



World War II Weekend

September 20-21, 2014



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

Walk through a living history encampment featuring WWII military units open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Listen to interpretive talks on military life and the homefront offered every half-hour 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Experience the war through the stories of World War II veterans and authors as they tell their stories and sign books. See the list of speakers and program times on the reverse side of this flyer.

See demonstrations of a captured German Enigma Code machine presented by former National Security Agency employees.

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 20

10:00 a.m. – Colonel Dick Camp, a historian at the U.S. Marine Corps Museum, is the author of several books. He will talk about OPERATION UNION II, an OSS mission to support the French Resistance fighters in 1944. The mission was led by Captain Peter Ortiz who had earlier served with the French Foreign Legion, was captured by the Germans, escaped and then joined the U.S. Marines.

11:00 a.m. – Thomas Hoke was medic with the rank of staff sergeant in Company C, 312th Medical Battalion, assigned to the 347th Regiment, 87th U.S. Infantry Division, of the Third Army in Europe. He is a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge.

12:00 Noon – Bill Gast served as a Sherman Tank driver in the 743rd Tank Battalion. His unit landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day where it supported the 29th Division. In the Normandy Campaign it also supported the 1st Division and was later attached to the 30th Division.

1:00 p.m. – Chuck Caldwell enlisted in the U.S. Marines in December 1941. He served overseas for 30 months with both the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions. He is a veteran of Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Guam.

2:00 p.m. – Art Staymates was a soldier in the 26th Regiment, 1st Division, and landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. The 1st Division suffered 19,488 casualties in WWII.

3:00 p.m. – Colonel Dick Camp will talk about Frank Farrell, a U.S. Marine who fought at Guadalcanal and Peleliu and then was assigned to the OSS for service in China. Farrell discovered a Nazi spy ring supporting the Japanese war effort despite Germany's surrender.

Sunday, September 21

10 a.m. Ken Weiler has authored *Why Normandy Was Won: OPERATION BAGRATION and the War in the East 1941-1945* and *The European Theater Anthology of World War II*. He will speak on how the Eastern Front relates to D-Day and the Normandy Campaign.

11: 00 a.m. Colonel Dick Camp will again talk about OPERATION UNION II, an OSS mission to support the French Resistance fighters in 1944. See above.

12:00 Noon – Russell Irving was a medic in the 103rd Medical Battalion assigned to the 109th Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. He served as an ambulance driver, litter bearer, and at times as a driver for the unit's commanding officer. The 28th Division suffered 12,292 casualties in WWII.

1:00 p.m. – Page Evans served in the U.S. Navy as a sailor on the Destroyers USS Tillman and USS Compton. He participated in convoy duty and saw combat in the Mediterranean during 1943-44 and later in 1945 off the island of Okinawa in the Pacific.

2:00 p.m. – Gail Furford is the author of *Letters Home WWII: Sergeant Martin A. Paulson, South Pacific 1943-1946*. The book examines 88 letters a soldier wrote to his sister from the time he was in basic training, through his combat experiences with the 27th Division serving in the Pacific, to the occupation of Japan.

3:00 p.m. – Colonel John Kormann served with the 17th Airborne Division as a private first class in OPERATION VARSITY in 1945. He earned a battlefield commission and was reassigned to a counterintelligence unit tasked with tracing down and capturing Nazi war criminals.

**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 20, 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.