

THE OLD HICKORY CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

November/December 2002

WW2 INDIVIDUAL RATIONS

Submitted by: Ted & Todd Hogan

Individual food rations have been around for consumption by US Military forces since well before World War I. Special rations for specific purposes however may be said to have originated by the Army in 1901. Rations then were divided into five categories:

- (1) Garrison ration;
- (2) Field ration;
- (3) Travel ration;
- (4) Traveling troops in vessels;
- (5) Emergency ration.

Most of this article will concentrate on the field ration, with special emphasis on the WW2 field ration.

The early field ration included the basic components of meat, bread, vegetables, fruit, coffee sugar, seasoning, and soup and candle. Substitutes include fresh mutton, canned meat and bacon; soft and hard bread; hops and dried or compressed yeast; rice, onions, desiccated potatoes and onions, and canned tomatoes; tea; and cucumber pickles.

Throughout the early wars of the nation, from the Revolution to World War I, the chief food for the soldier for all purposes-in camp, field, and combat-was the Congress-enacted garrison ration which consisted basically of meat, bread, and some vegetables. Although the garrison ration was the backbone of the feeding program, the necessity of special foods for extraordinary conditions of warfare or military campaigns was not overlooked. The advent of World War I brought to life those concepts of specialized rations with which we will deal. The problem of feeding the soldier, engaged in military activities at home and at many and varied places throughout the world, was to become a problem of specialization. Its solution was to require the combined efforts of science, the food industry, and the food supply services of the military.

Three special-purpose rations came into general use in World War I: (1) the Reserve ration; (2) the Trench

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Reenacting in the U.K.

The following piece was submitted by a friend of Brett Bondurant who lives in the United Kingdom.

My name is David Walker and for the past 22 years I have been a battle re-enactor and a living history enthusiast, more so a British American re-enactor !!!!!!! Back in September of 1980 at the age of 16 fresh from leaving school I walked into a local club with a country & western night and from that moment on I have never been the same since ????????

I had been a fan of westerns and war films since I was a young boy so cowboys & cowgirls were no strangers to me but in the corner by the bar was a group of men in Confederate uniforms and that intrigued me. Not knowing anyone in the club except the barman who worked in a local music shop by day, I looked at the group and walked up to the youngest of them and introduced myself to him and asked what the uniforms were about ??? His name was Ray Brown and we have been together ever since.

Two weeks later I found myself in a confederate cavalry uniform on my first ever re-enactment weekend at a place called Hagley Hall, right from my first pint to my last round I had never experienced so much fun and camaraderie before from both sides (North as well as the south) and from that fateful night became hooked on the weekend away, the drinking the fighting oh and the girl's as well.

I remained a confederate trooper for nine years eventually reaching the rank of sergeant in my last two years. In-between that in the mid 80's I also joined a Vietnam re-enactment group called M.E.D.I.V.A.C. which stood for Military Enactment Divisions In Vietnam's Armed Conflict. as a P.F.C. and one year as a Napoleonic re-enactor "21st

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ration; and (3) the Emergency ration.

The Reserve ration was an individual packaged ration which the soldier carried on his person for consumption when regular food was unavailable. The reserve ration was to provide a complete food allowance for one man for one day and included a one-pound can of meat (usually corned beef), two 8-ounce tins of hard bread, 2.4 ounces of sugar, 1.12 ounces of roasted and ground coffee, and 0.16 ounces of salt. It weighed about 2 3/4 pounds and contained about 3300 calories.

The Trench ration was designed to provide subsistence under conditions of trench warfare and consisted of food to provide 25 men with food for one day.

The Emergency ration, sometime called "iron" ration, was a packaged unit of concentrated food carried by the soldier to sustain life during emergencies when no other source of food was available. It consisted of three 3-ounce cakes of a mixture of beef powder and cooked wheat and three one-ounce chocolate bars. These items were contained in an oval-shaped lacquered can which fit in a soldier's pocket. This item was discontinued after WW I and was officially eliminated for the list of Army rations in 1922. However it's an important development because you might say that it was the forerunner of the D ration of WW 2, which we will talk of later.

There was some ration development during the period of 1918-1936 but no real effort was made. Attempts by the Quartermaster Corps to improve the ration did produce an Army specification for the item in 1922. Under its terms, the components of the ration were to include corned beef, chocolate, dried sliced beef, soluble coffee, hard bread and sugar tablets. The meat was packed in two small, sardine-type cans, each 1 by 4 by 4 inches in size. There were two tins for the bread, chocolate, and coffee, each tin about 1 by 2 by 8 inches in size. The components were packed in a unit carton overwrapped with oiled paper.

This ration was revised again in 1925 when the quantity of bread and corned beef was reduced and the dried beef replaced by pork-and-beans. Further development nearly came to a standstill in the depression of the 1930's although some experimental reserve rations were packed in round cans in 1932. Four years later, the newly created Quartermaster Subsistence Research and Development Laboratory produced an experimental pack of a reserve ration containing an A-unit with corned beef and a B-unit with pork-and-beans. There was no change in the remaining components of hard bread, soluble coffee, chocolate, sugar and cylindrical can.

The period beginning in 1936 marked the inauguration of modern ration research. In the next five years, the Laboratory produced two new rations – Field Ration D and Field Ration C – and, more important, laid the foundation for the wartime program.

An emergency ration proposed for the cavalry in 1932 is generally considered the direct forerunner of the Field Ration D. It was a 12-ounce bar of equal parts of bitter chocolate, sugar, and peanut butter. While it did not progress beyond the experimental stage, it did provide groundwork for experiments on a concentrated ration.

Originally, the D Ration was called the Logan bar in recognition of Col. Paul Logan who was head of the Subsistence School in 1935. The Logan bar was designed to provide the highest possible caloric value in the smallest package and yet remain sufficient palatability to be used daily. Its ingredients were chocolate, sugar, oat flour, cacao fat, skim milk powder and artificial flavoring. Three 4-ounce bars – wrapped in aluminum foil, then overwrapped and sealed in parchment paper – constituted a ration. The Logan bar was never considered by its developers of other than emergency purposes. It was produced on an experimental basis in 1937 and was submitted for field trials during the next year. The bar was proposed for standardization in 1939 as both a reserve and an emergency ration. By June of 1940, a tentative specification had been written and the Army was in position to inaugurate large-scale procurement of D bars. Full-scale production was initiated in 1941 and monthly output increased from 200,000 in September 1941 to ten million a year later.

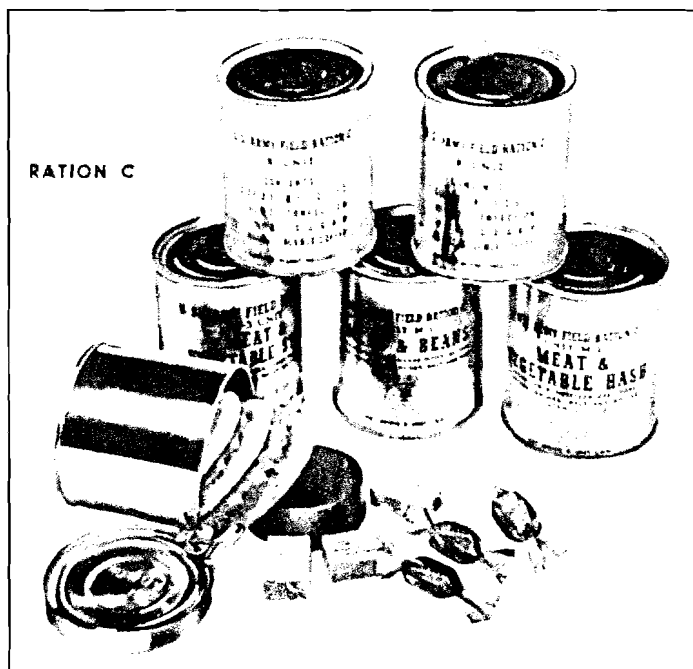
The Ration C resulted from pre-WW 2 attempts to produce a stable, tasteful, nutritionally balanced combat ration which would provide the individual soldier with three full meals per day. By 1939, the Laboratory had proposed ten varieties of meat combinations for the ration. Also it recommended that the 12-ounce rectangular can be discontinued and that the rations be packaged in 16-ounce cylindrical cans. Thus increased, the six-can ration contained 4,437 calories and weighed 5-pounds 10-ounces. Also, in September 1939, the variety of M-units was reduced from 10 to 3: meat and beans, meat-and-vegetable hash, and meat-and-vegetable stew.

As a result of 1940 field trials, the C Ration was declared "one of the best field rations.....ever issued to the Army". As a result of these field trials, the 16-ounce can was replaced again by a 12-ounce can. The number of biscuits in the B-unit also was reduced and chocolate and soluble coffee added. Later changes, effected before the end of 1941, introduced individually wrapped hard candies and chocolate caramels.

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As a result of these developments, the Army entered World War II with two established special-purpose rations – Field Ration D and Field Ration C. Ration D was used throughout the war as the Army's emergency ration and as a supplement to other rations. The C ration went through an evolution which ultimately produced an outstanding ration for the purpose it was designed to meet; a daily food which the soldier could carry and use when he was cut off from regular food supply sources.



The K ration was the Laboratory's answer to the demand for an individual, easy-to-carry ration that could be used in assault and combat operations. It was noted for compactness and superior packing and was acknowledged as the ration that provided the greatest variety of nutritionally balanced components within the smallest space.

Although other related items appear, the actual prototype of the K ration was a pocket ration developed for paratroopers at the request of the Army Air Forces early in the war. Two original samples (one with pemmican biscuits, a peanut bar, raisins, and bouillon paste; the other with pemmican biscuits, a small D bar, a meat preparation, and a powder beverage) evolved into the one-package breakfast-dinner-supper combination used first by paratroopers. The Army quickly noted the success of the new ration and in 1942 the item was adopted for all-service use as Field Ration, Type K.

Many changes were effected in the components and packaging of the K ration before the final WW 2 specification was published. The cartons containing the individual

meals also were subject to many changes. As finally specified, the breakfast packet contained a canned meat product, biscuits, a compressed cereal bar, soluble coffee, a fruit bar, gum, sugar tablets, four cigarettes, water-purification tablets, a can opener, toilet paper and a wooden spoon. The dinner carton had a canned cheese product, biscuits, a candy bar, gum, variety of beverage powders, granulated sugar, salt tablets, cigarettes and matches, a can opener and spoon. The supper packet included a canned meat product, biscuits, bouillon powder, confections and gum, soluble coffee, granulated sugar, cigarettes, can opener and spoon. The biscuits, beverages, sugar, fruit bar, confections, gum and spoon were packaged in a laminated cellophane bag while the canned meat and cheese product were put in a cardboard sleeve-type box. The two units were assembled and sealed in a waxed carton enclosed in the non-waxed outer fiber-board box which was over-packed in a nailed wood box for oversea shipment.

The first million K rations were ordered in May 1942 and were followed by increasing millions. In 1944, the peak year of production, more than 105 million K rations were produced. Toward the end of the war, the usefulness of the K ration was coming to an end as a result of the emergence of a superior C ration. In 1948 the ration was declared obsolete by the Quartermaster Corps Technical Committee.

Misuse was a contributing factor to the waning popularity of the K ration. Although designed to be used for a period of two or three days only, the ration occasionally subsisted troops for weeks on end. There were times when this application was unavoidable; there were also occasions when the K ration was employed because it was easiest to issue. Continued use reduced the acceptability and diminished the value of the ration.

NOTE:

Most of the above was condensed from Chapter 1 of "Special Rations for the Armed Forces, 1946-53", by Franz A. Koehler, QMC Historical Studies, Series II, No. 6, Historical Branch, Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington D. C. 1958.

For more in-depth information on rations, visit the following web-site:

http://www.qmfound.com/army_rations_historical_background.htm

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French Imperial Guard.

I spent the next 8 years taking a back seat to raise a family to which I have 4 boy's and the eldest at 15 now comes away with me at weekends. I would only do a couple of show's a year and most of the western nights to keep my hand in until 1997 while attending the local job club having been unemployed for nearly four years which was run by Ray's mother he joined us at the centre after a few months without work and that was it we spent more time talking about the old times then looking for jobs. He was still a member of the A.C.W.S. but has been doing WWII for several year's having formed his own Rangers company around 1994. That was it back together again and I have enjoyed the best five years of battle re-enacting ever.

I am currently a corporal in the U.S. Rangers 2nd battalion E company. Our group "The World War II Historical Society" has now grown into one of the biggest clubs in the U.K. Which is based at the Severn Valley Railway in Kidderminster in the midlands. We have our own show which takes place over 9 day's, both weekends and volunteers over the week days for the coach party's and school kid's. This has grown into the U.K.'s biggest steam railway event with this years event fielding 120 fighting re-enactors more than any other public show of our type.

In all those years of re-enacting I have always enjoyed playing an American more so as a G.I. all around the U.K. and in Europe and next year 2003 will see me fulfilling a lifetimes ambition and fight on American soil. I cover three services in W.W.II Rangers, U.S. Navy (USS Texas) and my first love the Marine Corps where all this started when I was about 5 years old and the first film I have always remembered "The Sands of Iwo Jima" with John "the Duke" Wayne who has been and always will be my IDOL and HERO or as I call him "GOD".

Most people ask us why we fight as American and not British to which there are many answers given by different people with the most popular being "if we all did British there would be no allies and no axis forces and when you get a bunch of blokes running around firing at nothing it looks a bit silly and me personally I had both British and American relatives who fought in Europe and came back home. We take a great deal of pride in our units and try to portray them to the best of our ability and in honor of the men & women who wore the uniforms during WWII.

I have met veterans from all sides especially American veterans who are so overwhelmed that their are British men & women portraying them and their units that they get emotional and in some cases so do we it makes me very proud to where the uniform and to here from the vet's them selves "If it wasn't for guy's like you people like me would soon be forgotten" and while we do, they will never be forgotten. People ask me personally why I do this to which my reply has always been and always will be:

"FOR THE MEN & WOMEN WHO DID NOT MAKE IT HOME"

Best Regards

Dave "sadsack" Walker
U.K. Re-enactor
2nd Rangers Division.



D.WALKER U.S. RANGER KILLED D.DAY 1944

OHA attends National Reunion of the 30th Infantry Division Association.

Eight members of the OHA attended the 56th Annual Reunion of the 30th Infantry Division Association held in Myrtle Beach, SC, October 16th through the 19th. We set up our 30th ID Historical display and it was huge hit with the veterans and their families. For those of you not familiar with the display, it consists of a series of tri-fold display panels with copies of photographs gathered from the National Archives and from books concerning the 30th ID. We also had original copies of pre-war National Guard Annuals from North Carolina and Tennessee, a large grouping of 1941 annuals from Ft. Jackson, SC, original combat histories of all three regiments, the 230th Field Artillery, and souvenir pillow covers from all the training bases. Neil Trivette brought out a huge collection of 30th ID memorabilia that included medal grouping, shoulder patches, reunion pins and much more. It was great to watch these guys pour over these books and photos. You would see them flip through the pages and suddenly a little smile would appear. They would look up to get your attention and then point to a photograph; "Would you believe that was me back in 1941." Unfortunately it wasn't always a joyous memory that was recalled, as some would page

anything planned but now felt that we needed to come up with something quick.

After a little brainstorming, it was decided that we would attempt to do a take-off of the Abbott and Costello drill routine from their movie "Buck Privates." Since lack of skill was an important element of this routine, it was easy for us to pull off and it was a big hit with the veterans. A number came up to us afterwards and said that it reminded them of themselves back in basic training.

Overall you couldn't ask for a better time or a greater bunch of guys to spend it with, the veterans of the 30th Infantry Division. Thanks to Robbie Lamb, Mike Owens, Jim Higgins, Ken Hyatt, Clint Yarbrough, Neil Trivette, Paul Gill, and Don Shupe for taking the time to honor these veterans.



through a book and suddenly be jolted to a halt. They would stop and stare at a photograph, hands planted firmly on the table, after a moment they would look up with moist eyes and a quiver in their voice, "He was my best friend. He didn't make it home."

In addition to the display, members of the OHA presented a wreath during the Memorial Service held on Friday morning and, dressed as Military Police, were greeters at the entrance to the dining room for the evening meals.

There was 250+ in attendance and it was great to see old friends from past reunions that the OHA has attended. This was our second National Reunion and many there remembered us from Winston-Salem in 2000. Many also remembered our now infamous "short-arm inspection" skit. One of the most asked questions on Thursday was, "What are you going to do Saturday night at the banquet?" Well to be honest, we didn't have



UNIT NEWS

Butner Shoot a Success!

Despite a torrential rainstorm on the opening day of the event, we had a great weekend for the live fire shoot at Camp Butner in October. The rain posed a serious threat to the event as all of the roads leading to the training site were closed at one time or another, though luckily there was always one road open.

The event had been planned as a bivouac event but the rains and better judgement delayed setting up any of the tents. We approached the National Guard about using some of the other kitchen areas since the area we were in only had one building that could sleep eight at the most, but the other areas were booked for the weekend. When we told them we would just have to borrow one of their GP mediums since we were scheduled to have around forty people show up for the event, they offered to let us use a recently erected warehouse. This worked out really well as it kept everyone dry and no tents to worry about getting dried out.

Even with the terrible weather on Friday, we had 32 people show up for the event. Scott Hood brought out his period field kitchen and was the mess sergeant for the weekend. He did a great job supplying Friday's supper and Saturday and Sunday breakfast. Thanks also to his mess crew: Chuck Eatmon, Ken Hyatt, Pat Lancaster, and Walt Sowinski.

The weather cleared for the rest of the weekend and the shoot went on as scheduled. A challenge was placed and accepted by the Queen's Own Regiment to a team competition shoot at next year's event.

Celebrate Freedom - Veterans Day

Members of the OHA attended the Celebrate Freedom Veterans Day event at Owens Field, Columbia, SC. Most arrived Thursday afternoon and helped setup the tents being used for the weekend.

Our historical display was setup in the new pyramid tent but our main theme for this event was the "School of the Squad." We formed up a complete squad with six dog tents and 12 field inspections with everything by the book, right down to the correct entrenching tools carried by the different members of the squad.

The event started with a parade in downtown Columbia on Friday morning, kicking off of 1100 hrs. There was a huge crowd watching the parade eventhough it wasn't a holiday. It was great to see hundreds of young school kids along the parade route waving American flags.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, our participation at Owens Field was different this year as we provided a demonstration of the School of the Squad instead of just a static display. This included drill, manual of arms, and a tactical demonstration showing the various formations used by the

squad while assaulting a simulated enemy position. We received many positive comments concerning the demonstration especially from the other historical groups present.

Luckily we had extra personnel with us as some of our members suffered injuries from the strenuous tactical scenario. It is amazing the injuries that a soft, level, grassy field can cause.



Jim Higgins after injuring his wrist during the tactical sought medical treatment at the hospital unit set up at the display.

The poor baby!

It was probably the best show we have put on at this event. The event is getting bigger and better each year and definitely has the potential to equal the Reading Air Show.

Tragically on Sunday afternoon the FU Corsair that was performing at the show crashed approximately a mile and a half from the field with the lost of the plane and pilot. We learned later that when the pilot realized that he couldn't reach a safe landing area without the risk that he might crash into some homes in the area, he chose to nose it into a swamp, sacrificing his live.

Shirt Orders Being Taken!

A number of members have been asking about getting OHA shirts and hats. These shirts are not something we keep on a shelf waiting for someone to buy them. When someone orders one, Brett must contact the company that makes them for us up in Danville, VA. and then make arrangements to pick them up and get them to the person that placed the order. As you can see, it would make it much easier for everyone involved if he could place one large order instead of a bunch of smaller ones. Get your order and payment into Brett by December 21, 2002.

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/ OHA logo - \$11.00
Golf Shirts, white or Grey, w/ OHA logo, S-XL \$22.50, XXL \$25

Shipping and handling will be extra if you want the items shipped to you.

Contact Brett at (919) 431-0984 or bbondo@bellsouth.com

Service Records and DogTags!

As announced in the last newsletter, all new members of the OHA receive dogtags as part of the membership fee whereas in the past we just suggested where members could obtain dogtags. When a new member joins the group we also establish a service record for that member and assign them a service number. This contains information about the member such as emergency contact, any health problems, blood type, special skills, event attended, etc. Over the last couple of months we have also set up service records and service numbers for all our existing members. If any of you need dogtags, we can obtain them for a cost of \$10. This includes two tags and two chains and they will be mailed directly to you. Contact Don Shupe if interested. (919) 467-3119 or shupeda@msn.com.

Blue Denim Fatigues

Several members of the group have expressed interest in purchasing the pre/early war blue denim work fatigues now being reproduced by World War II Impressions. They are currently listed at a cost of \$150/set which includes the trousers, shirt and denim daisy mae hat. We are going to approach them about a group discount. We currently have 12 members that are interested. Any others interested should contact Paul Gill. (704) 948-2884 or oldhick120@carolina.rr.com

Battle of the Bulge Registrations - Mike Owens

The FIG is less than 3 months away. Hopefully, you have received the packet of information concerning registration from the event organizers at the GAP. If you have not received a registration packet, one is enclosed in the Newsletter. Also, you can obtain one at the event link provided below. I am going to act as the OHA Point Of Contact for the event this year. With that

said, we all need to get moving on who is going.
EVENT WEBSITE: <http://www.wwiifederation.org/>

This year, the event has expanded to 6 day event. The barracks will open 1600 on Tuesday 21Jan03 for those arriving early. The barracks will close 0800 Sunday 26Jan03.

Registration deadline:

I must have completed registrations from you in my hand no later than 30Nov02. I will be glad to take checks from you (please no cash) in Columbia. Make sure you complete the registration as required. VERY IMPORTANT, the unit you are representing must be Co K US INF.

Send registrations to the following address ASAP:

Mike Owens

109 Covewood Ct

Cary, NC 27513

Phone: 919-380-1771 / EMAIL: Garand7449@AOL.COM

MESS HALL UPDATE:

The mess hall money will not be due until @ mid-December. Therefore, do not need money at this time. The price/meal will stay at \$5.00. I want to encourage everyone attending to plan on making use of the Co.K mess hall. I will be needing from each participant what meals they intend to eat in the mess hall so I can turn in an estimated head count to Co K. The mess hall will open on Wednesday 22Jan03 for Dinner. Only Breakfast / Dinner will be served there after. Only breakfast will be offered on Sunday 26Jan03. There will be a total of 8 meals offered (may change TBD). I will let you know more as that deadline nears.

FLEA MARKET:

If you want flea market space handle that directly with the event organizers. Do not send me money for your space. I will not be able to help you.

Last year, the OHA fielded a platoon of 23 men. Can we do better this year ? It's up to you. So, PARTICIPATE !

Korean War Exhibit

We have been asked by the Granville County Museum in Oxford, NC to help them with an exhibit to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. We would like to set up a few different dioramas including a sandbag bunker, a field HQ, and a MASH operating room. For the HQ we need the front or door section of a GP medium tent. If anyone an old one that has been cut up, let us know. For the operating room, we need at least one field light, and any medical equipment you have. They also would like to have any USMC and U.S. Navy uniforms or equipment that would be appropriate for the time period.

Set up for this exhibit will be during the month of January with the exhibit opening sometime in February. They would like to have the exhibit up at least to June and possible July of 2003.

We have worked with them before on their World War II exhibit. All items are insured on a rider to the museums policy and we had no problems with security and care of items on loan. Anyone that can help please contact Don Shupe.

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: WWIIIMPRESSIONS@MSN.COM

At The Front - reproduction WWII uniforms, field gear, and equipment.
430 Rose Lane
Columbia, KY 42728
866-213-3946
www.atthefront.com

For Sale: 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.

Coming Events

December 8, 2002

Candlelight Tour, Hillsborough
Need 3 to 4 members in Class A's
contact Don Shupe

January 22/26, 2003

Battle of the Bulge
Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA.

March 15/16, 2003 (Date not confirmed)

The North Carolina Soldier through the Ages
Bentonville, NC

March/April ?, 2003

Butner Training Weekend

April 11/12, 2002

Tar Heel Chapter Reunion
Raleigh, NC

May 26, 2003

Memorial Day - Salute to the 30th ID
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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Marksmanship: Jim Higgins,

Displays, 30th ID History, and Newsletter: Don Shupe

Drill and Ceremony: Mark Burfete mark.burfete@wheaton.com

Recruiting: Clint Yarbrough