

Rails To Victory – South Elgin, Illinois April 2018 by Heinz Thiel



Roberts Armory – Rochelle, Illinois May 2018 by Heinz Thiel



Rails To Victory – South Elgin, Illinois May 2018 by Ed Rejowski



WWII HRS Liability Insurance Changes for 2018

By Jon Stevens – WW2 HRS President

In late January the board received notice from our liability insurance carrier that they would not be renewing our policy but they would give us an extension for a fee until March 8 to find a new carrier. The reason they gave for dropping our account was a claim that was filed due to an accident at Rockford. Shortly thereafter we began our search for a new carrier. We sent applications through our agent to at least 12 different carriers which included our “loss runs” which are records of all claims filed against our policy. All soundly rejected our applications for reasons that include not insuring historical reenactments, use of antique vehicles, use of blanks, use of weapons, loud noise, and several others but most all included reference to our single loss in 2017 which was the first in the entire history of the WWII HRS that we know about.

Fast-forwarding to March 6 we finally received our first actual offer which was double our current insurance cost close to \$7,000. On March 7 at 4:30pm we received a second offer for around \$8,000 to cover all our events for one year that was very similar to our previous insurance with the addition of \$150 fee for any additional insured named to our policy. (This has become fairly common in the last few years with many sites requesting this.) After a quick emergency HRS Board meeting we approved this offer and sent payment on March 8 to bind this insurance and allow for three events taking place that weekend that needed liability insurance to continue as planned.

Our total insurance bill for 2018 is so far around \$10,000 which includes the premium for liability insurance, Directors and Officers Insurance, and the one-month extension of the old policy. I write this information to inform our membership about the insurance for our organization but also to let all our members know that one single small claim which amounted to about \$250 was enough for at least one insurance company to drop the HRS like a rock and numerous others to not want to touch us WWII reenactors with a ten-foot-pole. Quite honestly, we were almost uninsurable for our living history activities. Yes, there might be some other insurance company that would take our money but we would have to have a lot of it. One carrier which we did not bother to return an application said upfront the base premium would be \$20,000 and the final cost higher. The revenue the HRS generated for 2017 was approximately \$12,000. In any case an organization without liability insurance in this day and age will not be able to function. I often think about one reenactor I know who has said over and over, “We are one accident away from ending the whole thing.” This is precisely why we all have to remain vigilant with safety. Without question we all want to come home in one piece and be able to do it all again in a couple weeks at another site. In 2016 we had a commission look at safety. Their result was that there are three levels of safety checks: your personal safety check before you even leave home; your unit inspection and safety check; and finally the event safety inspection. The other consideration is to know and follow stated safety guidelines both the HRS and the particular event. If these checks are done, rules followed, and some common sense applied most accidents can be avoided.

Now for some changes to our standard operating procedures:

In the past we have allowed non-members to participate in our events and be covered under our liability insurance as a courtesy. Now the WWII HRS will no longer be able to insure non-members at HRS events. Only members will receive coverage through the HRS liability insurance. This means that non-HRS members can participate at their own risk by signing a “non-member liability waiver” which means they are responsible for any and all claims resulting from any accident they may cause. They can preferably provide to the HRS proof of a liability insurance policy with certain coverages that covers the members of their non-HRS unit. Proof of a liability policy with adequate coverage is however greatly preferred and in the future, we may no longer allow a “non-member waiver” for non-members to participate at HRS events and may require a liability policy to participate in HRS events.

What this means for members is that they should be ready to provide proof of current membership and identification at events if asked. Some events have mistakenly used the “non-member” liability waiver for current members. Please be careful to use the correct waivers so that in case of any legal actions due to accidents there are no questions if a member has coverage under the HRS liability insurance.

Any member can propose a safety regulation and potentially bring it before the entire membership for a vote. Any member can report safety violations as well. We are all in this together. Please do not be “that guy” who because of a poor choice destroys the organization and the events our members hold. As they said in the 2nd Marine Division in WWII, “Gung Ho!!”¹

¹ Chinese for “Work together!”



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 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
APRIL 2018**

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF MARCH 31ST 2018

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$8,544.84
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$44,512.47
Account Totals	\$53,057.31

INCOME FOR MARCH 2018

Membership Income	\$7,200.00
Interest from Money Market Account	\$3.74
Total Income	\$7,203.74

EXPENDITURES FOR MARCH 2018

Eventbrite Service Fees	\$1,061.31
Liability Insurance	\$8,755.00
Postage	\$160.00
Email Marketing Service	\$12.80
Membership Refund	\$8.51
Total Expenditures	\$9,997.62

2018 Membership Income	\$7,200.00
2018 Interest Income	\$12.01
2018 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
2018 Total Income	\$7,212.01
2018 Expenditures	\$11,478.79
2018 Total Income less 2018 Expenditures	(\$4,266.78)



WW2 HRS 2018 Membership Report

As of 1 May 2018, we have 836 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

May	May
4-6	KENNEKUK WII DAYS
May 	<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
May 	<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</p> <p>Dates: 20-22 July 2018</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Registration Times: Upon arrival Friday and Saturday morning.</p> <p>Pre-Registration: (click here)</p> <p>Fee: \$15 at the gate</p> <p>Contact: papajoadfssf@sbcgloba.net</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/events/189516611610019/ http://campsimanevents.webs.com/</p> <p>Authenticity Notes: All impressions which fought in the Pacific from all nations 1941-1945, camping from Friday to Sunday, secure on-site parking</p> <p>Prohibited Vehicles/Items: NO Live Ammo! All Period correct military vehicles ARE welcome.</p> <p>Restrictions on Minors: Per HRS rules</p> <p>Other restrictions: N/A</p> <p>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</p> <p>Dates: July 21 2018</p> <p>Event Times: 10-5pm Friday arrival camp out on the beach!</p> <p>Registration Times: 7-10am Saturday</p> <p>Pre-Registration: Email jkeaton@peoplepc.com</p> <p>Fee: None free open to reenactors/ Open to the public</p> <p>Contact: jkeaton@peoplepc.com Text me at 216-904-3638</p> <p>Website: See YouTube " El Alamein Re-enactment "</p> <p>Authenticity Notes: American, German ,Italian , Italian Civilians Welcome</p> <p>Prohibited Vehicles/Items: American can bring Jeeps and halftracks ..Ect / German can bring Kubelwagan , Motorcycles</p> <p>Restrictions on Minors: Display only per HRS rules</p> <p>Other restrictions: Period camping only . May camp out overnite Friday.</p> <p>Sponsoring Unit(s): Battalion IX September</p>
August	
Aug	No events listed.



September

September

28-30

WALK BACK IN TIME 2018

Sep



Loc: Audrain County Historical Society, 501 South Muldrow Street, Mexico, MO 65265

Dates: September 28-30, 2018

Event Times: Setup can occur from Thursday to Saturday. Friday is the school education day. The event runs from 10-4pm Saturday and Sunday, with Candlelight Tours on Saturday from 6-9pm

Description: Walk Back in Time is the premier living history timeline event in the state of Missouri. It usually draws 300 participants in all time periods and 10-15,000 spectators. There is a WWII Battle on Saturday and Sunday. This year will feature the role of animals in support of the US military.

Registration Times: Friday 1300-2100 and Saturday 0800-1000 in the 29th Panzergrenadier Camp

Pre-Registration: Contacting the event coordinator is required for reserving your display area. NO EXCEPTIONS!

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

Website: <http://www.audrain.org> and go to Walk Back in Time

Authenticity Notes: WWIIHRS safety and authenticity rules apply.

Prohibited Vehicles/Items: No firing of weapons between 2200 and 0800 at night.

Restrictions on Minors: WWIIHRS rules apply

Other restrictions: None

Sponsoring Unit(s): 84th Infantry Division Railsplitters and 29th Panzergrenadier Regiment



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 Saturday 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>	



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
HOMEFRONT 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

Become a Historical Society member today!

Adults \$6.00 Children under 12 \$2.00 Under 5 FREE
WWII and Korean War Veterans FREE with Military ID
Military FREE in uniform, 1/2 off not in uniform with Military ID
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 Westminster Avenue to the Churchill Memorial located at Westminster 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 Westminster 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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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





WWII Historical Reenactment Society Board Meeting 20 February 2018, 7:30 pm

Call to Order at 7:34 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: Ed Vanrush; George Reinke; Tim Scherer; David Serakaku, Jim Schouten

Approval of Agenda

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

Reading of January Meeting Minutes

The January, 2018 Minutes were read by RK. RK motioned that the January Minutes be approved as read. That was seconded by WM. The January Minutes, as read, were approved by BOD vote.

Officer Reports:

Vice President:

New Charters: No new charter submissions yet. Alan Jones is also still working on his charter revision.

Probationary charters: End of Probation Period Report:

Matt Iverson's 3rd Division, 2nd Company (Finnish) This Unit has submitted their year-end Report and it was submitted to the S&A Committee. Overall, the vote was favorable, 9 Yes, 0 No's. CB made a motion to grant them a full charter, seconded by RK. A vote was taken and the Unit was approved as a Fully chartered Unit.

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.

Secretary - Ron K reported. We have currently have 584 members and 6 Minor members for 2018 as of 2/20/2018.

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

Commonwealth Rep.- Matt Rademacher reported that he has nothing to report.

Allied Rep - Corey Vaughn reported that he spoke with Dave Serakaku who reported that he was working on getting his members. He is also going through and emailing all Allied commanders asking them for their input and should have a report in the future.

Axis Rep - Doug Strong reported that he had nothing to report.

Staff Reports

Membership Coordinator –

SEE the Membership Report Section in this EDGE.

Committee Reports:

S&A Committee- Chuck mentioned that there was going to be a discussion coming on the incident that took place in Rockford in 2017. The S&A Committee is at 35 members.

Unit Commanders Committee- Jon reported there is still an issue with messages being sent through the Yahoo groups.

Vehicle Committee – JS reported that he re-wrote the vehicle speed limit issue with regard to event speed. He has had this up for a week and will wait for a few more responses. There was a flurry of discussion about vehicle inspections and JS is attempting to work on everyone's concerns and is waiting for feedback on that. The liability issue with regard to vehicle inspectors, as reported by JS, was whether a vehicle that was inspected as "safe" and later caused an issue, whether the HRS would have liability. The inspection was possibly going to be a compliance check by compliance officers, rather than a safety check by inspectors. JS further discussed the issue and asked whether the inspectors have "authority" on the site grounds; discussed further issues; making a video on "how" a vehicle would be inspected; mentioned that fire extinguishers be in the vehicle; and a few other topics.

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

Old Business:

2018 HRS National Event: – JS reported that there are several interested in the National Battle: Camp Simian in MO and Camp Atterbury in IN. We should have more info on that next month. CB further reported that he spoke with Alan Jones and David Weakley about using Camp Atterbury for the National Event, however, they would not allow the HRS to work "with" their contacts at Camp Atterbury.

There was a lengthy discussion on how to go about getting a group together to implement a National Battle plan; how to divide up the work; what work was needed; what facilities would be needed; the type of contact that would be needed with the site host.

Reenactor Fest – The HRS attended, and the BOD met several new individuals who were interested in joining the HRS as well as two Units that were interested in chartering.

Insurance – update. JS reported that we are still working with our agent. NO company has expressed an interest in giving the HRS a year policy. Some have expressed an interest in a "per event" policy, which is not the ideal situation, but we are still working on this issue. One potential insurer asked for a "cannon safety" policy and JS asked the S&A Committee to try to work on that policy. CB will try to work on that policy with the S&A Committee. George Reinke will send some info to JS about a potential insurance contact.

New Business:

Event support: Danville and Weldonkrieg has asked for financial support again for 2018. JS reported that the BOD has discussed waiting for the insurance issue to be resolved before committing to event support. JS made a motion that the BOD wait until March 8, 2018, which was seconded by RK. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. The BOD will hold off on any event funding requests until the insurance issue is resolved.

Open Comments:

Jon asked for open comments. No open comments.

Adjourn

RK motioned to adjourn, CB seconded. Approved by BOD vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.



**WWII Historical Reenactment Society
Board Meeting 20 March 2018, 7:30 pm**

Call to Order at 7:32 pm– Board Members Attending: Jon Stevens, President; Chuck Bolanis, Vice President; Ron Kapustka, Secretary; Wayne McCulley, Treasurer; Corey Vaughn, Allied Rep; Doug Strong, Axis Rep.

Members Attending: Dave Overschmitt, John Keaton, George Reinke, Dave Goodwin

Approval of Agenda

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

Reading of February Meeting Minutes

The February, 2018 Minutes were read by RK. RK motioned that the February Minutes be approved as read. That was seconded by WM. The February Minutes, as read, were approved by BOD vote.

Officer Reports:

Vice President:

New Charters: CB reported that he has received two new applications. 63rd Region CCN (Italian) he met the Unit at Rockford, 2017 and the charter has been submitted to the S&A Committee. He also received a German application from Robert Hodel. That was just posted to the Committee and voting is taking place. CB expects both charters to be submitted to the BOD in April.

Probationary charters: End of Probation Period Report:

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 contacted CB and asked for more time to submit their end of year Report. This will be tabled until next month.

Combat Command B, 3rd Armored Division Alan Jones submitted a Charter Revision for this Unit. A vote was taken and the vote passed by 10 YES, 3 NO and 2 abstentions. CB made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee, CV seconded. A vote was taken and it was approved by BOD vote.

3rd Pioneer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division Dave Gordy voluntarily withdrew his Charter Application for this Unit. He will work on proving that he can safely run a Unit before he resubmits any Charter Application.

Secretary - Ron K reported. We have currently have 754 members and 11 Minor members for 2018 as of 3/20/2018. The Membership Coordinator mailed out 275 Membership Cards in February, 2018 and 306 WW2 HRS Membership Cards in January, 2018. Approximately 80% of members asked for paper cards.

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

Commonwealth Rep.- Matt Rademacher report was tabled. JS reported that No. 10 Commandos has 5 members. CB made the motion to remove them from Probation, which was seconded by CV. A BOD vote was taken and they were removed from Probation.

Allied Rep - Corey Vaughn has no updates on units with less than 5 members. 2/5 USMC wants to go to inactive status. CV has spoken with all other Units with less than 5 members except Kissinger's Unit and Dan Overschmitt's 17th Airborne. CV is running an experiment on Google Groups as an option instead of Yahoo Groups. CB asked if both of these Units had less than 5 members in 2017 and have failed to respond to CV and that these two Units should be put on Probation now for less than 5 members. CV responded affirmative. WM reported that Kissinger has 4 members currently and the 17th has no members. CB made a motion to put the 17th Airborne on Probation for having less than 5 members and RK and CV seconded. A vote was taken and was passed by BOD vote. The 17th Airborne was put on Probation and CV will advise the Unit Commander. CV's only other question was regarding insurance and what it covers. The BOD will be sending out an informational e-mail in the future on this issue.

Axis Rep - Doug Strong reported that he was working on getting through to Units that have less than 5 members.

Staff Reports

Membership Coordinator –

SEE the Membership Report Section in this EDGE.

Committee Reports:

S&A Committee- Chuck discussed the incident that took place this past weekend at the Stalingrad tactical in Ohio. A young female reenactor was asked to open her bolt, which had a live round in it. She was advised not to participate in the event and she left the event. John Keaton will be sending a full written report in the mail in the next few days. The participant was Melody Hubertus who was quite shaken up and very cooperative. Mr. Shaw was in command of that Russian Unit and is also very cooperative. The S&A Committee is still conducting its investigation and will have a full report at the next BOD Meeting.

John Keaton reported that he had 155 pre-registered reenactors who showed up, had registration on Friday and Saturday and fully explained the registration and safety/authenticity meeting. UC's were asked to conduct their own inspections of weapons and blanks. However, John was not satisfied with that inspection, so he instructed others to do a third safety check of the weapons. It was during this third safety inspection that the live round was discovered. A fourth inspection of weapons was than conducted. Thereafter, it was discovered that Melody had a registration card but never signed a Waiver card. There were two total people who had received a registration card but no waiver. These Russian reenactors were part of a Russian group known as the 416th Rifles and run by John Boroom, but they are not part of an organized group and/or society.

CB again stated that the Committee is still in the process of the investigation and will fully report to the BOD at the next meeting.



The next issue is regarding the Rockford 2017 incident. CB reported that Mason Valdivia was reported to be the person who actually threw the grenade. I've learned that one of the young men suspected of throwing the grenade is Mason Valdivia. He was attending the event as a member of the 353rd. He was barely 16 at the time (He turned 16 in June of 2017). He has never been an HRS Member and as such, there has never been an HRS Parental Waiver on file for this young man. CB spoke with Dave Fornell and he knew that Mason was not an HRS member and that no Parental Waiver was on file but apparently belonging to a recognized historical society was not a requirement at Rockford. (is certainly should be required to be a 353rd member but apparently it never got done.) Mason advised CB that Dave Gordy told him that he "could" be in the battle. According to Dave Fornell the young man was told that he was to be in camp only, not to hold a weapon but was a participant in the town battle on Sunday where the grenade incident took place.

However, it appears the young man showed up late to the event and was somehow given an adult wrist band and checked through S&A since he was not there during formal S&A on Saturday. There are two conflicting stories that he registered using his own name and correct age, and a second story that he was registered (by another 353rd member) using an adult's name and was given an adult wristband.

This same young man is also the one who discharged a blank from a K98 at Military History Fest, also as a member of the 353rd and Dave Gordy's Pioneer section of the 353rd.

Dave Gordy made the grenade that was thrown and led the battle in which it was thrown. However, the S&A Committee is unanimous that the 353rd should be held responsible for the actions of Mason and Dave Gordy.

CB discussed the reasons for the safety protocols the HRS has in place and that unless the HRS makes an example of these people, that someday we will eventually have a disaster.

Unit Commanders Committee- Jon reported the e-mail problems seem to have been resolved by Yahoo.

Vehicle Committee – JS not in attendance. Report tabled.

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

Old Business:

2018 HRS National Event: – JS reported that in light of the insurance issues, that was not worked on and will be tabled until next month.

Insurance: JS reported on the situation with regard to the old policy having been canceled and that the HRS, through its insurance broker, worked to get a replacement policy. On March 7th, the day before the interim policy was to expire, from AIX Specialty. That was voted on by the BOD and bound on March 8, 2018, the deadline. JS discussed the details of the policy and that we have already received a Certificate of Liability for events occurring in March, as the policy will be issued in April. JS will prepare a written informational e-mail that can be sent to all members.

Event Support: Last month, the BOD held off on event support until the insurance issue was resolved. WM reported that the insurance policy was \$8,755.00 plus additional riders for a total \$10,018.12. In 2017, the insurance cost was \$3,500.00 less. JS reported that support of event will put the HRS in the negative category.

Danville: Asked for \$500.00, which was \$355.00 for portable toilets and \$145.00 for food and supplies. Last year, they received \$355.00 in support. Last year, they had 106 HRS and 120 total attendees. JS asked for comment on what would be appropriate support for 2018. Further, the event has no other funding other than the HRS. RK suggested that the support be limited to \$355.00 for the porta-johns. CB made the motion and it was seconded by RK

and DS to supply \$355.00 to Danville. A vote was taken and the approval was made, pending receipts. WM to let the Event organizer know.

Rails to Victory: This event requested \$538.86 to pay for some participation of heavy weapons vehicles (\$250.00) such as a tank at the event and requesting (\$286.00) for reimbursement to print Reproduction French & German Period Poster Advertising Cards to decorate the Trolley Interiors with to give the audience more of a feel that they are in Occupied France. CB made a motion to approve \$393.00 to cover the vehicle cost and half of the poster cost. That was seconded by DS. A vote was taken and the approval was made, pending receipts. WM to let the Event organizer know.

Weldonkreig: They have asked for \$2,500.00 to cover a Saturday night meal and to cover the transportation for armor. Dave Goodwin reported that last year, there were 258 total participants and this year, they have 300 registered and 180 HRS members. In 2017, of the \$2,500.00 requested, the BOD approved \$1,250.00. These two events were considered HRS Regional Events last year, so the funding was increased. One event considered a Northern Regional and the second was considered to be a Southern Regional. CB made the motion to approve \$600.00 which was seconded by WM and RK. A vote was taken and the approval was made, pending receipts. WM to let the Event organizer know. CB asked whether the site is a realistic site for an HRS National Battle and a discussion was held regarding this issue. They will discuss the issue at the event this year.

New Business:

New Event Requests:

WW2 Rockford. JS presumed that the HRS wants to consider WW2 Rockford as an HRS event.

WW1 Rockford. A discussion was started by CB regarding WW1. CB mentioned the previous poll that was taken by the HRS and there seemed to be support for a WW1 event. CB further discussed the lack of the BOD and Safety & Authenticity members at the event based upon the fact that most of the WW1 guys are not HRS members or members of the S&A Committee. DS suggested that pulling support of the event at this time is unfair to the WW1 event. CB again raised the S&A issues that the WW1 Event would be up against. CV mentioned the past poll as well and that if the HRS continues to support events outside of WW2, where does the support end.

JS asked if there were stipulations that might be put into place and suggested that in the event the WW1 event would not be supported, there were insurance companies that might be willing to insure a single event.

CB made the motion that the WW1 Event acquire their own insurance policy and that HRS will pay 75% of that insurance policy for the 2018 WW1 event and that for future WW1 events, they will have to provide their own insurance for future events. If the event cannot get their own insurance for the event, the BOD will further consider the insurance request made by the WW1 event at an emergency meeting. RK seconded the motion. A BOD vote was taken and the BOD approved the motion. JS will act as the lead on the insurance issue for the WW1 Event. Dave Fornell will be notified of the decision.

Open Comments:

Jon asked for open comments. Bill Sheets mentioned the Tarawa 75th Event in Alabama and invited people to attend the event. They will be using Higgins boats in the event.

The Next Meeting would be April 24, 2018.

Adjourn

RK motioned to adjourn, CB seconded. Approved by BOD vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.



The US Army WWII Chaplain: Part 5 Field Altar Sets

By LTC (ret) Tim. A. Scherrer

Introduction

Chaplain kits are a wonderful item to research. While there are only a few models made by the manufacturer, there are many exceptions to any pattern or rule. Add into this that Chaplain's themselves are more concerned about their flocks than following exact military standards. They were usually given lots of leeway by their commanders too. Additionally, there is a variety of backgrounds of the chaplains in terms of denomination, education and relationship with their units and the needs of their flock. That creates more variations. WWII chaplains were militarized ministers but always leaned towards pastor over the soldier role.

The US Army Chaplain's Field Altar Set

If you look at the T,O & E list of chaplain items, you do not see the field altar set. Despite this every chaplain had one. The US Army did not purchase or issue the set, which is why it wasn't on official documents. Chaplain field sets came through the endorsing denomination, issued to the chaplain one set for life. Their set matched the ecclesiastical needs for their denomination. It was then considered property of the chaplain. It was not on a hand receipt or accounted for by Army property books.

I have not seen records but it is doubtful that more than 10,000 sets were constructed for Army chaplains in WWII. The ordering was done through the endorsing denomination, not the Army. If a chaplain lost their set or pieces in it, they were expected to replace them. This leads to many sets having mismatched items as exact replacements were difficult to obtain, especially after the war when they were no longer in production. The only exception for the endorser/government replacing a lost set would be if it was combat damaged, like sunk in a ship, destroyed in combat or lost in a plane crash. It could then be replaced at no cost to the chaplain.

Mismatched parts is a common issue with genuine sets today. The chaplain's set I acquired didn't have candlesticks. At some point in its life, the candlesticks were probably used by Reverend or Mrs. Reinsch and never returned to the set. His daughter is still looking for the sticks and they may still turn up. Extra NOS parts do not exist on the loose, so getting an original replacement item requires extraordinary luck and networking with collectors. In most cases, substitutions are required with non-original items.

On Communion Sets

There have been many portable communion sets made by several different manufacturers for many purposes, many of which are not military. Civilian ministers and priests commonly had portable sets to serve bed ridden or isolated parishiners, or to use at sites away from their church. Many of these turn up as "military chaplain sets." This comes out of lack of knowledge or greed to drive up the price during a sale. The civilian field sets can go for \$50-500, depending upon the quality and preservation of the set.

Real military sets are very rare, so a lack of information is common and not always malicious. Most portable sets that hit the marketplace are for civilian ministers. That doesn't mean it wasn't used by a military chaplain at some point in their career, just that it was not the military "issue" kit from International Silver Company. These sets are usually briefcase sized or slightly larger. This is the larger of the two types with their being a second type of kit, a smaller one.

Most ministers/priests/rabbis had a smaller communion set, including many military chaplains. This was small enough to be carried easily and used in a hospital, field, prison or other locations. These small sets are not military issue and acquired by the chaplain from whatever sources they had such as ecclesiastical supply houses. These are not to be confused with a chaplain field altar set. There is no standard for these small sets. They were probably all different types and reflected the denomination, preferences and available to the chaplain. They were probably used after the war with many worn out and tossed.





Identifying a Military Altar Set from a Civilian Portable Set

There are several dead giveaways on a non-military set. The interior fabric must be red or medium blue to be a WWII military set. Post war Air Force sets are a medium blue color. There are only three variations of branches: Army, Navy, and post-war USAF. I have not heard of or seen a Coast Guard set, but they may exist.

A purple interior is probably not a military, especially WWII set. The International Silver sets had leather handles and were covered with leather with metal corners. The post-war sets have plastic handles and are more sturdy cases. The post war cases are squarer and almost always have the fold out wing altar extensions. They don't have corner braces on the box.



The civilian liturgical parts tend to be very ornamental/fancy compared to the military items, with more detail on them. Some cases are constructed of fine wood too. Wood cases were seen with WWI kits, of which very few have survived. The WWI kit is a bit of a mystery, so a WWI kit may be available in the marketplace. These are some examples of non military portable sets found on eBay as I write this.





WWII Variations

Despite the single source of acquisition for sets, a variety of sets that were used in WWII. There are some larger communion sets that were used. Priests delivering the Catholic Holy Eucharist may have needed a bigger set for large numbers of soldiers. Some items reflect the preferences of the chaplain. Several unusual sets are known to exist with excellent provenance to a WWII chaplain. Again, exceptions follow every rule with chaplain gear. Exceptions to the norm are very common with all items chaplains used. Chaplains are focused on their ministry and mission and not the artifacts of their trade.



Chaplains that joined the military in WWII and continued through retirement went through WWII, Korea and Vietnam. A chaplain's altar set probably went through several changes of items through loss, replacement, and new styles of equipment coming into issue. Chaplains after WWII were very fond of acquiring WWII sets because of their quality of materials. Chaplains in the 70s were looking for these kits. Some chaplain sets were probably passed from those departing the service to younger chaplains.





The International Silver Company



RELIGION ON THE BATTLEFIELD



WWII altar sets were made by the International Silver Company of Meridan, CT. International Silver had experience in chaplains sets, making them during WWI. In 1941, a chaplain's set was sent in for repair to their shop. At that point, International decided to get back into the business of chaplain sets as part of their war production line. They produced cutlery during the war as their main merchandise as well as chaplain sets. International Silver had an ecclesiastical line before the war, so this was an easy continuation of manufacturing known products not requiring additional design.

The Catholic Church, protestant denominations and national Jewish organizations ordered kits for their khaki clergy from International. Most of the sets were plated with silver although the Catholic items were made with 24kgold, with the bread and wine containers were made of silver. Army sets were made with red interiors and Navy sets were made with blue interiors. A prewar International Silver high end cutler set cost about \$40. My best guess as to the cost of a chaplain's set would be about \$60-100, depending upon how it was plated with gold or silver. That's about the same cost as a M-1 Thompson SMG. With inflation they would cost about \$1,000-1,500 in today's dollars. A copper alloy was used as the material for the sets, which was then plated silver or gold. The War Production Board deemed the copper alloy as a war essential material and required them to switch to a cheaper material. Upon notifying the different denominations customers of the change, Lutheran and Presbyterian leaders protested. International was concerned that the new materials may possibly rust and not be an attractive finish once in the field. Eventually the War Production Board, noting the large supply of material stockpiled by International, let them continue with production of the copper based items. Sets are found in all gold or silver plating, or mixed sets of both.





The WWII Issue Christian Chaplain Set

The WWII Christian military set was a small case, about 24" x 13" x 7" and have a leather covered black briefcase with a leather handle and metal corner braces. The interior fabric was red if Army or blue if Navy. The ecclesiastical items included a cross or crucifix (depending upon the denominational), candle sticks, chalice or communion cup set, bread box, two cruets (bottles for holy water and wine), and a lavabo for washing of hands (if required). The kit could be opened up and used as an altar. The items were stored under the altar shelf, which lifted to reveal storage compartments for the different pieces. The Catholic cross was two sided with a corpus on one side and ISH on the other. It was rotated to face the congregation depending upon if it was a Catholic or protestant service.

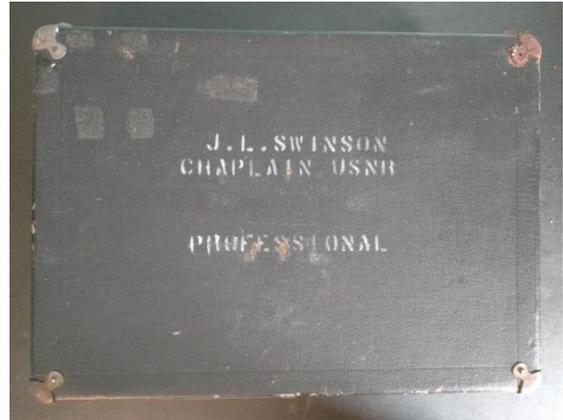


The Jewish Chaplain Kit



This kit or Ark is lessor known than the others for several reasons. First, the small percentage of rabbis that served as WWII chaplains. Second, I suspect many Rabbi kits were left behind in Europe after WWII. The one set with good provenance is in the American Jewish Museum. It is a small footlocker about 2' x 18" x 18", similar to a hymnal chest except larger. Without much evidence and viewing the post war kits, they are probably the same size and shape as the Christian kits. Perhaps are a few in private collections or in lessor known museums. These are some postwar jewish kits as an example of what they may look like. They usually had a Torah scroll, a Torah pointer, a menorah and a yarmulke/ kippah. The cases were called Arks to stay with Jewish tradition of the name of the torah case.





Markings on WWII Cases

Most WWII sets were marked by the chaplain that owned it. This was a chaplain's personal set and they only got one. They wanted it clearly marked as the chaplain's gear and not some piece of unit gear. My set was marked for mailing home by Chaplain Reisch when he left the ETO for Maroa, Illinois.





World War 2 Historical Re-enactment Society



Markings of Items in Kits

Everything was marked US used by the US military in WWII? Right? Not so soon. The International Silver items were not US marked. The only markings on my International Silver set are minor decorative markings but there isn't a single US stamp on it. There isn't even a manufacturer's mark.



Post war items were marked US, as is seen in the pictures below. These are from the Missouri Military Museum's Vietnam set. Some of the items are US marked with an ingraver, which could be a standard ecclesiastical item added the set as a replacement obtained by the chaplain. The two are hand engraved and the two are factory stamped. US Marked chaplain pieces are most likely from post war sets..



The glassware in my International Silver kit is marked for Duraglas and the bottom stamping is 1943. Duraglas was made by Owens-Conring from 1940 through the 50s. The dates on the bottles mean they are probably the original containers that came with my set. One probably held wine and the other holy water or standard water. The standard water would be used to dilute the wine for communion.



Altar Cloths

There is no standard US Army altar cloth for WWII. The ones used by chaplains most likely came from their denominations, ecclesiastical supply houses, or were made for them by seamstresses, friends or family. A cloth style would match that of the civilian ministers. Sometimes Army blankets or plain cloth was also used. The altar was usually a field table, a jeep hood or in one case, a destroyed tank!





Part 6 will cover some loose ends about the chaplain



Conclusion

Original military chaplain sets of any era are incredibly difficult to acquire. Any reenacting chaplain that uses a non-military kit is making a good faith effort to portray a WWII chaplain. I got lucky with mine. About one original kit a year hits the market and goes for a lot of money. One set popped up on ebay while I was writing this and it went for \$3,600 in a few hours! They are incredibly exceptional finds. A good guess is about 200 kits still exist today. That's not many.



March with us back into WWII history!

Join your local WWII
living history unit now!

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