

# Burlington County Times

## Military re-enactors arrive in Burl. City on Saturday

October 25, 2007

By LAURI SHEIBLEY  
Burlington County Times

Where else can you go to see a band of Revolutionary War soldiers stand side-by-side with a World War II German infantry unit?

Those and hundreds more will camp out along the riverfront in Burlington City this weekend, as part of the annual Historic Soldiers Weekend. Visitors can stroll among the soldiers' campsites, learn about their weapons and vehicles, and watch them march in formation. Organizer Matt Carroll said more than 300 re-enactors representing soldiers from every American conflict will participate. The soldiers will gather for a march up High Street at noon Saturday. Also at that time, three World War II Russian planes will fly over the crowd.

Carroll said the camps will be arranged in chronological order along the riverfront. Visitors first will encounter soldiers from the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War and Civil War. Farther along the riverfront, visitors will see soldiers from World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

Carroll said vendors, veterans groups and guest speakers will gather around the bandstand. A comic duo portraying Bud Abbott and Lou Costello will perform several times each day.

Guest speakers include Lt. Col. Al Bancroft, a Vietnam veteran and director of military affairs in Camden County; members of the Tuskegee Airmen Philadelphia Chapter; Peter Fantacone, a World War II D-Day veteran; Capt. Andy Jackson, a Korean War Army veteran; Sgt. 1st Class Allen Rodesky, a Vietnam and Desert Storm Army veteran, and Assemblyman Jack Conners, D-7th of Pennsauken, chairman of the state Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Four authors also will attend, and will talk to the crowd and sign books. The authors are Ivan Paul Mehosky, who wrote "The Story of a Soldier;" Carmen Fiore, author of "Young Heroes of the Civil War;" Gottfried Dulias, a World War II German ME109 pilot and author of "Another Bowl of Kapusta," and Sharon Wells Wagner, who penned "Red Wells: An American Soldier in WWII."

For a full list of speakers and times, visit <http://www.historicsoldiersweekend.com/>.

Carroll said visitors are encouraged to bring items such as lip balm and sun block to donate to Operation Shoebox. The nonprofit organization based in Somerville will ship the donations to U.S. military serving overseas. For a list of appropriate items to donate, visit <http://opshoebox.nj.org/>.

All proceeds from Historic Soldiers Weekend will go to Main Street Burlington, a revitalization program that promotes historic and economic redevelopment in the city business district.

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if you go...

Historic Soldiers Weekend

When: Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Rain or shine.

Where: Riverfront in Burlington City

Admission: \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

Information: Visit [www.historicsoldiersweekend.com](http://www.historicsoldiersweekend.com)

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