

## World War II will echo loudly in historic St. Louis park

Rifles will ring out, tanks will rumble and smoke will billow at the annual World War II Weekend this spring at Jefferson Barracks Park in St. Louis, giving visitors a chance to experience the fury of the battles, the courage of the soldiers and the spectacular drama of war.

In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year, the weekend commemoration will be held this year on April 24–26 by hundreds of re-enactors, collectors and historians. Hosted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion of St. Louis and co-sponsored by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation, the event includes living history camps, military vehicle displays, three staged battle re-enactments, uniform and gear displays, museums

and a canteen dance featuring a swing jazz band.

The primary purpose for World War II Weekend is to honor all veterans who have served in U.S. Armed Forces. The setting for the event is perfect because Jefferson Barracks is one of the nation's more significant military installations. Founded in 1826 and serving as an army post until 1946, it was one of the largest induction centers during World War II.

Friday's events are organized for school groups, but on Saturday and Sunday, visitors are welcome throughout the day starting at 9 a.m. to observe re-enactors in camp. Living historians will bring to life World War II-era U.S. infantry and armored forces, as



**Three battle re-enactments will be held during the weekend.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion of St. Louis photos

Saturday night, and on Sunday a military convoy will travel through the park to visit the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Jefferson Barracks is located 2 miles north of Interstate 255 on Telegraph Road. The weekend event is free but tickets to the canteen dance are \$10 per person. For details, call (314) 921-0814 or click on [www.2ndrangers.org](http://www.2ndrangers.org). To purchase tickets for the dance, call (314) 544-5714. ●

well as forces from Britain, Canada, Russia and Germany.

The battle re-enactments will be presented at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday and at noon on Sunday. Each one will last about a half hour and will be followed by demonstrations of the weapons, vehicles and uniforms used. There will also be a canteen dance on