

**Hello!**

**My name is Johann and I was brand new to reenacting when I asked to join the Wiking unit in 2007.**

**I've had a lifelong fascination with World War Two military history. Growing up in the '70's in the suburbs of Chicago, my friends and I would play army all around the neighborhood. As we became older, we played complex military boardgames with tiny square cardboard pieces.**

**My German grandparents both had brothers who fought and died in the war and when I looked at their photographs, I wondered who these men were that I would never meet and how they felt about fighting for their homeland.**

**As an adult, reading about WWII and watching an occasional movie was all I could do to feed my interest.**

**Then one day, while I was surfing the internet, I discovered some websites pertaining to World War Two reenacting. I remember being dumbfounded; I was aware of Civil War reenacting but had no idea that people actually acted out WWII military history!**

**Eventually, I found the Wiking website that you're on now and mailed in my forms that same day ....funny, it never occurred to me to reenact American! The Wiking unit seemed to be more personal than other units I looked at and the members truly are who they seem to be: amateur historians who try to act as professionally as possible. The members of Wiking really are normal people enjoying a fun hobby.**

**And as a hobby, being a part of the 5 SS Wiking reenactment unit is a wonderful outlet to an interest that usually can only go so far. Now I enjoy attending events with fellow unit members whenever I can, using authentic equipment, and interact with an interested public while portraying, in a living history manner, the field life of the Soldat.**