

The Official Newsletter of the World War II Historical Re-Enactment Society

THE *EDGE*

Vol. 30 Ed. 01



Cover Photo: Jack Redd Photography, 2025

www.jackredd.photography

THE *EDGE*



Any WWII HRS member may submit an item for publication in *The EDGE* by emailing lea.wurth.ua@gmail.com

Edited by Lea Wurth

Community News

WWII HRS Reports

Regional Events

Tips & Tricks



Photograph: A hazy Marder III by the morning campfire at Rockford WWII Days Re-Enactment By Tom George Davison

The *EDGE* Returns!

WWII HRS revives heritage community news source

Almost four years after the last publishing in 2021, the torch has passed from the honorable Jeff Skender to Lea Wurth. Wurth is determined to incorporate new ideas into each release, having pitched various topics to write about to the Board Members and asking various community members about suggested improvements. (Cont'd. pg. 3)

MAY 4, 2025:

Fall Gelb 1940 finds great success as village immersion

MAY 9, 2025:

Veterans celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII

MAY 22, 2025:

The first US-based Soviet Battle of Berlin reenactment takes place

MAKER SPOTLIGHT:

New Supplier Takes Market By Storm

The young sons of Dave Braithwaite kickstarted their very own 3D-printing venture, Monkey's Labs, and debuted as vendors for the first time at Cresson, PA. Dave is a renowned simulated grenade maker in the hobby, known for his clever ideas and attention to detail. Mikey and Nicholas' creations have received praise from reenactors and other vendors alike. (Cont'd. pg. 3)

Facebook: Monkey's Labs

REGIONAL EVENTS:

Urban Warfare Returns on the Anniversary of the Fall of Berlin

Five years since the last Stalingrad Factory Event in Youngstown, OH, the WWII HRS' OSOAVIAKhIM Foundation has brought back the appeal of close-quarter battles longed for by reenactors of many backgrounds. The group, which focuses primarily on educational efforts, leaned into their knowledge of fighting in cities to raise funds for research and nonprofit activities. Berlin is poised to become a yearly event.



Photograph: The first Soviet reenactor to raise the banner bursts out of a window in the building representing the Reichstag. By William Ritcher, Itinerant Dispatches

MAKER SPOTLIGHT (Cont'd.)

"I don't run from things. A component of German reenactors helped our family out during a difficult time," said Dave. "Following an accident, we were worried about hospital bills. Our friends Pat and Zack told me their unit had pitched in for a gift for my family for Christmas."

Since then, Mikey and Nicholas have tested and designed various decorations and equipment using CAD software. They have created flat batteries, grenades, statues, soft knives, and more in time for the 2025 reenacting season. They focused on items that are hard to obtain or known to be expensive, having learned from their father's reenacting experience.



As they found out this May, their flat batteries were an immediate hit. Featuring three slots for replacing AA batteries, the boys sold to both Soviets and Germans alike. Reenactors could navigate dark areas without having to worry about parasitic leaks and not wait for a month for shipment from Germany.

Mikey aspires to reenact at tacticals when he gets older and is learning to repair boots with a period cobbler kit. Nicholas is currently learning about resin printing, and has found himself to be quite the salesman.

Dave is proud of his sons for their dedication and willingness to learn. Their story is a testament of creative pursuit, ingenuity, a father's love, and how one act of kindness can go a long way to impact lives forever.



Photograph: Dave, Mickey, and Nicholas in 2019
With Permission from Dave Braithwaite

The *EDGE* Returns! (Cont'd.)

"An aspect of being part of the WWII HRS is knowing we are a large, living community. We have many members of different factions, and each unit is unique in its own way. All units are little families with their own dynamics, their own cultures, and their own goals. Why not celebrate it?" said Wurth in an interview at D-Day Conneaut.

Wurth noted that there is a close relationship between preservation and units, remarking how most reenactors started because of childhood visits.

"If we want to live up to our motto, to preserve excellency, we should encourage current and new community members to be their best and find ways to improve."

Wurth is a proud member of the WWII HRS' Greywolves Company Living History Group. Speaking German, French, Ukrainian, and Russian, she is heavily involved in Eastern Front affairs, interviewing veterans with her own Soviet group, also part of the WWII HRS – The OSOAVIAKHIM Foundation.

**Facebook: Elena Morozova
Kosareva**

The Invasion of France

Travelling back in time to
experience village life in
WWII

Located in Chaplin Creek Village, Franklin Grove, IL, the WWII HRS' 5th Großdeutschland Division hosted a groundbreaking new type of immersion tactical. With the setting of Chagny, a small town nestled into the Ardennes, the event keyed in on tasteful integration of civilians into the tactical scenario.

"We as reenactors often talk about how cool something like that would be, but I've never seen it happen quite like this," said Parker Hancock. The event included a few scripted moments and interactive points that played a role in keeping the momentum of the event. The village included a bank, which took real world currency in exchange for usable, period- looking event currency, a general store, a cafe, and a black market, which enabled attendees to purchase items and food.

A unit of French soldiers played a key role in combat, competing with the Germans (Cont'd pg. 4)

The Invasion of France (Cont'd.)

for the ability to rely on their unarmed populace for intelligence and resources.

When the two armies clashed, armor proved to be pivotal in engagements. The integrated force style of combat made for many blood-pumping scenarios.

"There was one moment where myself, Don Jordan, and his PAK crew were fending off a counter attack from the north. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw British armor rolling up on our far right. Our PAK, of course, was facing the wrong direction! I pointed out the enemy armor, Don started shouting, and they rotate the gun at the same time the gun of the armor was turning toward us. We planted the gun and fired first. Good Lord, that was intense."

Facebook: Fall Gelb: The Invasion of France (1940)



*Photograph: The PAK gun crew at Fall Gelb 1940.
By Tom George Davison*



*Photograph: German HQ and communications center with staff.
By Tom George Davison*



"The Last Urrah"

A Solemn Remembrance

May 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Berlin and the end of World War II in Europe—an event that forever changed the world and continues to resonate in society and among those who work to preserve history.

In April 1945, the Red Army advanced into the heart of the Third Reich, culminating in a brutal, final offensive that determined Europe's fate. The Battle for Berlin was one of the most intense urban battles of the war, claiming tens of thousands of lives on both sides. By May 2nd, the swastika had been demolished and the Soviet banner had risen above the Reichstag. Days later, on May 8, Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally. The guns finally fell silent.

Now, eight decades later, the 80th anniversary offers a moment of reflection—not only on the staggering sacrifices made, but also on how those sacrifices shaped the modern world. The peace that followed came at an enormous cost, with entire cities reduced to rubble and millions of soldiers and civilians killed.

The importance of reenactors and living historians has never been greater. What was once thought of as a mere hobby is now understood to be an effective educational and empathetic tool. In a way that few textbooks can—sober, respectful, and knowledgeable reenactments can shed light on the intricacies of battles, the human spirit's tenacity, and the tremendous cost of war.

This anniversary occurs at a time when the last living witnesses to WWII are rapidly disappearing. The twinkle in their eyes are a glimmer left from their youthful selves. Their stories, once told first hand, are now entrusted to books, films, museums, and historians. As global conflicts reshape borders and challenge international order, WWII serves as a reminder rather than simply historical reference points.

Today, the risk is not only forgetting, but also misremembering the war.

– Lea Wurth, Editor



Itinerant Dispatches

Photograph: The end of Berlin: Death of the Reich. Many participants stand in front of the main building, representing the Reichstag. The location of the building was the approximate location of where the real Reichstag would have been located on a map.

By William Ritcher, Itinerant Dispatches



Photograph: Soviet troops steadily moving through brush at the reenactment of Seelow Heights
By Kevin Speiden

*Hello, Mother, not all of us came back...
How I'd like to run barefoot through the dew!
Half of Europe— we have stridden half the Earth,
We hastened this day as best we could!*

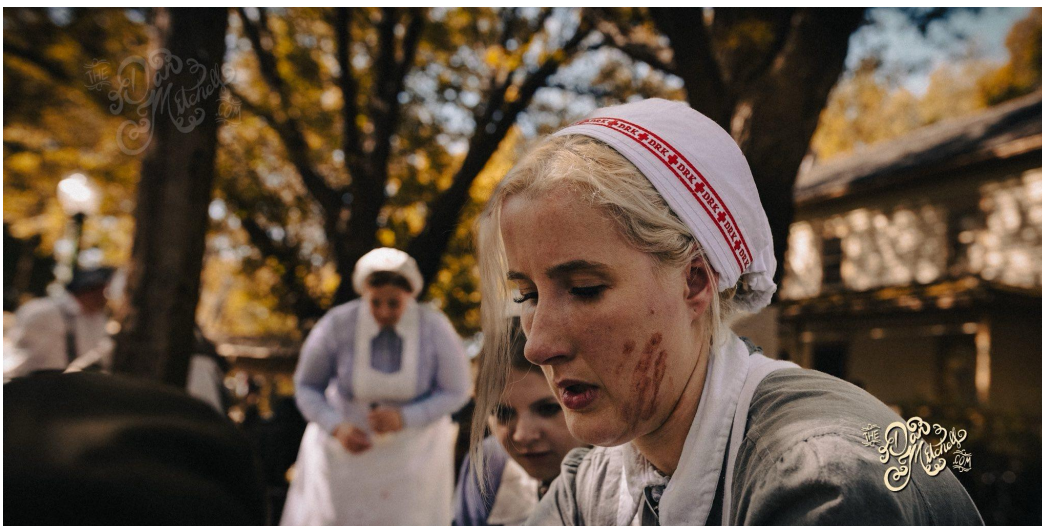
"Victory Day" by David Tukhmanov and Vladimir Kharitonov

REENACTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Photographs: Western Front battle at Rockford WWII Days 2025
By Daniel Mitchell

REENACTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Photographs: Western Front battle at Rockford WWII Days 2025
By Daniel Mitchell

REENACTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Photograph: Charles Saint, commanding officer of the Imperial Japanese Army 17th Shidan (Moon Division) and James Sayson, Eric Delacruz of the Philippine Scout 45th Infantry Regiment (Bataan, 1942), United States Army Forces of the Far East (USAFPE).
By James Sayson



Photograph: ARC at Rockford WWII Days 2025
By Peter Fitzpatrick



Photograph: RAF women at Rockford WWII Days 2025
By Patrick Yarbrough



Photograph: Red Partisan at Auglaize Village, June 2025
By Jacob Kessler



Left Photograph: Motorized FG at Rockford WWII Days 2025
By Daniel Mitchell

REENACTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



*Photograph: Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) armament display at camp
By Ihor Kovalchuk*



*Photograph: UPA stash of food and consumable goods in their
underground kryivka at Rockford WWII Days
By Ihor Kovalchuk*



*Right Photograph: UPA briefing for the
day's activities and offensive strategy
at Lockport
By Ihor Kovalchuk*



REENACTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Photographs: Eastern Front Battle at Lockport
By Piotr Krawerenda, runwayphotoart@gmail.com





BOARD MEETING MINUTES

24 April 2025



All versions of meeting minutes are released to their most updated form as approved by the Board.

Call to Order at 7:03 CST pm - Board Members Attending: Jon Stevens, President; Don Coffman, Vice President; Ron Kapustka, Secretary; Wayne McCulley, Treasurer; Adam Bednar, Axis Rep; Daniel Rowicki, Commonwealth Rep

Members Attending: Rich Russo, Parker Hancock, Lea Wurth

Approval of Agenda

RK motioned to approve the April, 2025 Agenda, which was seconded by DC. Agenda was approved by BOD vote.

Approval of March, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The March, 2025 Minutes were previously distributed to and reviewed by the board members. RK motioned that the Minutes be approved, which was seconded by DC. The Minutes were approved by BOD vote.

Officer Reports:

Vice President: DC sent out a proposal for a National Battle to the BOD. That will be tabled until the next meeting.

New Units: None

Probationary Units: 12th Podolian Lancers are still on probation through September, 2025. DC has received a response from them regarding the issues and he will share them with the BOD for the next meeting.

Dissolved/Disbanded Units: 3rd ID 3rd Recon Troop shall be disbanded per their request.

Treasurer:

TREASURER'S REPORT

**WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
APRIL 2025**

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF MARCH 31, 2025



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

24 April 2025



PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$4,728.54
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$2,576.14
PNC High Yield Money Market Account	\$33,598.08

Account Totals	\$40,902.76
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INCOME FOR MARCH 2025

Membership Income	\$2,430.00
Interest Income from Money Market Accounts	\$100.12
Total Income	\$2,530.12

EXPENDITURES FOR MARCH 2025

Email Marketing Service	\$52.25
Liability Insurance	\$9,692.78
Bank Service Charge	\$3.00
Total Expenditures	\$9,748.03

2025 Membership Income	\$4,905.00
2025 Interest Income	\$266.64
2025 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
2025 Total Income	\$5,171.64
2025 Total Expenditures	\$10,842.85
2025 Total Income Less 2025 Total Expenditures	(\$5,671.21)

Secretary: The approved March, 2025 Minutes will be sent to the webmaster. The 2025 Secretary of State filing was filed and RJK has submit an Invoice. There 329 regular members and 2 Minor members as of 4/23/25.

Commonwealth Rep: Tabled.

Allied Rep: Vacant at this time

Axis Rep: 5 KP GD (change in leadership from Adam Bednar to Rich Russo) The Panzer Lehr charter (Parker Hancock) discussed their charter application is about 99% done and should be submitted by the next meeting.

Staff Reports.



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

24 April 2025



Committee Reports: All tabled

Governance

Safety and Authenticity

Scholarship

Publications and Promotional

Vehicle

Civilian

WWI

Old Business

National Battle: JS mentioned that next year is the 50th anniversary year for the HRS and JS suggested the National Battle be coordinated with that. DC agreed that made sense and strongly suggested that funds be set aside for the National Battle. DC further suggested that the HRS breakfast funding at Rockford be eliminated to move those funds over to the National Battle. DC made a motion that \$3,000.00 be set aside for transportation and \$1,000.00 be set aside for meals at the battle. RK seconded the motion. A BOD vote was taken and passed.

The Edge – AB reported that Lindsey Hancock is not available to assist, however, Leah advised that she has five (5) people and will be happy to assist as The Edge editor. JS mentioned a few guidelines, such as 6 times a year would be good, photographers would be useful and happy to assist with pictures. JS asked that Leah send some samples of what “their” vision would be. Rich Russo suggested that it contain a calendar of upcoming events. Leah proposed that there be an addition added to The Edge in which articles about museums that appeal to reenactors be added to the Edge editions. All agreed that was a great idea.

Reimbursement of Battle of Seelow Heights event expenses of \$500.00. The documentation was received and reviewed. RK made a motion to pay \$500.00, which was seconded by DC. A BOD vote was taken and passed. Once the bank issues are worked out, WM will send out the payment.

New Business:

Safety & Authenticity Committee – Safety Booklet. DC started drafting a Safety Booklet for events as an alternative to S&A inspections for events. It would be used for events, crew served weapons, vehicles, etc. DC had a lengthy discussion about the mechanics and will submit a written proposal to the BOD prior to the May board meeting.



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

24 April 2025



Fall of France - Event Funding Request and insurance request. Rich Russo has 80 guys registered at \$35.00 each and is requesting \$750.00 (\$500.00 for site rental and \$250.00 for food) for the event. RR discussed the event and other issues such as transportation costs, etc. JS mentioned that the HRS already paid \$160.00 for the additional insurance. AB suggested that the HRS fund \$300.00, DC suggested \$140.00. DC made a motion to fund an additional \$140.00, seconded by RK. A BOD vote was taken and passed.

HRS Event – Marengo WW2 Days Austin Collins, the 29th, with no funding request. RK made a motion to approve, WM seconded. A BOD vote was taken and passed.

JS brought up an issue of units with smaller numbers asking for the HRS to approve their events. DC suggested that the BOD look into a future issue that units who want to get events approved must meet the minimum number of unit members.

HRS Event - Tonganoxie VFW Military Vehicle Show & D-Day Encampment. RK made a motion to approve, DC and WM seconded. A BOD vote was taken and passed. The event will be a sponsor HRS event.

Secretary of State Invoice. RK made a motion, seconded by DC that the KSN Invoice for \$14.00 be paid. A BOD vote was taken and passed. A check will be sent.

New Event Request - June 2025 tactical: Stalemate: Kuban 1943. A discussion about the self-funded event was given by Parker Hancock, which is 5th Companie, Panzergrenadier, Lehr. The sponsoring unit is 50th Rifles. DC made a motion to approve the event as an HRS sponsored event, seconded by RK. A BOD vote was taken and approved. The event will be accepted as an HRS sponsored event.

Open Comments:

DC suggested we continue the “day membership” discussion. JS suggested we not call it a membership so there is no confusion whether they are or are not “members”. DC gave a short history of the prior reciprocal insurance issue with other organizations such as LHRA.

WM had a comment about the base rate of \$20.00 per member and possibly eliminating the early-bird discounts.

RK needs to send out the UC commander lists.

Leah asked about the use of Zeffy if an organization does not have an EIN. JS suggested he'd look into it and would speak directly with Leah. RK mentioned that the HRS possibly look into using Zeffy to assist units collect event charges and pay those back to the unit itself as event funding.



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

24 April 2025



Announcements: The next meeting will be targeted for May 17, 2025.

Adjourn: RK made a motion to adjourn, seconded by DC. A BOD vote was taken and meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.



Photograph: Picture apparatus and film
By Brian Schultz



MEMBERSHIP REPORT 03 October 2025



As of 03 October 2025, we had 529 members.

**WWII HRS 2026 Membership will open
in December 2025**

**Contact your unit commander for the
link to our 2026 electronic
membership.**

Unit commanders may request a report of members who have signed-up with their unit by contacting the WWII HRS Board by emailing ww2hrs@gmail.com

TIPS & TRICKS

"Perform regular maintenance on your footwear after every outing. Mold and dry rot are constant enemies." – German

"Keep clothing out of areas where moths may be present... as much as they smell, mothballs will work wonders." – German

"If you have a sunny spot, soaking the uniform in water every day will accelerate fading." – Soviet

"It's OK to get your splash dirty with mud on it. It's meant to get dirty!" – Soviet

"Don't clean your guns too intensely, just oil and keep oil on outside for rust prevention. Same goes for pistols. I see so many enactor pistols with surface rust because they think the holster will protect it from the atmosphere." – Soviet

"Don't use your gun to dig." – Soviet

"The biggest mistake I see is people overconditioning their leather gear and boots and making it fragile. If you put too much conditioning on it, it rots the stitching and will stretch or deform." – German

"Just because you spent thousands more than the next guy doesn't make you a better reenactor. Knowing and understanding TO&E of your unit is more important than which business made your tunic." – American

(Pertaining to Ukrainian Insurgent Army reenacting) "The importance of picking a region and time window of UPA portrayal to reenact, as it requires different sources to research and implies certain patterns of uniform, weapons and particulars of combat." – UPA

Got a tip or trick? Submit yours to the editor to appear in future editions! Let us know what faction you represent!

lea.wurth.ua@gmail.com



TREASURER'S REPORT



TREASURER'S REPORT WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY OCTOBER 2025

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

PNC Bank Non-Profit Checking Account	\$6,274.52
PNC Bank Money Market Account	\$2,576.27
PNC High Yield Money Market Account	\$34,307.97

Account Totals	\$43,158.76
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INCOME FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Membership Income	\$1,105.00
Interest Income from Money Market Accounts	\$103.34
Total Income	\$1,208.34

EXPENDITURES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Email Marketing Service	\$52.25
Bank Service Charge	\$3.00

Total Expenditures	\$55.25
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2025 Membership Income	\$8,205.00
2025 Interest Income	\$854.01
2025 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
2025 Total Income	\$9,059.01
2025 Total Expenditures	\$12,600.87
2025 Total Income Less 2025 Total Expenditures	(\$3,541.86)

PLACES THAT PRESERVE

Hungry for more history? Check out these interesting places!

THE ELDRED WWII MUSEUM

Eldred, PA

A. Tripp - The sleepy small town of Eldred, PA is home to a growing collection of original manuals, firsthand accounts, and original artifacts of the Second World War. The Eldred World War II Museum and its volunteers work tirelessly in their archives to ensure the memories of those who served are kept intact and made available for viewing. The museum charges no fee to enter, but asks for donations to sustain its functions.

Address: 201 Main St. Eldred, PA



*Photograph: Various exhibits at the Eldred WWII Museum
By A. Tripp*



THE FINNISH HERITAGE MUSEUM

Fairport Harbor, OH

The Finnish Heritage Museum preserves and shares Finnish and Finnish/North American heritage through a diverse collection of everyday items reflecting work, family, leisure, and culture. Artifacts include textiles, kitchenware, furniture, decorative arts, toys, photos, letters, tools, trunks, military memorabilia, and even a household sauna—all helping to tell the story of Finnish immigrants and their lives in both Finland and North America.

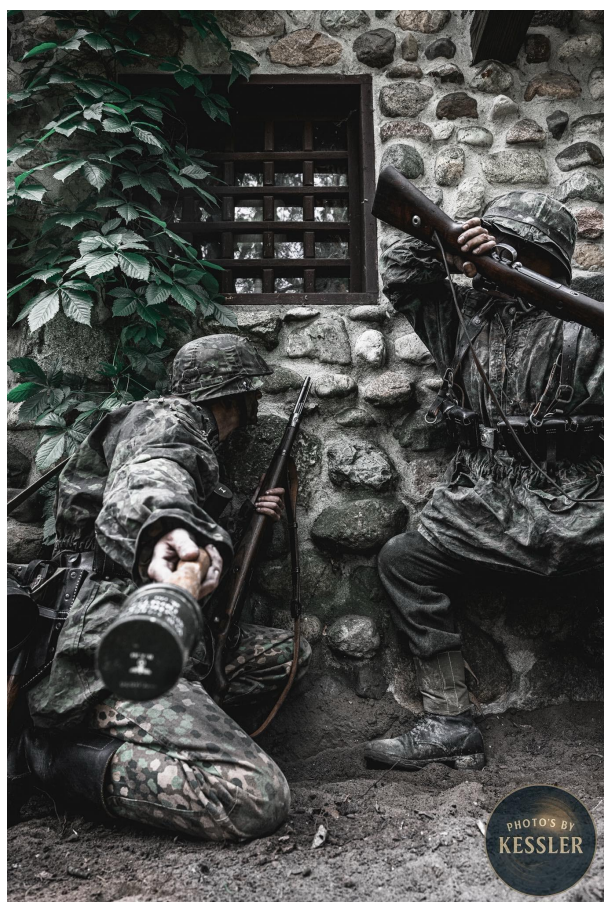
Address: 301 High St. Fairport Harbor, OH 44077

Found an interesting place that you want to share and support? Reach out to the editor!

lea.wurth.ua@gmail.com



NOT SPONSORED BY THE WWII HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY



*Photographs: Variety of events in Ohio from Operation Homecoming and
a private German photography session.
By Jacob Kessler*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE WWII HRS



*Please send any correspondence to
WWII Historical Reenactment Society
PO Box 957615
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169 - 7615*



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 to contact any board members. Contact your unit commander for the call information (phone number and password). The monthly board meeting time/dates will change to accommodate the board members' schedules.

President

Jon Stevens
9th Infantry Division
630.221.1171
jstevensww2@SBCglobal.Net

Vice President

Don Coffman
2nd Panzer Division
wh1941vw@yahoo.com

Secretary

Ronald J Kapustka
C Company, 502nd PIR, 101st Airborne
847.682.6460
fourboys@ix.Netcom.Com

Treasurer

Wayne McCulley
Hampshire Regiment
wmcculley45@gmail.com

THE EDGE Newsletter Editor

Lea Wurth
The OSOAVIAKhIM Foundation
WW2 HRS Press Corps
lea.wurth.ua@gmail.com

Allied Representative

Axis Representative

Adam Bednar
5th Kompanie Großdeutschland
aebednar@gmail.com

Commonwealth Representative

Daniel Rowicki
10th Dragoons
rowicki21@gmail.com

About Us

The World War II Historical Re-Enactment Society is an international organization of over 1200 men and women whose mission is to bring the military history of World War II to life with public displays, simulated battles, participation in parades, and other community activities. We strive to honor and preserve the memory of those who served, as well as preserve its artifacts.

If this exciting and rewarding hobby appeals to you, please consider joining us. Our hobby depends upon the talents and enthusiasm of its members.

There is always room for new interest!

Want something published in the next issue of *The EDGE*?

The EDGE is the WWII HRS' own publication.

This is where we promote what we do.

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

WWII HRS units are welcome to advertise their events and accomplishments in *The EDGE*.

ANY WWII HRS Member can submit an item for publication here in *The EDGE*.

If your WWII HRS unit has news it would like to publish in *The EDGE*, or if you are a WWII HRS member and would like to submit an article or photo,

Simply e-mail it to the Chief Editor

Lea Wurth - WW2 HRS Press Corps

lea.wurth.ua@gmail.com

Interested in joining the WWII HRS Press Corps? Send us an email! More information, the email project group, and access to the photographer chat will be sent out.



Photograph: American war correspondents at Rockford WWII Days
By Brian Schultz

MARCH WITH US BACK INTO HISTORY!



Join your local WWII living history unit today!

<http://www.WorldWarTwoHRS.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/WWIIHRS>