

The Old Hickory Chronicle

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

September/October 1999

Camp Butner Scheduled for October 9/10 1999

The Old Hickory Association will hold its annual Camp Butner Training Site weekend on October 9 and 10th, 1999. This year we will be holding our service rifle shoot on the KD range as well as having our pig pickin and Annual business meeting. For something new we want to have a service rifle team competition on Sunday.

This will be a pre-registration event. Cost for the weekend will be \$20.00 per person. This includes use of the kitchen area and the range for Saturday and Sunday, the pig pickin on Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday. Registration forms, which are in the back of this newsletter along with a map, must be returned with payment by **October 2**, to Don Shupe at 414 Cary Pines Drive, Cary, NC 27513. People that show at the event without pre-registering will be charged \$25.00 and put at the end of the food line for both meals with no guarantee that there will be food for them.

This is a rain or shine bivouac event so come prepared. All OHA members attending are expected to sleep in the GP Medium or in dog tents. The GP will sleep 16 people comfortably and members will be placed on a first come basis. We will have extra shelter halves for members that need them. Bring a cot if you have one. You will need to bring mess gear for Sunday breakfast, and if you need to fill up before the pig bring a lunch you can eat in the pits while scoring targets. Uniforms for the weekend will be wools or HBTs.

You need to bring a standard service rifle for the country represented (for OHA members that will be a Springfield, carbine, or Garand) and weapons cleaning equipment, and a minimum of 60 rounds of ammo per match. **Your ammo must be in some sort of container with your name on it (preferably a ammo box) and will be collected at registration and issued back to you at the range.** There is no reason to bring blanks, so don't! Dave Curtin will be bringing some

of our CMP ammo for those that need it and will be selling it for \$56 for a ammo box of 280 rounds.

One thing that will be different this year is OHA members will shoot for marksmanship ratings on Saturday. Your scorecards will be collected and certificates will be issued indicating your rating as marksman, sharpshooter, expert, or try again next year. This will also indicate which marksmanship medal you should wear on your Class "A"s. On Sunday we would like to try having a team shoot, with three or four man teams representing different units, possibly competing for a trophy.

Another important part of this weekend is our business meeting. Since we tend to get a large turnout for this event it is a perfect time for us to discuss the future direction of the group and for the group's current leadership to hear directly from the members about issues they may want to discuss. Even if you can't attend the entire weekend but you live within a reasonable distance to Butner, please try to attend the meeting which will begin around 1930 hour Saturday evening. After the meeting we will try to have some more movies like we did at the spring training weekend. If anyone has articles for sale they should bring them to sell during non-duty hours.

Registration will open at 0700 hours Saturday and we would like to have everyone registered by 0800 hours. At registration you will turn in your ammo, sign your waver form, and be issued meal tickets. OHA members will be assigned to squads for unit formations and work details. Saturday's evening meal will be at 1830 hours. Sunday we will break camp no later than 1400 hours. Those people coming a long distance are welcome to arrive Friday after 1800 hours. Friday arrivals will be on their own for meals.

Private Marvin Poppe of Company D, 120th Regiment 30th Infantry Division

1442 San Carla
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(520) 625-8506

Marvin Poppe graduated from High school at the age of seventeen in Royal Oak, Michigan. A few months later Marvin turned eighteen, received his "Greeting" from a committee of his neighbors, and was inducted into the U. S. Army in September 1943. Attending the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Wolters, near Fort Worth Texas, the young private attended schools across the continental United States. While unassigned, the young private shunted from initial glider and paratroop infantry training until ordered to Fort Dix, New Jersey, to prepare for overseas movement.

After his transport ship landed in Scotland, Private Poppe saw Great Britain through a window with a train load of replacements. Shortly after their arrival in the south of England, the Army hustled the newly-arrived GIs aboard another ship to hurry them to the front in France. Arriving in Normandy, Poppe was quickly forwarded to a combat unit to serve in his trained specialty: Browning light machine-gunner.

During the first week of July 1944, Private Poppe arrived at the front line and was assigned to the 30th Infantry Division. His first duty was ammo carrier for a Model 1919A4 Browning light machine gun of the Weapons Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment. While still a newly-arrived replacement, Poppe found little seniority enforced among the men in his squad. Each day on the line, the men of his crew rotated through the various duties: ammo bearer, tripod carrier, loader, and gunner. The different team responsibilities had varying weights of machine gun equipment to haul and intensifying dangers. Among Poppe's most vivid recollection of the fighting in Normandy include the fighting in Mortain to hold the closing pincer on the Falaise Pocket.

Though not in the "Lost Battalion" (2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment), this was the stubborn six-day defense which prompted "Axis Sally" to dub the 30th U.S. Infantry Division, "Roosevelt's S.S." during her propaganda broadcasts.

One of the few front line dogfaces in an infantry company who was never seriously wounded or killed during his tour, Private Poppe finally made Private First Class "by act of Congress" in February 1945. While this was the rank he held when mustered out of the service, he and other PFCs in his company were nearly demoted by their company commander for refusing to wear their single chevron rank. "If you don't wear your PFC stripes, we'll take 'em away from you." Laughing, they pointed out that NCOs and officers at the front avoided wearing visible rank to avoid becoming targets for German snipers. The real difference was an additional \$ 4.00 per month in his pay. Pvt. Poppe also remembers the, "green things for leadership," or the green felt combat leader tabs adopted by the Army near the end of the war.

While he was never awarded the Purple Heart, Poppe did receive a minor wound in the small of his back from a mortar or artillery round. He woke up in his foxhole one cold morning after a shelling and discovered dried blood on his hands when pulling up his trousers in the back. Hit somewhere between the top of his belt and where his shirt was tucked in, he didn't think it serious enough to risk going back to the battalion aid station in the daytime. Poppe wistfully recalled fifty-four years later, "maybe I should have opened it up for my million dollar wound!" He certainly would have reported the wound if he realized that later it would have represented additional demobilization points to send him home more rapidly after the war. Though Poppe was never seriously wounded by the Germans, he was evacuated one time for minor frostbite and trenchfoot. Though sent back to duty in his platoon soon after, Poppe's feet were later reviewed by a Veteran's Administration doctor and diagnosed with a permanent "matrix" disorder.

Far to the north, the 30th Infantry Division was engaged in the lines next to the 29th Division. Late in the day on December 17, 1944, the 30th Division was pulled out of the XIX Corps and placed on trucks to move someplace else along the line. While riding south in the dark in 2 1/2 ton trucks,

night suddenly turned into day as flares lit up their route. They were dropped by *Luftwaffe* bombers, who followed them up with loads of, "AP [anti-personnel] scatter bombs and cluster bombs."

Arriving outside Malmedy, the troops dug in on the ridges around town. Everything seemed to happen at once. First, word passed quickly among the foxholes, that "the Germans dropped paratroopers behind our lines." These, of course, were *Oberst* von der Heyde's parachute *Kampfgruppe* dropping in the woods behind them. Then, orders went the rounds to carefully challenge any strangers, "since saboteurs had infiltrated our lines dressed as GIs." These were, of course, German volunteers of *Oberst* Otto Skorzeny's *Panzerbrigade* 150. Dressed in parts of American and British uniforms, these men used their limited American jargon and altered vehicles to cause confusion in the Allied rear and try to capture intact a bridge across the Meuse River.

Private Poppe remembers digging in rapidly after the long truck ride and "and I promptly fell asleep in my foxhole." He vaguely remembered two men stepping over his hole. A short time later, an excited comrade asked him if somebody had just passed by. As Poppe remembered it,

My buddy said, "You know, they just caught two Germans dressed as GIs that passed right by you." Those guys were dressed as artillery observers and nobody challenged them. They were wearing GI uniforms. Somebody in the command post noticed [that] their crossed cannons were on the wrong collar and had them arrested. I heard later that those guys got shot.

With scattered German paratroopers and spies dressed as GIs all around him, Poppe noted that everybody was on always on the alert.

Suddenly, the first of several waves of bombers and fighter bombers swept through the valley to rain destruction on Malmedy, and a few of them were German aircraft. Far more damage was suffered at the hands of the U.S. Army Air Corps in Malmedy than by the *Luftwaffe*, as American bombers mistakenly killed and wounded hundreds of Belgian civilians and American soldiers. "Our air

force thought the town was full of Germans, boom, boom, boom," remembered Poppe, "many guys of our kitchen, supply sergeants, and other rear echelon guys were killed by our air force." But the Germans came over, too. Poppe related, "we were so high up on that ridge, we could see the Germans, and could look down into their cockpits at eye level."

Shortly after arriving in Malmedy, Poppe's Company moved south towards the Baugez Crossroads on a patrol. Word passed back from the scouts of the 2nd Platoon in Company D that they had made an odd discovery-- GIs spread across a field with no weapons or equipment. What they had discovered was the site of the infamous Malmedy massacre. Marv Poppe states that he saw the victims that first day before the snow covered the bodies. His officers made sure that every man viewed the contorted figures in that field so that all would know what had happened. They later withdrew towards the rest of the battalion, and left the bodies to be recovered the next month from their snow blanket.

As a result, Poppe and his comrades knew they needed to "get down and fight hard." Otherwise, the Germans may not accept surrenders. "Mean attitudes came out," he said, "we realized that if we didn't die in the snow, these f_ _kers would murder us." In addition to fears of capture or murder by by German *Waffen SS* troops, Private Poppe and his buddies were concerned with being wounded and freezing to death before their comrades found them. They also noted that, in addition to occasional problems with dysentery, "the runs," or "the G.I.'s," the constant sitting on frozen ground caused problems with the front line soldier's rectums.

Poppe remembered during a January 1999 interview the issue of a bizarre piece of equipment while crossing the English Channel. He distinctly remembers a large fishing net being cut into squares and pieces issued to each replacement leaning against the superstructure of their LCI. These pieces of black net, with approximately one inch square knotted openings, were issued specifically to be used as helmet nets to secure fresh foliage or to break up the outline of the steel pot. For quite some time, replacements continued to arrive at the front with identical black fish nets on their helmets. In fact, these black nets were

cherished months later by these replacements as they became "old hands" long after the newer men processed in without nets or as newly-produced green helmet nets were issued. When the fighting ceased in May 1945, Poppe still sported the remains of these black Helmet net with colored canvas strips salvaged from an artillery camouflage net.

Upon the mention of "Purdue Booties", Poppe fondly remembered his pair, and Colonel. Named for their inventor, Colonel Banner P. Purdue, commander of the 120th Infantry Regiment, these were crude but effective in protecting their wearers from the greatest cause of front line casualties: exposure to cold and wet. Collecting captured German Army blankets, Purdue ordered his regimental supply company to make woolen "booties." These "Purdue Booties" were to be worn during the daytime when soldiers could remove their boots and socks t dry them out. When not worn on their feet, soldiers stuffed the booties into their shirts to keep their stomachs warm. Private Poppe remembers his pair fondly, except that his pair was made from a double layer of salvaged GI blankets. During the Battle of the Bulge, Poppe and others in his machine gun squad sent their leather boots "back to the kitchens" and wore booties over their socks and inside their overshoes until issued Shoepacs near the end of the Bulge.

Speaking of Col. Purdue. Poppe fondly remembered his regimental commander and his interest for the welfare of his men. On the front line one day, he had a strange encounter. "Here I am in my hole ... and here was the regimental commander crawling up to see me. He said my eyes looked clear, so I must be getting some sleep and urged me to take care of my feet and to keep my head down. Then he just crawled off to check on the next guy." Marvin has sent me a 1945 picture and a piece of French Occupation Scrip, which will appear with a follow up article. Next month, I'll send in the highlights of a two-hour interview with a mortar sergeant from the Weapons Platoon, Company L, 120th Infantry Regiment. Help me interview these dogfaces before they disappear from the reunions, fellahs.

D-BAR (David Stieghan)



M5 Halftrack stuffed with sixteen dogfaces. Though from other units and volunteers from the museum, many of these folks have since applied for membership in the OHA.

The Battle of the Ruhr Pocket

Fort Knox, July 2-4, 1999

While bouncing through a ditch, I squinting out the vision slit over the hood of our half track. I saw through the smoke of burning U. S. tanks that the German defenses had not been pierced by the armored assault. The PAK anti-tank guns had blown away their camouflage of tree branches as they set three of our light tanks ablaze. Now visible through the smoke was a FLAK 88mm gun trying to draw a bead on a M-24 backing off the field with its turret reversed. It was time for the infantry to move up to clear out the German roadblock.

Our half-track driver crept our armored taxi up a slope keeping our thin hull out of sight of Jerry's can openers until the .50" caliber machine gun could fire over the crest at the German armored cars deployed along the roadblock. Ordering a halt, I turned to signal the rifle squad leader to open the rear door and dismount our troops and deploy the company when I noticed a razor blade headed towards my helmet. I had time only to point to the other 15 troops crammed aboard to look while a P-51 fighter-bomber cleared the hill at 50 feet and over 400 miles per hour to strafe the Jerries in the field beyond.

The 88 crew cranked their massive tube skyward as the Mustang drew attention to the sky. I used this distraction to dismount our rifle and machine gun squads and bring up our M20 and platoons on jeeps. We worked a platoon down a ditch into the German left flank, using a burning enemy armored car for protection, while the rest of the company bounded by platoon and squad over the ridge and kept the infantry riflemen pinned down. After positioning our light Browning squad at the end of the ridge over the ditch to cover our last rush, I looked back to see smoke pouring out of our 'track after the .50" caliber had fired its 300 rounds into

the German position. Through the smoke appeared an M4 leading other surviving American armor across the field. Private Gouge rose from the ground firing his BAR from the hip while Sergeant Peterson got the survivors of his and other squads up and moving around the German flank, when the call arose...

"Corpsman!"

One of the Americans from the Nashville 30th Division outfit overheated and collapsed in the 97 degree heat, causing us to halt to pour a 5 gallon can of water on him and stop the show battle just at the finale. Oh well, it was an abrupt end to three great days of history at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Three card-carrying Old Hickory Association members and a lot of recruits had just served with us and been a part of a fantastic living history experience. Private Dave Stieghan commanded the American infantry, Autorifleman Robby Gouge cradled either an M60 or a M1918 BAR most of the long weekend, and Sean Foster appeared just before the Sunday battle dressed as a Brit with a dummy BREN gun and watched the show.

Our recruits, First Sergeant Ed Peterson, Michael Agee, and Scott Nicholls, were proud to claim membership, as did a few others who threw in with us for the weekend. Our machine gun squad trained with us (after they changed from War of 1812 and Civil War uniforms) for two days and did a fantastic job of moving and emplacing with us. The breakdown of one of our half tracks caused us to double up on the edge of the battlefield on Sunday, but we all got close and used our helmets for a roof.

Friday was spent traveling, visiting An Der Front in Louisville, and setting up camp on the back 40 of the Patton Cavalry and Armor Museum at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The incredible collection of the museum was opened to us for a special Saturday evening tour by the museum volunteers at 7:00 pm. But the greatest show was the private armor and artillery which showed up for display and battle.

American vehicles included: M4A1 Sherman, M-24 Chaffee, three Stuarts (M-3, M3A1, M5), M20 Armored Scout Car, M3A1 and M5 Half-tracks, several weapons carriers, jeeps, trucks, a Pack 75mm, and a P-51 Mustang. The Germans mustered: two Hetzers, a Panzerspahwagen Sd

Kfz 234/3 with 75mm gun, a Panzerspahwagen Sd Kfz 222 armored car with 20mm gun, several motorcycles with sidecars, kubelwagens, "blitz" trucks, a kettencraftwagen (motorcycle with rear tracks), several PAK antitank guns from 37mm to 75mm, 82mm and 120mm mortars, and a FLAK 88mm with a half-track prime mover. The museum provided several operational vehicles and weapons, but the M-26 Pershing and Jagdpanzer IV won't be ready until next year.

One interesting aspect of a full weekend was the Parade of the American Soldier on Saturday. Costumed interpreters portrayed dogfaces from 1637 Jamestown militia to Desert Storm and all the wars in between. Our squad did most of the 20th century conflicts, including: Dave Stieghan as a World War I BAR rifleman, Ed Peterson as a Korean War rifleman, Mike Agee as a PRC-25 and M-16 totin' grunt, Robby Gouge as a M-60 gunner (complete with .45"), and Scott Nickolls as a Desert Storm grenadier with M203 and grenade vest. Our guys had full field packs, bandoliers, etc., and all but Robby fired their weapons for the crowd. After a long program, we all changed back into our World War II kit, sucked down 6 1/2 ounce glass bottle Cokes, and watched Mike "swing dance" with one of our "half-track hep-cats." The remainder of Saturday and Sunday included classes in our camp on dismounted and mounted combat drills, light machine gun squad deployment, hands-on BAR operation, and weapons breakdown and cleaning.

The author arrived as a private on Friday and was appointed Infantry Company commander on Sunday morning over several captains and lieutenants, two of whom brought whole platoons. Private Gouge immediately promoted from "Mule" to BAR Rifleman, and tossed me his M-1 Rifle. Ed Peterson took over 1st squad on the battlefield and showed what he brings to the unit (He's a First Sergeant in the 101st Airborne/Air Assault Division at Fort Campbell). Just before the Sunday battle, the M5 Half-track threw a track, so we crammed 16 aboard the M3A1 'track, including an operational .50", a five-man M1919A4 squad, and Robby with my M1918 Browning for a shootin' arn. That doesn't include our "little friend" carrying six .50" Brownings overhead.

While only two members of the OHA participated, we dominated the leadership, training, and demonstrations at the event, and several new guys and independents threw in with us to be with the

best. I hope you enjoy the photos that Mike Agee, Robby Gouge, and my wife, Sally, took. We are planning a large tactical in the tank training area at Fort Knox for late Fall or early Winter next year, so the 4th of July holiday won't conflict, and to take advantage of the large numbers of German infantry and vehicles from the area.

In other news, the "over mountain" boys of Third Squad have decided not to attend the Lebanon, Tennessee, 1941 Maneuvers event in September 1999. The Tennessee National Guard has turned over the reenactor show to the 117th Reg't, 30th Division guys from the Nashville area. Our decision is based on the overall quality of the host unit and an examination of the schedule shows that it would be a waste of our efforts to do something special. Instead, we'll concentrate on Camp Butner and Fort Indiantown Gap.

D-BAR (David Stieghan)

P.S. I enjoyed reading about the fellows who just came back from Normandy. I was there leading a study group of officers in 1989. Ironically, I was a Company Fire Support Officer for Company B, 4-41 Infantry (Bradley), 2 AD; later, the Battalion Fire Support Officer of 1-41 Infantry, 2 AD; and the Brigade Fire Support Officer of a brigade which included the 1-41 Infantry Battalion, so I studied the World War II history of the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment quite a bit and concentrated on them when I led four Staff Rides to the Bulge, 1987-1989. I envy our boys the opportunity to return and represent our recreated unit and original forebears. D-BAR, Sr.



From the Foxhole

by Mike Fox

I want to take this opportunity to urge you to make every effort to attend two events that we have planned for October. The first is our annual live fire event at Camp Butner on October 9-10. Not only is this a fun event and a chance to test your sharpshooting prowess on the KD range, it is also the time for the annual business meeting of the Old Hickory Association. While all the leaders of our group try very hard to be accessible to the membership throughout the year, the annual meeting is the one time we specifically set aside every year to discuss the nuts and bolts of administering this organization. Because it is your organization, we value and need your input on what type of events to plan and attend as a group. We want to hear from you so please make an effort to attend the business meeting which is Saturday evening after dinner even if you cannot make the entire event.

The other event that I am hoping that we can have a maximum effort turnout on is the October 23-24 tactical event at Charlottesville Virginia. It is important that we have a good showing to insure the continued existence of this event. Any-

one who has been reenacting W.W.II for even a short period of time laments the lack of "quality" tactical events within a reasonable distance from the Carolinas. Well this event fits the bill. The sponsoring group is very well respected and they are currently the only organization which operates under an umpired rules-based tactical system. This is a god send for us veterans of W.W.II reenacting who have seen countless tactical events ruined by "cowboys" on both sides who have less interest in correct W.W.II tactics than they do in "historical paintball." In addition to being a good event, it is very close geographically by W.W.II reenacting standards (compare 3.5 hours from Greensboro vs. 9 to Ft. Indiantown Gap). The event sponsors are very excited about this site and want to improve and enlarge this event into a "National Battle" if things go well. Lets do our part and have a good turn-out. Paul Gill is the point of contact for the Old Hickory Association for this event. Call him with any questions and send your registration forms to him for him to send in together as a unit.



I would swear that two of these marines at the Solomon event have twin brothers in the 30th Division

UNIT NEWS

Fort Jackson, SC Veteran's Day

We have been invited to participate in the Veteran's Day Parade and display to be held in Columbia, SC on the weekend of November 6th and 7th. Last year was the first of these events and they pulled out all the stops. They'll be looking for all the vehicles and people they can get again this year. Remember, Fort Jackson is where the 30th was activated. We received some information about the event but it is primarily for people that want to bring military vehicles. If anyone with a vehicle would like to go but needs assistance with transportation to and from the event contact MSG William F. Campbell (803) 783-3570.

I have been in touch with the organizer for this event and they are working on what facilities they can supply us. We would like to do a similiar set up to what we did in Cary for Memorial Day, with a Command tent and dog tents set up. People interested in doing infantry for this event need to contact Don Shupe at (919) 467-3119. We have to have a decent respond to be able to do this event.

WW2HPG Western Front Event Oakridge Mansion in Charlottesville Virginia Oct. 22-24,1999

Submitted by Paul Gill

Maximum effort tactical event for the Old Hickory Association.

W2HPG will be putting on an umpired tactical at the Oakridge Masion site. This event will use the Graef Combat System for umpiring & scoring. I have their latest newsletter with directions & registration form.

Registration is \$20 and MUST be in by 11 October. Copies of the registration form are attached to this newsletter and I will bring some to the battleship. I will also fax, email, or mail a copy to anyone who needs one. Check www.W2HPG.com for updates.

Please send your completed form & check to me & I will make one mailing to W2HPG.

I MUST HAVE ALL FORMS IN MY HANDS BY 4 OCTOBER TO GET THEM TO W2HPG ON TIME.

My address is:

8722 Fox Tail Lane
Huntersville, NC 28078

This promises to be a well run, challenging event and I hope we can get 15-20 OHA's to attend. We also are pushing to get other K Co. units to attend to form at least a rifle platoon.

Contact me with any questions:

(704) 348-8091 work

(704) 948-2884 home (no calls after 10:00pm please)

pgill@hearstsc.com

Ft. AP Hill: 1-3 October 1999 (not yet confirmed)

Hosted by Rick Kiester's 80th IDMA, this event will be a non doctrinal urban combat training weekend. There will be classes on urban combat, practical training and a practical application with both sides having an opportunity to clear the village. This will be an excellent chance to prepare for the GD's proposed western front event at Ft. Pickett's combat town in November. The fee for Ft. AP Hill has yet to be set but anticipate \$ 10.00 if the Army does not charge a facility fee for the village. Contact Paul Gill if you are interested in attending.

80th IDMA FALL TACTICAL

In an effort to provide units an opportunity to train in a tactical environment versus just busting caps we will again hold our fall tactical at Whitney State Forest in Warrenton, VA. The dates are 12-14 November.

At this time we anticipate having two platoon size elements per opposing side. Therefore we will limit registration to 60 men per side. This is open to British and Commonwealth units on the Allied side this year although command of the Allied forces will be by an American.

The particulars are these:

- fee is \$ 10.00 per man

- meals are available from the American Legion Post where we will bivouac. \$ 4.00 for breakfast and \$ 6.00 for dinner. This will begin Friday evening through breakfast Sunday. You may opt for any, all or none.

Paul Gill attended this event last year and said it was good. Contact Paul for additional information (704) 948-2884.

50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration

Another war? Yes, that's right. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. On Sept. 15-17, 2000, The McArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia, will be having a commemoration of the Defense of the Pusan Perimeter/Inchon Landing/Pusan Breakout.

The event includes:

Inchon Landing reenactment, living history displays, USO dance and show and a parade.

The Impression: The good thing about doing a Korean War Army impression is that you should already have everything you need. 2nd or 3rd pattern HBTs, '45 pack, '45 suspenders, '43 shovel, helmet, M-1 & bayonet, and buckle boots. Throw your M-1943 jacket in just in case to top off your impression. We would probably be portraying the 7th Inf. Div.

With a little over a year to go, you should have plenty of time to put your kit together!

Any questions can be addressed to: Brett Bondurant, 1308 Westover Dr., Danville, VA 24541, 804-791-2155, bondo@gamewood.net, or Mark Burfete, 221 Montibello Dr, Cary, NC 27513, 919-677-1888, mark.burfete@wheaton.com.

Battleship North Carolina September 25/26

For you army guys that can't quite push yourself to put on that blue denim and little white cap, they are also looking for GI's to help with an Army display to coincide with the naval program aboard ship. This will be strictly displays, talks and demonstrations on shore adjacent to the battleship. On Saturday evening, a USO dance is planned at the original Wilmington USO! There is a registration form attached to this newsletter. The due date will be expired by the time you get this but get it into the mail ASAP and you'll be alright.

HRHR Event November 19-21

"On To St. Lo" W.W. II Western Front Reenactment, circa 1944. Located at Ft. Story, Virginia Beach, Va. This is HRHR's annual fall tactical. Registration is \$25. HRHR point of contact is Rick Baer (757) 473-1418. OHA contact is Courtney Johnston (919) 833-0426

Veteran's Day 1999 Guilford Courthouse November 13

"The History of the American Soldier" on Saturday, November 13, 1999, from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, has become an annual park program designed to educate the public and honor those who have served in the U.S. military from early colonial to Vietnam. The program is outdoors, so you may bring extra equipment, such as tents, communications, vehicles, etc. For safety reasons, no actual firing is planned. Please do not bring any powder or live cartridges, however dummy or inert devices can be shown or carried as part of your display.

Please respond by September 15, 1999 with the form attached to this newsletter to the address below to register.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park
2332 New Garden Road
Greensboro, North Carolina 27410-2355
Don Long (336) 288-1776, ext. 26

NEW MEMBERS

We have had two new members join since our last newsletter, so they aren't on the roster that was in that issue. Please add these to your copy and welcome our latest members.

Pat Lancaster, (828) 862-5703
1245 Williamson Creek Rd., Pisgah Forest, NC 28768
rangerpat@citcom.net

Desmon Touchstone, (804) 836-6272
219 Clarkson Street, Danville, VA 24540
touch@gamewood.net



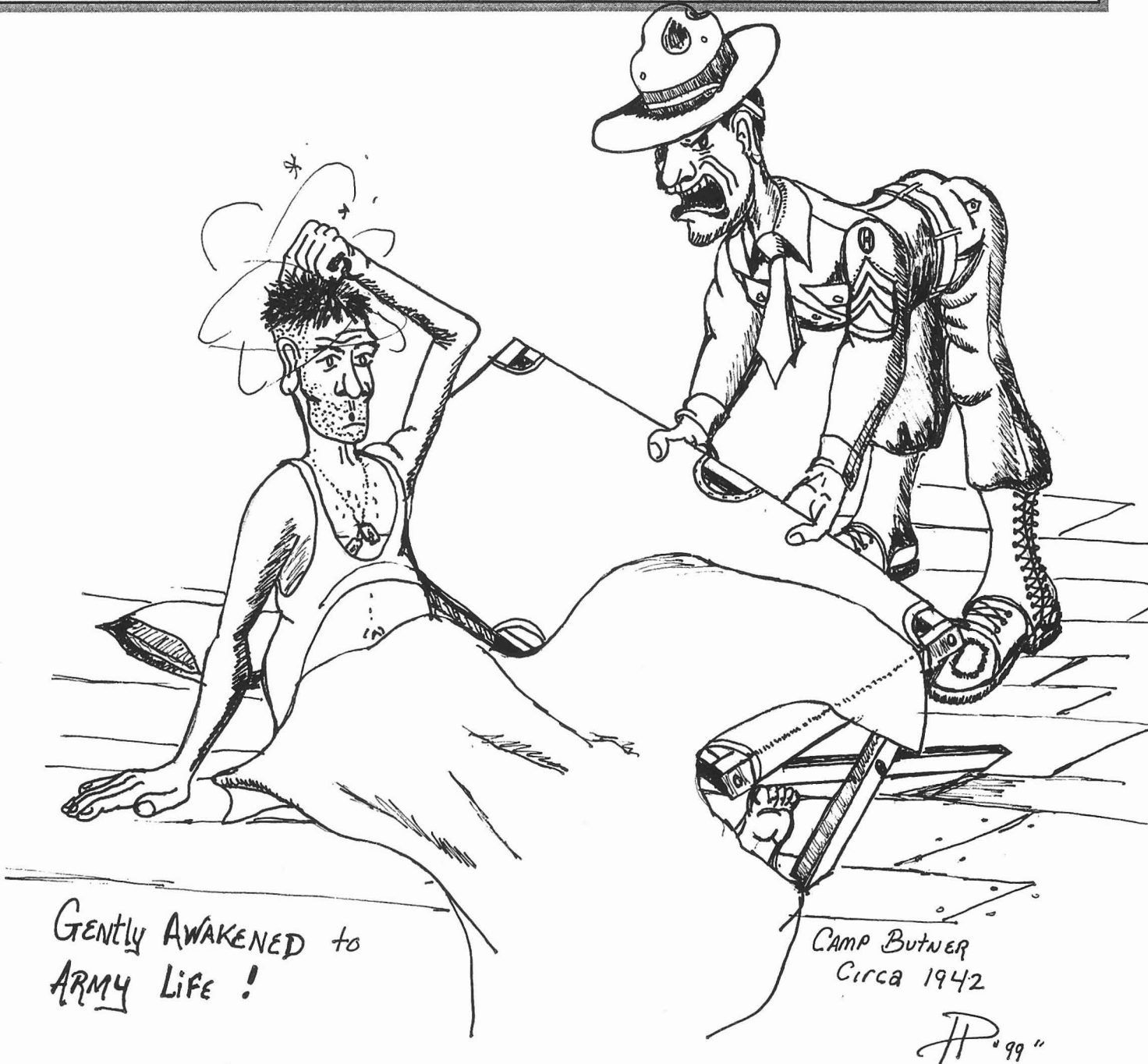
Some of our guys at the Fourth of July
Parade in Faith, NC

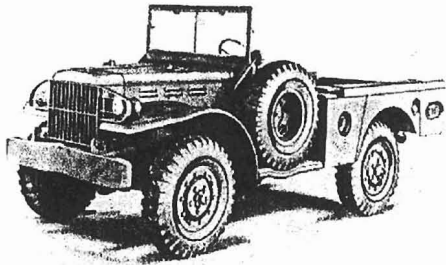
To The Editor:

I am dropping you this line to let you know that you are doing a great job with the newsletter, as well as all the other hats (helmets) that you wear. Without the hard work that you, Sparky, and Anthony Dawkins do, in my opinion, there would be no unit or at best a far-fee rabel. I know from simular experience that sometimes you feel used (like when people don't do as they say they will) or maybe taken for granted. Please know that this is not the case.

I just want you guys to know that we notice what you do and do appreciate it. We want to say Thank You. I am sure that all the membership of the OHA feel the same. I want to let you know that I for one am going to try much harder in the future to support you and the OHA.

Again Thank You,
G. David Howes





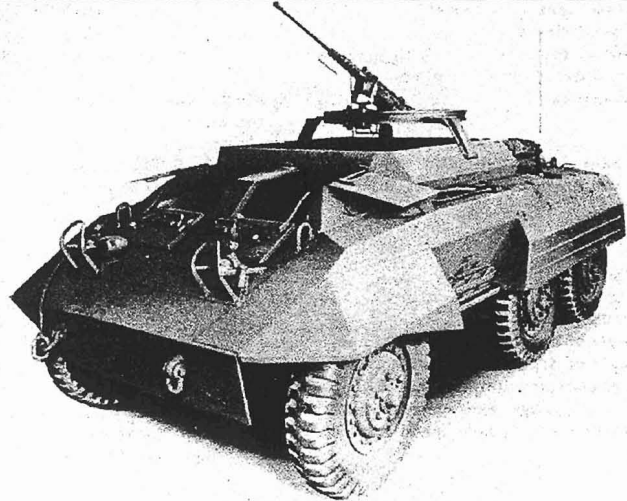
FROM THE MOTORPOOL

If you could own any World War II military vehicle, no matter what the cost, what would it be? A tank? Nice but you would need a low boy trailer to move it anywhere you wanted to go, and unless you owned a whole lot of land, it would be tough to just take it out for a little spin. How about a half track? I've given that one some consideration but again how far down the road will you get before those flashing blue lights in the side view mirror start to get annoying? If I could choose any MV from World War II I think it would be either an M8 or M20 armored car.

The M20 Armored Utility Car is a six wheeled, high speed reconnaissance vehicle built by Ford Motor Company from 1943 to 1945. Production numbers of the M20 show that 3791 were manufactured along with 11,667 M8 versions with a 37mm gun on a rotating turret. They are driven by either four or all six wheels, powered by a rear mounted 110 h.p. Hercules JXD engine of 320 cu. in. Ford did not have a suitably sized engine. Power is transmitted through a direct coupled, four speed synchronized transmission, to a transfer case mounted under the middle of the hull, which then transmits power to the three differentials through a series of drive shafts.

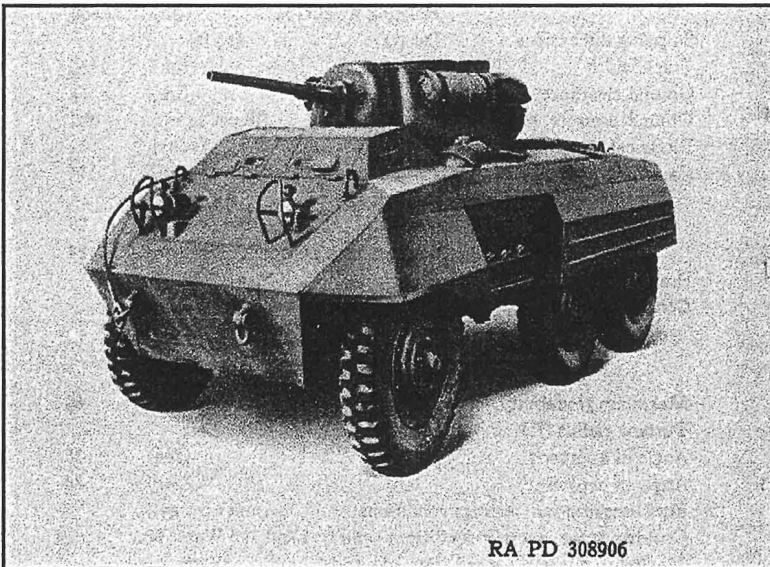
The M8 carried 80 rounds for its 37mm gun; 400 rounds, cal. .30 (carbine) M1; 1500 rounds, cal. .30 (machine gun); 16 hand grenades; 4 Pots, smoke, M1 or M2; 6 mines, antitank, HE, M1, with fuse, M1. It had a four man crew, had a gross weight of 16,500 lbs., was just over 16 feet long, had a maximum allowable speed of 56 mph, and its

fuel consumption was 7.5 miles per gallon, which is almost as good as my 3/4 weapons carrier. You will see many of the M8's in the ETO, field modified by adding a ring mounted .50 caliber on top of the turret.



RA PD 308907

Car, Armored, Utility, M20, (6X6)



RA PD 308906

Car, Armored, Light, M8, (6X6)

The M20's only armament was a ring mounted .50 cal machine gun and a Launcher, rocket, AT, M1, along with the crew's carbines. The M20 had a crew of six, and since it didn't have a turret was 2000 lbs. lighter than the M8. All other data is the same as the M8.

M8's were issued to infantry division Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized; armored division Headquarter Company and Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized; Cavalry Groups; and Tank Destroyer Battalions. Tank Destroyer Battalions are the only units listed to receive the M20.

Why would I want to own an M8 or M20? The main reason is it is street legal, although I imagine the 37mm on an M8 would make some people nervous. I would love to see the look on the face of a 16 year old mechanic at Jiffy Lube when I pull up for an inspection. They still can't figure out what to do with my Weapons Carrier. The M8 is about the closest thing to a tank that can be driven on the street. The downside is restored M8's or M20's typically sell for between \$25,000 to \$35,000. Well, we are all allowed to dream, aren't we?

Quartermaster's Corner

PROPHYLAXIS - Disbursement of unit funds for the purchase of individual venereal prophylactic units of a type prescribed by The Surgeon General is authorized by Change 1 to AR 40-210. January 4, 1943

MP BRASSARDS - Officers and enlisted men engaged in the performance of military police duty will wear the prescribed MP brassard. The use of any other type of brassard to denote military police or provost marshal duties (such as PM, APM) is prohibited. Members of guard squadrons will not wear the MP brassard. WD Cir. 12/43

EMERGENCY FISHING KIT - The Army and Navy have ordered more than 100,000 emergency fishing kits, and a lighter kit is being considered by the Air Corps. Among items in the kits are hooks, lures, dehydrated pork rind for bait, a dip net, etc. OQMG, Feb. 4, 1943

WATERPROOF BAG STANDARDIZED - Standardization of the Bag, Clothing, Waterproof has been announced by OQMG. Its size will be 17 inches in diameter and 30 inches long. It will replace the large food bag for mountain use, the waterproof container for the sleeping bag, and the clothing bag used by jungle troops. It will be used also as a waterproof liner for the present barracks bag. OQMG, Feb. 15, 1943

LIGHTWEIGHT GAS MASK - The new lightweight service mask, which was standardized recently, consists of a fully molded service facepiece with an inner cup that fits over the nose and mouth and prevents fogging of the eyepiece from the inside. A 20-inch tube connects the facepiece to a light-weight canister which gives adequate protection against all agents. The whole mask is inclosed in a oblong-shaped canvas carrier which has pockets for two of the new capes and for protective ointment. Army and Navy Register, Feb. 20, 1943

HELICOPTER IS HERE - The army air corp has announced development of a helicopter. The model is the first heavier-than-air machine of this type which retains practical flying characteristics of military value. It can rise and descend vertically without takeoff or landing run, fly forward or in reverse, hover motionless over one spot shy to either side, or bounce about in the air. United Press, Feb. 28, 1943

CHEVRONS, OVERSEAS - Chevrons will not be used to indicate overseas service during this war. However, uniforms now equipped with chevrons may be worn until unserviceable. Authority for further issue of overseas chevrons (AR 600-95) has been rescinded. ETO Cir. 80, 5-12-42, Digest of QM Directives, SOS and ETO Publications Pertaining to QM Functions, Feb. 1, 1943

SOS APPROVES OD TOWELS - Plans to issue olive drab towels to troops in theaters of operations and alerted units have been approved by SOS. Reason for issuance of OD shade instead of white is that experience in combat has emphasized the necessity for careful concealment from aerial observation. White towels, undershirts, sheets, etc., are easily seen from the air and OD shades are being substituted for white in many of these items to help eliminate the possibility of carelessness giving away the positions of troops. OQMG, Feb. 27, 1943.

BARRACKS BAGS, MARKINGS - Markings on barracks bags will be in letters and numbers not smaller than one inch or larger than two inches, except that one bag shall be marked with a 3-inch "A" and the other with a 3-inch "B". Following induction, barracks bags will be marked at first station of assignment after reception centers and remarked often enough to maintain legibility. C6, AR 850-5

SEE YOU NEXT TIME.

Coming Events

September 25/26, 1999

Battleship North Carolina.
Naval Detachment and Army Display.

October 9 - 10, 1999

Annual meeting at Camp Butner
plus qualification shoot.

October 20-24, 1999

WW2HPG Western Front Event
Oakridge Mansion in Charlottesville,
VA

November 6-7, 1999

Veteran's Day Parade and display in
Columbia, SC.

November 12-14, 1999

80th IDMA FALL TACTICAL
Warrenton, VA.

November 13, 1999

Guilford Courthouse National Military
Park, History of the American
Soldier, Greensboro, NC

November 19 - 21, 1999

HRHR, WW2 Western Front Reenactment,
Ft. Story, VA

Sept. 15-17, 2000

50th Anniversary of the Korean War
Commemoration. Norfolk, VA.

September, 2000

30th Infantry Division Association
National Reunion. Winston-Salem,
NC.

Marketplace

For Sale: Uniforms, equipment, weapons, etc., mostly American military. Call or write: Stieghan Consulting, 2046 Powell Dr., Culleoka, TN 38451, (931) 987-0965 (central), or dstieghan@aol.com

For Sale: If anyone needs Navy items contact Greg Bondurant (757) 631-4697

FOR SALE: 3/4 MANNEQUINS,
CONTACT TIM AREY AT 704-
636-0358, FOR AVAILABILITY.

Reproduction Items:

Paper goods for footlocker and field display, includes cigarette cartons, soap boxes, shaving cream boxes, etc. Don Good, 8503 Cherry Heights Court, Springfield VA. 22153, (703)455-3568

K ration crates and boxes. Blank boxes and repacked. Peter Johnson,

69 East Baltimore Ave. Lansdowne, PA.
19050-2209, (610) 623-0888.

World War Two Impressions - specializing in reproduction U.S. Army uniforms and accessories. Catalog available. 7165 Adwen Street, Downey, CA. 90241.

Fax and phone (562) 927-6922

e-mail: WWIIIMPRESIONS@MSN.COM

At the Front - High Quality Repro's. Saving Private Ryan overruns. Some original equipment. Complete sets available.

5674 Shepherdsville Road, Louisville,
Kentucky 40228

(502) 969-4440, www.anderfront.com

WANTED: David Stieghan is looking IMI 30-'06 blanks to make his BAR happy. These are the full length blanks, crimped at the end. If you have some of these contact David.

Special Announcement

We are all invited to attend the wedding of Jennifer Anne Forsyth and Clinton Cyrus Yarbrough on Saturday the 18th of September at 1:30 in the afternoon at the Riverside Baptist Church, 1568 East Harden Street, Graham, North Carolina. Take exit 148 off I-85, go south on E. Harden St. approximately 1.4 miles, church on left.

We should make it a unit event as it may be Clint's last.

The Old Hickory Chronicle is the newsletter of The Old Hickory Association. It is published 6 times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The editor of The Old Hickory Chronicle is Don Shupe and he should be contacted concerning any questions or suggestions. Articles are contributed by members of the association.

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