



2ND RANGER INFANTRY BATTALION OF ST. LOUIS, MO

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DID YOU KNOW

At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the fall issue of the U.S. 2nd Ranger Newsletter! In this issue you'll learn about: Leonard Lomell in an exclusive interview, our progress on Building 72, WWII bayonets, what to bring to events, and about some of the features and pages at our website, 2ndRangers.org.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter e-mail us at newsletter@2ndrangers.us or visit our contact form at the website.



OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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 (note the .us extension for admin e-mails)



AN INTERVIEW WITH LEONARD LOMELL

What occurred in approximately June of 1943.

Yes, it was early in 1943. They asked me if I had any questions and I said to them, "Gentlemen, I have a question. How much does the job pay? I have to get the highest buck I can anywhere if I gotta serve, because I have an elderly mother and father to take care of." So the higher ranking officer told me it was the highest pay that was possible to be paid for that position. So I became the First Sergeant of 'D' Company of the 2nd Rangers Battalion.

Did you think that the Ranger training was more extensive, and prepared you better than the regular Basic Training?

Oh sure. You see Rangers were all volunteers. They gave you a chance, but if you didn't hack it, you were out of there as quickly as you came in. In other words, you wanted to be the volunteer you presented yourself to be in going for such a unit, and if you didn't shape up you're in and out before you know it.

Can you recall what your thoughts were the night before D-Day, or when you were on the ship?

At that point in time, I was still a First Sergeant in 'D' Company of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, so I had a lot on my mind. My thoughts were to be the best First Sergeant and having the best company out of the Rangers at D-Day. So I didn't think much about myself personally. I just devoted myself to working with my Company Commander and the senior officers of my battalion to make sure we were the best of the best.

So the night before and when you were on the ship, that's what you were focused on?

Yes, I was not thinking about am I going to live or die. I mean I had a lot as a First Sergeant to think about and the lives of those friends of mine. I don't know how else to explain it to you, but I didn't have much time to think about myself.





*Lt. Leonard G. Lymell D.S.C. Co.D. 2nd RANGER Bn. U.S. Army - WWII - D-Day
Pointe du Hoc NORMANDY, FRANCE*

And then you went out and it probably took you a couple of hours to actually get to the shoreline?

By the way, these LCAs were English-built and we were aboard an English troop ship, and it was English sailors that operated our landing craft. And on our way to get to Pointe du Hoc, they got lost.

There were those of us who recognized that we were going the wrong direction. Fortunately, our colonel also came to the same opinion and told the British crew. We ultimately got back on course and got to where Pointe du Hoc was, but we landed late.



At that point in time, my 'B' Company was supposed to land on the far side alone of Pointe du Hoc to climb the cliffs. Whereas all the rest of the Ranger LCAs were landing on the other side, in mass. But because we were late, I decided the hell with this. I thought the delay would be to my disadvantage, so I deliberately ordered my LCA sailor to ram the boat right in with the other boats, and find a place to jam us in, between two other LCAs. Which he did, and we landed among the first.

We were among the first to reach the top of the cliff. I was the first one wounded as soon as we landed. I received a shot through the right side over the hip, through the muscle. But I was up the cliffs, among the first up the cliffs even while wounded.

When the ramp went down on the LCA, can you describe the conditions when you went out?



Yes, we were soaking wet. We had been bailing with our helmets to try to keep our LCA afloat. We landed in the low surf on a narrow beach directly under these hundred-foot cliffs, which you had the following dangling down: pure rope, maybe three-quarter-inch or a toggle rope hanging down or a rope ladder hanging down or a metal ladder sectional. In our case, we ran over and chose the straight rope and started up the ropes. A lot of them were shot off.

The Germans were dropping grenades on us and shooting us off the ropes as we were trying to make it up. And we can't fight back while we were climbing. So we're nearly to the top and we're about two, three, four feet from the top. I'm the First Sergeant acting as a Platoon Leader because my actual officer had been assigned to Headquarters. But my radioman said, "Hey, Len, help me, help me. I have no more strength." And I said, "Bob, I can't help you. I'm in the same boat. What we'll do is we will hold on to the ropes, throw the rope around one wrist so that it will hold you there. I'll look for somebody to help me." And as good luck would have it, along came Leonard Rubin, one of my men from 'B' Company, who was perhaps one of the strongest men in the Rangers. It would take a half dozen of us guys to put him down when we trained in hand-to-hand combat. Well, he came over, dropped his weapons, and he got the radioman over.



And I'm screaming, "Watch the antenna jostling, you'll draw fire on us." I figured I'd get shot because whatever was going on excited me to give me a spurt of energy and I could hop up with my submachine gun and start shooting the Germans who were trying to shoot us off the cliff's edge. Incidentally as a side story here, I knew nothing about it at the time, this moment I just described to you was described by other men who saw it who were top officers. Years later I found some outfit that paid for photographers to go over there and re-enact that scene. So now I have a large painting on my wall in my home of that scene.

My radioman Bob and I were strong, healthy young guys. We were on the verge of dropping off a hundred-foot cliff onto the rocky bottom down below, but we survived, got over the top, and carried out the mission to find the guns and destroy them.

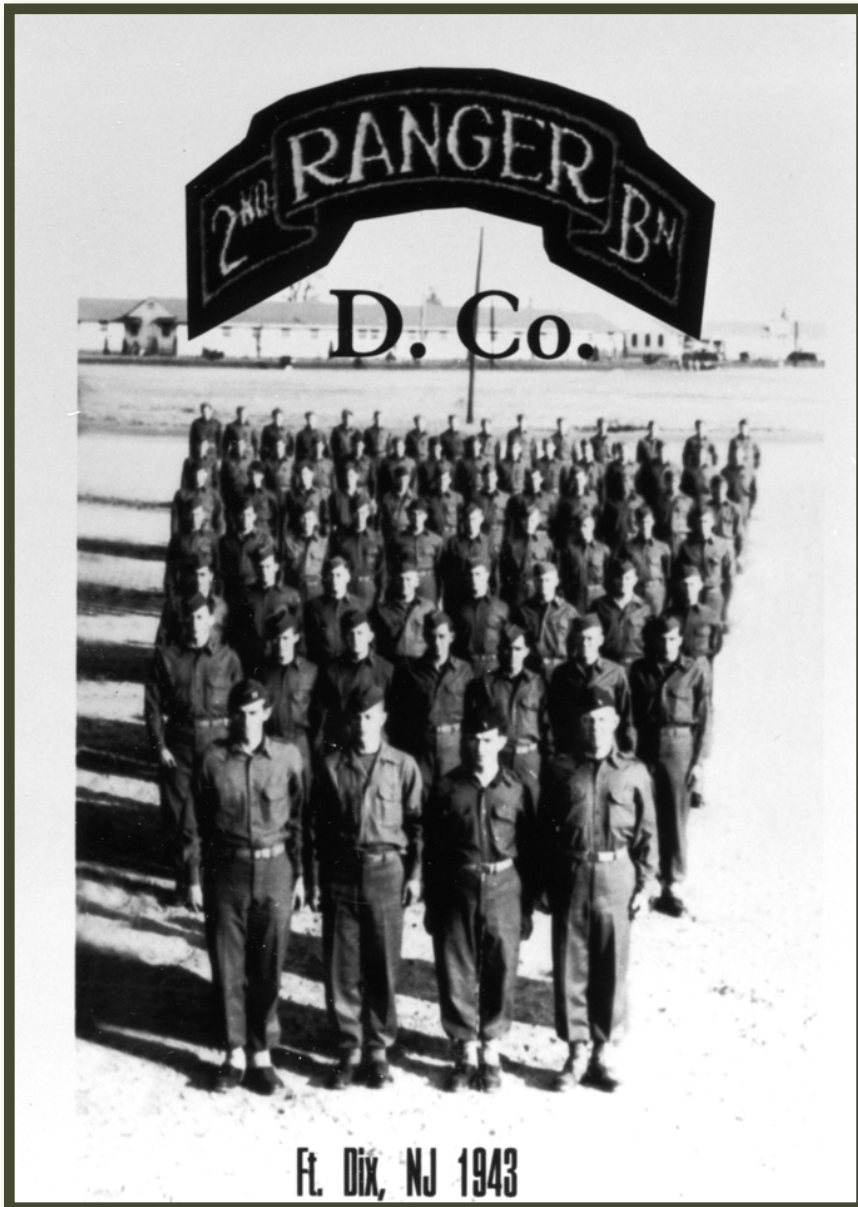
So when you got to the top did you meet heavy resistance at the top?

Oh sure. We had to fight the Germans who up there. They were trying to shove us off the cliffs or shoot us off the cliffs, but we prevailed. We drove them back as we came in and we had a three-part mission.

The first and most important part of the mission was to find the five big coastal guns. Those were the famous guns of the Nazis. The second part was to set up a roadblock to keep the Germans from moving up and down the tops of the cliffs along the coastline. And the third part was destroying all the communications that the Germans had.

Well, we got up there, fought our way to where the guns were supposed to be, but there were no guns there. They were just telephone poles sticking out of the gun emplacement which looked like the big gun barrels of the 155mm howitzers. So the important part of our mission was a failure at that moment, because the intelligence the army gave us was erroneous.

I had started with twenty-two to twenty-four guys, but I was down to only about twelve, since all the rest had been wounded. And we still had to set up the roadblock so the Germans couldn't get up the coastal road on top of the cliffs and we still had to send out patrols to cut all the communications for the Germans out along the coast there. But number one, we still hadn't found the guns or destroyed them. So I told my guys, "You take care of the communications, you take care of the roadblock. Jack Kuhn (the Platoon Sergeant) and I are going to find those GD guns."



So we went up to the shore road looking for possible places. And on the top of those cliffs, behind them, were roads that went down into the meadowlands where there was water and little creeks. Now in the US, hedgerows are about three feet high at most. The hedgerows over there were like twelve feet high. Some were a little lower. So Jack and I decided we'd go down that road in back of the top of the cliffs. We saw a road going across the meadows and the hedgerow on the side and trees, and thought that maybe the guns were hidden down there along a hedgerow behind some trees. Well, we did this leapfrog, and I dove fifty yards, and he dove over and leapfrogged. And it came my turn and I looked over next to me, and lo and behold, there were the five big guns ready to fire, ammunition all open and ready to use.

But 'E' Company of my battalion had satisfactorily attacked the facility that the Germans had built on the actual point of Pointe du Hoc, on the cliff's edge. And that would have been used to send back firing orders to any of their guns along that part of the coast. But since 'E' Company had them so bottled up, they couldn't get messages back to their gunners at the big gun positions so they could fire accurately.

So while 'E' Company was battling the Germans there, nobody was bothering to fire those guns that we had luckily happened upon. So I thought this was my opportunity. "Jack, get up on that ledge and you make damn sure nobody shoots me. I'm going in there and destroy those guns." Jack went up on the ledge and got into position with his submachine



gun to protect me as I went into the gun position. Now all we had was a thermite grenade each, which was only enough to take out two of the guns. But there were five of them, so I put the grenades into the middle of the traversing and elevation mechanisms of two of the guns. I laid one grenade right in the middle of this and pulled the pin. There was no noise, no explosion, but when the air hit the contents of the grenade, it melted everything around it. So the guts of that part of the gun just melted into a ball of metal. As it cooled, it hardened up and so the guns were useless. But that took care of only two of them, and there were five in all. So Jack and I decided we'd take a chance and run back behind the other hedgerows and maybe we'd be lucky enough to get to our guys at the roadblock up on the top of this cliff. So we got several more thermite grenades from the guys at the roadblock. Back we went and Jack took up his position to protect me while again I slipped into the gun position, took the rest of them, and placed them in the traversing and elevating positions of each of the other three guns and destroyed them as well.

In the meantime, part of my platoon had gone and destroyed all of the communications that the Germans had along the top of the cliffs. We'd destroyed the guns and the roadblock stopped the Germans from moving on the coast, so we had completed the mission. We were the first ones to complete our D-Day mission in World War II, so say the record keepers.

So a few days later, we were relieved. We'd had heavy casualties and a lot of guys died, but we saved a lot of lives because if those guns had been permitted to fire, they had all the targets they needed. They would have been able to fire on all of our invasion craft during the landing. Thousands of lives were saved by our good fortune. I received the DSC, the Distinguished Service Cross, for that. Jack got the Silver Star. I got my Purple Heart for my wound.

You just ran across these guns, right? You didn't think they were there?

No, they weren't where intelligence had told us we would find them. It would have been a piece of cake if they were where they were supposed to be, but they weren't. We lucked out looking for them and we had no information that these guns were there. Once they weren't where they were supposed to be, Jack and I looked at each other and said, "Where the hell are they then? We've got to go out and find them." And we lucked out. To survive the situations that the Rangers and every combat man were faced with, you had to have a lot of luck, and we were a bunch of lucky guys.



Well that and perhaps somebody was guiding you from above?

Well. I hope so. I think so. I'm a religious man, but I also got to give credit to the guys because the Rangers were volunteers. They were not forced to become a Ranger. And what I liked about them was, they were thinkers. They were bright boys with high IQs, guts, and clear thinkers. There were only 22 or 24 of us, so we had lots to do. And we lucked out and did it. You have to have luck, you know.

Which would you say was worse, D-Day or Hill 400?

Well of course, D-Day was the worst. There was so much to do, little time to do it in, not enough fire power, and not enough men to help. So I thought D-Day was perhaps the worst of my experiences in combat.

Although I got the Silver Star at Hill 400, that was a different situation. That was an attack on a hill or mountain or whatever you want to call it, where we were to catch up to fight German fire power and put them out of action. Which we did. - George Despotis



BUILDING 72

Building 72 History

The current storage building at Jefferson Barracks, Building 72, was erected in approximately 1904. Jefferson Barracks was the first military installation to have its own electricity generated. The building was in operation for that use until it was no longer needed in 1947. It was used as a residence after that for the grounds keeper, and after that it became storage.

2nd Ranger Usage

In the 1980s WWII reenacting became more popular, but a very small sub culture in society. Several groups both Axis and Allied , along with a local military museum, put on a live reenactment at Jefferson Barracks yearly. Every year the event grew bigger in participation with not only spectators, but reenactors. The battle field needed more obstacles and props, but were to store them. Building 72 wasn't being used anymore. So they thought to store the props there. It became the building where we store our battle field props, and



other items. Ironically enough, currently, the building is without power.

In 2009 the U.S. 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion of St. Louis signed a contract to restore this building while we are in a leased possession of it. In the past, work days were considered mandatory, but never happened. The parks told the Rangers that if we were to store our belongings there, that we would have to do some renovations. Earlier Presidents of our organizations such as Sean Burton, and Perry Lock overseen removal of lead pain from the floors, and having the roof re-shingled with slate tiles. In 2009 When Kevin Owens became president, there was an actual contract written up, along with a deadline for completion. Tasks of this included exterior aesthetics to replicate how it looked historically. New windows and sashes, tuck pointing and replacing bricks, gutters, paint, doors, and a mysterious sandstone box on the side of the building that nobody can really guess to its use.



Funding

The only problem with this renovation is funding. As a non profit all the funds we have goes into our big y early even WWII Weekend, and some for corporate expenses. Our intake is only slightly more than our output yearly. We don't charge the public for what we do, but we do ask for donations. We contacted the St. Louis County Economic Council and Jeff Germer wrote up a grant for the cost of this project. The grant was approved and the project is well underway.

Work Completed

So far there has been work already completed with help from the membership. The doors



were rebuild and replaced by Mike Lavin. Rich Maskell worked on much of the tuck pointing, One of our work days, various members painted, replaced boards, and chiseled out old bricks. The first, and most expensive project was bird waste remediation from the attic.



The building was uninhabited for decades, and in that time birds found a way into the attic. So imagine after a few decades of birds calling the place home, there was a bit of a mess. The Hazardous materials company that removed the bird waste had also removed the ceiling inside due to the plaster breaking away. Here are some before and after photos of the progress.

The photo above is of the decades of bird waste sitting between the rafters in the attic. It had a very strong scent of ammonia. Below are the after pictures of the plaster lathe ceiling removed because it was soaked with so much urine and feces.



The plain wood rafters show where the main room is when you first open the door. The orange metal trusses are in the main storage room where the battlefield props are stored. Hundreds of

pounds of bird waste was removed from the attic and disposed of. A disinfectant spray and sealer was applied to the existing rafters and support beams. With the weight of the workers on those beams and joists, it started to crack the plaster lathe ceiling. Large hunks of plaster kept falling into the rooms. An expensive decision was made to have to remove the ceiling.

Tuck pointing done by Rich Maskell and Nick Berring. Years of lawn mowing kept chipping



away at the corner of the building.

The doors and windows both are covered with 3/8 in sheet of plywood. The original sashes and doors were underneath that plywood. Mike Lavin took the doors and had a friend recreate some of the slats for



the doors and he replaced them and refinished the doors. Above the doors is a transom that Mike removed, refinished, and replaced. Above Right is Mike with his beautiful new doors.

If you are not a member and would like to help in any way. We do accept tax deductible charitable donations. You can help via our website donations here, and there are many ways to help keep our mission going forward. Visit our website to learn more:

<http://2ndrangers.org/donations.php#WaystoDonate>



If you would like to see more photographs of the project of building 72 you can also see them in the photo section under the community tab:

<http://2ndrangers.org/cpg1419/thumbnails.php?album=73>

Thank you for your interest in the operations of our organization. - Kevin Owens



WWII BAYONETS

The following article discusses the "Standard Issue" bayonets and scabbards for the M1 Garand and M1903 Springfield rifles for the period December 1941 to the cessation of hostilities in August of 1945.

The M1 Garand was adopted, by the Ordnance Department, as the main infantry rifle in 1936. After entry of the US into WWII, in 1941, production of both the M1 Garand (Springfield Arsenal and Rock Island Arsenal) and M1903 A3/A4 Springfield (Remington Arms and Smith Corona) increased significantly. Prior to these increases sufficient quantities of WWI manufacturer M1905 – 16" bayonets only existed in government inventory however with the increased projected increase in rifle production the Ordnance Department quickly determined that the "current" M19015 bayonets inventory would be quickly depleted.

M1905 Bayonet

In 1941 the Ordnance Department assigned contracts to three manufacturers (Union Fork & Hoe, Utica Cutlery and Wilde Drop Forge & Tool) for the production of ~500,000 M1905 bayonets with an expected delivery beginning in January 1942. The Japanese attack on the Hawaiian Islands, on December 7th, 1941, lead to additional M1905 contracts for another 500,000 bayonets (American Fork & Hoe, Pal Blade & Tool, Oneida Ltd.) in January 1942.

Initial bayonet deliveries were slow due to production problems and war material shortages, due to collateral armaments production, and significant numbers of M1905 bayonets were not delivered until September of 1942. Production quickly accelerated following September until May of 1943 when the last M1905 bayonets were produced.

- List WWII Manufacturers of M1905 Bayonets
- Wilde Drop Forge and Tool Company, Kansas City, MO (WT)
- Utica Cutlery Company, Utica, NY (UC)
- Union Fork and Hoe Company, Columbus, OH (UFH)
- Pal Blade and Tool Company, Holyoke, MA (PAL)
- Oneida, Ltd., Oneida, NY (OL)
- American Fork and Hoe Company, Evansville, IN (AFH)



Earlier WWI produced M1905 bayonets, manufactured by Springfield Armory or Rock Island Armory, were 16" in length, sported wood grips with ridges, and the blades were marked with the following, " U.S.", the Armory Initials (either SA or RIA), year of manufacturer and the Ordinance insignia (flaming bomb). On the reverse the bayonets were stamped with a serial number. Approximately one million WWI M1905 bayonets were produced prior to and during the "Great War". WWII M1905 bayonets manufactured in 1942 and 1943 were marked with the Manufacturers initials (see table above) along with the year of manufacture. Brown Bakelite or black plastic grips replaced the previous wood grips in a move to improve durability.

Three examples of M1905 bayonets are shown below. The bayonet on the left was manu-



factured in 1913 by the Rock Island Arsenal (Serial # 2449380) and has the original wood grips which have been "worn" smooth through heavy use (courtesy of the N. Berring Collection). The center bayonet manufactured in WWI (Serial # 891859), the Springfield Armory and comes complete with a set of reproduction wood grips (Courtesy of D. Paterline Collection). Note the surface differences of the two bayonets' wood grips. The final example shown on the right is a WWII M1905 bayonet produced in 1942 by the Union Fork

& Hoe Company. This bayonet has the original early WWII brown Bakelite grips. A total of 1,540,000 M1905 bayonets were produced during the 1942/1943 period.



M1905 Scabbard

Three examples of 16" bayonet scabbards are also exhibited in the photo on the previous page. The Left scabbard is a reproduction of the scabbard, M1910 which is made of a light brown/tan canvas and "sports" a leather tip (courtesy of D. Paterline Collection). The Center scabbard is an original M3 scabbard, manufactured during WWII, and is made of plastic which was more durable than the canvas/leather M1910. The M3 16" scabbard was selected by the Ordinance Board in early 1941 based on the design submitted by the Beckwith Manufacturing Company. Subsequent contracts were assigned to the Beckwith and Detroit Gasket & Manufacturing Companies for the production of M3 scabbards. The final scabbard shown on the Right is a modern replica of the M3 model. Note the dark black finish of the reproduction when compare with the original (Center).

In the photo to the right:
(l) RIA-1913-#244980,
(c) SA-1918-#891859,
(r) UFH-1942

In photo to the right a closer view of the previous discussed M1905



bayonet is shown (same positions) and the associated blade marking on each blade. The Springfield Armory bayonet (center) has been shown from the reverse side to show the serial number stamping of the WWI era M1905 bayonets (Serial # 891859).

M1 Bayonet

While the M1905 bayonet was serviceable it became apparent that the long 16" blade was unsuitable for mechanized warfare. As the US armed forces relied heavily on mechanized transport the Ordinance Department was challenged to identify an acceptable solution to the "long bladed" M1905 with the critical requirement that it be compatible with all currently employed equipment (rifles, ammo belts etc.). The replacement that was eventu-



ally selected was essentially a shortened (10" version) of the M1905 with either Bakelite or plastic grips. This shorten version was designated the M1 Bayonet on February 11, 1943. The M1, with its 10" blade, proved to be easier to carry on the rifleman's ammo belt and allowed for unimpeded entry/exit from vehicles. The reduction of the blade length also represented a savings in "raw" steel which was important with respect to conservation of raw war material (steel).

Production of the M1 bayonet commence in April of 1943 and remained in production through August 1945 with a total production of 2,928,649 bayonets were produced.



Many WWI M1905 bayonets were subsequent shortened from 16" to 10" and the 6" scrap either reused or made into hand garden hoes for use in "victory gardens". Examples of these "cut down" M1905 bayonets are current available via the Civilian Marksmanship Program for \$65/ea. Approximately one million M1905 bayonets were modified to the 10" length which subsequently reduced the number of available WWI and WWII produced M1905 bayonets on the market today.

The M1905 cut downs were modified either in the "bowie tip" or "spear tip" configurations. Two examples of the various configurations of the "modified M1" (official designation M1905E1) bayonets and an original M1 bayonet are shown in Photo 3 (courtesy of the Author's collection).

Photo above: 10" Bayonet & Scabbard Configurations



The Top bayonet is a Springfield Armory M1905 bayonet (Serial # 889828) manufactured in 1918 and modified in the "bowie tip" configuration. The Middle M1 bayonet was manufacture by Utica Cutlery. The Bottom Bayonet is a Pal Blade and Tool Co. M1905 bayonet manufactured in 1943 and modified in the "spear tip" configuration. All "modified" M1905 bayonet are easily identified by the fuller groove which runs the entire length of the bayonet's blade unlike the M1 bayonet (middle). Remaining original M1905 remained in service during the entire WWII period as "Limited Standard".

Since a shorter scabbard was need for the "new" M1 bayonet the Ordinance Board settled on a shortened version of the M3 scabbard. The new shortened scabbard was designated the M3A1. Three examples of M3A1 scabbards are also shown in Photo 3. The Top and Bottom scabbards show field and armory repair tips with the top scabbard "sporting" a raw field repair of stamped tin and the Bottom scabbard exhibiting a finished brass armory repair tip. All bayonets shown in this photo were purchased from the Civilian Marksmanship Program for \$65 scabbard included.

The Field Manual covering bayonet training was FM 23-25. This manual provides training instructions for bayonet use in combat. Depending on the date of printing different bayonets were illustrated in each revision. Field Manual FM 21-150 titled "Unarmed Defense of the American Soldier" described methods and techniques of bayonet disarming.

The study of the various edged weapons of the WWII US military issue is another interesting aspect of WWII reenacting and collecting. Besides bayonets many other knives and specialty edge weapons were produced and issued during WWII. For further information on these weapons the reader should refer to Bruce Canfield's book U.S. Infantry Weapons of World War II. - Jeffrey Germer



THE REENACTOR'S "UH-OH" MOMENT

With two large out-of-town events coming up, those attending find themselves planning for an extended trip to unfamiliar locations. They'll be staying overnight at least one possibly up to three nights in either primitive tent camping or, if they're lucky, military barracks with beds and sheets, heating or A/C and running water with showers. Bigger events sometimes have hot meals and entertainment planned as well, so the question comes up often: "What should I bring?"

Any military re-enactor, regardless of time period, who travels to out of town events will eventually have the dreaded "Uh-Oh Moment". For example; "Uh-oh, where is my



ammo?" or "Uh-oh, there's no toilet paper" or even the one that happened to me on my very first out of town tactical ten years ago... "Uh-oh. Where are my clean underwear?!"

No one column can cover everything one needs to bring for any situation, but I hope after reading this that you will be able to prepare for the unexpected and be able to have a good event even if the "Uh-Oh Moment" strikes. To have a good experience, you'll need to cover three major categories: food/water, clothing/equipment and shelter/sanitation.

Rule #1, MAKE A CHECKLIST When you pack your gear, do it in advance and have a checklist. Make sure you lay your eyes on everything you plan to take and then check it off the list. Double-check the things you pack last like toiletries or food. Bring warm clothes to sleep in because it can get cold at night. Bring your wool uniform AND your HBTs. Bring your helmet AND a soft cover. Bring an extra 100 rounds of ammo in case someone in the unit runs short. Oh, and be sure to bring along a roll of toilet paper in a zipper lock plastic bag. If there is an issue with the event latrines, you'll be the most popular guy in the camp.

Rule #2, DON'T DEPEND ON EVENT MEALS Arrangements fall through, things break and sometimes the planners just don't have enough for everyone. Make sure you have enough shelf-stable food and water to carry you through the weekend even without event-provided meals. Have at least a gallon of water available per day. If the event advertises chow served in the field, toss a couple canned meals or links of summer sausage and a hunk of bread in your pack anyway. Have a mess kit spoon, a pocketknife and G.I. can opener on you at all times. Your pack is pretty roomy; bring a couple extra meals if you can. The only thing worse than knowing that chow is not available is hearing that your combat buddy didn't bring any food with him. Finally, keep it simple. Leave the picnic blanket, camp stove and ice chest back at camp. It's a re-enactment, not a cookout.

Rule #3, PLAN FOR BAD WEATHER Rain sucks, but be prepared for it and you might just be able to have a good time in spite of it. If you are camping in a tent and it rains, either the water must be diverted around your tent or you and your stuff must be off the ground. If the unit is bringing a communal GP tent, find yourself a cot and bring it along. Bring a plastic tarp in a non-offensive color to put your stuff on. Bring a poncho! What's worse than being cold? Being cold and WET. Bring extra socks. Some events allow us to dig campfire pits and trenches around tents, so bring your entrenching shovel every time.

Finally, if you have any questions about what to take to an event, ask another unit member. Chances are, they have had the "Uh-oh Moment" at some time in their re-enacting career and can pass along good advice. - Nick Berring



In 2009 we redesigned our website. since then our website has been viewed nearly 611,000 times by **44,267 unique people**.

In March and **April 2011** alone we had over **73,500 views** by over 5,000 unique visitors.

Most views are of our extensive photo gallery where we currently host **10,488 photos** that have been viewed nearly 400,000 times! And we're always looking for more photos.

The 2nd Ranger photo gallery is the largest WWII Reenactor related photo gallery online. If you'd like to contribute contact us at info@2ndrangers.us.

We also have videos at our website including exclusive interviews with the original 2nd Rangers from the reunions. We currently host **103 videos** taken by our members. If you have a video to share let us know at info@2ndrangers.us.

We take great pride in our website and everything it offers our members, other reenactors, and the public. Our website is your website. We can't thrive without your contributions.

And we've received some great feedback, not only about our website but about our exceptional 2nd Ranger members:

Steve Ketzer, Jr., Fairbanks, AK: Nice website, and great pictures of the Ft. Benning Reunion in 2009. Thanks for the great display and helping out in the hospitality suite.

Patti Sandmayer, Loveland, Ohio: I would like to thank all of the WWII Reenactment Battalion from St. Louis for taking the days out of their busy schedule to honor my father William Sandmayr E Co. 3rd Battalion of Darby's Rangers in FT. Smith National Cemetery. This was not just a few hours, but days. Dressed in their dress woools in 100 degree weather to be pall bearers and also to give my dad a nine gun salute that he so deserved. It was an honor for me to have them do this. Not only do these guys act the part of a Ranger, they live it. When one of their cars broke down, they found a way to get him so that "No man was left behind." The Darby History is so unique and as a Ranger daughter I want to keep it alive, and the reenactment do this with perfection. Thank you. I am grateful that you understood the mission of burying a Darby Ranger and succeeded in this mission. Rangers Lead the Way. Leaving the challenge coin on top of his casket showed your spirit. As I stood and watched as you quietly marching in formation to General Darby's grave site was the greatest tribute to Darby and his men. Thank you.



DID YOU KNOW...

The more you donate to the 2nd Rangers the more you get to take off at tax time!

And if you can't make it to one of our events to donate, or if you don't have cash on hand at an event, you can always donate online at [our online donation page](#).

We accept cash, check, money order, debit card, credit card, wire transfer, and much more. We've even added an online donation form so you can even set up a recurring donation to donate weekly, monthly, bimonthly, whatever works for you!

We truly appreciate each and every donation, we are here to educate and preserve history for future generations.

2NDRANGERS.ORG QUICK LINKS

- **Event Calendar:** showing all up-coming Ranger and other reenactor related events. A mini version of the calendar is shown on the front page, but you can view the next three months on the [Events](#) > [Calendar](#) page.
- **Blog:** outlining all of the latest and greatest news in the reenacting world. You can see a selection of the most recent entry on the front page, or view the articles in their entirety on the [Community](#) > [Blog](#) page.
- **Newsletter Sign up:** sign up online so we know we're allowed to send you our newsletter.
- **Photo Gallery:** a special photo gallery that any approved uploader can upload to, comment on photos, and more. This gallery is yours – sign up (make sure to enter your location as that is the flag that tells us you're a real person) contribute and see it grow! Access the photo gallery by going to [Community](#) > [Photos](#).
 - **Videos:** a unique video gallery hosted at our site – no more YouTube links! Access the new gallery through [Community](#) > [Videos](#), access [the old gallery](#) by clicking the link to the old gallery at the top of the Videos page.
- **Chat:** we have a special online chat program that requires no special software, just click on the chat link on the front page in the lower right corner – or use the top navigation [Community](#) > [Chat](#).
- **Forms:** we have several easy-to-complete forms at the web site including:



- **How to Enlist:** complete this form if you're interested in joining the 2nd Rangers. Find it under [About](#) > [How to Enlist](#).
- **Event Registration:** if you're attending an event complete this first to make your registration much faster. If you complete your registration online we can print your card and have it ready for you when you get to the event. Registration applies to all of our events. Find it under [Events](#) > [Registration](#).
- **Contact Us:** if you need to contact us you are always welcome to e-mail our President, Kevin Owens, at k.owens@2ndRangers.org or send a note to our corporate e-mail, info@2ndRangers.us. You'll notice that our corporate e-mail links have .us as the extension, we did that to avoid spam issues and to ensure that our members were part of the Organization (.org) and our company was a U.S. Corporation (.us). If you forget and use .org instead of .us, don't worry, everything will get where it needs to go.
- **Guestbook:** just in case you want to tell us how much you love the new site or a recent event we established a guestbook, we've even had comments from Singapore, the UK, Iraq, and of course several from Illinois and Missouri! You can find our guestbook under [About Us](#) > [Guestbook](#) or [Contact Us](#) > [Guestbook](#).
- **Downloads:** we have many downloads coming in 2012 but to start we have over 13 hours worth of WWII music! You can either download the songs individually from the site – or – for a \$10 donation we'll send you a CD with all the music in MP3 format (we'll also have some available at WWII Weekend events for purchase). Find our music at [Media](#) > [Downloads](#).
- **Tent Manuals:** do you have an original WWII tent? Not quite sure why it never looks like the WWII photos you've seen? We have the official - and original - U.S. Military tent manuals so you can erect it properly. You can find these manuals under [Media](#) > [Downloads](#) > [Tent Manuals](#). Though you can download the entire manual (from 1945, 1964, and 1970) we have already pulled out the most popular manuals and made them easy to print. They also include packing instructions so you can turn that 634 lbs GP Medium into a nice compact bundle ... we're not saying it's going to weigh any less but at least it will be easier to carry and store!
- **Donations:** prior to the new web site we only accepted donations at events. But now, well,



we've launched ourselves into the 21st Century and offer online donations using PayPal.

In addition to accepting debit and credit cards we also outline how you can donate including: cash, check, and money order; in-kind donations (non cash); monthly donations (either through PayPal or coming soon with your credit card without PayPal); tribute and memorial gifts in the name of someone you love; stocks or bonds; corporate matching gifts; planned giving through your will or trust including: donating all of your militaria to the unit upon your death so your family will receive a large tax-donation receipt, which will reduce the estate taxes they have to pay, donate appreciated stock or other assets (including real estate), donating unneeded life insurance (just add us as a beneficiary for all or part of your death benefit), IRAs or other Retirement Assets, or through a Charitable Trust.

Never before has donating to the 2nd Rangers been so easy! Find our donation page on [Home](#) > [Donations](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS ([LEARN MORE](#))

08/18: Board Meeting

08/19 - 08/21: Conneaut D-Day Ohio ★ <http://www.ddayohio.us/default.htm>.

09/10 - 09/11: Historic Hay Rides at Jefferson Barracks

09/17 - 09/18: LST 325 Chester, II ★ http://www.lst325chesteril.org/Home_Page.php

09/23 - 09/25: Rockford ★ <http://www.wv2rockfordevent.com/>

10/01: Bush Wildlife

10/18: WWII RBA Reunion, New Orleans (Invite Only)

11/06: Florrisant Veteran's Day Parade and Edwardsville Veteran's Day Parade

11/19: Ft. Bellefontain Hay Rides

11/22: Board meeting

12/16: VBOB Luncheon



IN THE NEXT ISSUE

In our next issue look forward to learning about:

- River Battle December 2011
- Building 72 Progress
- Recruitment
- WWII Weekend 2012
- And more...



CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

If you'd like to contribute to our newsletter please e-mail us at newsletter@2ndrangers.us. We're looking for great articles like those in this newsletter and like the previous [M1 Garand Care and Feeding](#) article. We're also interested in articles about any reenactor related items: uniform upkeep, ration recreation, tent care, weapon care, appearance standards, local event action reports, even if they're not Ranger events, great finds online or offline at known or new vendors and basically anything you'd like to know about! Just tell us what you want to know.

Your contribution will be posted both in our newsletter and at our website, viewed by nearly 500 unique people every single day.

Please remember to credit any references or photo sources in your submission.

