



World War II Weekend

September 15-16, 2012



General Eisenhower talks with the 101st Airborne troops before D-Day. Officers and men of Co. E, 502nd Parachute Infantry, gather around him.

“I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle.... We will accept nothing less than full Victory!”

**General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Message to the Allied Forces
June 1944**

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander of the European Theater in World War II, was the man who led the Allies to victory over Nazi Germany. However, he expressed the view that the real hero of that war was the common soldier, GI Joe. To commemorate and honor the sacrifices made by those who served in the war, the Eisenhower National Historic Site hosts this special annual World War II living history program.

Special Programs

Living history encampment featuring American, British, Canadian, Polish, French Resistance, Soviet, and regular German Army and homefront groups, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Interpretive talks on World War II military life and the homefront offered every half-hour, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

World War II veterans will present talks both Saturday and Sunday. See the list of speakers and program times on the reverse side of this flyer.

Veterans and authors will sign their World War II books.

Author Don Markle and retired NSA employee Rick Henderson will give demonstrations of a captured German Enigma Code machine.

Learn the remarkable stories of some of the World War II dead buried in the National Cemetery. Tours at 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday. Meet the guide inside the Taneytown Road entrance. Free.

Fees, Food and Shuttle

Lunch may be purchased at the site courtesy of Heidlersburg Fire Company.

Access to the site is by shuttle bus from the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center. Shuttles run between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Weather permitting, this weekend only there will be on-site parking.

Fees are Adults, \$7.50, Children ages 6-12, \$5.00. Children age 5 and under, free.

Special Guest Speakers

Saturday, September 15

10:00 a.m. – Dave Demechei served as a radio operator and machine gunner as part of a B-24 Liberator Bomber crew in the Pacific.

11:00 a.m. – Bill Guarnere was a combat infantryman with Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. He is a veteran of D-Day as well as the Battle of the Bulge. In January 1945, he was severely wounded at Bastogne, Belgium. He was portrayed in the HBO mini-series *Band of Brothers*, and wrote *Brothers in Battle/Best of Friends* with his friend Edward “Babe” Heffron.

12:00 Noon – Joseph De Lucia was stationed at a U.S. Army Air Corps Base at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attack took place December 7, 1941. De Lucia, a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, helped salvage a bomber from a hanger that got hit during the attack. He later was a B-17 pilot with the 11th Bomb Group in the Pacific Theater.

1:00 p.m. – To be announced.

2:00 p.m. – Wallace Mellot was a U.S. Marine Corps radar operator and served in the Pacific Theater. He was on the Philippine island of Mindanao during General MacArthur’s campaign to liberate it from the occupying Japanese forces.

Sunday, September 16

11 a.m. Calvin Summers was a truck driver in Italy for the 5th U.S. Army. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star. Summers was with a convoy of five trucks that was ambushed. Of the ten men who were in that convoy only two survived.

12:00 Noon - Salvador Castro served as a Browning Automatic Rifleman in a rifle squad that was part of the 32nd U.S. Infantry Division. His unit fought in the Pacific Theater and was heavily engaged in fighting the Japanese forces in New Guinea and the Philippines.

1:00 p.m. – Bill Wagaman was a combat infantryman with the 36th U.S. Infantry Division and took part in the fighting both at Anzio, Italy, and the Allied invasion of Southern France in 1944. He was wounded and captured near Grenoble, France, and was held as a prisoner of war until the spring of 1945.

2:00 p.m. – Harry Butowsky is a retired National Park Service historian and author who has written a book entitled *An American Family in World War II: The Story of Captain Ralph Minker*.

3:00 p.m. – Jack Goodrich was a USAAF C-47 pilot based in Myitkyina, who flew 88 crossings of the mountainous “Hump” supply route in the China/Burma/India Theater.

Music of the 40s USO Dance

A World War II-style USO Dance will be held at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center, 1195 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg. Saturday, September 15, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Music provided by the Gettysburg Big Band. A cash bar is available. Tickets are \$10.00 per person. Living historians encamped at the Eisenhower site are admitted free.
