

The Old Hickory Chronicle

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

September/October 1997

A WALK IN THE SUN

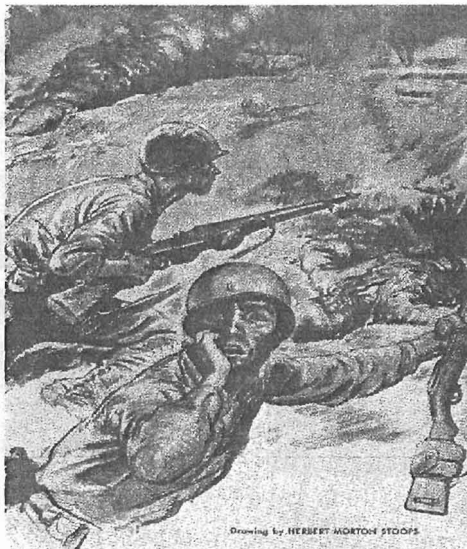
by Mike Fox

In June, 13 men of the OHA took a little walk in the sun at the first annual Italian Campaign event sponsored by the Hampton Roads Historical Reenactors (HRHR). The event occurred in the foothills near Hurt, Virginia on private property. While the overall attendance was light, everyone had an excellent time. Approximately 30 allies and 15 Germans participated in the event. The thirteen OHA men made up a full strength rifle squad, complete with an automatic rifle. This constituted the bulk of the allied force and was the major striking force. The rest of the allies consisted of our British friends in the Kings Own who had a small section of 6-7 infantry, 3 U.S. Airborne troopers, and 6-8 misc. G.I.s formed into a second rifle squad. The Germans were deployed primarily in 3 groups of 4-5 men with one as a heavy weapons section with a crew served machine gun and a mortar.

The morning started out with the allies sending out patrols to locate the Germans and secure key objectives. After a hard hike over several wooded hills and down a steep embankment the OHA squad came within sight of the first objective: the bridge across a small river. After the scouts (Les Monroe and Clint Yarborough) spotted some unidentifiable figures hiding in the grass

near the bridge, I sent them across the road to check it out. The two scouts made it fine but yours truly, the squad leader drew rifle fire as I tried to cross. I quickly signaled the assistant squad leader, Howard Hendricks, to keep the rest of the squad concealed while moving them into position to both cover the three of us on the other side of the road as well as flank the enemy near the bridge.

Meanwhile, the three amigos' on the wrong side of the road set up a harassment fire on the Germans and slowly "low crawled" into a better position. Les did such a good job of low crawling that he got so far forward in a



Drawing by HERBERT MORTON STOOFS

ditch that he could not get out when Clint and I decided to pull back and cross the river 100 yards up from the bridge. While Clint and I went on a long flank sweep, Les and the Germans around the bridge held each other in position! Meanwhile the BAR team was also covering the bridge from the high ground across the road while Howard and the rest of the squad crossed the river 100 yards below the bridge. This pincer movement worked beautifully as we managed to wipe out all the Germans around the bridge in about 30 minutes. I should mention here what a good job Clint does of finding Germans in the woods. He walked about 15 yards ahead of me and let all of them shoot him, thereby exposing their positions to me! I killed 4 Germans this way without being shot at once! I plan to recommend Clint for an award of valor, posthumously of course! HA!

After the bridge battle we started down the road to the next objective. We had not gone 100 yards before 4 of our men were killed in an ambush from the wooded hill above the road. Unfortunately, the Germans got away so fast we never saw them. Not wanting to make the same mistake twice, I sent Howard and three guys up the hill to travel parallel to the main body on the road. We had proceeded about

200 yards when we ran upon some Italian partisans. They claimed to be friendly, but several of the guys, still angry about the ambush wanted to shoot them on sight. Common sense prevailed however and we decided to make them the point men for our journey up the road, with our guns carefully trained on them!

We had traveled about 200 more yards when firing broke out on the point. My scouts reported 2-3 Germans ahead. I went forward to assess the situation and decided to commit the rest of the squad to clear them out. Just as the BAR was going into action, Jim Caleer made what seemed to be a heroic charge down the road yelling at the top of his lungs! It turns out he had jumped into a nest of yellow jackets and was fleeing the angry mob! This development quickly ended the firefight as everyone got out of the area of the nest and helped Jim recover from his numerous stings. As both sides sat around eating lunch afterwards, the German commander was lamenting the unfortunate early ending of the battle. He explained the he had laid a clever ambush and that we had walked right into it! The four Germans on the road were merely bait to draw us into the sights of the other three Germans 20 yards above the road.

At this point I explained to him that we had four G.I.'s 50 yards above the road who had been in the process of flanking his ambush party without them knowing it! All of a sudden his ambush did not look as good. HA!

After lunch we recrossed the river by fording it and started back up the main road to the sound of German machine gun fire. Eventually our scouts (this time Andy Tripp and Mo Bass) discovered the position of the German machine gun the hard way. Once again, we successfully employed a pincer movement to take the enemy position, although at heavy cost. When the firing first began the BAR team took off to the left into the woods to flank the Germans. Meanwhile, Howard and 4 other G.I.'s who had been travelling parallel to the main column on the right flank, moved out under cover of the river bank and walked through the river to flank the Germans from the right. Meanwhile the rest of our squad laid down a ferocious covering fire from the center while the British squad made a direct assault by low crawling up the steep hill into the German position! After about a 30 minute firefight we took the German machine gun and mortar position

but with heavy casualties. Both sides agreed that it was a great firefight and was well done on both sides with good sportsmanship.

This engagement effectively ended the battle for the day since everyone was fairly exhausted. It was very hot and the heat combined with the hilly terrain took a lot of energy from everyone. Afterwards there was a cook-out for all participants. All in all this was a great little event with lots of action and fun for everyone. I would only recommend one change for next year, schedule the event in the early spring or fall so as to minimize the effect of the heat!

The following nine OHA members attended this event: Mike Fox, Howard Hendricks, Les Monroe, Thomas Amato, Clint Yarborough, Brett Bondorant, F.J. Hale, Andy Tripp, and Mo Bass. In addition four members of our sister unit from Southwestern Virginia led by Mike Butler attended and were part of our squad. Finally, in case anyone did not get the reference in the title of the article, "A Walk In The Sun" is the name of a great WW2 movie about a platoon of G.I.'s in Italy. In my opinion, the dialogue and story are just as good as "Battleground." The movie also has excellent uniforms and equipment since it was made in 1946. Check it out sometime.



Les Monroe strikes a pose among the heavy weapons.



Anthony Dawkins keeps a watchful eye on our vehicles parked in front of the Greensboro Police Department.

Independence Day Displays in Gibsonville and Greenboro. Trouble in Greensboro.

The OHA participated in two events over the Independence Day Holiday. The first event was held the weekend before the 4th in Gibsonville. The second was in Greenboro on the Fourth.

At Gibsonville we set up our display on the village green which also is the site of their W.W.II memorial. We pitch the M1942 Command tent and set up a display of communication equipment, followed by kitchen and mess equipment. Next we had a early and late war Field Inspection. The display was closed out with the heavy weapons.

After the display was set up we moved to the parade assembly area while one of Gibsonville's finest kept a watchful eye on our display. For the parade we had troops walking point followed by two jeeps, a weapons carrier, and a deuce pulling a 1 ton trailer. We suspect that deep inside Mark Burfete was hoping the parade would be a bust (he is still hoping for something worse than the Blackstone Parade) but there was a good crowd especially in the down-



Burfete, Amato, and Gill's faces show the stress of liberating another town as they prepare for the assault on Gibsonville.

town area. At the end of the parade we proceeded back to the display area and lined up the vehicles next to the display. We had a pretty light

crowd come through the display but all in all it was a nice event.

Howard Hendricks made arrangements for us to store the vehicles in the Gibsonville Public Works garage so we only had a 15 mile drive to get to Greenboro the following Friday.

Greensboro was going to be a repeat of Gibsonville. Set up the display, do the parade, do the display. Then things went wrong.

When we arrived at the event, we were informed that the Greenboro Police Department had determined that the public safety would be in jeopardy if we had three vehicles in the parade, and we would only be allowed to have two vehicles participate. We argued that there was little difference between two or three vehicles but the police stood their ground. At this point I volunteered to abstain from the parade, while muttering something about what they could do with their parade. The event official then mentioned that we were under no obligation to be in the parade. We were under contract to present the display and were being paid for it but not the parade. After this, both Anthony Dawkins and Russell Pratt didn't particularly care about being in it either.

This is where things went wrong. I'm not really sure how it happened because I was so angry about the whole deal that I pretty much stopped listening and worked on getting the display up, but I thought it was brought up to everyone there that we had the option to not do the parade and it was decided to skip it. Apparently not everyone was aware of what was going on because five minutes be-

fore the parade was to begin, some of the guys approached me and asked when we lining up for the parade. I told them we were not going to be in the parade and ex-



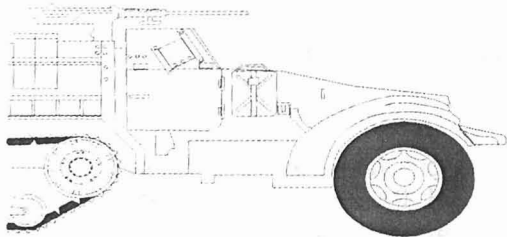
Howard Hendricks shows the effect of trying to do too many impressions in a short period of time

plained why.

To the members of the group that were unaware of what was happening I apologize. I was under the impression that everyone was involved in the decision and I will do my best to insure that it never happens again.

The display itself went very well and there was a real good crowd. Some of our members joined with a Rev War group to present contrasting firing demonstrations. So after a rough start we managed to have a good day.

Thanks to Thomas Amato, Jeff Bartlet, Mark Burfete, David Curtin, Anthony Dawkins, Joe Erickson, Mike Fox, Paul Gill, FJ Hale, Les Monroe, Russell Pratt, Don Shupe for helping with these events. A special thanks to John Hedgepath for bringing his jeep to Gibsonville.



From The Motorpool

In the last two issues we talked about the markings on the vehicles bumpers which indicated the unit the vehicle belonged to and their place in the order of march. In this issue we will discuss those mysterious numbers called the "U.S.A. registration numbers."

A registration numbering system was introduced for the War Department vehicles in 1929 and this system continued to be used throughout World War 2. The numbers were formed from:

- the letter W for War Department
- one or two numerals representing the vehicle type
- a number indicating the sequence in which the vehicle was issued

In addition the prefix K was used by the U.S. Signal Corps to designate special vehicle types. Towards the end of the war, from mid 1944 onwards, the prefix W was often omitted.

Registration numbers were painted in three inch high numerals, unless space indicated the use of smaller ones. The numbers were applied in the following positions:

- Trucks: at the side edges of the engine bonnet, on each side of the truck and across the tailboard.
- Open trailers: on the side edge of the body near the forward end and across the tailboard.
- Motorcycles: across the upper part of the rear mudguard, to the rear of the rider's seat.
- AFVs: on each side and on the rear of the vehicle, on the most appropriate surfaces. On hull type vehicles, such as tanks, SP guns and APCs, the number was also applied to the front surface in an appropriate position.

Often the registration number was linked up with the U.S.

Army title (U.S.A.), which was officially positioned in the same places. Sometimes you will see the U.S.A. placed above the registration number and sometimes it will precede the number in line. (see examples below)

U.S.A.
20347218
or
U.S.A.20347218

The 1936 version of AR 850-5 calls for the registration number to be painted with white paint. The April 22, 1942 version shows a change to blue-drab lustreless finish. This was for security reasons, as the blue-drab numbers against the olive-drab

paint of the vehicle made it almost impossible to read the numbers unless you were very close to the vehicle. If you have a copy of **G.I. Victory** you can see examples of blue-drab registration numbers on pages 31, (it's just below the shadow of the windshield.) and page 45.

By the time of the Normandy invasion you see all the registration numbers back to white but I've been unable to find a date for the change. In photographs of vehicles prepared for the invasion you can see the white registration numbers, sometimes painted over the blue-drab.

The following table lists the prefixes for registration numbers.

Vehicle Type	Number
Trailers	0
Maintenance Trucks	00
Cars and Sedans	1
Kitchen trailers	10
Light Trucks 1/2 ton to 1 ton	2
Recce trucks 1/4 ton, buses	20
Medium trucks, 1 1/2 ton	3
Tanks and some "specials"	30
Trucks, 2 1/2 ton up to 4 - 5 ton	4
Tracked and half tracked vehicles except tanks	40
Trucks over 5 tons and prime movers	5
Fire and crash trucks	50
Motorcycles and sidecars	6
Armoured cars and special technical vehicles such as command, radio, searchlight	60
Ambulances	7
Amphibious vehicles	70
Wheeled tractors	8
Tankers	80
Full and half tracked tractors	9

Letter to General Hobbs, 16 March 1946

Dear General Hobbs,

Now that I am leaving the service, I thought it might be well to give you the following information for whatever satisfaction you might derive therefrom.

I was historian of the ETO. Toward the end of last fall, for the purpose of breaking the log-jam of paper concerning division presidential unit citations, General Eisenhower instructed me to draw up a rating sheet on the divisions. This entailed in the actual processing that we had to go over the total work of all the more experienced divisions, infantry and armor, and report back to him which divisions we considered had performed the most efficient and consistent battle service.

We so did, and we named certain infantry divisions in the first category and same with armor, and we placed others in a second category yet others in a third. The 30th was among five divisions in the first category.

However, we picked the 30th Division No. 1 on the list of first category divisions. It was the combined judgment of the approximately 35 historical officers who had worked on the records and in the field that the 30th had merited this distinction. It was our finding that the 30th had been outstanding in three operations and that we could consistently recommend it for citation on any one of these three occasions. It was further found that it had in no single instance performed discredibly or weakly when considered against the averages of the Theatre and that in no single operation had it carried less than its share of the burden or looked bad when compared with the forces on its flanks. We were especially impressed with the fact that it had consistently achieved results without undue wastage of its men.

I do not know whether further honors will come to the 30th. I hope they do. For we had to keep looking at the balance of things always and we felt that the 30th was the outstanding infantry division of the ETO.

Respectfully yours,
/s/ S.L.A. Marshall

Colonel S.L.A. Marshall, GSC
Historian of ETO

Thanks to Ron Gragg for submitting a copy of this letter to the newsletter.

From The Foxhole

Once again the OHA is heading into the busy part of the schedule with a full head of steam. Most of the major reenactments occur from September until February. In addition, the OHA has its annual meeting and live fire at Camp Butner. Finally we will be doing two additional displays at an airshow and at the USS North Carolina. Thus far things have gone well this year. We started off 1997 with the best Battle of the Bulge at Fort Indiantown Gap ever! This was primarily due to our participation in Co. K, an organization which allows the best US infantry units to work together in a full size rifle company. No one else at any reenactment anywhere gets to do that. We also had a good

turnout and a good time at the much smaller Italian Campaign reenactment in June. In between, we had the busiest and most successful series of Living History displays since the end of the 50th anniversary of WW2. Most of the credit for them should go to Don Shupe and Howard Hendricks for being the main organizers.

This success means that we have a lot to look forward to the rest of the year, beginning with the Airshow in Southern Pines. Next, no one should miss the opportunity to be a part of the first crewed weekend on the battleship North Carolina in 50 years! This will be followed by two reenactments at Fort Pickett, one in October by the Battle Group, and

one in November by HRHR. Finally, the season is capped off by the annual Battle of the Bulge at Fort Indiantown Gap where we will once again participate with Co. K.

Perhaps the most significant event of the fall is our annual live fire shoot and group meeting at Butner. It is at this meeting where you have a real opportunity to influence the future of the group. It is the only time of the year where we specifically carve out the time from fun activities to discuss the nuts and bolts operation of the OHA. While you can voice any concerns or ideas you have to the Board of Directors anytime, the annual meeting at Butner is really the best opportunity for your elected leaders to get your feedback on how the group is doing. Please make every effort to attend and participate. It is your group, help make it the best it can be.

UNIT NEWS

Butner Update Pre-register by Sept. 22nd

Since there have been a lot of questions about the Butner event we will try to answer some of them with this update. While there has been overwhelming support for the goals of doing an inspection and maintaining an authentic camp, some people were concerned that we had lost sight of the "fun" aspect of this event. Nothing could be further from the truth. When you get down to the basics, think about the purpose of our group. It is to enjoy the fellowship of and learn from our friends in the group while wearing and using the uniforms, weapons and equipment of the ww2 G.I.! Think about it, all we are asking members to do is wear the correct ww2 G.I. uniform and equipment, show that you have it, and keep the camp looking like a ww2 period camp. To most of us, the "fun" part of this hobby is getting to wear and use the ww2 stuff! You can camp out with modern stuff anytime, it's a great deal of trouble to have 30 ww2 G.I.'s in a ww2 looking camp. Let's take advantage of that effort and make it look good.

- This group is a team effort and to have a good event requires everyone's help and cooperation. As usual, everyone will be expected to pitch in and help with any work that is required to make the event successful. There never has been any "make work" details in this unit and there never will be any! No one is going to be told to dig a hole and fill it in. All work details will be necessary for the operation of the camp, will be spread among everyone, and probably won't last more than a half hour. The people that show up late Saturday morning are guaranteed a detail Saturday night or Sunday morning. Everyone must do their fair share. This has

not been a problem in the past and we do not anticipate it will be one this year.

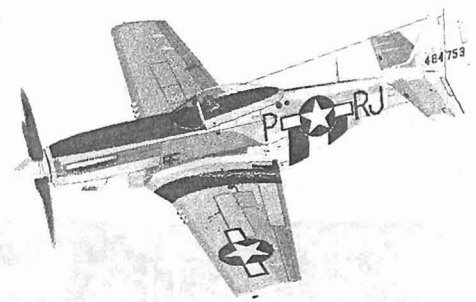
- The Inspection - This seems to be the biggest area of misunderstanding. Nobody is going to be looking for spit shined boots and polished brass. There is a very practical common sense reason for this inspection. We simply want to see how much of the basic required equipment you have. It might surprise you how many long time members do not have some of the small, basic, inexpensive items of equipment. Anyone that has a full field inspection can set it up if you want but no one is required to do it. If all that someone has is just a cartridge belt and a rifle that's fine, but they are expected to lay them out for inspection and we ask that you please bring all the basic equipment you have. The camp commander will do the inspection, a gig sheet will be filled out to show deficiencies and will be given to each person. That's it. No punishments will be issued, no one is going to be kicked out of the group. Lighten up, I guarantee that some of the wisecrackers in the outfit will make the inspection a fun and humorous event for everyone!

Since this is our Annual Meeting besides being a live fire shoot, we want to ensure maximum attendance. **If there is any member who can only attend the Saturday Dinner and Annual Meeting**, you can pre-register for a cost of \$8.00 by September 22, 1997.

The Association has purchased 1600 rounds of US manufactured M2 30-06 Ball in the Garand clips from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (formerly known as the DCM). We plan to sell it to our members

at our cost but unfortunately we do not know yet how much the shipping will be. The ammo cost us \$0.17 per round plus freight and it is being shipped freight collect. As of this writing we have not received it yet (probably thanks to UPS) It will probably end up being between \$.21 and \$.25 per round. But we can't guarantee that it will be here by the time of the event. If it doesn't make for this shoot it will be available for the next one.

If there are still questions concerning this event feel free to call Don Shupe at (919) 467-3119. We look forward to seeing you there!



Southern Pines Fly In Update

Everything is still a go for this event although I haven't received many calls about it. The CAF has decided to have the USO show on Saturday night as original planned. I'm still planning on going down to the airfield on Friday evening to get setup so we won't be so rushed on Saturday morning.

I've only had a couple of people respond for this event and we can certainly use all the help we can get. The Fly In is being held at the Moore County Airport. You can take the Midland Rd. exit off of US 1, and at the signal take Rt. 22 to the airport. Anyone who wants to attend should call Don Shupe (919) 467-3119.

Board Meeting Notes

The Board of Directors of the OHA met on August 12, 1997. In attendance were Mark Burfete, Mike Fox, Howard Hendricks, and Don Shupe. Eric Townsend was unable to attend.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Tent Storage - now that we purchased our GP Medium tent we've yet to find a satisfactory place to store it. It needs to be stored in a dry and varmited free area, plus it must be accessible for use. In addition it is very heavy and impossible for one person to load into a vehicle. The short term solution is to store in the back of Don Shupe's weapons carrier until a better solution can be determined.

- Scheduling of future Board meeting was raised since we have had a difficult time this year. A suggestion was to schedule a minimum of four meetings and to set mutually agreed upon dates at the beginning of the year.

- It was decided that we must establish a policy for purchases for the OHA above and beyond administrative costs for the operation of the group and printing and mailing of the newsletter. Howard Hendricks was appointed to draft a Board Policy on this subject for review by the Board at a later date.

- It was agreed that when the By-laws of the OHA are completed, a copy will be sent to each member and a copy will be included with each new member kit.

- The majority of the time was spent reviewing the Articles of Incorporation of the OHA and the Bylaws. A draft each was reviewed line by line and compared to other group's documents. This is an important step toward the OHA obtaining non-profit status.

Anchors Aweigh

During the weekend of October 4-5, 1997 OHA members will have a very unique opportunity to serve as crew aboard the USS North Carolina in Wilmington, NC. In case anyone does not know, the North Carolina was the first of the modern battleships to see action in WW2, serving in every major campaign in the Pacific War. In the 1960's she became a historic site for the state of North Carolina and a memorial site for the 10,000 North Carolinians who died during WW2.

During the weekend all participants will actually sleep aboard the ship and will have the option of eating in the mess galley for \$15 for the entire weekend. Additionally, a massive party and dance is planned for the ship's fantail on Saturday night. The cost of this party is \$25 and includes buffet food, free drinks and entertainment of a big band and cabaret singers. The theme of the party will be "A Night in the Orient" and celebrates the days of the China Station and the pre-war Pacific fleet.

The theme for the public display is October, 1941. The North Carolina has just completed her shakedown cruise and is in port at Hampton Roads, VA.

Participants can be either sailors, marines or army troops. The army troops will set up our usual living history display near the visitor's center beside the ship. The sailors and marines will be working on the ship, actually manning various stations such as AA guns, 5 inch guns, the bridge, medical stations, and signals. In addition there will be "general quarters" drills and an actual "abandon ship" drill, with original life rafts. At night everyone will

sleep on the ship and everyone who chooses can eat in the mess galley. Sailor's uniforms will be the dress blue jumpers and bell bottoms, white cap, black shoes, black neckerchief and white crew neck tee-shirt. Anyone who has it can wear the dungaree working uniform. Marine uniform will consist of khaki shirt (no epaulettes), khaki pants, brown shoes, khaki garrison cap (no trim, they will provide USMC insignia), khaki tie, khaki web belt w/buckle, white tee-shirt, khaki web cartridge belt, rifle (1903 Springfield preferred, Garand, carbine or BAR ok), and helmet (M1917 preferred, M1 ok). Army uniform will be the basic OHA required uniform: wool pants and shirt, '41 Jacket, brown shoes with leggings, khaki belt w/buckle, helmet, rifle, bayonet, M1928 pack, shovel w/carrier, 10 pocket cartridge belt, canteen w/carrier, and first aid pouch. Incidentally, for those of you with wives and girlfriends who have WW2 uniforms, they also welcome any W.A.C. impressions.

If anyone would like to portray any of these impressions but does not have all the equipment, contact Mike Fox at 910-856-7797 because some loaner equipment and uniforms for all three impressions is available. Registration is due by September 22, 1997. Because of the short time frame we will not register as a unit. A registration form is attached to this newsletter. Fill it out and send it in directly to the Battleship North Carolina. Checks should also be made out to "Battleship North Carolina." If you plan to attend, please call Mike Fox as soon as possible and let him know so we can coordinate our display properly.

Coming Events

September 17-20, 1997 - National 30th Division Veteran's Reunion, Louisville, Ky. Contact Mike Fox at 910-856-7797 for details.

September 20-21, 1997 - OHA Display at the Confederate Air Force Fly-In at Southern Pines. Contact Don Shupe at 919-467-3119 for more information. See update in this newsletter.

September 26-27, 1997 - 20th Century Tactical Study Group National Battle Reenactment at Jerry's Run, West Virginia. This is about 30 miles north of Charleston off I-77. The scenario is Austria 1945 and includes Germans, Russians, Americans and British. This is actually not too far away for most of us. It would be nice for someone to attend to see how this organization puts on events for future consideration. If you are interested Contact Mike Fox at 910-856-7797 for details.

October 4-5, 1997 - Living history as crew aboard the USS North Carolina in Wilmington, NC. See the related article in this newsletter for more details.

October 11-12, 1997 - OHA Annual Meeting and live fire event at Camp Butner, NC. Contact Don Shupe at 919-467-3119 for more information. See related update in this newsletter.

October 17-19, 1997 - Armor Battle, Smethport, PA. The event organizers have put the most recent battle announcement on their Internet web page which is: www.mosquito.com/~timvb/4tharmor.html You should check it out if you have Internet access. They are up to one Hetzer for German armor and 3-4 American tanks. Sounds like a great time! It would be good to have some 30th representation at this event. Paul Gill is

interested if he can find a couple of people to make the long drive with him. I have been personally assured by the event sponsor that any 30th Division men will be well taken care of due to the high respect that he holds for our unit. If you are interested Contact Mike Fox at 910-856-7797 for details.

October 25-26 or November 1-2, 1997 - Fort Picket, VA. Battle of the Kall Trail, fall battle reenactment sponsored by the Battle Group. This is usually a fun little "shoot 'em up" event with a focus on trigger time for you powder burners. At this point the date is still uncertain. If you are want to attend, contact Mike Fox at 910-856-7797 as soon as possible and he will notify you once the date is certain and will give you registration information as it becomes available.

November 8, 1997 - Fall reunion of the Tarheel Chapter of the 30th Infantry Division Association, Reidsville, NC. The OHA usually participates in this groups spring reunion in Raleigh with a small display and a color guard. Is there any interest in this event? Reidsville is about 35 minutes north of Greensboro. Contact Don Shupe at 919-467-3119 as soon as possible if you are interested so we can plan this event.

November 11, 1997 - Veterans Day Parade, location to be determined, possibly, Asheboro, NC. Contact Don Shupe at 919-467-3119 with any ideas or if you are interested in participating.

November 15-16 or November 22-23, 1997 - Fort Picket, VA. Rhineland campaign, annual fall tactical by the HRHR. At this point the date is still uncertain. If you are want to attend, contact Mike Fox at 910-856-7797 as

soon as possible and he will notify you once the date is certain and will give you registration information as it becomes available. This is generally a great event with a lot of twists and activities that you don't normally get at most re-enactments. This is usually the maximum effort fall battle reenactment for the OHA because our sister units in Co K all try to make this event also.

January 30- February 1, 1998 - Fort Indiantown Gap, PA annual Battle of the Bulge reenactment sponsored by the Federation. The "Big One," always the largest event of the year with 800+ reenactors and an awesome flea market. Last year the tactical was even terrific as we participated in Co. K, a full strength G.I. rifle company and kicked some Jerry butt! A long drive but well worth it! This year it will not cost you as much since Mike Fox talked the Federation into recognizing "Co. K" as one of the official umbrella organizations that you must belong to in order to register. This will save you from having to join another of these organizations just to attend this event, probably saving you \$15. More details later. The registration is always strict on this event so be prepared to send it back in immediately after you get it in the next newsletter. The event organizers have put the most recent battle announcement on their Internet web page which is: www.alltel.net/~shawkids/W.W.II/bulge.html You should check it out if you have Internet access.

January ?, 1998 - Fort Picket, Bastogne Reenactment hosted by the Battle Group. More details as they become available.



A tribute to officers of combat outfits, who stop many a sniper's bullet

Illustrated by the AUTHOR

Marketplace

For Sale: Dodge 3/4 ton command car. Runs, has current tag and clear title. Surplus from the Swiss army and is still in gray paint. Needs restoration to US OD. Has been under cover and has no rust areas, only a few minor fender dings. No top bows. Price includes 5 new military tires. \$8,000. Luther Sowers (704) 633-4170

For Sale: 1945 GMC CCKW 2 1/2 ton with winch and full canvas. All correct military tires. \$6200. Anthony Dawkins (919) 575-4622

For Sale: Four Pocket Tunic. Phoenix Clothes Inc., Dated 5/4/42 size: 40R, excellent condition. \$40 to OHA members only. Don Shupe (919) 467-3119

For Sale: W.W.II dated shelter halves (need repair) \$5.00, W.W.II dated folding shovel covers, Mint \$5.00, Mess kits \$3.00. Ray Oakes (804) 822-5370

For Sale: Dodge 1/2 ton, WC-10 Carryall. Needs restoration. \$2750. Russell Pratt (919) 479-1384

NEW COLUMN

We are opening up a new section of the newsletter in the next issue and its going to take you the members to make it work. It's going to be a letters to the editors column. With our membership being spread out over all of North Carolina and Virginia, its hard for us all to get together to discuss what direction you would like the group to go in, what you like and don't like about the newsletter and what type of events you would like to participate in.

As it is now, the Board of Directors is playing a guessing game. We try to plan a variety of events so that everyone gets a chance to do something they like. We hope we are guessing right but it would be nice to hear from the members of the group to let us know that.

If you have suggestions for the group, sent a letter, an e-mail, or call and let us know what's on your mind.

Send letters to Don Shupe, 414 Cary Pines Drive, Cary, NC 27513.

Send e-mail to shupeda@msn.com or call (919) 467-3119



Tent Fund

So far ten people have sent in their \$5.00 for the purchase of our GP Medium Tent.

I'm hoping that the rest of you are planning on coming to the Butner Event and you're going to include the tent fund with your registration fee, Right?

NEW FEATURE

We are starting a new feature in this issue in which we will introduce our newest members. Since we have had a lot of new members sign on this year we will cover a few each issue of the newsletter.

· Michael Burek - (704) 563-7904, Charlotte, NC.

Started reenacting in 1981. Spend 14 years in the U.S. Army. Was an Infantry Officer.

· Chuck Eatmon - (919) 237-0032, Wilson, NC.

Collects Military Vehicles, provides displays for schools and events.

· Gerald Freeman - (919) 693-2014, Kittrell, NC. Could be our first real medic. Red Cross Standard First Aid Instructor, American Heart Association CPR Instructor

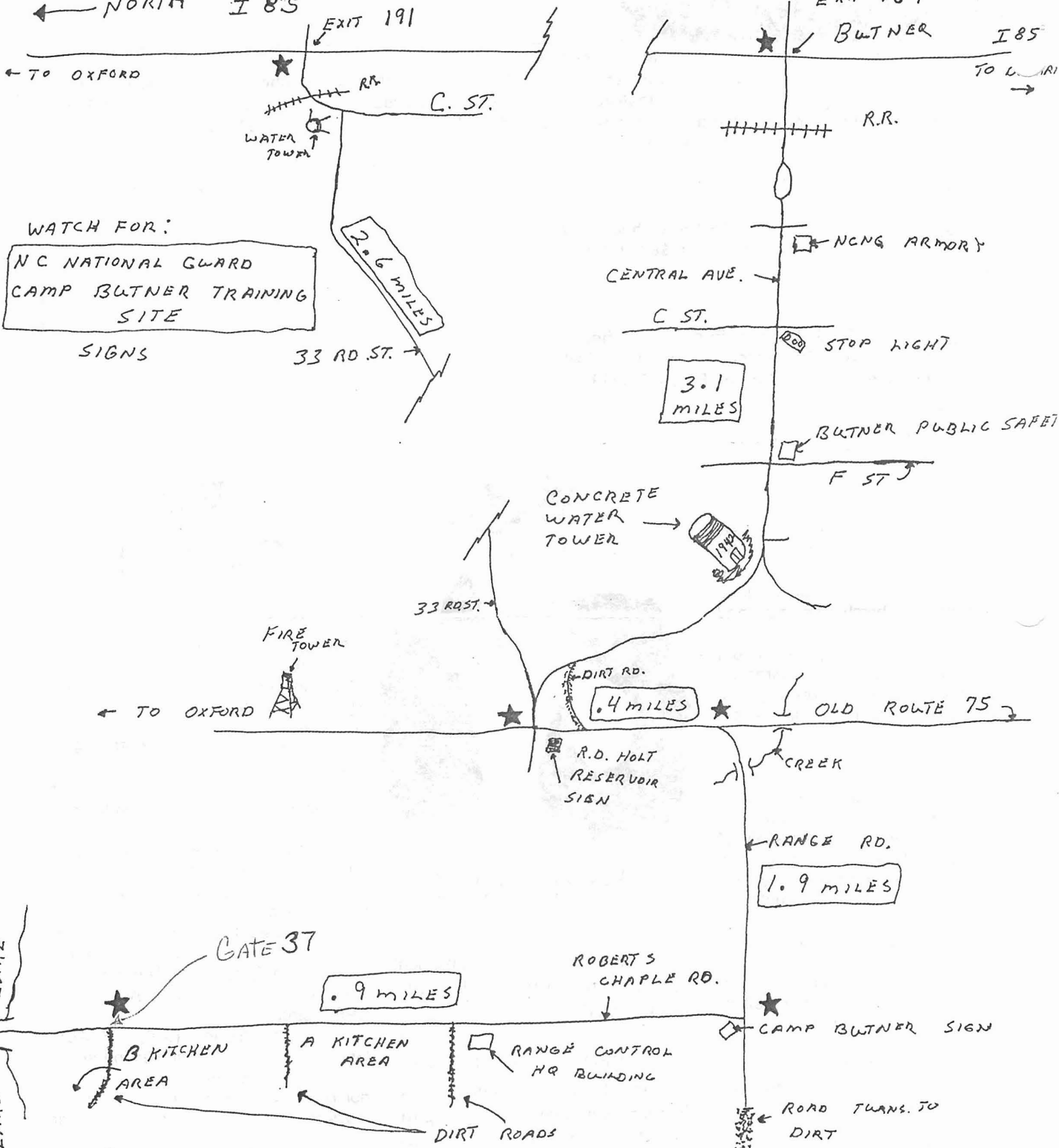
· Todd Hogan - (910) 288-0965, Greensboro, NC. Participates in the annual 4th of July celebration in Raleigh doing a W.W.II impression, W.W.II displays at local clubs, also does Rev War Impression.

That's all for this issue, more to follow.

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*Option A (includes meals and the "Night in the Orient" event), \$40.00 _____

*Option B (includes "Night in the Orient" event, NO MEALS), \$25.00 _____

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*Option D (NO MEALS, NO "Night in the Orient" event), \$5.00 _____

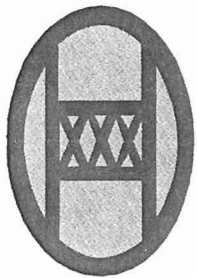
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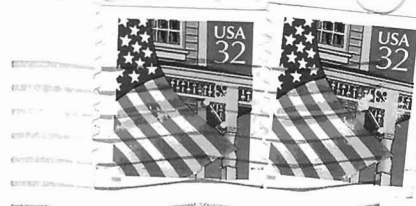
Wilmington, NC 28402

Attn: Jeff Bockert



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