohibited Vehicles/Items: As per HRS Restrictions on Minors: As per HRS Other restrictions: None Sponsoring Unit(s): 9th Soviet Airborne</p>
12	MISSOURI MILITARY HISTORY WEEKEND 2018
<p>May</p> 	<p>Loc: Missouri National Guard Headquarters, Missouri Military History Museum, 2405 Logistics Rd, Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dates: May 12, 2018 Event Times: Setup can occur starting on Friday afternoon. The event runs from 10-5pm Saturday. Description: This is the 4th year for this event central Missouri. This is a timeline event with displays from various time periods of Missouri's military history starting with the Civil War through the 20th century. Registration Times: Friday 1300-2100 and Saturday 0800-1000 Pre-Registration: Contacting the event coordinator is required for reserving your display area. Fee: There is no fee for the event, and the organizers provide a Saturday night meal to all participants Contact: Chris Adams, 573-680-1244, cblackthorne@hotmail.com Authenticity Notes: WWIIHRS safety and authenticity rules apply. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No firing of weapons except during designated demonstration times. Restrictions on Minors: WWIIHRS rules apply Other restrictions: This is a military installation so no alcohol is allowed. Sponsoring Unit(s): 29th Panzergrenadier Regiment</p>



June	
09	18TH ANNUAL HEARTLAND MILITARY DAY
<p>Jun</p> 	<p>Loc: Museum of the Kansas National Guard 6700 SW Topeka BLVD Topeka, Kansas 66619 Dates: June 9, 2018 Event Times: 0700 - 1600 Registration Times: 0700 - 0900 Pre-Registration: not required Fee: none Contact: John Colyer nordland1@cox.net Ed Gerhardt BG(Ret) 785)862-1020 office@kngmuseum.org Website: http://www.kansasguardmuseum.org Authenticity Notes: All WWII HRS Authenticity rules will be enforced Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No live ammunition of any kind in event area Restrictions on Minors: WWII HRS rules will be enforced Other restrictions: No Alcoholic Beverages in event area during event times There will be restrooms available for those wishing to camp out Friday Night but all non-period tent ect need to be removed before 0800 Saturday Sponsoring Unit(s): 11SS Nordland</p>
<p>22-24</p> <p>Jun</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">WWII RECREATED, DIXON, ILLINOIS</p> <p>Loc: Elks Page Park, 7883 Lowell Park Rd., Dixon, Illinois Dates: June 22, 23, and 24 Event Times: - Friday June 22: Arrival, setup, evening public event preview, and militaria flea market. Please RSVP for a table. -Saturday June 23: 10am to 5pm open to the public, two public battles, weapons demos, veteran recognition, militaria sale -Sunday June 24: 11am to 4:00pm open to the public with one public battle; militaria sale Registration Times: Check in - Friday June 22 and Saturday June 23 7 to 9 am Pre-Registration: https://wwii-recreated-dixon-il-2018.eventbrite.com Fee: None Contact: Jonathan Stevens (jstevensww2@sbcglobal.net) 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>



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



October		October
26-28		ASSAULTING FORTRESS EUROPE
Oct	 <p> Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Okland, Tiff, MO 63674 Dates: 26-28 October 2018 Event Times: Gates open 12 noon Friday 20 July and close 12 noon Sunday 22 July, S&A 8am Saturday and the Tactical will start @ 9am Saturday 21 July, night battle if enough interest on Saturday night. Registration Times: Upon arrival Friday and Sturday morning. Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$15 at the gate. Contact: papajoadfssf@sbcglobal.net Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/755780071295906/ http://campsimanevents.webs.com/ Authenticity Notes: All impressions which fought in the ETO, MTO and Eastern Front. camping form Friday to Sunday secure on site parking. Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO live ammo, ALL correct Military Vehicles are welcome. Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS rules Other restrictions: NA Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force, 6th CO 3rd REG HRS / Camp Siman Events. </p>	
November		November
2-4		OST FRONT 44
Nov	 <p> Loc: Camp Siman Events, 10135 Okland, Tiff, MO 63674 Dates: 2-4 November 2018 Event Times: Gates open 12 noon Friday 20 July and close 12 noon Sunday 22 July, S&A 8am Saturday and the Tactical will start @ 9am Saturday 21 July, night battle if enough interest on Saturday night. Registration Times: Upon arrival Friday and Saturday morning. Pre-Registration: (click here) Fee: \$15 at the gate Contact: papajoadfssf@sbcglobal.net Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/148497872443331/ http://campsimanevents.webs.com/ Authenticity Notes: All impressions and nations who fought on the Eastern Front. camping from Friday to Sunday, secure on site parking Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO Live Ammo! All Period correct military vehicles ARE welcome. Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS rules Other restrictions: N/A Sponsoring Unit(s): First Special Service Force, 6th CO 3rd REG HRS / Camp Siman Events. </p>	



The Great War: WWI Event

Saturday, April 7, 10am – 5pm

Sunday, April 8, 10am – 4pm

Largest WWI Public Reenactment in the Country!

Midway Village Museum will host the 6th annual Great War event, a WWI military event that features over 225 reenactors portraying soldiers and civilians from the United States and Europe in the museum's historic village. Visitors engage in this unique historic, immersive experience with the opportunity to enter encampments, tour a reproduction 150 yard trench system, and watch large-scale narrated battle reenactments.

Featured Activities

- Large scale battle reenactments featuring pyrotechnics
- WWI Tanks, including the FT-17 French tank
- Large scale WWI model airplane displays and flying demonstrations
- Tours of the 150 yard trench replica including bunkers
- Explore the exclusive Trench Train, known as a Tin Turtle
- Displays of WWI weapons, equipment, and artifacts
- Live horses from the Cavalry units
- Lectures throughout the day by military experts
- Salvation Army Donut Lassies demonstrations
- Live musical performers with songs from the 1910s
- Battle skirmishes throughout the day in the village
- Movies from the 1910s shown on original equipment
- Militaria sales vendors with real and replicated WWI equipment, clothing, books and artifacts
- Food vendors
- Special Saturday Buster Keaton Silent Film Showing by the Traveling Bijou Theater with live accompaniment by the Rockford Wind Ensemble. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Showing at 7 pm. \$10 adults; \$5 children (ages 3-17); \$5 adult members; \$3 child member (ages 3-17). Call or stop by the Museum for advance tickets or buy tickets at the showing. Admission excludes the World War I event.



World War I Tickets: \$12 adults, \$6 children (3-17 years old), infants (0-2 years old) free, Museum Member are Free! Admission excludes Silent Film showing. Purchase admission for the World War I event online at www.midwayvillage.com, in the Museum's Gift Shop, or at the event.

Event is rain or shine. Free parking and ATMs are available at the event. Bags will be checked by security upon event entry. No pets allowed, service animals are permitted. Only registered reenactors may wear historic military uniforms.



6799 Guilford Road
Rockford, IL 61107
www.midwayvillage.com
Questions? 815-397-9112

Event Sponsored By:



A Partnering Event With:





THE FOX RIVER TROLLEY MUSEUM
presents on
April 28-29, 2018



RAILS TO VICTORY



We are proud to invite you to our 8th annual Rails to Victory (RTV) WW2 reenactment at the Fox River Trolley Museum in South Elgin, Illinois, just West of Chicago. RTV is a Western Front European Theater event which will once again be presenting the Occupied France Trolley Adventure with small action skits and skirmishes along our 3 miles of trolley track. 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 offers unique and interesting landscapes for both reenactors and spectators. Also planned is a large-scale field battle in the trolley museum's bone yard, a period WW2 bicycle ride along the Fox River, and a period WW2 Girls Baseball Home Front Game. Opportunities for historical camp presentations are also welcome by all WW2 impressions and periods. All vehicles including tracked vehicles and watercrafts are welcome to participate during the event. This year we are tentatively scheduling a school day on Friday Morning of the event. Reenactors who agree to help with the school day will be permitted to set up their camps on Thursday evening.

Registration: FREE ON-LINE Registration through APRIL 25, 2018.
Website: <http://www.railstovictory.com/>

Camp Amenities: Flush Toilets on site. Camp sites are assigned on a first come first served bases.

- Event Times:
- Friday, April 27th: School Day Presentations, 9a-2p;
 - Friday, April 27th: Reenactor check-in, 4pm to 10pm.;
 - Saturday, April 28: Reenactor check-in, 8 am to 9:15am;
 - Sunday, April 29: 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).

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



World War 2 Historical Re-enactment Society

WWII ★ DAYS ★

JUNE 16-17, 2018

OLD FALLS VILLAGE FATHERS DAY WEEKEND

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

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



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



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

Upcoming Events:

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



EXPERIENCE HISTORY



Old Falls Village

Menomonee Falls Historical Society

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Old Falls Village Museum -- Pilgrim Road & Hwy. Q in Menomonee Falls -- FREE Parking
(262) 250-3901 www.OldFallsVillage.com



Each June WWII is recreated in Dixon, IL at Elks Page Park to commemorate the Second World War. This spectator event gives a glimpse of life on the front lines in France, 1944 through Living History by members of the World War Two Historical Reenactment Society. You will be able to see firsthand the typical life of "Willie and Joe", the American dogface soldier, along with battle hardened German troops, and experience the sights and sounds of a WWII battle. Original American armored vehicles and rare examples of German equipment will be on display and operational during the weekend. Do not miss this opportunity to bring history off the pages of a book! Mark your calendar to attend this educational experience today!

- **When:** June 22, 23, and 24, 2018
- **Where:** 7883 S Lowell Park Rd., Dixon, IL



Schedule for WWII Recreated 2018

Friday Evening

Get a **Sneak Peak** and drop by the militaria sale!

Saturday

Event Open to the public - 9:30 am to 5 pm

Battles at 11 am and 3pm

WWII girls basegame game featuring the Rockford Peaches at 12:30

Sunday

Event Open to the public - 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

Battle at 2 pm

ENTRANCE FEE:

\$5 single admittance with children under age 10 free.

Save and bring a carload of people! Only \$10 per car.

ANY WWII Veteran free

A full menu is available at the Banquet Hall. All proceeds benefit the Youth Frontier group. (A coed group of Boy scouts/Girl scouts).

Stay the entire day!

Militaria Sale

PUBLIC INVITED! Friday through Sunday

For selling or vending information contact **Dale Grobe** (<mailto:dalebob65@hotmail.com>)

Limited indoor table space available at \$10/table.

Outdoor vending space is available.



Join the "Show Me" Missouri Convoy #2

September 28 - October 7, 2018



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

Convoy Highlights:

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

Point of Contact:

Trooper Tyree * halftrackjohns@att.net

Convoy is limited to 25 vehicles



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

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



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

Thank You
Terry Johns



WWII HRS Board of Directors and Staff

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Jim Schouten, 90th Infantry Division

HOW TO ATTEND a Board Meeting:

Monthly teleconference Board meetings are open to all members. Members do not need to register for the meetings nor do they need to contact the president or any board members.

They need to contact their unit commander for the call information to include phone number and password. This creates less of a choke point and gets the information out to more with less hassle.

The monthly board meeting time/dates will change to accommodate the board members time schedules.



About Us



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

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

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

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

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

www.WorldWarTwoHRS.Org

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MEETING MINUTES

WWII Historical Reenactment Society Board Meeting 30 January 2018, 7:30 pm

Call to Order at 7:31 pm– Board Members Attending: Jon Stevens, President; Chuck Bolanis, Vice President; Ron Kapustka, Secretary; Corey Vaughn, Allied Rep; Wayne McCulley, Treasurer, Doug Strong, Axis Rep, Matt Rademacher, Commonwealth Rep.

Members Attending: Jim Schouten

Approval of Agenda

RK motioned to approve the agenda as sent out. WM seconded.
Agenda was approved by BOD vote.

Reading of December Meeting Minutes

The December Minutes were read by WM. RK motioned that the December Minutes be approved as read. That was seconded by CV. The December Minutes, as read, were approved by BOD vote.

Officer Reports:

Vice President:

New Charters: NO new Charters for 2018

Probationary charters: End of Probation Period Report:

2nd Jaeger Battalion (Payton)(Finnish) - CB did receive the end of the year report from 2nd Finnish Battalion. It was posted a week or so ago and is being currently voted on. CB asked if we should wait for a few more votes on the Unit before approving them as a Unit, but a motion was made by CB, seconded by DS. A roll call vote was taken and the 2nd Jaeger Battalion was approved as a Full membership.

Matt Iverson's 3rd Division, 2nd Company (Finnish) This Unit has not responded to CB's request for a year-end Report. CB will contact him again for the Report. This will be tabled until next month.

FeldLazarette Grosdeutschland This Unit has also not submitted their end of year Report and will be tabled until next month.

First Co, 1st Battalion, Jaeger Div 28 This Unit has also not submitted their end of year Report and will be tabled until next month.

CB further reported that there are currently 106 chartered or pending chartered Units. 8 of them are on Probation, 1 is waiting for a vote to be put on probation and there were 4 new Charters adopted by the HRS in 2017 and there were two Charters disbanded in 2017.

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

Secretary - Ron K reported. We had 1117 members in 2017 and have 384 members and 3 Minor members for 2018 as of 1/30/2018.

Commonwealth Rep.– Matt Rademacher reported that he did not have much to report, except that MR has spoken to No, Ten Commandos and has been assured that he will have his five members signed up by the end of January, 2018. CB mentioned they were put on Probation on March 28, 2018, so they have until the end of that period to comply.

The First Canadian Parachute BN was placed on Probation on 2/21/2017. WM reported that they met the member requirements for 2017 so that they can be removed from Probation. MR made a motion that they be removed from Probation, CV seconded the motion. A vote was taken and they were removed from Probation.

Allied Rep - Corey reported that there are two Units that have been under strength. CV has had no contact with F Co., 2/5 Marine. CB mentioned that their Probation period ends Feb 21, 2018.

2nd ID was placed on Probation on 3/28/2017 so they have until March 28, 2018 to meet their member requirements. CV spoke with Jameson who only asked for the registration information.

The 29 ID 116 IR (Forrest) met the needed number of members.

1st ID has also met the required members.

17th Airborne has not responded to CV and neither has 32nd Infantry, Kissinger's Unit. Lastly, the 34th Infantry, Serakaku, has not responded to CV.

The 325th GIR has lost their UC and the Unit is working on getting a new UC. They do have a few members already signed up.

Anthony Noce's 307th Engineers are working on getting registered.

Alan Jones is working on his Charter Revision.

CV asked whether the Finnish Units are Axis, and it was confirmed that they are.

Axis Rep - Doug Strong reported what was done regarding the Finnish Units, as reported by CB. Nothing new to report. CB mentioned that the 250th Azule Ski Company (A Spanish Division) was placed on Probation in 2017. WM reported that they had five members for 2017. DS made a motion, which was seconded by CB. A vote was taken and they were removed from Probation.

Staff Reports

Membership Coordinator – Jeff Skender is not in attendance, so his report will be tabled.

Committee Reports:

S&A Committee- Chuck mentioned that the S&A Committee members must be members in the HRS to retain their position on the S&A Committee. CB mentioned that the Vehicle Rules be used as Guidelines. The speed limit should be set as "manageable and safe" and that speed limit meets the site's speed limit policy of the host site.

The other issue is vehicle riders. The Committee is split.

Lastly, the Commonwealth and Axis Rep have traditionally been on the S&A Committee. There is a membership limit. In order to add DS, Dave Fornell would have to be removed. CB will remove DF and DS will be added.

Unit Commanders Committee- Jon reported there is an issue with messages being sent to the Yahoo groups. WM and RK to periodically post membership info to the group. A discussion was held regarding moving from Yahoo to another provider. It was decided that the move may not be able to be done due to the amount of info on the Yahoo group.



Vehicle Committee – JS reported that his Unit formed a "Pro Board" years ago on their Yahoo Group, as an option for the Yahoo issue. JS went on to report that he will post the change in the speed limit wording on the Vehicle Committee group and asked that it be made clear that events should post the max speed limit for their event. JS mentioned regarding the riders on vehicles issue and that the Vehicle Committee will follow whatever the S&A Committee comes up with. Lastly, Jim is working on splitting up Rockford encampments into inspector areas for vehicles, to be assigned to specific inspectors. The only other thing JS had was regarding the Stronghold Event, and that the town of Oregon was interested in getting involved in the event and adding other activities to the event. They are also thinking of adding a military vehicle show and swap meet to the event. Anyone interested should contact Rich Russo.

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

Old Business:

2018 HRS National Event – There have been a few inquiries into the National Event for 2018 and the BOD needs to work on HOW the HRS would support the National Event so that this info can be provided to anyone interested in hosting the National Event. There have not been any actual proposals submitted as of yet.

New Business:

Reenactor Fest is this weekend. The HRS has a table and JS asked for BOD members to sit at the table for a while. JS, WM, CV and DS will all be there and will man the table.

Insurance Renewal. The HRS was given a notice of non-renewal based on "Loss History". The HRS was given a month, until March 8, 2018, to find a new insurer. The BOD voted on paying the interim insurance through March 8, 2018, until a new provider is found. The one claim we have had is still being settled by the carrier for the 2017 Rockford claim. There are 2-3 events during the time before March 8, 2018, so the interim insurance was voted by the BOD.

CV asked whether someone should reach out to other organizations and see who they use for insurance. JS mentioned that he also thought of that, and would look into the issue. WM reported that the checks were delivered to the insurance company for the interim coverage.

Open Comments:

Jon asked for open comments. No open comments.

Announcements: The next meeting will be February 20, 2018.

Adjourn

DS motioned to adjourn, RK seconded. Approved by BOD vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM. Time: 7:30pm Central



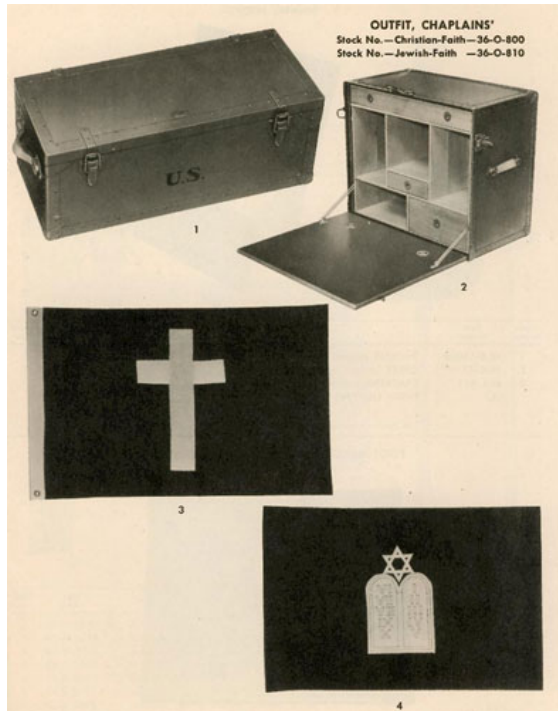
The US Army WWII Chaplain: Part 4
By LTC (ret) Tim. A. Scherrer

The US Army Chaplain's Unit Equipment

The US Army chaplain had a variety of equipment to get the job done. Below is a picture is the list of unit equipment that was issued to the chaplain section, which consisted of the chaplain and chaplain's assistant. This part will cover the field equipment issued to chaplains that supported deployed units.

Chaplains' Outfit (Christian-Faith, Stock No. 36-O-800 and Jewish-Faith, Stock No. 36-O-810) consisted of following items:

- Chests, Container, Hymnal, Music-Edition – Stock No. 36-C-1287 (later replaced by Chest, Steel Container, Hymnal, Music-Edition, Stock No. 36-C-1295)
- Desks, Field (Empty), Fiber, Headquarters – Stock No. 26-D-140 (later replaced by Desk, Field, M-1945, Stock No. 26-D-158)
- Flags, Chaplains', Christian-Faith – Stock No. 5-F-980
- Flags, Chaplains', Jewish-Faith – Stock No. 5-F-985
- Music Books, Hymnal, Chaplains' Outfit, Song-and-Service – Stock No. 36-M-657 (150 copies)
- Organs, Folding, Chaplains' – Stock No. 36-O-580



Desks, Field (Empty), Fiber, Headquarters – Stock No. 26-D-140
 (later replaced by Desk, Field, M-1945, Stock No. 26-D-158)





The chaplain section was authorized the largest of the field desks of the three standard types. The desk was 29 3/4" wide, 23 3/4" high and 16" deep. They weighed 78 pounds empty. Hymnals were carried in a separate crate. The reason chaplain needed the largest size field desk escapes me! The chaplain probably needed a desk that could carry a typewriter for correspondence as well as a place to carry some religious reference books, and a small amount of records. The M1945 replacement is what reenactors commonly think of as the postwar field desk.



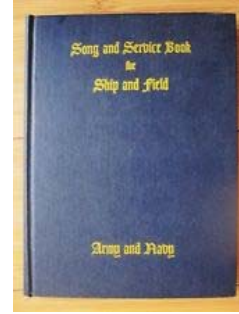
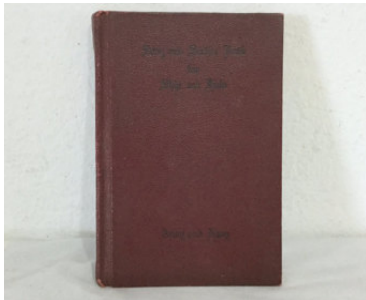
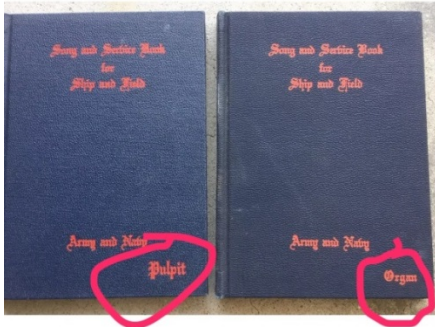
Chests, Container, Hymnal, Music-Edition – Stock No. 36-C-1287
(later replaced by Chest, Steel Container, Hymnal, Music-Edition, Stock No. 36-C-1295)





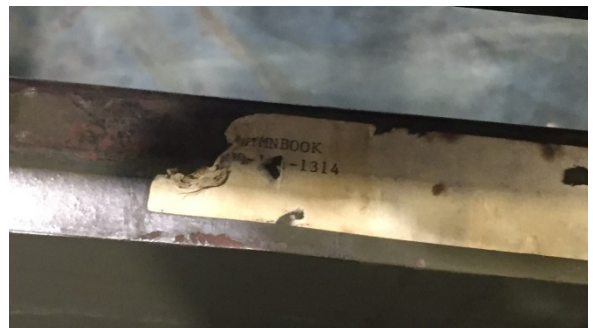
World War 2 Historical Re-enactment Society

The Hymnal Chest is one of the most rare original items to acquire.. Only a couple chests were known to exist with another chest recently discovered, but I will come back to that. The hymnal chest is a wood and steel reinforced crate that is 28" long by 11" wide by 11" tall. The crate held 152 Song and Service Book for Ship and Field, Army and Navy hymnals, in 19 stacks of 8. The case weighed over 40 lbs when full. Dunavin Woodsmith is now making a fabulous reproduction of this rare crate.



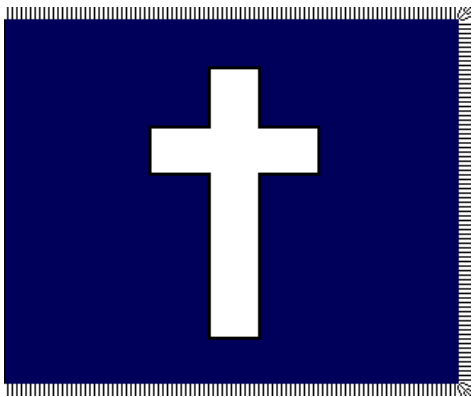
The Song and Service Book for Ship and Field is just as its title describes, a book of standard religious services and songs to be used by chaplains of all denominations. The books are 8.5" by 6" by 1/2" thick and had 194 double-sided pages. There was a red edition for the Army and a blue edition for the Navy. Most are gold-embossed on the cover, but some editions are just blackened in the stamping. The crate contained 150 standard hymnal books and two specially marked books. One was marked *Pulpit* and the other *Organ* in the lower right corner of the cover. Unmarked books are easily found for about \$6-8.

I discovered another hymnal chest at the Missouri Museum of Military History on the 13th of October 2017. I had looked at their chaplain display. While leaving when I spied a familiar-looking crate in a signal corps display. I got the curator and we opened it up to discover it was a hymnal chest. It is being moved to the chaplain section soon. It was marked for the 942nd Medical Clearing Company.



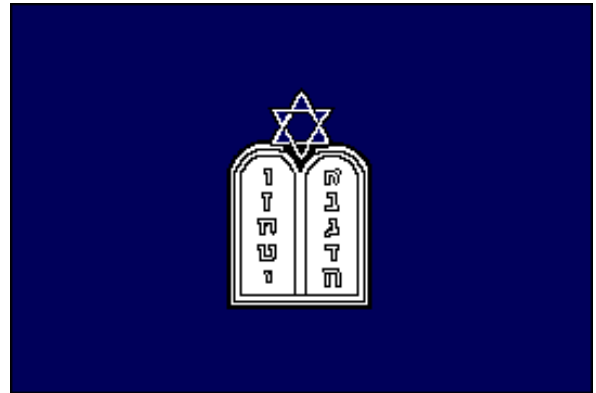


Flags, Chaplains', Christian-Faith – Stock No. 5-F-980 and
 Flags, Chaplains', Jewish-Faith – Stock No. 5-F-985



There are two sizes of chaplain's flags that are seen. The first is the chapel flag, which is quite large. The second is the chaplain's flag. Both are identical in color, markings and only differ in size. The color on the flags is a blue similar to infantry blue or the field on a US flag. The branch insignia is in white with white trim.

The chapel flag is 4' 5" by 5' 6" with white fringe. It is to always be displayed with the US flag. The chaplain flag, 2' x 3', is used to mark the location of a service, be it a tent, jeep hood, building entrance or a field location. Chaplains were issued both the Christian and Jewish flag, since they may be conducting services any denomination. The Christian flag had a Latin cross and the Jewish flag has the tablet or Decalogue with Roman numerals I-X to symbolize the commandments. The Jewish flag is very rare to find. The Roman numerals versus the Hebrew numbers also changed with the insignia changed.





Chaplain's Brassard

Introduced in 1944, the chaplain's arm band was blue with a white cross on it. It was very similar to the Geneva Convention white arm band with red cross, except in a different color. While this was authorized, it's use is difficult to document. The white brassard with the red cross was easier to see and the only time a chaplain would need to wear a brassard was when they were operating under fire. Since all chaplains were trained in medical tasks and were helping wounded soldiers on the battlefield, I suspect most chaplains wore the white arm band and even medical marked helmets in combat.



- **Organs, Folding, Chaplains' – Stock No. 36-O-580**

The pump organ, also known as the reed organ, melodeon or harmonium has been around since the 1800s. They were used in churches without electrical power, revivals, missionaries and mining camps. They operate by having air flow past a piece of metal that vibrates. The metal vibrating piece is called a reed. The air flow is caused by foot pedals opening and closing bellows, much like when an accordion is opened and closed. A pump organ weighs about 30 lbs., and is about 3-4' x 18" x 18".



The Army started acquiring organs for chaplains during WWI. The WWI models varied but the Liberty Pipetone Folding Organ was most prevalent, although Estey and Billhorns may have been used.





The Army needed considerably more pipe organs for the large expansion of the chaplain corps during WWII. The Estey organ was smaller and lighter than the Liberty. It had a 4 octave keyboard versus 5 octaves on the Liberty. Being more compact and lighter, the Estey was in use as early as the the 1930s by the Army. While the Estey was the standard organ, other organs in the inventory were also used. The phrase “use until supplies are exhausted” applies with all things Army.



The Estey Field Organ pictured above is located at the Missouri Museum of Military History in Jefferson City, MO. It was pulled out of the attic of an armory in the past decade. It is black in color on the case and the interior has been painted a muted red matching the Army Service and Songbook cover color. The serial number dates it to the late 1930s. It has a silver plated US tag on the back side. That is the only indicator that it was a military chaplain’s organ beyond the model type.

Many of the surviving organs have been painted OD color. A survey of WWII pictures indicate that the organs were mostly unpainted with their original black cases, like the Missouri museum organ. There is a natural tendency in the military to paint everything OD. The organ being black or OD probably had not real impact on its use. A chaplain would not set up a field service in an area where a black or OD organ may make the difference of attracting enemy fire! I suspect some of them were originally painted OD and some have been restored after the war to be OD. These were still in use in the 1950s, according to a chaplain friend of mine that served in 1955. He was issued one for field services, and used it often.

A second model organ was issued in 1945, which is similar to the WWII design. In Vietnam the Lo Duca organ was also used. The rain and humidity of Vietnam was damaging to the organs. The military changed to an electric organ or cassette recorded music by the mid point of the Vietnam War.





Many people assume any folding pipe organ was a chaplain's organ. A guess is about 5,000 were acquired by the Army for field use among the nearly 9,000 chaplains. Many chaplains assigned to fixed bases and facilities didn't need a field organ since their church had pianos or organs inside them.

The original cost of the organs is difficult to find, but using an advertisement from earlier, I was able to transpose the cost to 2015 dollars, which is \$2,700. In WWII dollars, that is \$200 (about the cost of about four M-1 Garand rifles). Today they can be found for about \$100-\$1,000, based upon the condition. There is an Estey organ club that has a website and lots of additional information.



Part 4 closes with pictures of actor and future president Ronald Reagan playing a chaplain's field organ in the 1943 training film, *For God and Country*. Reagan portrays Father Michael O'Keefe and is shown playing the field organ shipboard, accompanying a morale show put on by some of the members of his unit. It is available on YouTube and through the Reagan Presidential Library.

Part 5 will cover the field altar set.



March with us back into WWII history!

Join your local WWII
living history unit now!

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<https://www.facebook.com/WWIIHRS>