

# The Old Hickory Chronicle

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

May/June 2001

## Fun at Camp Butner Again or I don't understand why more don't Come!

The Camp Butner shoot, held on the weekend of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, was attended by 18 members of the OHA and one very special guest, Mr. Robert Bruce. He is the author of "The M-1 does MY talking!" and a professional photographer and he also is coordinating all the living history presentations at the MVPA Convention at Ft. Lee, VA, in July.

We opened the bivouac area around noon on Friday and after a number of people arrived, the KD range was opened up to anyone that wanted to sight in or test fire their weapons. From the looks of the scorecards from Saturday's shoot, we all should have spent more time on the range Friday.

By Friday night we had the kitchen area squared away, with a generator providing the background music. We had three hooch's to set up in so we didn't need to worry about tents or the weather. Believe it not the two always go together. If we set up a tent, it will rain. This weekend we didn't need tents so it never rained a drop. Robert Bruce did come into the Orderly Room and asked if we would be offended if he set up a pup tent to sleep in. He stated that he had spent enough time in a room full of snoring, farting men to appreciate the solitude of a pup tent.

We started Saturday with a morning formation. As always Sparky brought us back to reality with a little drill instruction and manual of arms. There's nothing quite like the sight of a bunch of guys drilling after not having done any in three or four months.

After Sparky got our blood flowing again, "Boats" Higgins took over instruction to prepare us for the days shoot. With

"Swede" Owens as his able assistant, he ran us through the firing positions and the proper use of the sling when firing. He then had us all practice getting into the firing positions and making the adjustments on the sling. Then he went over the proper sight picture.

With our brains hurting from all the information we had stuffed into it we moved out for the range. Luckily the trip compacted the brain overflow as "Boats" was waiting for us to review pulling and marking targets, and filling out scorecards. Finally we split into two groups to begin the shoot. I really wished I had gone to the range Friday to practice. After an incident free shoot we were ready to tally up the scores and head back to the Kitchen area. Did I mention the hurricane force winds that were blowing across selected targets? A real

freak of nature it was.

When we got back to the Kitchen it was time to break out a nice cold - CLEANING KIT! Yes sir, Sparky and Boats were ready for us and they put us right to stripping down and cleaning those M1's. You would think we were in the Army or something. Finally with those M1's cleaned, oiled, and secure in the gun rack in the Orderly Room we were all ready for some hot Ch---not here yet, so Captain Jack McLaughlin ran us through an elementary course on map reading.



*"Boats" Higgins instructs the troops on how to mark targets when working the pits.*

He taught how to read the different features shown on a topo map and finished the lesson with testing different groups with plotting coordinates on a map to find a certain location.

While Captain Jack was finishing up his class Col. Frank Waldron of the North Carolina National Guard, who was

Commander of Troops at the 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Change of Command at Ft. Bragg last year, arrived with some other Guard members who were at Camp Butner for a shooting competition that weekend. He asked if he could address our troops, so Sparky called for the unit to fall in. Col. Waldron said that he wanted to thank the Old Hickory Association for providing the Color Guard for both the Dining In and the Change of Command, and also for providing a display for all those attending the Change of Command. He presented us with two framed letters of appreciation and several copies of photographs that were taken during the event.

Now we were really ready for those Hobo steaks but they still hadn't arrived. Yours truly presented a class on the Instruction of the Bayonet with Sparky playing the part of the dummy. If there is enough interest we are considering setting up a bayonet course that we could run through at a spring training weekend at Butner in the future. I thought it was starting to thunder while teaching the class but it was only Ray Oakes stomach yelling for dinner. Finally Ron showed with the food and the eating began.

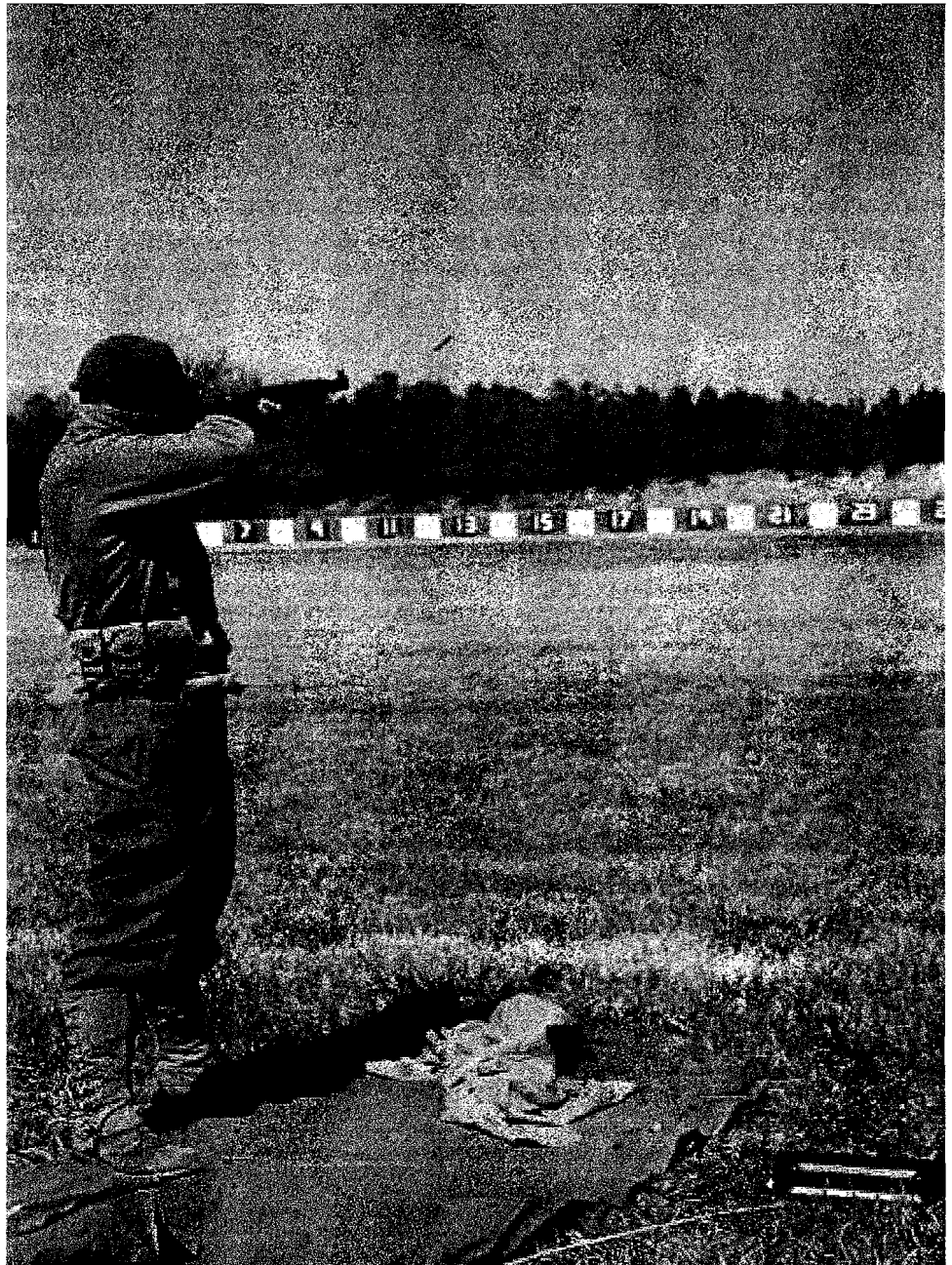
Sunday began with a late morning formation. Then we started to break down camp before heading to the range for open shooting. We are definitely getting better at this. Everybody chipped in and did what needed to be done without having to be nagged. Everybody's gear was packed up and moved out. The hooch's were swept out and checked, and the entire area was policed, and the garbage was moved out to the dumpster. Thanks guys for a great job.

Down at the range was our typical Sunday shoot. Some of the guys wanted to try to improve on their shooting from Saturday. Others wanted to test out some of their other service rifles. Others took the opportunity to try out Anthony's .30 cal water cooled and FJ's BAR. After everybody's shoulders were sufficiently bruised, we called it a day, cleaned up the target room and headed on out. It was a fun weekend.

Sorry guys, but here are the scores from Saturday. Those that had a Qualifying score of 350 or better will receive a certificate.

Burfete, M.	279	McLaughlin, J.	393-3x
Dilworth, R.G.	332-2x	Oakes, R.	384
Eatmon, C.	413-4x	Owens, M.	320-1x
Gill, P.	387-3x	Shupe, D.A.	354-1x
Hale, F.J.	392-2x	Sowinski, Walt	322
Hogan, Todd	299	Thierry, Charles	362

*Photographs by Robert Bruce.*



## Today's N.C. Poem

### "THE 30<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION SINCE D-PLUS"

We landed at night, planes were all around,  
Ack-ack was shooting, it was a frightening sound;  
Our guns were unloaded, every one was slow,  
But soon the order was given, "Boy, let's go."

We drove out on the beach, all sandy and white,  
We knew in our hearts many had died before this night,  
We pushed on off the beach out in the air,  
We were going but none of us knew where.

We stopped about the morning, cold rain and mist,  
We all cursed the man that brought us all this,  
We reorganized and started rolling again,  
We had a job to do, we couldn't stop because of rain.

The weather was bad, we couldn't see,  
Some of the guns were lost, but we thank Thee  
That the enemy was not awake or did not know  
We were moving in, while they were on the go.

We went into position near St. Jean De Daye,  
The people were pro-Nazi, friendliness didn't pay;  
We fought very hard for the ground we had,  
All was in Nazi favor, the land and weather was bad.

Hedge row on hedge row, the land was rough,  
The fighting was hell, the Jerries were tough.  
We bled and suffered for days and nights,  
We just had to win, for we were right.

We moved from there to a place you know,  
We know that you remember the Battle of St. Lo.  
We took the high ground, with guns that rumble,  
We didn't get much credit, but we didn't grumble.

High ground is hard, you've got to fight;  
Praise is easy to get, regardless of might;  
Let those that have done it tell you the same,  
We done it several times, without any fame.

From St. Lo we went to Mortain,  
There we were in a hell-hole again,  
The 30<sup>th</sup> Division took it and took it on the chin,  
It was a very hard battle, but we had to win.

That drive was meant to split us half in two;  
Without food nor cigarettes, no, that wouldn't do;  
They hit us hard, with all their might,  
We fought on and on for days and nights.

Our infantry was surrounded, that won't do;  
They fought, suffered and died, they were heroic, too;  
We fired them medical aid from our guns,

They needed it badly, they thought they were done.

They pulled through, thanks to prayer and God;  
They hadn't slept, couldn't even nod;  
Then the rescue, and they were glad,  
All wore smiles, none were sad.

We finally pulled through, a job well done,  
The counter thrust was over, the Jerries had run.  
The planes came in flying from the sun,  
They spotted the Jerries, and they had their fun.

We crossed the Vire, then the Seine,  
We were headed for Paris, a city of fame;  
We'd paid to see Paris, by rights or law,  
But the Eiffel Tower at a distance is all we saw.

From France to Belgium we were moving fast,  
General Harrison's task force was on the go at last;  
We went through in a hurry, you'll agree,  
We were only there a short time, it seems to me.

First into Holland, Aw, what a place;  
Wine, cognac, and dress with lace;  
Gasoline was scarce, ammunition was not;  
So we stayed in Heerlen—my, what a spot!

We fired into Germany, the Fatherland,  
Quite a country, all mud and no sand,  
The 30<sup>th</sup> cracked the Siegfried Line,  
We didn't get much credit, we still don't mind.

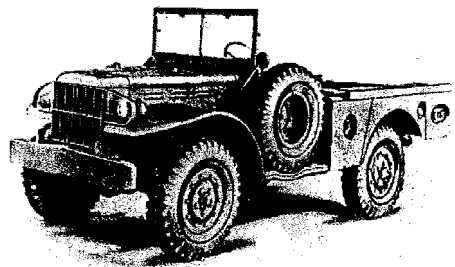
We helped to get Aachen, a German town,  
We like to fight, like to mow 'em down;  
We fought long and hard, nearly to the Rhine,  
When Runstedt broke loose and began to shine.

We moved into Belgium like a ball of fire,  
The Allies have stopped him, now he's doomed to die;  
We hope and pray when Runstedt falls  
That this battle will end them all.

SGT. OLLIE M. FRAZIER

Somewhere in Germany.

*Submitted to the newsletter by Chuck Eatmon*



# FROM THE MOTORPOOL

One of the presentations we are planning for the Military Vehicles Preservation Association International Convention at Ft. Lee, VA in July is a discussion on the types of vehicles assigned to different units. It is not uncommon to see beautifully restored vehicles ruined by markings that are inappropriate for that type of vehicle. Shown below is the break out of vehicles for an Infantry Division in July of 1943. We will attempt to create similar breakouts for each of the individual units within the division, then the regiments and the companies within the regiment.

## Infantry Division

	Division Headquarters	Headquarters	Headquarters Company	Military Police Platoon	Ordnance Light Maintenance Company	Quartermaster Company	Signal Company	Infantry Regiment (3 each)	Division Artillery	Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, Mecz	Engineer Battalion	Medical Battalion	Total Division
<b>15 July 1943</b>													
Air Compressor, Trk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Tractor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Ambulance, ¾ ton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
M8 Armored Car	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	13
Sedan Car	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
M3 Halftrack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Truck, ¼ ton	1	16	15	7	6	19	13	82	24	16	9		612
Truck, ¾ ton	1	7	3	5	2	13	12	11	0	13	15		209
Truck, 1 ½ ton	0	7	0	0	0	7	30	0	0	0	2		106
Truck, 2 ½ ton	0	0	0	14	51	16	33	13	1	22	14		356
Truck, 2 ½ ton Dump	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0		27
Truck, 4-ton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	3	0		18
Truck, Wrecker	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>1389</b>

## Life at Camp Butner

*Brett Bondurant recently went searching the Internet for information about Camp Butner during World War II. The following is one of the responses he received, including the photograph. Look for other items Brett gathered from his research in future issues.*

From: "James L. Cooper"

Dad called me this afternoon and told me what an average day at in the Army at Camp Butner in the states was like. They had to be dressed and ready to fall-in at 0700 for muster and inspection. Then they went to breakfast. At 0800 they began to drill (training) in whatever area planned for the day. It might be hand-to-hand combat, bayonet, rifle or whatever. This lasted till 1200 when they went to lunch. Then from 1-5 it was more of the same. Then you cleaned up, went to supper and you were basically free in the evenings.

Most guys gathered in groups and talked, played cards, wrote home, and listened to records. He says they had a pool table at the rec. hall and if you had money you could buy beer or a soda pop at the PX.

On Saturdays there was a formal inspection, after which you drilled till noon. Then you were free till Monday again. If you had been good, you could get a pass and leave the base. The guys in trouble had latrine duty.

They were paid once a month. \$50 for privates, \$60 for Corporals, \$75 for Sgt. and \$90 for S/Sgt. When they went overseas, they received an extra \$30 combat pay.

Before he was married, he bought 2 cartons of cigarettes at 10 cents a pack; paid off guys he'd borrowed money from and got whatever he needed. Then he says he'd get in a card game and 'get skinned'. He'd be broke by the 4th day. He said he never was a drinker, so he never got into trouble. He did remember going to the rec. hall some nights and they usually would get a soda pop and spend the evening shooting the breeze.

The Army had organized games; each company had its own team, so they played lots of softball. When they were shipped overseas, Dad had an allotment taken out for mom, \$90, and he kept the \$30. In 13 months, she not only took care of herself and Gloria, but she managed to save \$600. Good thing, when Dad got out of the Army, he was flat broke.

Saturday night was movie night, and most everybody on base went to it. Sunday dinner was a big meal, but supper was only cold cuts. That was the only time they had cold cuts.

There was this GI named Ernie Petrongolla (not sure of spelling) who couldn't drill at all. He was always given the crappy details like latrine duty, garbage detail or such, because he couldn't do anything else. But, he was the nicest guy, real quiet, friendly and easy going. He never complained about anything. The Army posted a notice that there were going to be boxing matches, by weight class, to find the top boxers in the Division. Ernie signed up, all 150lbs of him. Everybody

in the company laughed because they said Ernie would get pasted and of course there were bets placed on it.

Well, come fight time most everyone else who signed up in the company, found they couldn't take it in the ring. Warren Ritchie was one of them; he said he should have studied the science of boxing instead of standing toe-to-toe and slugging it out. Anyhow, Ernie got his chance and KO'd the 1st guy in about 10 seconds. All of Co. K was stunned; they couldn't believe it. Then they started talking it was a fluke. So the next time Ernie got up, the same thing happened, he KO'd his opponent. Finally it came down to two guys in the Division, Ernie and a GI named Ernie King, who outweighed him by 15lbs. The whole of K Company went to support their guy and it was a real 'Donny Brook', they matched point for point for 10 rounds and it was finally called a draw. Ernie was co-champ of the whole Division.

Well, of course nobody would laugh at Ernie after that and it came to be known that before he was drafted, he'd earned his living as a pug, or sparing partner, for professional boxers. He never made it as a soldier and he didn't ship out with the company, but he was a good boxer.



*Dad and 3 friends taken in the barracks area of Camp Butner in 1943 . He was in the 311th Regiment, K Company.*

# UNIT NEWS

## New Message from the Editor:

Its time to start the search for a new newsletter editor. I have been doing this for about four years now and the creative juices are starting to dry up, along with a number of other things. The January 2002 newsletter will be my last unless someone is willing to take over sooner.

Besides being responsible for getting out the newsletter every other month, the editor also needs to take over the position of secretary/treasurer as most checks written are directly related to the newsletter. Other duties would involve collecting annual dues, maintaining financial records, and payment of bills. The group's scanner will be passed on to the new editor.

Anyone interested in taking over this position should contact Don Shupe at (919) 467-3119 or email at shupeda@msn.com.

All candidates will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and they will make the final decision.

## OHA Displays at Regional Museums.

Since March of this year, the **Spartanburg, SC Regional Museum**, has been using our barracks display as part of a 3 month tribute to Camp Croft. The barracks display was originally assembled by Jim Higgins for the 30th ID reunion in Winston-Salem last year. It includes a bunk bed, uniforms hanging from a closet bar, and a foot locker display. The display will continue through Memorial Day weekend.

Starting May 30th, the **Granville County Museum** in Oxford, NC will open a 3 month display honoring World War 2. We will be helping out by supplying a Color Guard and displays for a sneak preview party on May 26th. We

will also be moving the barracks display from Spartanburg to Oxford. In addition we will be loaning them our display boards depicting the history of the 30th ID, a field inspection, field headquarters display, and field kitchen equipment.

## U.S.S. North Carolina June 8-10, 2001

The OHA has been asked to coordinate a display/Living History at the battleship site to coincide with the Naval Detachment Living History weekend.

We will most likely do an MP impression. Since the majority of our members that help do our displays also do the Naval Detachment our ranks will woefully thin. So far I have heard from: Thomas Amato, Mike Owens, Walt Sowinski, Kevin Wescott, Clint Yarbrough, Jim Higgins, and Frank Brewer.

Anyone that is interested in helping us out please contact Don Shupe. Further information will be in future newsletters.

## Adopt a Vet!

We have received a large number of requests from 30th ID veterans to receive copies of our newsletter, which is quite an honor. Unfortunately it is also quite a strain on our limited finances, and although we have received some cash donations from some of the 30th vets we can't cover them all. If any of our members would like to contribute \$5, \$10, or \$15 to help offset this cost it would be greatly appreciated.



## MVPA International Convention 2001 July 19 - 21. UPDATE.

We are beginning the final planning for the MVPA convention. I have heard from the following members saying they will help out with the display: Brett Bondurant, Mark Burfete, Dave Curtin, Anthony Dawkins, Mike Fox, Mike Owens, Andy Sterlen and Walt Sowinski.

Just so I can better track who is coming when and for how long I have included a registration form with this newsletter. Including those mentioned above, please fill out the form and return it to me by June 1.

### Members Directory

A directory of OHA members for the 2001 is included with this newsletter. Please review this listing and contact me with any corrections.

### Attention 30th ID Veterans!

We have received a couple of requests lately from 30th ID vets for membership applications so they can be included in some of the items we offer to our members only. We consider any 30th ID vet that receives our newsletter to be an **Honorary** member of the Old Hickory Association and therefore are eligible for any items we offer.

### OHA Items for sale

Anyone interested in purchasing OHA clothing items should contact Brett Bon-

durant, 1304 Westover Drive, Danville, VA. 24541, (804) 791-2155, bondo@gamewood.net

Grey Tee Shirts W/ OHA logo - S-XL \$10, XXL \$12.50

Grey Sweatshirts w/ OHA logo - S-XL \$18, XXL \$20.00

Ball Caps, Grey body w/ Blue bill, w/ logo - \$11.00

Golf Shirts, white or Grey, w/ logo - S-XL \$22.50, XXL \$25.

Patches, repro 30th ID, \$2/patch.

S&H extra.

### Tennessee Event

A reenactment in September 2001 has been designated as a maximum effort event for the OHA. Details are incomplete at this time. Watch future newsletters for information.

### New Recruits Procedure

If anyone has someone interested in joining the OHA they should contact David Stieghan or Clint Yarbrough. Contact information is on the last page of each newsletter. They will in turn contact that person and conduct an interview with them. If they feel they would be a good addition to the group they will send them an information sheet and an application which will be completed by the new recruit and mailed with their dues to Don Shupe.

After FIG there was rumor that I wouldn't dare print a cartoon drawn by FNG. Well here is a slightly revised version.



# 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:

World War 2 Reproduction Rations Complete reproduction of WW2 K ration, C ration, and D bars, as well as other accessories such as Foot Powder, Charms, PK gum, fuel tablets, batteries, and more. Catalog Available.

www.angelfire.com/nc/stug  
Todd Hogan, 224 S. Melville Street,  
Graham, NC 27253  
email: thogan@triad.rr.com

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: WWIIMPRES-  
SIONS@MSN.COM

# Coming Events

## May 26, 2001

Military through the Ages  
Capital Grounds  
Raleigh, NC

## June 2-3, 2001

Military Collectors Show  
North Carolina State Fairgrounds  
Raleigh, NC

## June 4 - 8, 2001

30th ID National Convention  
Cape May, NJ

## June 8 - 10, 2001

Battleship North Carolina  
Wilmington, NC

## July 4, 2001

4th Celebration - TBD

## July 14-15, 2001

Military Collectors Show  
Elks Lodge  
Wilmington, NC

## July 19 -22, 2001

MVPA International Convention  
Ft. Lee, VA

## Maximum Effort

## September ?, 2001

Reenactment  
Tennessee

## Maximum Effort

## September 29-30, 2001

Militaria Show  
Greensboro Coliseum  
Greensboro, NC

## October 5/7, 2001

Butner Shoot  
Camp Butner, NC

## October 19 -21, 2001

reenactment  
Oakridge, VA.

## November 3/4, 2001

Celebrate Freedom  
Owens Field, Columbia, SC

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.

Other contacts of the Old Hickory Association are:

Board of Directors:

Brett Bondurant (804)791-2155, bondo@gamewood.net,

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Paul Gill, (704) 948-2884, oldhick120@carolina.rr.com

Don Shupe, (919) 467-3119, shupeda@email.msn.com

Clint Yarbrough, (336)299-1981, cyruswc21@aol.com

Reenactments: Mike Fox (336) 282-6301, foxwinston@msn.com, Paul Gill, Courtney Johnston (919) 661-4946

Marksmanship: Clint Yarbrough

Displays, 30th ID History, and Newsletter: Don Shupe (919) 467-3119

Drill and Ceremony: Mark Burfete (919) 562-1639

Recruiting: Clint Yarbrough or David Stieghan, (931) 987-0965 (central), or dstieghan@aol.com

# MVPA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

## REGISTRATION FORM

Our display area will be directly across the street from the Quartermasters Museum. Set up will begin on Wednesday July 18th and must be completed no later than noon on the 19th. Break down will be Sunday morning the 22nd. Questions? contact Don Shupe at (919) 467-3119 or shupeda@msn.com

We will need people to act as MP's to watch over the Ike van as well as needing people to discuss our display material with visitors. We will also need to have a couple of people stay with the display each night as security.

We will rotate people whenever possible to allow our members a chance to enjoy this unique event.

We will be on a military base and all their rules must be followed. Safety inspections of each living history encampment will be made by representatives of the MVPA and Ft. Lee Military Police prior to opening displays to the public and periodically during the event.

1- Whenever possible, deactivated, dummy or replica weapons should be used instead of functioning weapons. If this is not possible, weapons must be rendered incapable of being easily put to their original purpose. Firing pins or bolts should be removed. **ATF Forms address is: Fort Lee, VA, 23801**

2- No powder or pyrotechnics or live or blank cartridges of any kind will be brought on the installation. All dummy ammunition and examples of explosive ordnance or pyrotechnics for display must be clearly inert and empty.

3- Although there will be extensive MP presence on a 24 hour basis, all units and their individual members will be responsible for physical security of weapons and other items at all times.

4- Vehicles that are part of your display must be secured in a way that will ensure they cannot be easily started or moved. Use wheel chocks and disconnect batteries.

Ft. Lee is approximately two and half hours from Raleigh .

Directions from south of Richmond VA. — Take I-85 or I-95 north toward Richmond. After I-85 intersects with I-95 take Exit 54, 144 East, Colonial Heights, Hopewell. Continue on Route 144 approximately four miles. Exit Route 36 West, Fort Lee, Petersburg. Proceed on Route 36 approximately one mile. Turn left at the First traffic light. You are entering the main gate to Fort Lee. Follow the MVPA signs after entering the Post.

Please fill out and return if you plan on participating in the OHA display at Ft. Lee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I plan on arriving at \_\_\_\_\_ (time) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

I can contribute the following for the display

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Please return to Don Shupe, 414 Cary Pines Dr. Cary, NC 27513 by June 1, 2001.