

The Old Hickory Chronicle

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

July/August 2000

Passing of a Friend. George W. Rickman Sr.

On July 26th I received the news that George Rickman had passed away. We were requested to supply an Honor Guard for his funeral on Saturday July 29th. at the Fairview Cemetery in Warrenton, NC. George was an Honorary member of the Old Hickory Association, as all former members of the 30th ID are, but George was someone special.

Last year at the Butner shoot I was fortunate to be able to spend some time alone with George. I had the duty of watching the camp while everyone else went over to the range. George had shown up earlier in the day. I was relieved to see him as he had always showed up at our local events but I hadn't seen him in over a year and I was concerned over his health. We spoke for a while and then he proceeded over to the range with everyone else. After a while George showed up back at the camp and said he really needed to get on the road and get to the chores he was supposedly doing. I walked him over to his vehicle as we talked about the upcoming 30th reunion and other upcoming events. When we got to his car he said he had something to show me. It was a photo album of his woodworking projects. (At the time of his death he was teaching woodworking at Wilson Tech. and for years had designed and handmade custom staircases.) There were photos of 30th ID related items he had done and many of the staircase he had made for Jim Goodknight, (founder as SAS Institute). He was truly a craftsman, another example of the greatest generation.

Clint Yarbrough remembers, "I met Mr. Rickman for the first time last fall at the Butner shoot. He came out to see what we were doing and ended up spending the day with us. When we went to the firing line he rode out in Curtin's Weapon Carrier. When running the field wire to the firing line out of the WC he offered to get in the back and help it feed off. Curtin told him that would not be necessary that it would on its own. He expressed to us how he enjoyed spending the day with us but had to leave because he had told his wife he would only be gone for a short time and she was going to be upset that he was AWOL all day.

Mr. Rickman told of us his service with the 30th and in W.W.II. He was in the 120th while in the NG prior to W.W.II but an injury forced him to be transferred to the Artillery. He served in the 55th Artillery Brigade and eventually served in the Pacific Theater.

Mr. Rickman was also at the Tarheel Chapter Reunion in March. Although he did not serve overseas with the 30th Division he was a regular at Old Hickory veteran functions.

One thing is certain though. Mr. Rickman had a sincere interest in our group and believed in what we are doing. He will be missed."

Mark Burfete added, "A few more facts about George Rickman. He lied about his age so that he could join the National Guard. He was an engineer and an artilleryman. He was a well-known, highly skilled woodworker. He was an accomplished photographer, artist (oil painting), and musician (bugler). His son George (Ricky) is also a musician, engineer, and 30th vet. Ricky's son is a music major at Brevard College and served as the bugler at the burial service. I remember Mr. Rickman attending several Butner displays and encampments. He was a great source of W.W.II info. You could ask the man a question and get back more information than you bargained for. He had an abiding pride in being a member of the 30th. He was really the first W.W.II 30th vet to take a special interest in the OHA. He attended more of our functions than any other 30th member. We were honored to have his friendship. This was a true 20th century Renaissance man: growing up poor, becoming artist, builder, and warrior, the epitome of the Americans who came from humble backgrounds, fought for their country, then came home and built her back to greatness."

We received the following note from Mrs. Rickman:

Dear Don, Thank you and the group that participated on the Honor Guard for George's services. It was a beautiful tribute to his memory and we were honored that the Old Hickory Association did this. He was proud to be an honorary member of the Old Hickory Association and looked forward to receiving your newsletter to see what you young men were doing, and wishing he could attend all your events. Thank you again for the Honor Guard. We were very honored.

Sincerely,

Rosa, Mike, Ricky and Janet Rickman.



Members of the Firing Party prepare at the services for George Rickman. From left to right: Jim Higgins, Randall Lee, Anthony Dawkins, Walt Sowinski, Clint Yarbrough, and Mark Burfete. Other members of the Honor Guard included Mike Fox, Paul Gill, Courtney Johnston, Mike Owens, and Don Shupe.

30th ID Association Reunion Information

30th Reunion September 21/22

This is the final information on the 30th Infantry Division Association National Reunion at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Winston-Salem, NC. The following is a list of people that have contacted me about attending:

Brett Bondurant, Mark Burfete, Steve Crane, Anthony Dawkins, Chuck Eatman, Mike Fox, Paul Gill, Robert Guerrin, Jim Higgins, Courtney Johnston, Pat Lancaster, Jack McLaughlin, Mike Owens, Walt Sowinski, Clint Yarbrough, and Don Shupe.

If your name is not on this list and you plan to be there you need to contact me ASAP at (919) 467-3119 or shupeda@email.msn.com

If you are planning to stay overnight you need to make your own arrangements. We have no facilities to put anyone up. You can check with the hotel to see if they have any rooms left at the reunion discount rate of \$77/night plus tax.

If anyone is interested in purchasing a meal package for this event you need to contact Mike Fox ASAP at (336) 282-6301.

The hotel has offered us room in front of the hotel lobby to put a couple of vehicles. If anyone would like to bring one please contact me. This area is off the street.

We can start setting up the display on Wednesday. I plan on being there by noon on Wednesday. The display area will be the foyer of the Forsyth Ballroom. This is located on the second floor of the east tower of the hotel. Anyone bringing a sizeable amount of display material needs to contact me as that will have to be brought in through a service entrance in the rear of the hotel.

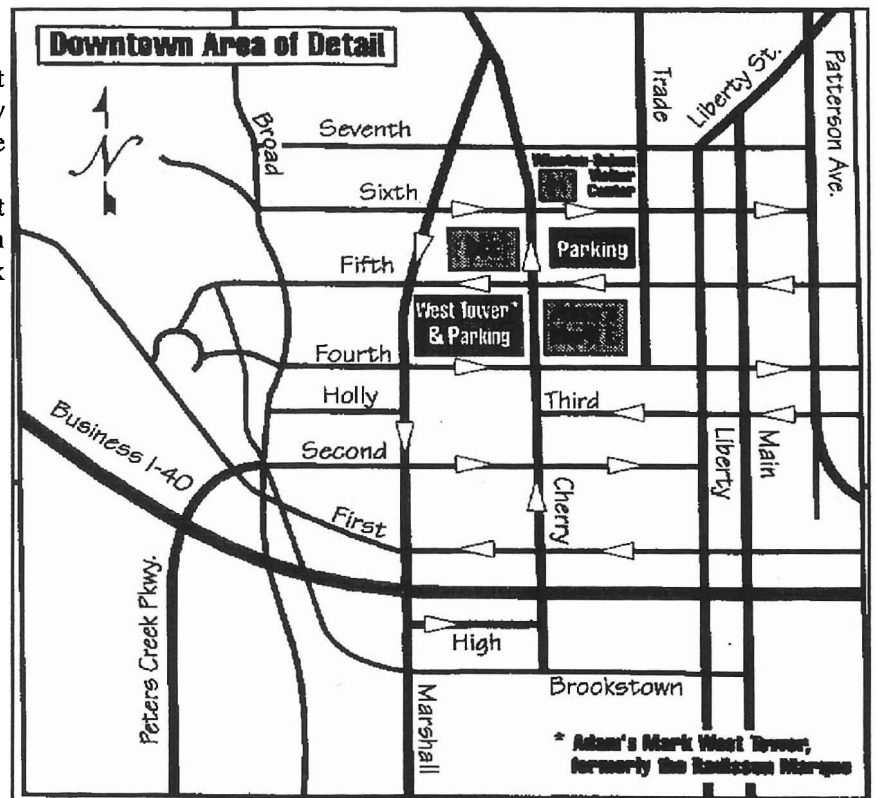
Our Display will open up officially after Breakfast on Thursday morning. Our Color Guard will present the Colors at that breakfast and again at the Memorial service at 1000 hrs Friday morning. We would like to post MPs at the entrance to the foyer whenever the veterans would be coming in for one of their events. This would be 0730 Thursday and Friday for breakfast, 1000 Thursday for Business meeting, and Friday for Memorial Service, and 1800 on Thursday and Friday for dinner. We will supply the accruements and will ask members to rotate standing this duty. Please have a set of wools for this duty. We need to put together a group of guys with raincoats and galoshes for Thursday evening, so if you got them bring'em. If you have the raincoat but not the galoshes you can wear your service shoes. Please bring something like shorts to wear under the raincoat. I think you can figure out what we are trying to do here as a little entertainment for the vets.

We will start to break down the display late Friday afternoon. Everything must be packed and gone Friday night. We will also be making a presentation to the 30th ID Association at their Friday dinner.

Directions to the Adam's Mark:

From I-40 Business East take the Cherry Street Exit. Follow High Street and turn left onto Cherry Street. The Adam's Mark East Tower is three blocks ahead on the right.

From I-40 Business West take the Cherry Street Exit, turn right onto Cherry Street. Continue on Cherry Street through 4 lights. The Adam's Mark East Tower will be ahead on the right.



Camp Forrest After Action Report

Several members of the Old Hickory Association (120th Inf. Reg't., 30th Inf. Div. US) traveled to Camp Forrest, near Tullahoma, TN, for a Western Front reenactment and military show, July 28-29, 2000.

Our guys included members: John Runyon, Adam Weber, Jule Morrow, Robby Gouge, Don Lewis, Kenny Johns, and Dave Stieghan, and invited dogfaces, B. Johnson, and James McGee. We shopped until 2200 and had lights out in the barracks afterwards. Early the next morning, we asked a few of the better quality dogfaces we had met, or already knew, to meet us at 0730 for a class on squad and platoon movement techniques, using hand and arm signals. Thirty-one guys showed up. We divided into three squads and the OHA guys formed the third squad. John Runyon and Adam Weber served as Squad Leader and Assistant Squad Leader, respectively. The guys responded real well under their appointed leaders and learned to watch them, and to move swiftly and quietly.

After a water break, we attended a long briefing at 0900 and waited for a 2 1/2 ton truck and pickups to shuttle all the troops out to the tactical site. From the Allied commander, we got maps for me and the squad leaders, got the mission to hold a road intersection, the "MSR" we were told. That means "Main Supply Route." We were not told in our briefing, but we were out in front of the rest of the Allies by a half mile with heavy woods (and thorns) all around. We deployed to cover the road intersection and the surrounding woods with the three squads and the platoon CP. James McGee used my M1 with a grenade launcher and was placed in the bushes to cover both roads. All three squad leaders positioned their men to cover the woods where we knew the 1st SS guys would approach. No one was to fire until their squad leader gave the order, and only with the minimum rounds to do the job.

A motorcycle came up the road leading an armored car. No one showed themselves, no one fired. After what seemed like five minutes of driving slowly in circles, the cyclist motioned the armored car forward. When it stopped in the intersection, I rose and fired my carbine and told James to rise and fire. The track commander whirled the turret around and pointed a 20 mm and MG in my chest until I pointed out James with his rifle grenade. The 21 year old guy who had graduated from ROTC Basic Camp at Fort Knox four days before, and "had been in the Army all day," had knocked out an armored car with his first shot at a W.W.II reenactment! The TC turned out to be in his Civil War unit, the 7th TN Cavalry CSA (Mounted), when they met in afternoon.

Both the armored car and the motorcycle parked, while we braced for the inevitable infiltration by the SS. They came into our flanks and rear with their vehicles coming down the road. 3rd Squad made a fighting withdrawal on the south side of the main road, while the rest of the platoon held off repeated attacks. The Germans had lost at least 25 that I could see, probably more and we lost about six. I hoisted a white rag when I saw Hauptman Rob Fraker, and suggested a truce to bury the dead and resupply with water from a truck that had just driven up. Everyone was out of water, there were no lister bags or water buffalos in the field. I told Rob we ought to water the troops in the shade and that both sides should fall back 50 yards and start again in fifteen minutes. Neither side was ready for thirty minutes after we took up positions at the next road intersection. It was 1230 hrs and we had fought the Germans to a standstill. I believe they were about to fix bayonets to get us off that intersection.

When we got to the top of the hill there were no Allied troops to cover the road intersection; not even an OP. Rather than fall back to the Allied CP, we made a big clockwise circle to get into the woods south of the road unobserved by recrossing the road in a small valley. The squads went to ground quietly well inside the woods and waited for the Germans to pass by. They passed through the woods on the other side of the road heading straight for their objective. When they engaged our main line, the squad leaders moved their squads into wedges at the edge of the woods and the platoon moved out in a vee formation across the field to flank the German main body. We overran a German squad in the woods at the intersection, crossed a large field in wedges, took a thin tree line and consolidated before moving to recapture the CP. By the time we arrived in our three wedges at around 1330, the morning's battle was over. We got water and rode the trucks back to the cantonment to cool off and get ready for a brief afternoon tactical.

At 1500, we moved out again to assault an enemy concrete bunker complex. To let some other guys get some experience in leadership, I grabbed my BAR, turned over 1st Platoon to John Runyon. Adam Weber and Robby Gouge took over 3rd Squad, and the other squads rotated their leadership, also. We surrounded the pillbox and the fight was over before we were fully

(Continued on page 5)

engaged. Private Duke Flynn was last seen butt-stroking the German armored car. His remains were never recovered. Most guys shopped a little longer and took off from home. The North Carolina OHA boys stayed in the hotel one more night before heading back to the mountains. When I left, they were all wearing British P37 gear they had just bought and were adjusting all the straps.

While it was hot, the morning's training paid off. Men who had not known each other before Saturday were working well together. They certainly fought well. I look forward to serving with them again, soon.

Particularly impressive were the German troops, especially the 1st SS Liebstandart Adolf Hitler under Hauptman Robert Fraker. They not only looked good, but moved swiftly and quietly towards their objectives. We look forward to working with them and fighting against them in the future.

Oak Ridge, here we come!

Dave Stieghan
3rd Sqd., 3rd Plt., Co. K, 120th Inf. Reg't., 30th Division



*The view from the back of a 2 1/2 ton truck going down a dusty road..
Anybody got cold beer. Photo by Jule Morrow*

BUTNER SHOOT 6,7,8 OCTOBER

What: Live Fire Shoot

Where: Camp Butner National Guard Training Site, Butner, NC, Kitchen area "C"

Schedule:

Friday:

0900 hrs - Open kitchen area, set up camp

1200 - 2000 hrs - open Range 3 (25 meters) for sighting in and checking weapon functionality, Training on proper firing positions and technique.

2000 hrs - Dinner, campfire steaks

Saturday:

0700 hrs - Morning formation

0715 hrs - Breakfast on your own

0900 hrs - Training on spotting and scoring targets, range instructions.

1100 hrs - Start shoot, Range 4 KD, 200 meters. 10 spotter rounds, 50 rounds for match. W.W.II service grade rifles only.

1600 hrs - Four man team match

1830 hrs - Pig Pickin

2000 hrs - OHA business meeting

2100 hrs - Videos, etc. everyone is invited to bring a video, and we can let the majority decide what we watch. If anyone wants to volunteer to bring a TV and VCR it would be welcome.

Sunday:

0730 hrs - Morning formation

0800 hrs - Breakfast served

1000 hrs - Open Range 3 for informal shooting. (includes auto weapons)

1400 hrs - Shut down event.

The cost of this event will be \$30 per person. This covers Friday dinner, Saturday pig pickin, Sunday breakfast, and range/kitchen fees for all three days.

We will set up the GP medium which will sleep 16. First come first serve. The cadre will be in **the hooch**. If additional tentage is needed we can put another 4/5 in the command tent but bring a shelter half just in case tents fill up.

Ammo needs to be in a container marked with your name and will be collected when you check in. Your ammo will be issued to you each time you shoot and turned back in after each shoot (except Sunday).

If you are an Old Hickory member you are expected to show up as GI infantry.

Uniform of the day for OHA is wools, but if the weather forecast is for warm weather bring your HBTs. No web gear is needed, but helmets are suggested.

No Pets or Kids allowed in the kitchen or at the range any day.

This is a Preregistration, invitation only event. Invited units include: U.S. 1st ID, 30th ID, 82nd Airborne, British Kings Own, German IR226.

This is a rain or shine event! Come prepared.

All units will be expected to help with the event. If we ask you to do something, it is because it needs to be done.

Registration Forms (included with newsletter) must be turned in no later than September 26, 2000.

Questions? contact Don Shupe (919) 467-3119 or Clint Yarbrough (336) 299-1981

Butner Information for Class III weapons:

Camp Butner Training Site
North Carolina National Guard
0539 Roberts Chapel Road
Stem, NC 27581
Phone (919)477-9611

Celebrate Freedom Festival 2000

Owens Airfield, Columbia, SC. Nov. 10 - 12, 2000

We have been invited to attend this event with an expected crowd of 50,000 people. Each reenactor/living historian who registers and participates will be provided with the following amenities: bunk space at a nearby armory facility, (This could be cots at an armory or barracks at Fort Jackson, either way bring sheets, blankets, pillow, and towel.), lunch each of the three days, a ticket to the USO dance on Friday night and a ticket to the Road to Victory Show on Saturday night. In addition, each participant will be eligible for a blanket raffle held on Saturday, the grand prize being a ride on a W.W.II bomber on Sunday.

We will set up the command tent and some display material including 30th ID historical items and a line of dog tents. Each member attending please bring a shelter half if you have one. If you have items for display please note that on your registration form. Uniform of the day will be woools with light marching order. Last year it got hot so bring your HBTs in case. Class A uniform or woools with a tie are suggested for the USO dance.

We will register as a group. If you want to attend, fill out the attached registration form and return it to Don Shupe, 414 Cary Pines Dr., Cary, NC 27513 by October 9th. I will mail the registrations on to Kip Fordham. Once I have the forms I will mail info sheets, maps ect. to those people.

There is also a form for people that would like to take a W.W.II vehicle. Mail that form to the address on the form **and a living history registration form to me** and note you are bringing a vehicle. Reenactors should report to Owens field, register and then proceed to barracks.

Schedule of events:

Thursday, November 9

0900 - Arrive/begin set-up

Friday, November 10

0900 - Morning Formation/Colors

0930 - Form/depart for Veteran's Day parade

1100 - Parade

1200 - Grand opening of Festival

1700 - Evening formation/Taps

2000 - USO Dance - Holiday Inn

Saturday, November 11

0900 - Morning Formation/Colors/Blanket drawing

0930 - Form/Depart for Grand Opening Ceremony

(Sat. con't)

1100 - 1600 - School of the Soldier including basic drill, bayonet drill, parachute landing falls, basic field medicine, weapons cleaning, etc.

1700 - Evening formation/Taps

1930 - Road to Victory Show

Sunday, November 12

0900 - Morning Formation/Colors

1000 - Worship Service

1100 - 1400 hrs - School of the Soldier

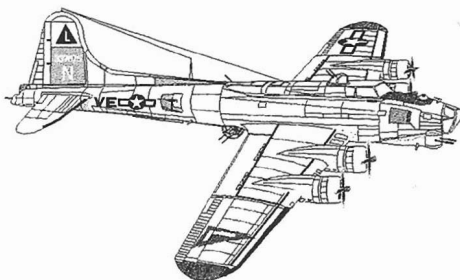
1500 hrs - Grand Finale

1600 hrs - Evening Formation/Taps

Unlike last year where the events were split between two different areas, everything will be grouped with the planes this year. Additional activities include Military Collectibles Show, W.W.II Army Field Hospital, members of the Flying Tigers, Tuskegee Airmen, and the Doolittle Raiders. At midday on Saturday, the Army will judge and inspect the military vehicles which will then proceed under escort of flashing lights and sirens for a tour of Fort Jackson, were the 30th was federalized in 1940. On Saturday and Sunday the Air Cavalry will insert troops into a "hot" LZ under support fire of huey and cobra gunships. There will also be a recreation of the opening scene of "Mash" complete with Klinger and Hot Lips.

While we will need to maintain our display area and participate in the School of the Soldier we will make all attempts to allow members to rotate out to enjoy the on going activities.

Check their website for updates, maps, etc. @ celebratefreedomfoundation.org.



UNIT NEWS

Long Range Planning: Ft. Lee, July 19-22, 2001

Military Vehicles Preservation Association National Convention will be held at Ft. Lee, VA. in July of 2001. We will be setting up a display and would like to get as many of our vehicles as we can to convoy up. Even Anthony Dawkins has gotten to work on "MY DEUCE" of D-Day fame. Let's start hearing from you vehicle guys about the convoy and for you guys that don't have vehicles this is still a great event to attend. You'll get to see all types of vehicles and there is a flea market where you will see things that you'll never see at a militaria show. Even though this event is a display we will make sure that everyone has plenty of time for viewing and buying.

Old Hickory Association Website

Thanks to the work of Paul Gill we now have our own website. Currently the site shows the next OHA event with a map to show the location and weather information for the event site, a schedule of our events for the remainder of the year, and links to the 30th ID website, the W.W.II Memorial website, W.W.II reenacting site, and the photo album site established by Mike Fox with photos of the 30th that he got from the National Archives.

To get to the website go to:

<http://oldhickoryassociation.homestead.com/OHAhomepage.html>

Ammo Purchase

For you all that are thinking about buying ammo from our CMP allotment, please don't keep putting it off. FJ fronted about \$1400 to get this ammo plus he picked it up to save on shipping cost. So while you are thinking "maybe I'll buy a can or two at Butner", FJ is sitting with a big hole in his checking account. If you want us to continue getting this ammo, you are going to have to support the guy that fronts the money. So even if you aren't going to need it until October, how about sending a check to FJ now and arrange to get at Butner, or if you're not coming to Butner have someone that is pick it up for you. The price is \$56 for a can of 280 rounds in Garand clips. If payment isn't received by September 23rd, the price goes up to \$60 a can. If interested contact FJ Hale at (919) 787-4965 or email: at: Foxtrot7@mindspring.com

Additions and Corrections for Mailing List

The following are additions and corrections for the list that was in the last newsletter.

Courtney Johnston - correct phone# (919) 661-4946 email at: jcj_oha@hotmail.com

Ray Oakes, PO Box 507, Blair, VA., (804) 251-3402
new member:

Kevin Wescott, 2023 Franklin St. Kill Devil Hills, NC, 27948, (252)480-2652, email: limodude2cool@yahoo.com

OHA Vehicle Rally?

I only heard from two people (John Hedgepeth and David Howes) about getting together with our vehicles so I guess that kills that idea.

Call for Assistance.

I am coordinating the historical display for the 30th Division reunion in September in Winston Salem. The display will occupy a couple of tables and will include a several display boards with original pictures of the Division, information on the 30th Division history, and information, pictures and history of the Old Hickory Association.

Additionally we will display on the tables original copies of unit histories and books that relate to the Division. We will also be displaying as many original artifacts from the 30th Division as possible.

We have already received offers of the following to display:
Don Shupe: An original 120th crest, personal photo, and a pass from Ft. Jackson in a frame.

Clint Yarborough: 1938 NCNG yearbook, 1941 annuals of the 105th Engineer's, 105th Quartermaster, and the 118th Infantry, original crests from the 120th, 117th, 118th, 121st, 113th FA, 105th eng, 252 coast artillery, a post card of the 118th Inf at camp Jackson in 1937, a W.W.I helmet with the emblem as well as the gas mask bag and trench art shell with individuals name from the 30th.

Dave Stieghan: W.W.I 30th Division painted symbol helmet, framed "roll photo" of Headquarters Battery, 115th FA, the day they came home from France at Camp Jackson, 1940 TNARNG annual of 30th outfits, including 117th, etc. I know many of you out there have other items that these vets would love to see. Would you please help out and contact me as soon as possible with a list of what you are willing to display. Thanks, Mike Fox (336) 282-6301

Oakridge Virginia, "In the Hurtgen Wald", 20-22 October, 2000.

Last years event was one of the best tacticals ever. Don't miss it this year. This is a maximum effort event and we hope to field a small OHA platoon as part of Co. K. The registration form is in the newsletter.

Registration fee is \$20 and your check should be made out to W2HPG. Fill out your unit as "3rd Platoon, Co. K"

Audie Murphy (AKA Clint Yarbrough) will be collecting all our registrations and sending them in together. So, mail it to Clint today!!!! (106 Lehigh St., Greensboro, NC 27407). Clint will also be collecting them at the Butner event Friday night but don't procrastinate if possible. Clint must receive them from you by October 8, 2000 at the latest.

Fourth of July festivities at the Capitol

The following is a copy of a thank you note received from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

The Old Hickory Association
Dear Clint:

July 6, 2000

On behalf of the State Capitol staff, we would like to thank you for participating in the Independence Day Celebration this year. It meant so much for attendees of the festival to be able to talk to members of your organization in order to learn about the past. We were so excited that you were able to coordinate such a beautiful display of artifacts and memorabilia.

Thank you again for all your efforts on behalf of the State Capitol and the thousands of visitors who attended the celebration.

Carol Henderson
Capitol Administrator

Andrea Bogart
Capitol Programs Officer

To the Members of the OHA,

In a previous issue of the OHA newsletter (Don, I can't remember and can't find the issue. Can you remember & help me out?), I submitted a short article called "The Old Vet Said" relating some stories shared with me by a veteran of the 30th Division during a Tarheel Chapter Reunion. I was embarrassed to have to admit that I could not remember the name of the veteran who shared his stories. Through the efforts of Mr. Tom Oglesby, I am happy to announce that the veteran has been identified as Mr. Dick Jepsen of Manhattan, Kansas. Mr. Jepsen is alive and well and attended the last Tarheel Reunion in April. I wish to express my deep appreciation to Mr. Oglesby for identifying Mr. Jepsen, and my sin-

cerest apology to Mr. Jepsen and the OHA for forgetting to record his name during the conversation.

— Courtney Johnston

Fort Knox 2000 *by Dave Stieghan*

On Monday and Tuesday, we had another great Armored Force Demonstration at the Patton Cavalry and Armor Museum at Fort Knox, KY. The calendar placed the 4th on a Tuesday this year and a major private armor collector just had a triple bypass operation, so the vehicle count didn't match the previous year. We did have a good turn out of dedicated folks, particularly among the German infantry.

Though not as hot as last year, we did get a few brief thunderstorms on Monday and Tuesday morning. As usual, we got an after hours look behind the ropes at the Patton Museum collection. It was a great place to be during the late afternoon shower on Monday.

The P-51 Mustang was a great performer at the beginning, and end, of the show. With the number of quality German infantry, and the 20 mm flak gun, it would have been tough to justify an American victory. Another performer this year was the 57 mm AT gun and 3/4 ton employed by the 4th Armored guys. It was great to see it set up and fire from two different locations during the demonstration.

It was good to see six of our guys able to make it: Mike Merrill, Kenneth Johns, John Borland, Jule Morrow, Robby Gouge, and myself. Among us, we crewed the M20 armored scout car, manned the M1919A6, the BAR, and provided the Armor/Infantry Team Commander. Jule switched from Robby's Assistant BAR rifleman to John's MG loader just before the event. Robby ripped off 8 BAR magazines while moving down a ditch and towards the German left flank. Oh yeah, he also had the time to organize the troops aboard a half-track to dismount under fire. I want to recognize the efforts of the 4th Armored and 117th Regiment guys for coming out in strength on Tuesday.

Airborne and Special Operation's Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina *by Mike Owens*

After participating at the OHA display at the Change of Command Ceremony for the 30th Infantry Brigade at Ft. Bragg, I went to visit the new Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville. The displays and presentation of Airborne equipment, uniforms and personal items from the original test platoon through today's trooper was fantastic. The museum is "hand's on" with displays open to the public to touch.

The museum is divided into sections. The first section is dedicated to the ETO and covers operations in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy, Holland and the Battle of the Bulge. The displays from each Operation are nicely done and are historically accurate. The one I really like was General McAuliffe handing a note with his response to the German surrender ultimatum at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. The German Officer has a look of confusion on his face as he reads the note. The note can be plainly seen. It says "Nuts"! Also, for the Holland and Jump across the Rhine Operations there is a display showing a full size Waco Glider having landed. A Pack Howitzer is in action with gun crew firing rounds at German positions.

The second section of the Museum is dedicated to the PTO. It covers operations in New Guinea, Phillipine Island (5 jumps) on to the initial landing in Tokyo the day after the Emperor's surrender speech. For me, this section was even better because for the first time I can remember there was a section dedicated to the 11th Airborne. My Dad (Co.I/187th PGI/11th Airborne Division) and I went through the section with a fine toothcomb. Even had static display of equipment, uniforms (HBT modified for Airborne use) and personal items from the troopers referred to as "General Swing and his 10,000 thieves". I had never seen the HBT cap referred to as the "Swing Cap" (named after the CG of the 11th). Also, had a documentary film, which included all the airborne operations in the Pacific during W.W.II. Yes folks, there was an Airborne Division in the Pacific and it did make several Combat jumps. The most famous would have been the Los Banos Prison Raid which freed the doomed internees at Los Banos (2,147 internees), followed by the 503rd's jump on Coreggidor. The rare footage of that jump noted the jump altitude was 250-400 ft.!

As you walk into the display portion of the museum there is a display that just catches your breath. It is a C-47 suspended from the ceiling (full size/ actually used in the Normandy Drop)...Framed in the door is a trooper getting ready to jump. The lighting is dim; the sound is intense... Shell bursts, Anti Aircraft fire and heavy machine guns. Then searchlights find the trooper in the door and you get a look at his face. Utter terror. My Dad froze in place for a few moments ... no talking, just staring... Then he said "Yes.. That is how it was". You could almost imagine yourself getting to the door after the aircraft pitched and rolled dived and climbed to avoid flak. Then as your stick exits the plane and it is now your turn to jump the sight you see is that of intense AA fire lighting up the sky. That picture would be seared into your memory forever. From there we moved from there to a mock up interior of a C-47 fuselage. A voice in the background is telling you to stand up, hook up, and sound off or equipment check... GoGoGoGo...

The museum is primarily dedicated to the Operations of the Second World War. But, it does move on to the Airborne Operation's of the 187th RCT in Korea and that of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Thundering Herd) in Vietnam. Also, a section is dedicated to the troopers who went to Panama, Grenada and Desert Storm

OHA at 30th Brigade Change of Command

On 19 August there was a Change of Command for the 30th Brigade. The ceremony was held at Pike Field, Fort Bragg, NC. The former commander was BG Atkinson, the new commander is BG Hickman. Also present was MG St. Onge, commander of the 24th Division which the 30th Brigade is now part of.

The Old Hickory Association was requested to provide a Color Guard in period uniforms for both the Change of Command and the Dining In on Friday evening. We were also asked to provide a small display for the Change of Command ceremony. A half track was borrowed from Jim Henry of Albemarle, NC to be used for the inspection of the command.

The Color Guard consisted of Mark Burfete, National Colors; Don Shupe, Brigade Colors; Jim Higgins and Clint Yarbrough escorts. Anthony Dawkins acted as the driver for the half track. John Hedgepeth brought down his jeep for the display. Also helping with the display were Steve Crane, Jack McLaughlin, Mike Owens, and Walt Sowinski.

The Color Guard had to do plenty of practicing as this was the first time we were to do a color guard as part of a military ceremony where everything was spelled out and was expected to be performed with perfection. Thanks to these guys for putting in the time it takes to pull this off. But pull it off we did. And it was an honor to do this duty. There was a little chill that went through us as we unfurled the Brigade Colors for the first time and we gazed upon the battle streamers that weighed down its top. Yes, these were the battle streamers from W.W.I and W.W.II.

We received the following note from Col. Waldron, Commander of Troops at the ceremony:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for your Association's participation in our BDE's change of command on the 19th. You all provided an outstanding addition to our program and I am truly grateful for having the opportunity for you to be a part of Old Hickory Brigade's lineage.

Here's what I will be working on for your team. Photos from the COC, an official letter of appreciation, a state level recognition for your unit (likely a certificate from the AG's office), more shoulder insignias, and an 81 MM Mortar. The mortar will be a stretch, however, I am also interested in one for the NC Military History Museum as well, so why not get two at the same time.

I have ask the BDE S1 about a monetary contribution to your group. This is not settled yet.

Please pass this along and let your folks know I will be working on some follow on recognition.

Frank Waldron
COL, ARMOR

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

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: WWIIMPRESSIONS@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,

Coming Events

Sept. 16-17, 2000

World War II Weekend
Eisenhower National Historic Site
Gettysburg, PA
Rick Lemmers, Park Ranger
Eisenhower National Historic Site
97 Taneytown Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
(717) 338-9114

September 20 - 22, 2000***** Maximum Effort

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

October 6-8, 2000

Live fire shoot.
Camp Butner, NC

October 20-22, 2000*****Maximum Effort

Reenactment
Oakridge Mansion
Arrington, VA

November 10 - 12, 2000

Veteran's Day parade, living history,
Fly-in.
Owen's Field, Columbia,

July 19 -22, 2001

MVPA International Convention
Ft. Lee, VA

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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