



The Old Hickory Chronicle

Newsletter of The Old Hickory Association

July/August 1997

Live Fire Shoot and Annual Meeting at Camp Butner, October 11 & 12, 1997

This is a pre-registration Event. See Details

(Please note that the date of this event has changed from the previously announced date)

Once again the Old Hickory Association will conduct its annual meeting in conjunction with the fall live fire shoot at Camp Butner. The meeting will occur Saturday night after our usual pig-picking. At this meeting please be prepared to discuss proposed events for the rest of 1997 and a tentative schedule of events for 1998. Nominations for the 5 positions on the Board of Directors will also be accepted during the meeting. As you recall, we elect our Directors in the fall for two year terms. Nominations will also be accepted in writing by mail addressed to Don Shupe, the newsletter editor if they are post-marked before the Saturday of the event. Please use this method to participate if you cannot attend Butner. No further nominations will be accepted after the annual meeting. Ballots will be included in the next newsletter after the Butner event.

The general schedule for the event will be similar to the previous Butner events. Please plan on arriving by **8:00am Saturday** to help set up the camp. We will be setting up the GP medium tent, so if there will be room for people who want to bring a cot or don't want to sleep in a dog

tent. Once the squads are organized and the camp is set up, we will proceed to the range. There will be some refresher instruction on firing positions, target marking and weapon and range safety. Afterwards, we will conduct our usual rifle competition. This will be similar to past shoots with two exceptions. First, **everyone will be required to compete on Saturday with a W.W.II service rifle.** For OHA members that means you must shoot with M1 Garand, M1 Carbine, or '03 Springfield. On Sunday, you will have the opportunity to shoot any other W.W.II small arm that you wish to bring. Second, **everyone is required to shoot Saturday dressed in our standard uniform:** wool pants and shirt, service shoes and leggings, M41 jacket, M1 helmet, M28 pack (with something light but bulky in it to fill it out), M1923 Cartridge belt, Canteen and cover, 1st aid pouch, shovel, and bayonet. We hope to get some great unit photos from this shoot, since we have not really made an effort to get any in 3 years. Lunch will be eaten in the field or in the target pits, so pack something in your M28 pack to eat! Try to make the food containers you use as period as possible, cans, ect.... If you must bring an MRE,

take it out of the package ahead of time and disguise it in a reproduction k-ration box.

After the competition, we will return to the camp area to clean our weapons as a unit. After that is completed, you will be given some time to prepare for a field inspection. For this activity, each man needs to have all his required field equipment laid out in regulation manner. In case you have forgotten what this equipment is, we have attached a copy of our required equipment list to this newsletter. Basically, it is the items listed above to be worn for the shoot, plus such items as a mess kit and utensils, gas mask bag, and an army wool blanket. If you have them, you are also encouraged to bring any other items that would normally be present in a field inspection such as shaving items, a comb, a towel, soap and a soap dish, toothbrush and tooth powder, extra underwear (tops and bottoms) extra socks, raincoat or poncho, and a gas mask. It is ok if you do not have all these items, bring what you have and set it out. We have included a drawing with this newsletter which shows you how to set up this diplay. Additionally, your squad leaders will be able to assist you at the event. There are three

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reasons for this inspection. First, it is to ensure that everyone has all their required equipment or help them learn what they need and help them get it. Second, it is a **living history exercise**. Every soldier in the army in W.W.II would have gone through a thousand such inspections and would have shared this common experience. Third, learning how to set up the field inspection display in a uniform manner will improve the quality of our public living history displays. Please look upon this activity as a fun learning experience. No one will be singled out for scorn or humiliation for not having any items or not setting up the display properly. Any comments or constructive criticism will occur in an atmosphere of helpful coaching and teaching. One final note, several members have asked that we remind everyone of our W.W.II period camping policy, that is, if it's in plain sight it should look like it is W.W.II period. It is ok to bring along any modern items you need for the weekend, just keep them hidden out of sight.

After the inspection, dinner will occur with our usual pig picking. **Bring your mess gear.** You will need it for your meals. There will be immersion heaters available for

cleaning up afterwards. Following dinner, we will have our annual meeting. Following the meeting, we will have some social time with an opportunity to swap militaria items and watch some W.W.II videos and movies. Lights out will occur at 11:00pm.

Sunday morning will start with breakfast and be followed by breaking down the camp. After that is complete, we will view a demonstration of WW2 British and German field equipment by our friends in the Kings Own and the 226th. After this demonstration, we will drive to the range in our personal vehicles and have an open shoot for all WW2 weapons and machine guns. For the shoot on Sunday morning you may wear any U.S. Army WW2 uniform. **You must be in uniform to participate in the shoot.**

Please come ready to have a good time and work hard. Everyone will be expected to help set up and break down the camp and help with the targets at the range and with meals and clean up (kp). If you are only coming for the day Saturday or if you cannot attend the entire weekend, (at least through the breakdown of camp Sunday morning) please let Don Shupe know beforehand and arrive promptly at 8:00am on Satur-

day so you can help set up the camp and do your fair share. Also, no one is to shoot on Sunday morning and leave before they work the targets for someone else. Finally, you **must pre-register** for this event. Please mail your check for \$15 to Don Shupe at 414 Cary Pines Drive, Cary, N.C. 27513, by no later than September, 22, 1997. If you cannot preregister, you can pay at the gate but the fee will be \$25. Finally, for liability reasons, **no guests (defined as everyone except OHA members, Kings Own members, and 226th members) will be allowed to participate in the shooting events, and no one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend.**

Note: *There will be no tactical training at this event. There is no reason to bring blanks. All ammunition will be collected at registration and will be distributed at the range each day. Please bring your ammo in some type of container with your name on it. You will need 60 rounds total to shoot the service rifle match on Saturday. We are hoping to have 30 - 06 ammo available for sale at the event, further details in the September newsletter.*

Honoring World War II Vets

From a column by D.G. Martin, UNC system vice president for public affairs:

A front page headline in a recent edition of a North Carolina newspaper: "County's Last World War I Veteran Dies". It shouldn't have moved me as much as it did. After all, that war ended in 1918. Its youngest participants could not have been born much after 1900. Those still alive have past, or are fast approaching, their hundredth birthdays. How do I explain why this is so important to me?

Maybe this way: When I was a young boy there were still a

few Civil War veterans alive. They were just about as rare as a World War I veteran is today, and World War I is about the same distance back in time now as the Civil War was in the early 1940s.

When the Civil War veterans were fading away back then, most veterans of World War I were in their prime - just moving into middle age. They were the men who ran things when I was growing up. The store owners, barbers, church leaders, and government officials came from the World War I generation.

They and their generation formed the "people-scape" in which my young life was set.

Now, I keep thinking, they are mostly gone - and if they are alive, they are as old as the Civil War veterans were back then. We are at a moment of the very last chance with veterans of World War I.

If you know, or can find, one of them, take a young person or a child to talk to him. Give that child a memory to connect that veteran all the way to the end of the next century. You will have done something worthwhile.

All this gets me thinking about the Second World War, its veterans, and the hard cold fact that in 25 or 30 years we will be

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reading this headline:

"County's Last World War II Veteran Dies"

It is hard to think of the World War II veterans as a dying breed. They surround us now. They are still everywhere - still so much our people-scape. One of them ran for president last year. Another, former President George Bush, showed us his vitality and courage the other week by jumping out of an airplane and parachuting to earth.

We are in the middle of a great national debate about a proper national memorial for the World War II veterans. However, the true monument to the veterans of World War II will be nothing that we construct. It will be what they did. Over there in winning the victory, of course.

But it will be more what they did here when they came back. Their real memorial is what they made of this country, boosting it from the financial depression and poverty into which most of them were born.

They came back from the war with more maturity, energy, confidence, practicality, open-mindedness, discipline, love of country, and competitiveness than any generation our country has ever seen. Then the country gave them advanced educational opportunities never available to so many Americans before.

With that mixture of healthy traits and education, they caused an explosion of economic growth that underpins our country's continuing prosperity and success.

The veterans of World War II are a generation to cherish, to thank, and to learn from. Now. Before they, like the veterans of the Civil War and World War I, just fade away.

(editor; thanks to Paul Gill for submitting this article to the newsletter.)

Memorial Day Display In Cary

The weather was threatening as the usual crew gathered to set up for our first ever Memorial Day display in Cary, NC. There aren't many options available when you commit to an outdoor display and we decided to bite the bullet, set up as we originally planned, and prayed the rains would hold off until the late afternoon.

We had an impressive amount of display material. We had three vehicles, Russell Pratt's jeep, Don Shupe's weapon's carrier, and Anthony Dawkin's deuce. The M1945 command tent was set up as a communications tent with radios and field wire equipment. Next was a small display of medical gear, followed by a M1942 command tent. In the command tent we set up a cot, a field desk, and a map table. The crowd was then guided to a display of kitchen and mess gear which included a small detachment field stove, an immersion heater, a M1941 mermite can, a M1942 single burner stove, a mountain cook set, and repro K ration boxes. The kitchen display had a wonderful host named "Cookie" (Howard Hendricks) who graciously explained the equipment to the crowd. Along side the kitchen equipment two pup tents were set up, an early war open ended style and the later war closed end style. In front of the early war style Mark Burfete set up his field inspection display. As the crowd moved on through the display area they came to the heavy weapons display. This was a very popular area with 2 bazookas (a M1 and a M9A1), a Thompson, a M3 grease gun, a M1918A1 BAR, a M1919A4 and M1917A1 Browning Machine Gun, a 60mm mortar, and a Garand with a grenade launcher. Across the path from the weapons was a mine detector and a land mine.

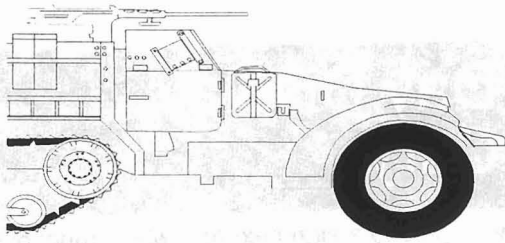
Next was a display of packs which included a M1928 Haversack, M1936 Field Bag, a Mountain Rucksack, M1943 Jungle Pack, M1944 Field Pack, M1945 Field Pack, and early and late war packboards. Since it was Memorial Day we stuck a Garand in the ground with a helmet on top and

placed a sign next to it which mentioned the number of U.S. service personnel that have died in all the wars from the Revolution to the Gulf and asked the people to take a moment to remember them.

We tried a new concept at this display and it seemed to be a tremendous success. We made up a sign which explained about the Old Hickory Association and its purpose. Then there were signs which explained the role of the U.S. Army and the 30th Division in World War II. Next were signs describing the major areas of the display, such as communications, feeding the soldier, medical, and command. From there the signs went down to artifact labels which described individual items. This display was a test for using these signs and it seemed that the crowd took interest in reading them. At this time we only have about 20 artifact labels but we will continue to build on that and will have them professionally mounted as funds become available.

By the way at about 1300hrs Sgt. Hendricks noticed that the sky was beginning to darken in the west. A plan was put in place as to which individuals would handle which equipment when the rains began to fall, and did they begin to fall at about 1330hrs. All the display materials were relocated under the command tents or in the vehicles to protect them from the rain. We did learn one very valuable lesson from this display. NEVER set up a display at the bottom of a hill. About ten minutes after the rain started, we had approximately three inches of water running through the communications tent. A couple brave troops attacked with entrenching tools in hand and were able to divert much of the water. So yes we did get wet and some had to come back the next day to break down the tents after they dried out but all in all it was a good display and appreciated by the crowd.

Thanks to those that helped out with the display: Thomas Amato, Jeff Bartlet, Mark Burfete, Anthony Dawkins, Sean Foster, FJ Hale, Howard Hendricks, Courtney Johnston, Les Monroe, Russell Pratt, and Don Shupe.



From The Motorpool

Back in 1993, while doing a display for the 83rd Infantry Division, a veteran walked up to one of the 3/4 ton weapons carriers we had on display and said, "The bumper markings on that vehicle are wrong." The marking on the truck were:

83 - 329 - I A - 12

We told the gentleman that we had read the manual on vehicle markings and felt that these were correct to indicate a weapons carrier that was the 12th vehicle in the line of march, used by "A" Company of the 329th Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Infantry Division.

You can imagine how red our faces were when this gentleman told us that an infantry company only had one vehicle assigned to it and that was the company commander's jeep. So much for a weapons carrier being the 12th vehicle in an infantry company. (This is when I started my rule, "Show it to me in a W.W.II photo and you can put it on your vehicle.")

S/Sgt. Al Shrawder Co. D, 331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division now had our attention and we begged for information.

S/Sgt. Shrawder was drafted 06/17/41 and sent to Ft. Riley, Kansas. After basic he was assigned to the 3rd U.S. Horse Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Myer, Va. The 3rd Cavalry was disbanded and he was sent to cadre the 83rd Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The 83rd was activated on 08/15/42 and he was assigned to Company D, a heavy weapons company. The weapons were: eight .30 cal M1917A1 machine guns and six 81mm mortars.

After the Tennessee Maneuvers the division left the states and landed in Liverpool on 04/19/44. They landed in France on 06/19/44 and entered combat on 06/27/44. The division was in 5 campaigns and had 244 days in combat. At the end of the war S/Sgt. Shrawder had enough points be sent home and was transferred to the 99th Division as it was anticipated that the 83rd would be sent to the Pacific. S/Sgt. Shrawder spent his entire time in the 83rd with Company D and was very familiar with the weapons and vehicles in a Heavy Weapons Company.

Each Regiment had 3 Heavy Weapons Companies:

- Company D of the 1st Battalion
- Company H of the 2nd Battalion
- Company M of the 3rd Battalion

A Battalion consisted of:

- Battalion Headquarters Co.
- Three Rifle Companies (A,B,C)
- Heavy Weapons Company (D)

Vehicle List - Heavy Weapons Company

Company HQS.

D-1	Company Commander	Jeep
D-2	Company Ex. Officer	Jeep
D-20	Motor Sgt.	3/4tonDodge (Maint)

1st MG Platoon

D-3	Platoon Lt.	Jeep
D-6	1st MG Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-7	2nd MG Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-8	3rd MG Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-9	4th MG Squad	Jeep w/ trailer

2nd MG Platoon

D-4	Platoon Lt.	Jeep
D-10	1st MG Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-11	2nd MG Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-12	3rd MG Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-13	4th MG Squad	Jeep w/ trailer

3rd Mortar Platoon

D-5	Platoon Lt.	Jeep
D-14	1st Mortar Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-15	2nd Mortar Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-16	3rd Mortar Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-17	4th Mortar Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-18	5th Mortar Squad	Jeep w/ trailer
D-19	6th Mortar Squad	Jeep w/ trailer

totals:	Jeeps	5
	Jeeps w/ trailers	14
	3/4 ton Dodge	1
		20 vehicles

Obviously, H Company's vehicles would be marked H-1 through H-20 and M Company's M-1 through M-20.

In the machine gun platoons the gun, cradle and tripod were carried in the trailer together with the boxes of .30 cal ammo. The trailers in the mortar platoon carried the tube, bipod and base plate, plus all of the mortar shells in cluster tubes made of heavy black cardboard. When going into combat the trailers carried the men's packs and all sorts of personal belongings. Also in combat, the men in the squad designated as ammo bearers would pile on the jeeps and trailers to ride.

Boy, is it ever an understatement to say that there is a lot to learn by talking to the men that were there.

(markings to be continued next issue)

HIDDEN WWII SITES: CHARLESTON, SC

BY MIKE FOX

If you are looking to combine a nice beach vacation with some great WW2 sight seeing, you cannot beat the Charleston S.C. area. Most of you can do your own homework about the great beaches in the area (I prefer the Isle of Palms and Sullivans Island) but you may not be as aware of the WW2 attractions in the area.

Probably the best is the naval museum at Patriot's Point. This wonderful area boasts of having the WW2 aircraft carrier Yorktown, the WW2 destroyer Laffey, the WW2 Coast Guard Cutter Ing-ham and the WW2 submarine Clangamore. There are excellent displays and museums on board each of the ships. The Yorktown (CV-10), nicknamed "The Fighting Lady" is the Essex class carrier which fought in the Pacific during the second half of WW2 after the first Yorktown was sunk at Midway. The Yorktown has one of the most impressive displays of naval aircraft

I have ever seen and has numerous decks open to the public with great historical displays. The Yorktown is also home to the national Medal of Honor museum. The destroyer Laffey (DD-724) had the distinction of participating in the Normandy landings and in most of the Pacific campaigns of 1945. Hit by 5 kamikaze planes and 3 bombs off Okinawa, the Laffey survived to become known as "the ship that wouldn't die." The area also has an excellent reconstruction of a Vietnamera river-base. Finally, there is an excellent bookstore that has some rare WW2 titles. Call for info at 803-884-2727.

Next, is the WW2 portion of the famous Fort Moultrie on Sullivans Island. Noted for it's role in the defense of Charleston from the British during the revolution, the Fort also has the distinction of being the location some of the first shots of the civil war as the S.C. forces fired on Fort Sumter. During WW2 the Fort served as the Harbor command post

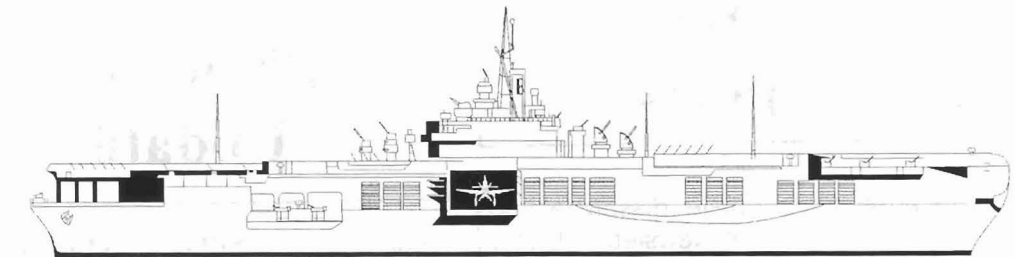
and controlled the anti submarine defenses of the area. The camouflaged tower provides an excellent view of the entire harbor and is still equipped with WW2 items and signal flags. The command post and underground bunker is equipped as if it were 1944 and the men manning the post have just stepped out for a break. Thousands of military and 1944 period items decorate the several rooms set up for display. Finally, if you drive around the Fort area you will be amazed at the WW2 era barracks and buildings that are being used as private homes.

Finally, in downtown Charleston there is an excellent museum which has a lot of WW2 30th Division items. The American Military Museum covers all of America's wars but has the most stuff on the 20th century. Admission is \$5. The address is 40 Pinckney Street and the phone is 803-723-9620.

NC Transportation Museum Display

Members of the OHA participated in a display at the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer. The theme of the display was Military Medical Transportation. The display was planned by two of our newest members, Larry Neal and William Vanderburg, who work for the Museum.

The Museum has completed the restoration of the outside of a W.W. II hospital car and also has a W.W.II switchyard engine. They are now starting the arduous task of the interior restoration of the hospital



car.

We brought down the limited amount of medical equipment that we have, but did manage to put down a nice display including stretchers, first aid kits and pouches, the contents of a medics bag, a casualty evacuation bag, a paratrooper medics bag, surgical equipment carrying case and a transfusion bottle. We had two medics in complete gear, a team of litter bearers, and a lone rifleman to provide cover.

Luther Sowers brought his WC-54 Dodge Ambulance and a jeep and provided MP support in the afternoon.

Thanks to the Museum for supplying a free Barbecue lunch and thanks to Thomas Amato, Mark Burfete, Anthony Dawkins, Paul Gill, Les Monroe, Russell Pratt, and Don Shupe for putting up with those wool uniforms on a hot sunny day.

UNIT NEWS

OHA Purchases Tent

The Association is carrying out its plan to purchase a GP Medium Tent to be used for displays and bivouac events such as the Camp Butner Shoots. At the last Butner event we polled all the members in attendance and **100%** agreed to support the purchase of the tent. Spreading the cost of the tent across the total membership brings it down to **\$5.00 per member**.

Please make checks payable to the **Old Hickory Association** and send them to Don Shupe, 414 Cary Pines Drive, Cary, NC 27513.

(Luther Sowers and David Curtin have already contributed to this fund and can ignore this request.)



Work Detail at Butner

On May 17th and 18th a work detail was performed at the Camp Butner Range Site in a effort to maintain a good working relationship with the NC National Guard. On Saturday Jeff Barlet, Anthony Dawkins, and Russell Pratt worked with members of the National Guard updating the phone numbers on the range warning signs around the perimeter of the range land. On Sunday Anthony Dawkins and Don Shupe performed the same type of work

around a section of Lake Butner that extends into the range property. This was accomplished with expert boat handling by Admiral Dawkins with Don Shupe assault-

ing the beach time after time after time to add the new phone number to the signs and clearing away brush that was blocking the signs. And it must be said that never once did Shupe get wet feet. Anyone interested in helping at future work details should contact Anthony at (919) 575-4622.

E-Mail Update

Because of complete dissatisfaction with Prodigy, your Newsletter Editor has switched e-mail service over to Microsoft Network. His new address is:

shupeda@msn.com

This shouldn't prove to be to much of an inconvenience for anyone since no one sent me their addresses as requested in the last newsletter. So I will request again. Even if you think that I have your e-mail address, please send it to me. Thank You.

Phone list Update

Butler	Mike	(540) 236-3134
Caviness Jr.	Richard	(919) 742-4394
Crane	Stephen	(910) 425-7990
Dorsey	Thomas	(919) 758-9181
Freeman	Gerald	(919) 693-2014
Neal	Larry	(704) 630-9117
Sowers	Luther	(704) 633-4170
Vanderburg	William	(704) 647-0704
Hogan	Todd	(910) 288-0965

Fly-in at Southern Pines September, 20 & 21, 1997

Events 1997-1998

The Carolina Wing of the CAF will be hosting a fly in of antique aircraft at the Moore County Airport on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21 1997, from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

The OHA will be setting up a display in support of this event. We will be setting up our GP medium tent to shade the display material and members of the group. We can also use it to sleep in for those members staying overnight.

At this time the CAF have scheduled to attend:

3 or 4 P-51 Mustangs, a half dozen AT-6's, 1 or 2 Russian Yak's, a reproduction Japanese Kate, Steerman trainers, a Korean/Vietnam era Skyraider, a TBM Avenger torpedo bomber, 1 possibly 2 C-47's and a German Junkers 52 tri-motor transport.

They will also be sponsoring a USO show and dance which we will be admitted to free of charge, so bring class A's. We will have use of the rest rooms and pilot's lounge in the General Aviation Section of the airport. At this time, they have yet to decide whether the USO Show will be held on Friday or Saturday night. Since the gates open at 8:00am on both Saturday and Sunday, we may need to get there on Friday night anyway. One possible plan would be to arrive Friday evening, set up the tent, stow the display material, go to the USO show, and then set up the display on Saturday morning.

There will be food available both days and there will be a pancake breakfast available on Sunday morning.

We would like to get a couple of vehicles down there and a decent amount of display material.

All those interested in participating please contact Don Shupe at (919) 467-3119.

September 17-20, 1997 - National 30th Division Veterans Reunion, Louisville, KY.

September 20-21, 1997 - Display at Fly-in at Southern Pines. See article.

October 11-12, 1997 - Live fire shoot and Annual meeting. See article.

October 17-19, 1997 - Fall Armor/Infantry Reenactment. See details in rear of this newsletter.

October 25 -26, 1997 - Battle of the Kaal Trail Tactical Battle, Ft. Pickett, VA. Sponsored by the Battle Group, contact Mike Fox at (910) 856-7797 for registration details.

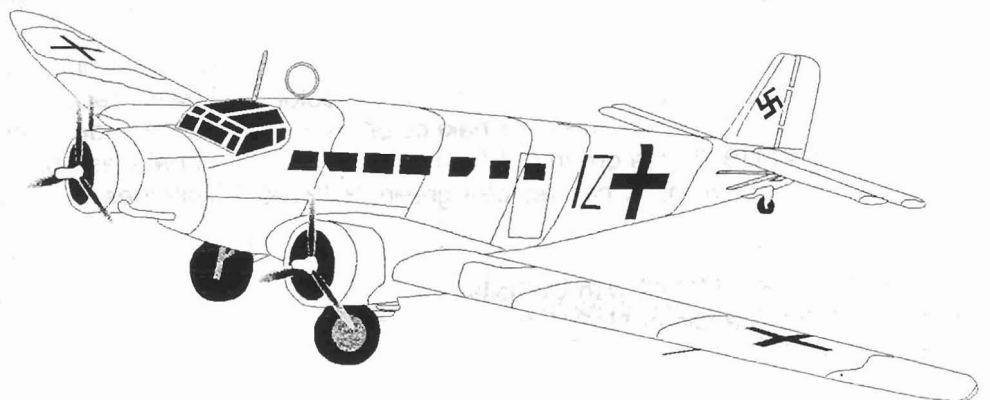
November 11, 1997 - Veteran's Day Parade or display, Asheboro or other locations, please contact Mike Fox with any ideas or suggestions.

November 21-23, 1997 Rhineland Campaign Tactical Battle, formerly at Ft. Eustis and Camp Pisco, VA. Sponsored by H.R.H.R., location to be announced late, contact Mike Fox for registration details.

January 30th - February 1, 1998 Battle of the Bulge, Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA, sponsored by the Federation, more details later.

February 14-15, 1998 - Battle of St. Vith, Ft. Pickett, VA, sponsored by the Battle Group, more details later.

Living History and possible trip aboard the Liberty Ship, U.S.S. John Brown - we had lots of interest in this event. David Curtin has the contacts with the Liberty Ship Group. Call him at (804) 590 - 1965 if you are interested.



Military Through the Ages Waxhaw, NC

The OHA was invited to participate in a "Military through the Ages" event at the Museum of the Waxhaw's in Waxhaw, NC over the weekend of May 3rd and 4th. For those of you unfamiliar with "Military through the Ages" events, they are displays of military units from different periods of history. At this event there were impressions from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and even present day paratroopers were represented by two troopers from Fort Bragg.

The OHA provided the impressions from W.W.I and W.W.II. The old "veteran" Howard Hendricks brought out some of his W.W.I collection and showed all us young whipper-snappers what it was like to fight in the "War to end All Wars."

We had a nice variety of

W.W.II display material and uniforms. Mark Burfete did an early war impression, wearing Khaki's and laying out his early war field inspection. Thomas Amato was wearing M1941 HBT while representing the Pacific Theatre and he had a nice layout of jungle equipment. Stephen Crane did W.W.II paratrooper and provided an interesting comparison with the present day troopers. Les Monroe showed the crowd what the typical soldier was carrying when he came ashore on D-day. Paul Gill was wearing the standard wool uniform of the European Theatre and Don Shupe did a layout of equipment of a squad automatic rifleman while wearing M1943 HBT's.

The display got off to a rainy start on Saturday but we were able to set up under the Museum's covered terrace. The museum gave us a nice barbecue dinner on Saturday night and allowed us to sleep in the museum building because of the weather.

On Sunday the weather cleared and nice crowd came out. We were able to expand our display with the nicer weather and set up a couple of pup tents, one early war and one

late.

One of the more interesting segments of the display was our participation in a firing demonstration along with Revolutionary War and Civil War groups. First the Rev War group demonstrated the loading and firing of their flintlocks. Then came the percussion caps of the Civil War, followed by the old man of the "world war" showing the loading and firing of the M1917 Enfield. Finally came Paul Gill with an M1 Garand. Mark Burfete narrated the loading and firing of the M1 and Paul fired all 8 rounds in the time it took for the Rev War guys to get their ramrod out.

The museum staff was quite impressed with our display and is planning to work closely with us in the future.

This was my first experience with a "Military through the Ages" format and I found it very interesting. It was nice to talk to the people doing the different impressions and was extremely educational. I would encourage anyone who hasn't participated in one to do so at the next opportunity.

Equipment List for Field Inspection

Uniforms

Shirt - flannel, mustard color
Trousers - wool, mustard color
Undershirt - OD or White cotton, athletic or crew style
Waist Belt - M1937 Web with open faced buckle
Shoes, Service - roughout or captoe
Leggings, canvas - M1938, pea green or Khaki color
Jacket, Field - M1941
Helmet - M1 with liner

Equipment

Cartridge Belt - M1923 web belt, pea green or khaki color
Canteen Cover - M1910, pea green or Khaki color
First Aid Pouch - M1942, pea green or Khaki color
Haversack - M1928, w/ pack carrier, pea green or Khaki color
Canteen & Cup - M1910
Meat Can- (Mess Kit) M1942 with Utensils
Shovel - M1910 t - handle or M1943 folding w/ cover
Blanket - wool W.W.II

Weapons

Rifle - M1 Garand
Bayonet w/ scabbard - M1905, M1942, or M1

Additional Items to complete inspection

Tent Shelter half - early open end or late closed end
Tent rope - one
Tent pins - five
Tent pole - one folding or one 3 piece sectional
Raincoat or Poncho - raincoat, dismantled / W.W.II poncho was hoodless
Gas Mask w/ carrier
Rations
Handkerchief - OD
Towel - face, white or OD
Spare underwear- white or OD
Shoelaces - brown
Toiletries- razor - w/ carrying case
toothbrush
toothpowder
soap - w/ soap dish
comb
foot powder

DRAFT COPY
Fall Armor/Infantry Reenactment
October 17-19, 1997

Sponsored by 4th Armored Division Reenactment Association and W2HPG

This private, invitation only, event will pit 250 of the most serious infantry reenactors, two German T-38 Hetzers, and up to five American light and medium tanks against each other on 400 acres of land, graciously offered to us by a military museum. There will be both tank vs. tank action and tank/infantry scenarios from dawn to dusk. Part of the action will be choreographed and part will be free flowing allowing the armor and infantry commanders to match wits and tactical skill with their adversaries. Pyrotechnics will also be incorporated into the action. No reenactment has ever brought this much armor together or designed scenarios specifically for armored combat. Participants will be treated to experiences that have never been possible before: tank duels, artillery attacks, and combined armor infantry operations. Nobody will ever forget this event. This kind of show is expensive! We will invest all the money collected through preregistration fees into the program. We intend to subsidize the transport expenses of the participant tankers 50% and spend the rest of the money for pyrotechnics, insurance, toilets, food, and a donation to the sponsoring museum. Isn't it about time an event organizer gave you something for your money?

THE SITE:

The site is 2.5 miles north of Smethport on Route 46 in western Pennsylvania. The approximately 400 acre site is divided by Route 46. One side is relatively open ground, about a 1/2 mile run from end to end, with stands of trees and a forest and stream on one border. Good tank country. On the other side of Route 46 the site consists of forested hills crisscrossed by trails and clearings. Bad tank country reminiscent of the Hurtgen Forest.

PARKING:

The museum is located behind a Keystone gas station and there is a large parking lot in front of it. All participants should park there as close to the museum as possible. The lot is used by a commercial trucking operation and we cannot hamper their operations by spreading out all over the lot.

WEARING OF UNIFORMS:

The town of Smethport is small. They are probably not ready for a deluge of reenactors and we do not want to do anything that will result in negative publicity for our sponsoring museum. Also, we don't want to advertise our presence and draw throngs of curiosity seekers to the event sight. Discretion is a must. If you plan to go into town for dinner at a restaurant or the drive-in **DO NOT WEAR ANY UNIFORM**. Remember, most people mistakenly associate our hobby with the militia and public sentiment is deeply suspicious of para-military groups. Why ask for trouble? Therefore,

UNIFORMS WILL NOT BE WORN IN THE PARKING ARE OR BY THE PUBLIC ROAD.
COMPLETE UNIFORMS CAN ONLY BE WORN IN THE TACTICAL AREA.

This goes for all troops. You will not cross the public road (Route 46) in uniform individually with weapons, helmets, equipment, tunics, or anything else distinctively military on your person. It would be quite shocking for a local person to be driving along and see a German soldier in the street. For the most part everyone, tanks and men, will be camping in the field the night before so this should not be more than a slight inconvenience. When we do cross the road later in the day to use the other side of the property, we will cross as a group, Americans marching to the outside and Germans comfortably ensconced in the center.

IMPRESSIONS:

American impressions will be limited to 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, 4th Armored Division. There will be more variety with the German units, but not much more. Cooperation is paramount. Ten different unit impressions in the field simultaneously does not breed cooperation.

RANK:

Officers and NCOs will be chosen before the event. These jobs carry with them a lot of responsibility and we expect all participants to follow their instructions. Your safety and the success of the event depend on it. No one is to wear any rank above that of private unless they have been selected as a leader by the event planners. We can not have men wearing badgcs of rank without authority because it will at best confuse the participants and at worst undermine the authority of those with the real responsibility. When you see an officer or NCO giving orders out on the field, obey them! They are YOUR leaders.

INVITATIONS:

An event can never be better than the participants make it and that is why we insist on controlling who and how many people attend. Some invitations have already been proffered to highly respected units but there are certainly a lot of very good reenactors in mediocre units out there that should be at this event. If you, as an invited participant, are aware of people who could contribute to the quality of this event with their participation we ask that you contact our registration representative and let us know about them. You don't need to be part of a recognized unit to participate in this event. You do have to look and act the part of a soldier and be willing to follow orders and be part of a team. We can be more flexible on age than excessive weight as the former can be more easily masked than the latter. This is an extremely strenuous hobby and more than one reenactor has had his heart explode on the field. We don't want those kinds authenticity or health problems.

REGISTRATION:

Unit registration is not necessary but it is preferred. All participants must preregister. The units that have already been invited should start sending their fees in immediately. Simply fill out the attached liability release and mail it to us with your check. We do not want more than 250 attendees at his site and first come are first served. An event fee of \$30 a person, vehicle owners excluded, will allow us to generate \$7500 in working capital. The sooner we get this money in hand the sooner we can finalize our plans. Please direct your checks, payable to 4th Armored Division Association, to our registration representative:

OHA. WILL REGISTER
AS A UNIT, INTERESTED
PERSONS SHOULD CALL
MIKE FOX, AT ~~910-856-7797~~
910-856-7797
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: (Tentative)

Friday:

All participants should plan to arrive Friday after 1000. The company sized tactical operations planned for the day are rarely done and all will benefit from a refresher in tactical organization. I strongly advise all participants to arrive early enough on Friday to take part in the training exercises at 1600. They are very important. Event officers and NCOs must arrive by 1400 for drill and familiarization with program and safety issues. Friday is the day to test weapons & communication, fine tune the tanks, and practice working in squad, platoon, and company level groups. On Friday we expect participants to:

- Arrive
- Check In
- Receive Updated Time-Table
- Park & Move Your Gear Into The Tactical Area
- Participate In Squad, Platoon, and Company Tactical Drills
- Camp In The Tactical Area.
- Limited Tactical? Tank Stalking w/ Bazooka & Panzerfaust

Saturday:

Tactical scenarios will commence at one hour before dawn and continue until dusk. Some will be choreographed to insure that the action unfolds in a historically plausible and safe manner. Most of the scenarios will be free flowing. I don't know if night infantry action will be possible because of the noise. We plan several short scenarios, none more than two hours. Some of the tank vs. tank battles, in which the infantry will largely be spectators, may be less than 30 minutes. In any case we will go until we have all gotten our moneys worth or we drop from exhaustion! The choreographed scenario suggestions listed below are tentative. More detailed planning will come after our next visit to the site once it has been mapped and video taped. This is your event and we want to hear your ideas. What things would you want to see happen at an event?

SCENARIO OPTIONS:

#1. (Tanks & Infantry) This scenario offers quite a spectacle to the participants and would be a good one to start off with.

At dawn an American infantry unit attacks a German held wood. The attacking troops are hit with mortar fire as they advance but they reach the forest and engage the enemy. The attack soon becomes bogged down when the troops run into entrenched enemy positions. The doughs fall back and call in their armor which moves in to reduce the strongpoints from the flank and carry the position. As the position is being organized, a German armor counterattack is launched and the American tanks move to meet it. The tanks battle it out in the field and on the wood line while the infantry observe the action safely out of the way.

#2. (Tank vs. Tank) The advanced guard of an American armored column is scouting down a road in an area known to occupied by a German armored unit. Will they be ambushed by concealed tanks and anti-tank guns or will they spot the enemy before he spots them? Will they get through? This scenario can be done first as a chorographed program and next as a free-flowing one.

#3. (Tanks & Infantry) American infantry have just taken up defensive positions in the wood line covering a field when they are counter attacked by German Infantry supported by armor. The American tanks are not on the scene. The Germans take the position and drive off or capture the Americans. The Germans press their attack and attempt to seize the field beyond but run into a patrol of American tanks and have to shoot it out. The infantry scatter back to safety and let the tanks slug it out. The infantry part of this scenario can be choreographed and the tank battle part can be left free-flowing.

#4. (Tank & Infantry) A typical action.

A German infantry column is caught on the road by an American tank column. Machine-guns blaze as the troops are slaughtered. Others flee into the wood line and escape. The German tanks in the column desperately try to maneuver to engage the attacking American tanks but they are destroyed after hitting only one American tank. The battlefield is now filled with smoking tanks. We will light smoke bombs to simulate burning vehicles. After the tanks and infantry are destroyed the American tanks radio for their infantry support to be brought up to mop up the area. The tanks take up defensive positions and soak up the ambiance. American troops march in and take prisoners and also soak up the historical impact of the grisly scene. Everyone will have the chance to use their first person impressions. (This scenario may be a good one to use prior to lunch. All the Germans are together and can be marched off as prisoners and fed from the same kitchens as the Americans.)

0630 to 1130 Choreographed or partially choreographed scenarios with pyrotechnics.

1130 to 1230 Lunch. Possibly served in the field from field kitchens or, more likely, your own field rations.

1230 to 1830 Free-flowing tactical scenarios until dusk. There should be time for four, five, ???

1900 Americans & Germans return to camps for supper. Eat in the field. No axis uniforms off the field.

2030 Americans: Movies in the field. WWII Training films shown on a period 16mm projector.

2200 American & German: Critical review of the days action by Infantry & Armor Officers and NCOs.

Sunday:

Everyone gets a chance to visit our sponsoring museum; your tax-deductible donations would be greatly appreciated. Then it's time to cleanup, pack up, return your event surveys, and get back home. Since the tankers may not be able to move their tanks on Sunday they might wish to do a few more scenarios.

0930 Battlefield cleanup. There may be lots of pyrotechnic debris and brass to pick up.

1100 Everyone and everything is off the battlefield.

