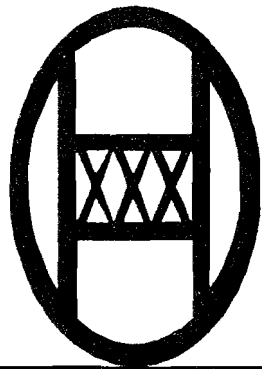


MAY/June 2002



THE OLD HICKORY CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

March/April 2002

Profiles of the Greatest Generation

by Mike Fox

The Simmons Brothers of Alamance County.

"Mom" could have been "Mrs. Ryan" was what Buster Simmons told me recently, referring to the movie "Saving Private Ryan" in which the fictional mother has four sons in combat in WWII and loses three of them. In the case of Mrs. Simmons, she also had 4 sons in service. In addition, her daughter's husband was in the 29th Division but was discharged with a ruptured eardrum before the Normandy invasion. Fortunately three of Mrs. Simmon's sons came home: Buster, Wayne and Gilmer. One, Bill died in action. This is the story of Bill Simmons as told to me by his brother Buster at the recent Tar Heel Chapter reunion in Raleigh. I have found it common among veterans of WWII to disclaim any hero status, instead saying that the real heroes were the ones who did not come home. Certainly, Buster feels that way about his brother Bill. I learned from Buster that Bill was an extraordinary young man with many talents who certainly would have been a contributor in life had he had the chance. It is to the men like Bill that we owe our freedom.

The family was raised in Alamance County. Buster was the oldest, followed by Bill, Wayne and Gilmer. Buster was born on 7 July 1922 in Orange County, N. C. some 10 miles south of Mebane, N. C. Early in 1926 the family moved from the red clay farm to the Town of Graham. The Simmons boys grew up there, thru the depression years and graduated from Graham High School. Before finishing high school Buster and Billy (he later changed his name to "Bill") worked at Woody's Cafe on Court Square in Graham after school and on weekends. Hotdogs were 5 cents, hamburgers were 10 cents, soft drinks were 5 cents. Old

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60th Doolittle Raiders Reunion Report

By Walt Sowinski

On April 18, 2002 at 11:00 a.m., 11 B-25 Mitchell bombers executed four passes over the Columbia, SC parade honoring the crew members who flew the 1942 Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, Japan. Organizers of this historic event had expected upwards of 20 B-25's but some had to cancel because of mechanical or weather problems. The original Doolittle Raiders flight consisted of 16 planes that had to fly off an aircraft carrier deck. Never before had a land based bomber been tasked to do such a thing and once off the carrier deck of the USS Hornet, the Raiders would have no chance to return to the ship. The B-25's flew in formations of three and the sound of those rotary engines produced a once in a life time thrill. The local newspaper said the engines sounded

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Milwaukee and Atlantic beers were 10 cents, Budweiser and Schlitz were 15 cents. The Blue Plate lunch special was 65 cents. As you can see, they were dealing in high finance!

Buster joined the Medical Detachment of the 120th Regiment of the North Carolina National Guard immediately before they left for Ft. Jackson in 1940. He had just turned 18. He had heard that they were going to Ft. Jackson and many of his buddies encouraged him to join up and get his year of service out of the way. Little did he know!

William C. "Bill" Simmons was two years younger than Buster and was still in High School when Buster joined the Guard and left for Ft. Jackson. By the time Bill graduated from High School America was at war and Bill went immediately into the Army Air Corps for pilot training. Everyone thought the glory was in flying a fighter plane but Bill was destined to serve in the "workhorse" of the air services, multi-engine cargo planes.

Bill completed training and was assigned to the 313th Troop Carrier Command in England as a C-47 pilot. In this role he hauled both cargo and troops in dangerous missions. Bill participated in D-Day invasion drop of the airborne troops and subsequent supply efforts. Bill also participated in aerial supply effort to haul gas to Patton's tanks. He told Buster that on one flight they loaded 600 gallons of gas in 5 gallon cans and he flew it to Patton's tanks in France. Bill added that they had burned 900 gallons to get it there. That's how bad they needed the gas!

Bill's unit was also constantly bailing out Montgomery and his British troops with air drops when they got stuck. In September, 1944 Bill participated in Operation Market Garden flying lead plane on three missions. In early December, 1944 Bill was in the Arnhem and Nimegan area with a crew from England to salvage gliders from Operation Market Garden.

Bill finished that mission and while at Headquarters in Brussels asked his CO if he could go to the front and find his brother in the 30th Division. The CO thought he was crazy but agreed. Bill set off in a jeep with another Lt. toward the front. They found the 9th army and then the 30th division. Finally they got to the last sentry before the front lines and asked for the 120th infantry.

Bill explained his search for his brother and was directed to the CO of the Cannon Company of the 120th Infantry Regiment, Captain Kruger. It just so happened that Buster's unit ate with this unit so Kruger knew Buster. Kruger called Buster's CO and told him to send Buster up on a pretense of picking up an old German generator.

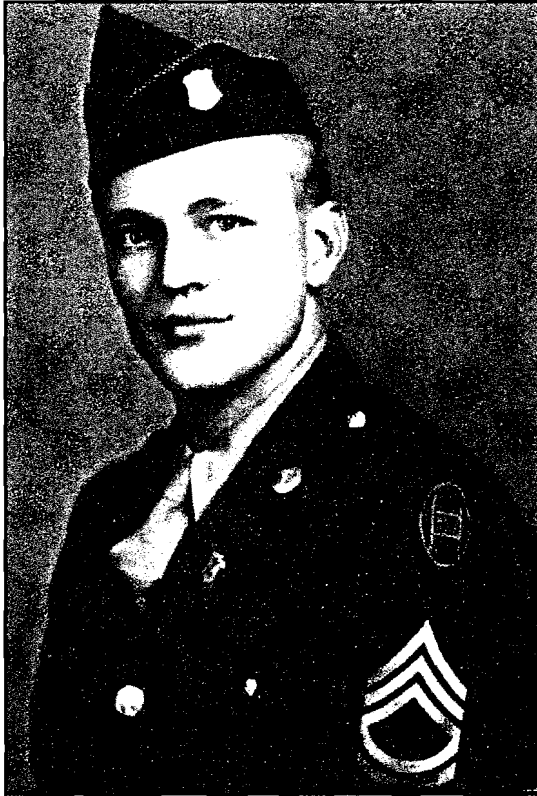
As the 1st Sgt., Buster was not used to running errands but reported to Krueger's headquarters. There he was shown to a room full of officers having dinner whereupon Buster started saluting around the room and finally saw his brother and exclaimed "what are you doing here?"

They proceeded to have a great reunion and after an adventure driving back in the jeep under black out conditions spent the rest of the night talking and visiting. Bill had brought two cases of cognac from Brussels for everyone and Buster rationed it out. Bill had to leave the next morning to get back. This was only a couple of days before the Battle of the Bulge started. Had Bill's trip been delayed by only a few days he probably would have never found Buster in all the confusion.

As the war wound down the 30th Infantry Division crossed the Rhine on the 24th of March. On that day Bill was shot down while supporting the last major airborne assault of the war "Operation Varsity." Buster estimates that he was less than five miles from



Bill Simmons



Buster Simmons

where Bill was shot down. When the 30th was almost to Magdeburg Buster got a letter from his mom saying that Bill was missing in action. About three weeks later he got a cable informing him that Bill was killed. Through the kind intervention of the regimental adjutant J.B. Liles, Buster got one of four slots in the Division to rotate home to see his mom. Buster was home and out of the Army by the 25th of June, 1945. The war ended on August 14, 1945.

As for Buster's story, the first week after he joined the National Guard they were bivouacked on the grounds of the old abandoned rayon plant in east Burlington, along with Co. A 120th Infantry, the local Burlington guard unit. They immediately dubbed it as FORT RAYON as they stayed inside the chain link fence until they left by train about a week later to go to Fort Jackson, S.C. The train made a sort of winding path thru Greensboro, Winston Salem, Salisbury, and Charlotte, picking up more troops along the way until they finally reached their destination, Fort Jackson, S.C.

Being a member of the future combat medics, their mission was to learn all they could about the treatment and care of grievously wounded men under the most adverse circumstances one could imagine. Fortunately, the Regimental Surgeon was Major Willard C. Goley who had served in World War 1. Under his leadership, they progressed into a highly skilled and technically trained unit. He provided a lot of the basic knowledge which was enhanced by those who were left behind when Major Goley was transferred out to join General MacArthur in the Pacific.

The tenure at Fort Jackson involved many areas of duties, from the grubbing of pine stumps in order to construct the huge drill field known by all as the DUST BOWL, to the hills of Camp Forrest, Tennessee to train the first group of "Selectees" who had arrived in early 1941, then back to Fort Jackson, for streamlining and more training. By this time Buster had been promoted three times and was a Sergeant. Just before they went to Camp Blanding, Fla. Buster was promoted to Staff Sergeant and not too long after arrival there, he was promoted to Technical Sergeant, which was the rank for the Medical Detachment First Sergeant. This all occurred before he was 20 years old.

They now started to train the troops with which they would go into combat. After they went overseas, Buster literally lived the history of the 30th Infantry Division, staying with them until the war was over as they were at the Elbe River near Magdeburg, Germany.

Buster's younger brothers were also in the service. Wayne Simmons joined the Air Corps but never left continental USA despite being "on the gangplank a couple of times." Harold Gilmer Simmons joined the Navy near the end of the war and was sent to Guam in the Pacific where according to Buster "he went stir crazy."

Bill is buried at the American Cemetery in Margratten. As for Bill's talents, Buster told me that he could really sing. When Bill graduated from Graham High School in June 1941 he was accepted at Julliard School of Music in New York City on a Voice scholarship. Unfortunately

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Buster Simmons (left) with Layton Tyner at the Tar Heel Chapter Reunion this April.



Walt Sowinski, Mike Owens, Don Shupe, Mark Burfete, and Clint Yarbrough gathered around Buster Simmons to get a look at the record book he kept during the war.



Mark Burfete and Don Shupe enjoy conversation with Layton Tyner outside the hospitality suite.



Mark Burfete and Clint Yarbrough looking like they have spent a little too much time in the hospitality suite.

Thanks to Mike Fox for pictures of the Tar Heel Reunion.

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like " thousands of angry bees" but in my opinion they sounded like growling bears looking for some bigtime payback. The parade was scheduled for Thursday because it was 60 years to the day that the Doolittle Raid took place. April 18, 1942. Of the 23 surviving Raiders, 14 were in attendance for the Columbia Reunion. I was surprised to learn that the the original group who volunteered for the mission formed up in Columbia, SC in January of 1942...they later transferred to Eglin Field in Florida to complete their training.

Local officials estimated that 10-12,000 lined the Main Street parade route which was heavily splashed with red, white and blue color schemes. Doolittle Raider Nolan Herndon was quoted as saying, "We never had crowds this big and as enthusiastic as this before...seeing all those little kids really got to me. I had tears in my eyes all way."

Units participating in the parade consisted of the usual array of politicians and celebrities (including Ollie North who was the luncheon key note speaker) a Ft. Jackson military band, active-duty military formations, Junior ROTC groups from area schools, a bagpipe band, vintage autos carrying the Raiders, WWII military vehicles and last but not least some really impressive WWII reenactor units! Specifically, about a dozen of Kip Fordam's 82nd Airborne group, some 4-5 Brits I did not know, some Ranger Unit who were most interested in Hedgepath's jeep, the Medical Unit that was there in November's Celebrate Freedom celebration and four stalwarts representing The Old Hickory's 30th Inf. Division - Ray Oakes who was photographed shaking hands with Ollie North, Chuck Eatmon manning Bill Campbell's 50 cal. mounted on Campbell's weapons carrier, John Hedgepath with his superb jeep and his wife, and me who also rode in the WC instead of marching the route.

Once the parade concluded, our part of the convoy was escorted to Owens Airfield...the Raiders went to their luncheon festivities. Owens was not open to the public on Thursday so it gave us the chance to really get up close to the B-25's



Ray Oakes shakes hands with Ollie North

and their crews. All of the planes had different paint jobs as well as nose art. Some 25's were really well maintained, some in progress and one which really needed a huge amount of TLC! I apologize for not taking any reference notes and therefore I can't rattle off all the names painted on the 25's noses. The few I do remember are: Panchito, The Old Grey Mare and Skunky. "Skunky" was recovered from nearby Lake Murray after it's WWII pilot crashed into it while showing off for his girlfriend...the pilot lived but he probably got transferred to the infantry after that screw-up. It's exterior has been restored by the Celebrate Freedom folks (I think) and is painted in the early Army Air Corp olive drab color scheme which has the star with the red dot in the center and Jimmy Doolittle listed as the pilot. Spunky will

never fly again but will be on year round static display at an Owens Airfield hanger. Eventhough Skunky didn't fly the other B-25's did. Since we were on the field and upclose, watching and listening to those babies take off was thrilling. As said earlier, those engines just give you goose bumps...that is sweet music! You really had to be there guys.

On Friday morning, Chuck, Ray and I got to the airfield early because we found out that the remaining nine B-25's would be taking off for a flyover of Shaw Airforce Base. When we arrived, the ground crews were hauling the planes into their take-off positions - lining them up wing tip to wing tip. Then it got really exciting. The nine 25's started warming up their engines, slow at first, then progressing to a full throttle! Whoa Nellie - to hear that sound and feel that rumble in the pit of your stomach made the whole trip worthwhile. Chuck Eatmon was busy taking video footage of the 25's taking off and I'm hoping he'll share that footage with us sometime soon. The parade flyover was really great but I gotta tell ya the Friday morning form-up and take off sequence was just awesome. Once the 25's were on their way to Shaw, we helped Kip's guys set up their display (which was pretty impressive) and got ready for the

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30TH INFANTRY DIVISION: DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

BY CLINT YARBROUGH

Most of us have been collecting US militaria long enough that we have the necessary uniforms and web gear that is required by the OHA. So what do you do when you run out of things to buy? Well, that was the predicament that I found myself in. I had been collecting US WWII items for several years and had all the basics. Not wanting to start into to collecting the more exotic and expensive uniforms and equipment I found unit crest was the perfect thing. The great thing about unit crest, also known as distinctive insignia (DI's for short), is that they don't take up much room and can be a sleeper collectible. By calling them a sleeper I mean that often a crest can be had for a fraction of its value. When one considers how many different unit insignias there are it is easy to assume that many dealers don't really know what they have. So many times you can purchase a valuable crest of a historical unit or one that has particular interest to you for next to nothing.

The difficulty in DI's often lies in remembering what they look like. Often times crest can have very similar features or may have markings that are misleading. For example, the 114th Infantry Regiment of the 44th Infantry Division, New Jersey National Guard has a blue and gray ying and yang marking identical to the 29th Division. More than once I have seen this crest identified as a 29th Division unit.

Since the OHA represents the 30th, we will simplify things and concentrate on the DI's of the units associated with the Division. In order to do so we need to know the units that made up the 30th. These units changed through out the war with the greatest alterations occurring during the federalization of the National Guard. The changes included the transition from the square division to the triangular one.

Prior to World War II the National Guard consisted of units of all the different branches of the army. These included 4 infantry regiments: 117th Tennessee National Guard, 118th South Carolina National Guard, 120th North Carolina National Guard, and the 121st Georgia National Guard. Support groups consisted of the 105th Engineers, 105th Medical and 105th Quartermaster Regiments. The division also contained the 109th Cavalry

Regiment and 105th Observation Squadron for Reconnaissance.

The 55th Artillery Brigade provided the division artillery. This consisted of the 113th Field Artillery Regiment, North Carolina National Guard (Truck drawn 155mm guns), 115th Field artillery Regiment, Tennessee National Guard (Truck drawn 75mm guns), and the 118th Field artillery Regiment, Georgia National Guard, (Truck drawn 75mm guns). The Division also included the 252nd Coast Artillery Regiment that was not included in the Brigade.

The reshaping of divisions from square formations to triangular ones altered the composition of the 30th Division. The 118th Infantry Regiment was detached for duty in Iceland. The 121st Infantry Regiment was detached and went to the 8th Infantry Division. The 119th Infantry Regiment was reactivated and was added to the 117th Infantry Regiment and the 120th Infantry Regiment to form the Triangular Division structure. Many of the Division support units were converted to battalions but kept the same lineage. These consisted of the 113th Field artillery, the 105th Combat Engineer Battalion, and the 105th Medical Battalion. The 118th Field Artillery was inactivated and became the 118th and 230th Field Artillery Battalions.

There were many units that were attached to the Division but did not become an integral part. These units include the attached Tank and Tank Destroyer Battalions that supported the Division. The tank battalions consisted of the 740th, 743rd, and the 744th Tank Battalions. (If the 743rd sounds familiar it's because they were the unit that landed with the 1st and 29th on Omaha Beach on D-Day.) The tank destroyer battalions consisted of the 801st, 807th, and the 823rd. (The 823rd had 3" guns pulled by halftracks and was with the Division at Mortain.) (If you are interested in putting tank or tank destroyer battalion crest on a uniform for your collection or to wear to a reenactment be aware that they would not wear 30th patches. They would wear the plain triangular armor patch with no numbers for tank battalions and the Tank Destroyer patch with the tank eating tiger for those battalions.)

Information and illustrations on DI's can be difficult to find. Most of my information can from Shelby L. Stanton's World War II Order of Battle. A great book with has short accounts of units and b/w illustrations of many unit insignias. Many unit insignias are not illustrated stating that there are no distinctive

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KNOW YOUR GARAND!

How to Identify your WWII M-1

by

Brett Bondurant

FACTS AND FIGURES

Of all the weapons carried during WWII perhaps the most famous and best was the U.S. Rifle, Cal..30, M1 Garand. The weapon is a semi-automatic, self loading, gas operated, clip fed, air cooled shoulder weapon. Weighing in at 8.94 lbs. (without bayonet) the rifle has a length of 43 inches. The rifle has a rate of fire of about 30 aimed shots per minute and a maximum range of 5, 500 yards (with M1 cartridge.)

Production of the M-1 began in 1937 and ended in 1957 with some 4 million rifles being produced by the end of WWII. alone.

The two war-time producers of the M-1 were the government owned and operated Springfield Armory and the firm Winchester Repeating Arms Company. Winchester produced some 513,880 before ending production in 1945, and Springfield produced a total of 3,526,922 from 1932 through 1945. Production of the rifles at the Armory peaked in January 1944 with 122,001 weapons produced by the end of the month. This works out to 3,936 rifles per day or 164 rifles per hour!

With the war ending in 1945, production ceased at both Springfield Armory and at Winchester. From the end of WWII to the resumption of production for the Korean War, Springfield rebuilt over 500,00 rifles. Production resumed in 1952 in order to supply rifles for the Korean War and ended in 1957. Two civilian firms, International Harvester Company and Harrington & Richardson Arms Company received contracts to make M-1's with both companies ceasing manufacturing in 1956. Springfield Armory produced 637,420 during this period with International Harvester producing 337,623 rifles and Harrington & Richardson producing 428,600 rifles.

Thousands of M-1's were given to our allies, especially South Korea after the war and remained in their arsenals for many, many years. When they were replaced by more modern weapons, the rifles were imported back into the U.S. for resell. (By checking the barrel, usually on the left side, the importing firm's name is stamped.)

WWII MARKINGS

Wherever you bought your M-1, whether through the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), a dealer, gun show etc... you would like to think it either put a round into one of Hitler's henchman or Tojo's yellow friends. By examining your rifle and doing a little research you can find out a bit of it's history.

Look over your weapons for post war changes. With countless weapons being refinished and rebuilt by arsenals both domestic and foreign, it will be extremely hard to locate an exact WWII issue M-1.

Look at the receiver to see who the maker is. If it's Winchester, you know the receiver is WWII. If it's Springfield Armory, it maybe a wartime or post war make. Check the serial number on the receiver against the chart below to see what year it was made.

APPROXIMATE SERIAL NUMBER RANGE,
BY YEAR,
FOR PRODUCTION BY
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY AND
WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO.
1937-1945

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

YEAR	BEGINNING	ENDING
1937	81	1034
1938	1035	6972

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UNIT NEWS

Old Hickory Patches

We still have original Thirtieth patches. We are selling them at \$5.00 a piece with a limit of two per member. There will be a \$1.00 shipping fee if you want them mailed to you. Contact Brett Bondurant at (919)431-0984 or bbondo@bellsouth.net.

Help with Recruiting

Clint Yarbrough is still looking for a little help with recruiting. Responsibilities would include phoning potential recruits to feel out their interest and to send information sheets and applications. This would be a pretty easy way to satisfy your membership requirements for the year. If you can help contact Clint at (336)299-1981 or cyruswc21@aol.com.

30th ID National Reunion

Included with this newsletter is a registration form and information sheet for the upcoming 30th ID National Reunion to be held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Myrtle Beach, SC, October 16-20, 2002. As of this time there are no plans for the OHA to put on any display or participate in the any activities but we are welcome to attend at our own expense to spend time with the 30th Vets. Cost per person is \$155.00 plus room fees.

OHA By-laws

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Old Hickory Association was incorporated as a non-profit business on March 5, 2002. Part of the process of incorporation is creating By-laws for the running of the corporation. Included with this newsletter is a copy of the By-laws as created by the non-profit committee and the Board of Directors. Please take the time to read these By-laws and become familiar with them.

OHA annual meeting

As stated in the By-laws of the OHA the annual members and Board of Directors meeting will be held on the Saturday of the first weekend of June. This also happens to be the date of the Militaria Show at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. The meeting will be held at 12 noon at a location to be determined in the near future. You will be able to learn the location of the meeting at the Hogan's table at the Militaria Show. If you

aren't familiar with Ted and Todd, just look for the OHA sign which will be posted above their table which is typically toward the rear right corner. If a location has been determined early enough it will be posted by e-mail. If you want to attend the meeting but don't want to pay the \$5 to get in to the show just wait outside around 12 noon.

OHA Officers Elected

At the Board of Directors Meeting held April 21, 2002 the Board elected the first Officers of the Old Hickory Association.

President - Don Shupe
Vice President - Clint Yarbrough
Treasurer - Jim Higgins
Secretary - Paul Gill

Memorial Day Events

On Saturday May 25th, we will be participating in a Military through the Ages event at the State Capitol grounds in Raleigh. They requested that there only be a few participants from each era so we are sorry if some members were told that their services weren't needed. Our participation in the event we had initially been contacted about doing on Sunday the 26th in Pineville, NC has been cancelled.

On Monday May 27th at the Old Hickory Highway Monument we will be holding a Memorial Service honoring the 30th ID Veteran's of both World Wars. We will be placing a wreath at the monument and conducting a firing party. We need all the members we can for this event. Uniform of the day will be OD's with tie, M41 field jacket, overseas cap, polished service shoes with leggings, and cartridge belt. Bring M1 with one clip of blank ammo and no blank adapter. Be in the parking lot across from the northwest corner of the capitol grounds no later than 1000 hrs. If you haven't already contacted Clint, do so.

July 4th and 6th

We will be doing displays on the 4th at the Capitol and on the 6th at Historic Oak View Park, Raleigh. Contact Clint for information on these events.

Tar Heel Chapter Reunion in Raleigh

by Mike Fox

It always amazes me how welcome we are at the reunions of the 30th Division veterans. In fact, "welcome" is an understatement. The actual 30th Division veterans treat Old Hickory Association members like family, despite the fact that almost none of us were even born when they were battling Hitler in Europe! This relationship was born out of hard work on the part of OHA members beginning several years ago when it was decided that one of our main focuses should be honoring those veterans who served with the 30th Division during WWII.

For many years we have been honored that the 30th Division veterans allow us to present the colors at their memorial services and put up displays of uniforms and equipment at their reunions. Over the years friendships and mutual respect developed to the point that at their 2001 national reunion the 30th Infantry Division Association officially declared the Old Hickory Association to be their "successor organization."

I cannot find the words to describe what an incredible honor that was and all who know me understand that I am never at a lack of words. Personally, the relationships and friendships that I have developed with many of the 30th Division veterans are priceless. In fact, the interaction of the OHA with the 30th Division veterans is now my primary focus within the OHA.

For those reasons, I was very happy to be able to attend at least part of the recent Tar Heel Chapter reunion in Raleigh. As usual, the OHA provided a Color Guard for the Memorial Service consisting of Don Shupe, Clint Yarbrough, Jim Higgins and Joshua Higgins. Mark Burfete placed a Memorial wreath. A display consisting of historical materials such as books, photos and other paperwork was also set up for the enjoyment of the veterans. Other OHA members present and participating were Brett Bondurant, Mike Owens, Walt Sowinski, Neil Trivette and myself. I just wish that more of our members were able to attend and take advantage of this unique opportunity to interact with our heroes. I always enjoy spending time in the hospitality room on Saturday afternoon. There is always lots of great food and great times. This is a laid back time when you can really get to talk to the veterans or just sit and listen to them

talk to each other. If you were there you missed the following: Layton Tyner explaining how English women managed to sneak their way into the "secure" camps before the Normandy Invasion and how they got home again (hint: guess how many English women and their bikes can fit under a tarp in the back of a weapons carrier); Frank Towers telling how he and his group landed on Utah and Omaha beach on the same day (future newsletter article); Buster Simmons showing a "crowd" of OHA members the secret diary and roster that he kept as 1st Sgt. of the Medical company of the 120th Infantry; and Mark Burfete and many 30th Division members discussing the merits of "chitlins" at the bar (you'll have to ask Sparky about that one). In case you have not figured it out yet, you missed a great time and a unique opportunity if you are interested in the history of the 30th Division.

The OHA received the following donations at the reunion. A 120th, C Co. guidon from Mr. George Murphy Jr. A 1942 New Testament and copies of "Aid Man", "The Aidman-Infantry Team", "Recollect and Ponder", and "Bedpan Commando" from Inez Peoples. Thermal undershirt, boxer shorts, 30th patches, and miscellaneous rank and insignia from Mr. Edward Hicks. Thank You! Please do yourself a favor and make every effort to participate in the next event with the veterans. I guarantee that you will enjoy it.

□



Photo by Tom Oglesby

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crowds to show up. About 45 minutes later the B-25's started to arrive back and we were treated to another "once in a lifetime" scene...the recovery and landing of the group. By this time, the crowds had started to show up and were busy trying to video the landings. Since all of us reenactors were in uniform, the Owens Airfield folks conscripted us for "crowd control." They had to make sure none of the public got chewed up by the props and even though the temperature was climbing (finally up to 94 degrees) I didn't mind being out on the tarmac because I continued to get the best views of the B-25's one could hope for. Once the planes were recovered and towed into their respective slots, the event settled down to the crowds fawning over their favorite plane, buying souvenirs and chatting with the crews. It was getting really hot and I decided it was about time to pack it in. I'd seen all I could hope to see and assuming I still had a marriage to go home to, I paid my respects to Kip and the guys and headed for Greensboro. Matt Koonts showed up on Saturday and stayed with Ray Oakes to the end of the event. It was a great three days and I have to agree with Mr. Herndon...the Columbia people put on one great party and really go all out to honor the

(Continued from page 2)

the scholarship did not provide much in the way of sustenance. So, Bill literally bought a job waiting tables at Schraft's Restaurant on Fifth Avenue. He had to buy a tuxedo in which to wait on tables. Just before Pearl Harbor, he wrote Buster a letter asking him to send him money to come home. He said he was working at the fanciest restaurant in all of New York City and was literally starving to death. Buster sent him some money and got back home and joined the Army Air Corps very soon after that.

Buster has a very interesting story about meeting some folks from Belgium who got to know Bill while he was staying in Arnhem and some Belgian families who had chosen to decorate an American serviceman's grave because they heard some American veterans were visiting the cemetery. By sheer coincidence, they chose Bill's grave and met Buster.

Please ask him about it at a future reunion. It is a story that makes your heart feel good. Personally, I am honored that Buster has chosen to share his memories of his brother with me and proud to call Buster a friend.

(Continued from page 6)

insignia authorized. They list the 119th Infantry as one of these but the 119th has a DI. Also in Stanton's book, the shape of the insignia may be misleading as with the 105th Combat Engineers. The insignia in the book is misleading as the shield is a different shape compared to the one found in the 105th's 1941 annual. DI's for the 105th can be found in both styles. Histories and annuals are also a great source of information for unit insignias. Not only are they usually illustrated but are also explained as to what the symbols on the insignias represent.

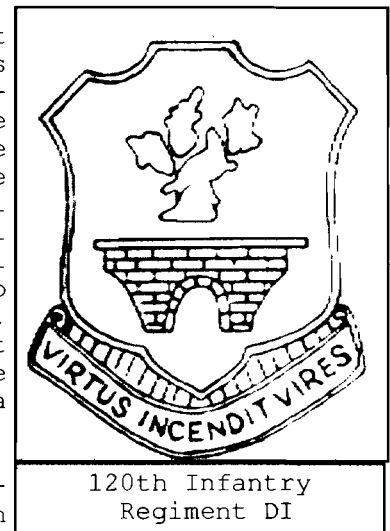
Once you have found the DI's you are interested in how do you remember them? I have found making copies of illustrations to be extremely helpful. Prior to going to the Show of Shows in Louisville, KY, I made a cheat sheet of the insignias I was looking for. These you can keep in your wallet and give to others so that they can keep an eye out for the ones you're looking for. Also by making a cheat sheet much of the information becomes ingrained where you will seldom have to look at your information. The main thing is to try to remember key symbols, colors, and phrases on DI's. Several times I have bought insignia on a hunch and was correct.

Over the next several newsletters I will include information on the DI's that would be connected to the Division. I will include an actual photograph as well as a line drawing to aid in your search. Just remember, I get first dibs at the next *militaria* show!

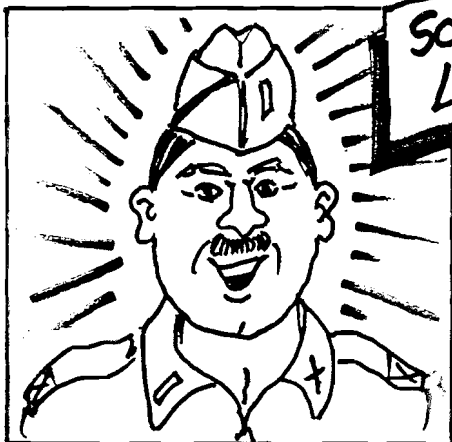
Insignia 120th Infantry: information taken from the 1941

120th Infantry Regiment annual. Distinctive Insignia: Approved June 28, 1928. Shield: Azure Impaled: A prickly pear cactus and the entrance of the Canal over the San Quentin. Motto: Virtus Incendit Vires. (Virtue kindles strength.)

The shield is blue for infantry, the cactus represents service on the Mexican Border. The tunnel symbolizes the mouth of the tunnel of the Hindenburg line at Bellecourt, France, captured by the 120th Infantry, September 29, 1918.

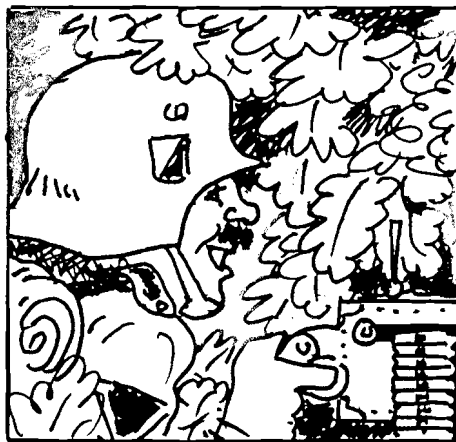


120th Infantry
Regiment DI



SOMETIME LATER...

Lt. Mark Burfete...a.k.a. OP Force "Oberst Gerhard Otto von Shitzhausen IV" maniacally sets about to derail K Company's fire and maneuver training.



Dumbkoff's...Kommen sie to Oberst Gerhard...I'll make you cry uncle!



These Schwein will crumble my first machine gun burst.

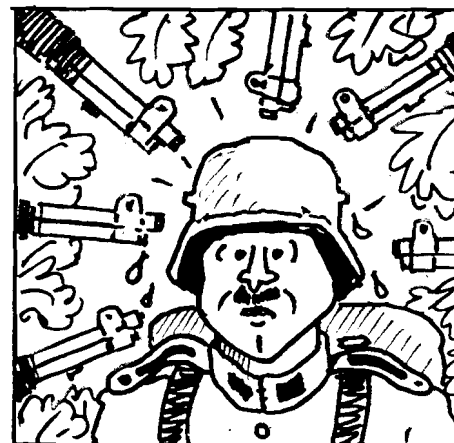
Good Morning Men...Are you ready to learn "Fire and Maneuver" tactics today?



Aha...here they come...Now the real fun begins!



Hey... where'd they all go? They should be waving the white flag after that burst.



We're right here Gerhard!

(Continued from page 7)

YEAR	BEGINNING	ENDING
1939	6973	23567
1940	23568	100000 & 165501 169073
1941	169074	429811
1942	429812	1090310
1943	1090311	2420191
1944	2420192	3359159
1945	3359160	388xxxx

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO.

1941	100001	137960
1942	137961	165500 & 1200001 1276102
1943	1276103	1380000 & 2305850 2364642
1944	2364643	2533142
1945	2533143	2536xxx & 1601xxx 16400xx

Look at the parkerizing on your rifle. If it's a greenish-gray shade, it's probably WWII period.

STAMPINGS

The barrel and receiver should be by the same manufacturer and both should be dated within a two to three month period of each other. After mid 1940, Springfield barrels were stamped on the right side with the initials SA and the month and year the barrel was made. Winchester barrels were not dated but the intertwined WP can be found on the right side of the barrel approximately in the same position as the markings on the Springfield barrels. If the rear hand guard is removed, the initials WPA can be seen. When the first M-1 was produced, almost every part was stamped with a Drawing Number. By mid war, only the main parts such as the barrel, receiver, operating rod, trigger housing, and hammer were marked. Look for the initials SA (Springfield) or WRA (Winchester) after the drawing number D28291-SA. As a revision was made to the part, the number was added: D28290-18-SA.

REAR SIGHTS & TRIGGER GUARDS

Two other parts of the rifle that can be checked for WWII production are the rear sight and the trigger guard. The first rear sight was the "flush nut" type that had trouble holding its settings. In late 1941 early 1942, the "lock bar" rear sight was developed by adding a bar to the left side of the sight to lock the sight adjustments in place. This was the most common type used during WWII. The third type known as the T105 eliminated the lock bar all together. Although developed too late to see any wartime usage, it is the most common type rear sight found on M-1's.

Trigger guards are another way to help identify a WWII weapon. From the beginning of production until spring 1944, Springfield used a trigger guard that was forged and milled. (Winchester used this type for its entire production run.) After early 1944, Springfield used a stamped type guard. The easy way to tell the difference in the two is the early forged and milled trigger guards have a round hole at the point where the guard locks in place. The stamped type does not have this hole.

STOCKS

WWII M-1 stocks were stamped on the left side with the Ordnance inspection cartouche. The stamp consisted of a box containing the initials of the manufacturer and those of either the commanding officer of Springfield or the head of Winchester's Ordnance District.

WORLD WAR II INSPECTOR'S
CARTOUCHES FOR M-1's

CARTOUCHE	NAME & DATES	APPROX. SERIAL # RANGE
SA SPG	Stanley P. Gibbs 1936-mid 1940	81-75,000
SA GHS	Col. Gilbert H. Stewart mid 1940- June 1942	75,000 - 700,000
SA EMcF	Col. Earl McFarland June 1942 - July 1943	700,000 - 1,800,000
SA GAW	Col. George A. Woody July 1943 - Oct. 1944	1,800,000 - 3,260,000
SA NFR	Gen. Norman F. Ramsey Oct. 1944- Nov. 1945	3,260,000 - 3,900,000

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS

WRA RS	Col. Robert Sears July 1940 - June 1941	100501 - 111500
WRA WB	Col. Waldemar Broberg July 1941 - June 1942	111500 - 1218971
WRA GHD	Col. Guy H. Drewry July 1942 - June 1945	1218972 - End of Production

In 1953, the cartouche of initials was replaced by one of a likeness of a spread winged eagle with three stars above it enclosed in a 3/8" or 1/2 " box.

There are other smaller details of WWII M-1's that are too numerous to go into. These are some of the main points to look for when identifying your M-1.

Whether your M-1 is a complete WWII rifle with matching serial numbers or an arsenal rebuilt with different dated parts, you own a truly fine firearm and a piece of history.

BOOKS

The two books used in writing this article and highly recommended were U.S. INFANTRY WEAPONS OF WORLD WAR II by Bruce Canfield and THE M-1 GARAND: OWNER'S GUIDE by Scott Duff. Canfield has written several other fine books on military weapons and Scott Duff has authored several books on the M-1 Garand. All of these books should be available at any gun show.

Marketplace

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: WWIIMPRESSIONS@MSN.COM

July 4, 2002

Public Display
Capitol Grounds
Raleigh, NC

July 6, 2002

Public Display
Honoring World War 2 Veterans
Historic Oak View Park
Raleigh, NC

August 10, 2002

W.W.II Public Battle
Pigeon Forge, TN
www.mypigeonforge.com/celebrate_freedom.asp

October 11/13, 2002

Butner Shoot

October 16/20, 2002

56th National Reunion
Myrtle Beach, SC

November 8/10

Celebrate Freedom
Columbia, SC

Coming Events

May 25, 2002

Military Through the Ages
Raleigh, NC

May 27, 2002

Memorial Service for 30th
Capitol Grounds
Raleigh, NC

June 1

Annual members meeting - 12 noon
Militaria Show
State Fairgrounds
Raleigh, NC

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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