

Soldaten and Friends of 5th Kompanie GrossDeutschland:

5th Kompanie had approximately 15 members in attendance at the Rockford event this year. This year was the 15th year for the event and a little over 1000 reenactors attended the event with about 10,000 spectators. For the first time in my reenacting career I saw a Sherman tank utilized in the battle reenactment.

5th Kompanie was encamped in the area of the Gazebo within the historic village. The overall impression that 5th kompanie portrayed during the course of the weekend was a security company for a Field Marshal and his adjutants portrayed by Larry Mayo. The kompanie started the weekend working on the manual of arms and field deployment based on hand signals and whistle commands. During the course of the weekend we posted guards at various location around the camp and the German headquarters building which was housed in the Hotel building. The guards details saluted all ranking officers and NCO they encountered. You would think this would be standard operating procedure at these public reenactments, however it is not. Very quickly it was obvious to me that 5th kompanie was being noticed both by the spectators and other reenactors as a result of this authentic portrayal. I even noticed other units mimicking our actions by placing their own guards near their camp areas.

Travis and Pete P. did an excellent job working with our two new unit members Zack and Monico. This was Zack's second event and Monico first.

5th kompanie made this a maximum effort event in which we had almost all our vehicles out for. We had the R-71 motorcycle and side car, the Kubel, Horch and Obel truck in use throughout the weekend. This was only the second event the Horch was out to. All the vehicles ran great with the exception of the truck which unfortunately blew a head gasket on the drive home after the event.

The kompanie took part in one of the town battle skits during the day Saturday, made several inspection visits of other German units with the Field Marshal and his staff during the course of the weekend. We also took part in the main battle on Sunday.

An incident that took place Sunday toward the end of the main battle which personally made the weekend for me. During the course of the battle I deployed the kompanie, advanced them and retreated them using whistle commands and hand signals. After we retired from the field I had the guys move up and watch the battle finish up. I was standing near the spectator line when an older gentlemen came up to me he was a German veteran with the 101 Infantry Division and fought in France, he told me when he heard us using the whistle commands he had an immediate flashback to 1942 and some of his own experiences. I could tell by the way he was telling me this that this was an emotional experience for him. He went on to ask me why 5th Kompanie where the only reenactors that were using hand signals and whistle commands during the course of the battle reenactment. A short time later several spectators came up to me and mentioned how realistic and professional 5th kompanie looked in our deployment of the MG -team and squad. Guys our efforts are being noticed Good job!

This weekend we have the Union Railway Museum event on Saturday. I look forward to the event we will be involved in several battle skirmishes as well as the main battle in the railway yard.

We should all attempt to look more like rear area troops for this event. Keep cammo to a minimum, no helmet covers if you have double decal helmets bring those as well as your overcoat.

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5th Kompanie GrossDeutschland