

**WWII Military Vehicle Convoy through Missouri Wine Country
Hosted by the 84th Infantry Division “Railsplitter” Reenactors
6- 7 May 2005**

Convoy Guidelines

As of 16 Jan 05

This event includes cross-segments of both WWII Reenactors and the MVPA and is designed to promote education and cooperation between the two groups. Last year’s convoy merged the two groups very successfully in May of 2003 to educate Missouri’s cities and towns and we intend to build upon that experience in 2005.

In an effort to promote safety, preserve authenticity, observe state laws and have a good time, we are providing you with these guidelines. The guidelines were created after consultation with other reenactors, MVPA safety officers, community groups and a comprehensive risk assessment of the route and event. The Railsplitters welcome suggestions and comments that will promote safety and improve efficiency of the event.

Event Fee: We have continued to impose an event fee this year to assist with covering the expenses required to coordinate an event of this magnitude. The 2003 convoy cost the organizers about \$250 of their own money, and the fees are an attempt to offset those expenses.

The \$12 fee includes the event expenses and lunch provided in the city of Fayette. Lunch will include: The menu selection will be announced at a later date .

Anyone found during the event to not pay the event fee will be asked to pay up on the spot. If they refuse to pay, then the convoy commander may consider leaving them at the location. Let’s avoid this and take care of the financial part of this for continued success of the event in the future.

Event Memory Items: Like last year, T-shirts are being made to commemorate the event. The cost of the T-shirt is \$17.00 and will be available in sizes M, L, XL, 2X and 3X. . If you would like a T-shirt, please RSVP for the shirt and pay for it in advance. We are willing to hold the T-shirt until you arrive at the event, however please follow through with purchasing it so the event staff does not get stuck with costly items like the 2003 event.

Hotel and Lodging Arrangements: We strongly encourage you to stay at the event hotel, the Best Western of Columbia. It is very close to the event, and has a bar and restaurant. Also, the Friday night reception will be held there, and if we do not book 10 rooms, it will cost the event \$100 for the use of the room. Please stay at the Best Western AND ensure you state you are with the Railsplitters so we get credit for it.

The event hotel is the Best Western Columbia Inn, located at 3100 I-70 Drive Southeast. The Best Western Columbia Inn is located at the junction of I-70 and Highway 63, at Exit 128. The hotel has parking that will accommodate large vehicles and trailers. A block of 20 rooms has been reserved under The Railsplitters for the nights of May 5th, 6th and 7th. Each participant is responsible for payment of room. The room rate is \$72.00 each night (up to four persons per room) and includes a free all-you-can eat continental breakfast.

For reservations call 800-362-3185 or 573-474-6161. For directions to the hotel, a map, and other

information, visit <http://www.bestwestern.com>.

The hotel will be holding rooms until April 6th. After that time, there is no guarantee of a room reservation. We encourage you to book your hotel accommodations as soon as possible, as this is a very busy weekend in Columbia and many hotels are already booked to capacity.

The hotel is providing a cake and punch reception to convoy participants and their families free of charge on Friday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. We hope you can join us for the reception and get to know other convoy participants.

Bed and Breakfast Option: In the interest of adding a different option to the event, the Guitar House is another option for lodging at the event. The Guitar House is a circa 1862 home that recently opened as a Bed and Breakfast. They offer three different rooms and the rate is between \$100-125. This is a restored antebellum home, so do not expect many modern conveniences in the home, such as televisions, etc. For more information about the B & B, contact them at www.theguitarhouse.com or by calling 573-814-1860.

Event Day Registration: In addition to pre-registering for the event, we ask that you check in at the registration table before the event. The event staff will double check your registration, and also provide any shirts ordered before the event. The registration table will be located in the reception on Friday night in the Best Western motel from 7:00-930pm, and then at the American Legion Hall from 0645 to 0745 on Saturday, the day of the drive.

Reception: The Friday night reception is a nice informal way for people to meet, seeing old friends and making new ones. It also assists with the registration process. In addition, the rules regarding the use of the park by the city do not permit the vending of items on the premises, so this provides an opportunity for people to purchase items from anyone wanting to sell gear, parts, etc. A bar and hotel restaurant are located nearby if you want some food or refreshment.

It is critically important that we reach the number of ten rooms in the Best Western so we get the use of this room for free.

Vending or selling of items: The City of Columbia does not permit selling of items in city parks, so no selling may take place on the grounds of the American Legion Park. If you wish to sell or vend items, do this at the Friday night reception. Anyone doing this at the American Legion Park, may be asked to leave the event with no refund of money. Unfortunately we have to enforce the city's rules.

Guidelines for Reenactors

Advance Coordination: You must pre-register for this event to ensure there are enough seats available for you or your group. The registration form can be found on the Railsplitters website at www.geocities.com/soldierboy440/railsplitters or by emailing the event coordinator at soldierboy440@yahoo.com. You must provide your email or return mail address on the registration form. We cannot guarantee seats for the event if you do not pre-register. As the event grows, this will be more of an issue so pre-registration is much more of a concern, and people may end up getting bumped from rides if this isn't taken care of.

Uniform: Wear your normal WWII reenacting kit. Ensure you have all-weather gear. The unpredictable Missouri weather may dictate temperatures ranging from 40 to 90 degrees, and may be sunny or rainy. Be prepared for all possibilities. The 2003 Convoy had considerable rain and

stormy weather, so definitely be prepared for that possibility. The event in 2004 was sunny and very nice, if not a little warm. Check the forecast prior to the event for the latest weather, and dress appropriately.

Germans: Please be sensitive that you are wearing a uniform that may offend people. Your participation is important to the convoy and these guidelines are not intended to make your life difficult. However, as hosts of the event, we must be sensitive to the communities we are traveling through. You can get away with a lot more at public reenactment events when the Allies are beating you twice a day! I do not anticipate any problems or sensitive sites in the 2005 route, but also be wary and don't get yourself into any difficult situations.

Weapons: You don't need them at this event. Leave them at home or in the car...they will just get in the way later in the day. Dewat and dummy weapons mounted on vehicles are OK, but personal weapons to include knives, bayonets, etc just aren't needed and can get you into trouble. Leave them at home.

Gas Money: In addition to the event fee, it is expected that riders will contribute gas money to the vehicle owners. Remember that it takes not only gas to drive for the event, but gas to get to the event. The amount to be contributed for gas is to be negotiated between the rider and the MV owner.

Safety: It is recommended that you bring and sometimes wear a steel helmet, especially when passing low trees and traveling on gravel roads. Goggles are also highly recommended during the gravel road sections. The 2005 route route is similar to the 2004 route in this regard, so be prepared for gravel roads and trees. A helmet and goggles are highly encouraged.

Do not plan on getting drunk at the winery. Remember you are representing the people who wore your uniform. Those under 21 can not drink! These aren't the event rules but Missouri State Law! It is the last stop of the day, but remember you and your vehicle still have to make it 20 miles home after the winery stop.

Top off your canteens with water before leaving and keep them topped off in case it is warm or sunny.

Reenactment Units: All efforts will be made to place reenacting units together in the same platoon. Vehicle breakdowns and other unforeseen circumstances may cause the convoy order to be juggled. Units without vehicles should coordinate in advance with the event coordinator to attempt to secure rides that maintain unit integrity

Registration: It is critically important that reenactors without vehicles pre-register. If you are not pre-registered, the event coordinators can not guarantee you a spot during the event.

Guidelines for Vehicle Owners

Advance Coordination: You must pre-register and provide vehicle information as indicated on the registration form. The registration form can be found on the Railsplitters website at <http://www.geocities.com/soldierboy440/railsplitters> or by e-mailing the event coordinator at soldierboy440@yahoo.com. There is a \$12.00 event fee per person for participating in this event.

Riders: Many reenactors have expressed interest in participating in the convoy but do not have a ride. We ask as a courtesy that you notify us in advance if you will have extra space available so we can ensure no rider is left behind.

Be sure to indicate who is riding with you on your registration forms. Also, update this information as it changes so we can ensure the right people are placed with the right vehicles. This is a big administrative headache, so please make it very clear who is riding with whom, and update us with any changes, or open seats.

Also, based upon the problems we encounter during the day (breakdowns, etc), we may need to cross level riders so everyone can continue with the event. Please cooperate with us as the event's own drama unfolds and we try to respond to it.

Vehicles: All vehicles must be a WWII type vehicle or replica. Postwar jeeps are permitted as long as they are flat-fendered and look like a WWII jeep. Don't show up in an M-38A1, M-37 or VW thing painted field grey and think it is a WWII vehicle replica. If you are in doubt, ask the event coordinator in advance! We had one replica jeep in the event during 2004, so this is something you just need to ask about.

Weight Classification and Roads: As a rule, the maximum weight classification for any vehicle running the entire route is 10 tons. Heavier vehicles may participate but will have to be rerouted at several locations. Also, vehicles that are not tactical with ground clearance may have some difficulty on the gravel roads. None of these roads are unimproved, but you may want to avoid them in your newly restored 42 Plymouth!. Normal cars are able to navigate these roads, although if gravel roads and creek crossings may damage your vehicle, you may want to consider bringing another vehicle or riding with someone else.

Uniforms: MV Collectors should make a good faith effort at putting together a kit. If you aren't sure of what to wear, contact the event coordinator and you will be provided with further assistance on how to obtain the right gear. In the after action report from 2003, there was some unhappiness on MV collectors who didn't make an effort to put a good impression together. Work with the coordinators if you aren't sure. There are a lot of variations that can work for your impression. This was much improved in 2004, and we hope to see more progress in the future.

Ensure you have all-weather gear in case it is cool or wet. Temperatures may range from 40 to 90 degrees, and may be sunny or rainy. Be prepared for all possibilities.

Firearms: Leave your real firearms at home, or in the car. Don't take them on the convoy - you don't need them. Weapons mounted on vehicles are fine. Weapons must be watched at ALL times.

Working with Reenactors: It is recommended that all owners brief their riders in advance of the dos and don'ts of the vehicle. If you don't want your paint scratched, check their uniforms out and make sure it doesn't happen. Reenactors don't always appreciate the hard work you put into your vehicles, so talk to them about this in advance. Riders will be assigned a few days before the event, so you should be able to talk to them in advance.

Gas Money: Reenactors are expected to make a contribution for your gas expense for the event. The amount to be contributed for gas is to be negotiated between the rider and the MV owner. Do not be shy about asking for this at the event.

Germans: Please be sensitive that you are wearing a uniform that may offend people. Your participation is important to the convoy and these guidelines are not intended to make your life difficult. However, as hosts of the event, we must be sensitive to the communities we are traveling through. You can get away with a lot more at public reenactment events when the Allies are beating you twice a day! I do not anticipate any problems or sensitive sites in the 2005 route, but also be wary and don't get yourself into any difficult situations.

Fueling: An Absolute must! Fuel up before the convoy assembly time. Jeeps usually have the shortest driving range and require more frequent fuel stops. The planned route is 100 miles, so one full tank of gas should suffice for the day. Fuel is available only in Fayette and Boonville.

Assembly: Participants need to assemble 1 hour before planned departure time, so be on site at 0700 for a 0800 departure. The assembly time will be used to orientate the drivers and co-drivers on the route, distance, stops, safety guidelines, etc. Photocopy maps of the route will be provided to each platoon, and attempts will be made to provide one to each vehicle.

Communications: It is not required, but recommended, that all vehicles have a family radio service radio to facilitate communications while on the move. This will also assist with vehicle breakdowns and letting faster moving traffic pass on busier roads.

Speed: The convoy will travel at approximately 25mph. However, at times the larger trucks (2 ½ ton or 5 ton) will need additional momentum to climb the hills, so speed up when you see them gaining ground on your vehicle near hills. Some of the smoother roads may permit higher speeds. Follow your platoon leader's vehicle and guidance.

Spacing: On two lane or rural roads, leave one hundred yards (football field) between vehicles to allow ample space for other vehicles to pass. On Interstate or four lane highways, the convoy should close up leaving only 40 to 50 yards between vehicles. This allows other vehicles to pass the entire convoy quicker without pausing in between vehicles. Do not tailgate, especially on dusty roads. City streets require tightening up the convoy to facilitate travel through traffic lights, etc. Also remember the accordion effect of the convoy stretching and compressing, so try to help this by maintaining a constant speed.

Driver Responsibility: Each driver is responsible for the vehicle in front and behind. This approach will eliminate the convoy running away from slower vehicles or vehicles missing a turn or exit. If everyone practices this rule the convoy will maintain spacing and remain together. Keep the vehicle behind in view at all times and slow down when necessary. The other vehicles ahead should do the same.

Vehicle Line-up: The platoon leaders and platoon sergeants will line up vehicles from smaller to the front and larger to the rear of the convoy (e.g. motorcycle, jeeps, sedans, ½ ton, ¾ ton, 1 ½ ton, 2 ½ ton, etc..). This arrangement permits the more maneuverable vehicles to lead and turn around easier if a wrong turn is taken.

Safety: It is recommended that the drivers of open topped vehicles have goggles for the dusty gravel roads we will travel. It will be difficult to see without them. They can be purchased through a variety of vendors for as little as \$13.

For safety concerns, it is recommended, but not required, that personnel involved in the convoy should bring and wear a steel helmet while moving in all open topped vehicles down gravel

roads, especially persons riding in elevated backs of trucks. This is to protect against low hanging tree branches and rocks that may be thrown while moving. AFV helmets are also acceptable.

Vehicles must be licensed and insured for road travel in their respective states. We will be traveling over public roads and can be stopped by the police.

Vehicles should have a usable fire extinguisher in the event of fire.

Do not plan on getting drunk at the winery. Remember you are representing the people who wore your uniform. Those under 21 can not drink! These aren't the event rules but Missouri State law!

Bring plenty of water in the event of warm weather. Vehicle owners should attempt to bring extra water for riders.

Ensure all tailgates are raised and everyone seated before moving.

Rest Stops: When stopping for rest or refreshments, look for annoying rattles or leaks in your vehicle.

Vehicle Breakdown: In the event of a vehicle breakdown, contact your platoon leader. We will try to have someone come pick you up so you can return to your car and try to fix your vehicle. To eliminate possibilities of vehicle breakdown, bring only vehicles you know can make the 100-mile route. Also, top off your fuel tank before leaving Columbia.

The Route

The route this year on paper looks somewhat similar to the 2003 route, but there is very little common road between the two years. Once we form, and conquer the considerable challenge of getting a long WWII vehicle convoy through the Urban city of Columbia, we head to the northwest in terrain reminiscent of the rolling hills of Belgium and Germany. We turn off and go down several gravel roads, so which are sunken to eventually pop out back on paved roads. From there, we travel the short remaining distance to the Baldrige School. The Baldrige school was where Omar Bradley's father taught school, and Bradley attended grade school. It is a one room school house. It is preserved by a small group of locals. We will take a long 50 minute stop there in order to tweak vehicles, and prepare for the next leg into Fayette. Be advised the restroom facilities are also very period, so do not expect much there in terms of comfort. We anticipate having refreshments on site. Please support the Baldrige school supporters with their refreshments. It goes to a great cause.

From there we begin the winding road into Fayette, through the countryside. Eventually we end up back on paved roads going into the town. The tentative lunch plan is on the city square, so you can also look around downtown. Once lunch is complete, we will then head towards the river over a series of gravel roads through the scenic countryside, and then down the long hill into the Missouri River bottoms. The road will then parallel the Missouri river for several miles, and then we wind back up the hill to the Boone's Lick state historic site for a quick bathroom stop.

Loading up again, we then head back down into the Missouri River bottoms heading to the South east towards Boonville. We cross the Missouri River Bridge into Boonville and parade through the downtown, and then conduct a display. The stop is 50 minutes, so if someone wants to look

around downtown, or go try their luck at the Isle of Capris Casino, you may come back lucky and able to purchase more military vehicles!

Departing Boonville we return across the Missouri River and head through the river bottoms to the east to Rocheport. The 2003 convoy made a stop at the winery in 2003 however it was plagued by tornado warnings. At this point, if you want to stay in downtown Rocheport, we can stop at the MKT train station. Rocheport has many antique stores, and a nice trailside café for refreshments. If you are so inclined, you can also head to the Wine Garden of the Les Bourgeois winery. They have wine, cheese and sausage baskets and the best view in this part of the state. Regardless of your choice, you will have plenty of time since the planned stop is 90 minutes. You may want to consider having dinner in Rocheport as well. There are several nice places to eat.

Upon completion of the 90 minutes, we will reform the convoy and make the final run into Columbia. The route selected is probably the most interesting in the event. It is very convoluted in terms of the number of turns, but it has a number of sunken roads and is very scenic.

Upon completion of this arduous journey at around 6:30pm, I would encourage everyone who participated to meet up for an after the event social in the hotel bar of the Best Western, to continue the friendships, as make new ones. One of the great things about this event is the friendships that develop, and we want to continue to foster this.

2005 3rd Annual Military Vehicle Convoy through the Missouri Wine Country Convoy Route

As of 16 January 05

Timeline:

Depart American Legion Park and clear Columbia	0800-0830
Columbia to Baldrige School	0840-0950
Stop at Baldrige School	0950-1040
Baldrige School to Fayette	1040-1130
Lunch in Fayette	1130-1230
Fayette to Boone's Lick Historic Site	1230-1330
Quick stop at Boone's Lick Historic Site	1330-1345
Boone's Lick SHS to Boonville	1345-1430
Stop in Boonville	1430-1520
Boonville to Rocheport	1520-1550
Stop in Rocheport	1600-1730
Boonville for Columbia	1730-1830

Total distance ~90 miles

Leg #1 Depart Columbia to Baldrige School	Distance	Time
Clear Columbia, MO		30 minutes
Business Loop and Stadium north on Route E	11 miles	30 minutes
Right turn from Route E to Callahan Creek Road	5 miles	25 minutes
Right turn on County Road 409	4 miles	15 minutes
Right turn on Route 124	1 mile	2 minutes

Left turn on Route A to Entrance of Baldrige School	3 miles	8 minutes
	24 miles	100 minutes

Leg #2 Baldrige School to Fayette

Baldrige School on Route A	.4 miles	2 minutes
Right turn on County Road 114	2.7 miles	11 minutes
Left turn on County Road 105	3.3 miles	13 minutes
Right turn on Route 124	4 miles	11 minutes
Right turn on Highway 240 into Fayette	1 mile	3 minutes
	11.4 miles	50 minutes

Leg #3 Fayette to Boone’s Lick State Historic Site

Exit Fayette on Country Road 300	5.2 miles	20.8 minutes
Left turn on County Road 306	3.6 miles	14.4 minutes
Left turn on Route 87	2.2 miles	6 minutes
Right turn on Route K to Lisbon	3.8 miles	10 minutes
Left turn in Lisbon on to County Road 319	2.7 miles	11 minutes
Left turn on County Road 328 to Boone’s Lick SHS	1.5 miles	6 minutes
	19 miles	68 minutes

Leg #4 Boone’s Lick State Historic Site to Boonville

Depart Boone’s Lick SHS on County Road 328	1.5 miles	6 minutes
Left turn on County Road 319	1 mile	4 minutes
Left turn on to Route Z	7 miles	18 minutes
Straight on to Highway 87 into Boonville	4 miles	16 minutes
	13.5 miles	44 minutes

Boonville to Rocheport

Depart Boonville on Highway 40	11 miles	27 minutes
Right turn on Rocheport Spur into Rocheport	1 mile	3 minutes
	12 miles	30 minutes

Rocheport to Columbia

Depart Rocheport to Old Rocheport Road	1 mile	4 minutes
Left turn on to Old Rocheport Road	2.3 miles	10 minutes
Right turn on Sontag/Dometorch Road	2 miles	8 minutes
Left turn on Wehmeyer Road	2 miles	8 minutes
Continue on Sugar Creek Road	2.5 miles	10 minutes
Left turn on to Route UU	3 miles	12 minutes
Right turn to Gillespse Bridge Road	3 miles	12 minutes
	15.8 miles	60 minutes

Completion of event to Best Western Bar: 35 feet 2 minutes