

THE OLD HICKORY CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

July/August 2003

Operations of the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry(30th Infantry Division) at Mortain, France 6 – 12 August 1944 (Northern France Campaign)

(Personal Experiences of a Company Commander) An Isolated Infantry Battalion Defending a Key Terrain Feature Major Ralph A. Kerley, Monograph Written for the Advanced Infantry Officer's Class #1 1949 - 1950

(Due to space constraints, the following article was condensed from the monograph titled above, which was submitted to the OHA Chronicle by Mike Owens and is available in its entirety at www.30thinfantry.org)

The most critical terrain in the area lay in the vicinity of MORTAIN and extended west to the sea. The town of MORTAIN formed a road junction of north-south and east-west roads leading west to AVRANCHES. There were two main roads leading from MORTAIN to AVRANCHES. Between these two main roads lay commanding ground, the highest point being HILL #314, and control of this ground meant control of the roads. There were numerous secondary roads in the area, all of which would support heavy traffic.

On 2 August 1944, the 30th Division as a whole, passed into XIX Corps reserve. The 120th Infantry was given a well earned rest in the vicinity of TESSY-SUR-VIRE .

Movement To Mortain

At 052024 August, the 120th RCT received the order to move by motor from the vicinity of TESSY-SUR-VIRE to the town of PERCY, where the convoy would be met by guides, and conducted to MORTAIN. The mission was to relieve the 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Leading elements of the RCT crossed the I.P. at 060130 August.

The move south to MORTAIN, a distance of approximately 45 miles, was uneventful, and the regiment closed into its assembly area at about 061000 August. The Regimental Commander, having received no information other than a movement order and his mission, preceded the regiment to MORTAIN. The information received from the 18th Infantry Commander regarding the enemy was favorable though sketchy. The area had been comparatively quiet and apparently there was no immediate threat. As a result, the front line battalions went into the line with only information gained from Battalion and Company Commanders of the 18th Infantry. A physical daylight relief was decided upon by the two Regimental Commanders.

6 August: The First Day and Night at Mortain

The 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry, with K Company attached, and two platoons of Tank Destroyers and one platoon from the A.T. Company in support, were to relieve the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry and attachments on the high ground east of MORTAIN. The 2nd Battalion Commander and staff proceeded to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry C.P. Guides were furnished from each company, and the Company Commanders went on a reconnaissance of their respective areas. In the meantime, the battalion was being moved forward on foot by the Battalion Executive Officer.

The order to move had been executed so rapidly, it had been impossible for regiment to secure maps of this area. However, the 2nd Battalion S-2 secured a few large scale maps from the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, scarcely enough for a company. In addition, the Company Commanders of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, turned their maps over to the relieving companies. These had been in use for several days and were crumpled and badly marked.

To effect the fastest relief possible, the exact positions of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, were taken over by the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry, with the exception of the tanks of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry. The 2nd Battalion of the 120th infantry had no tanks, either attached or in support at this time. As a consequence, the 2nd Battalion had no reserve. Wire nets were left in place, and the fire plan of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, were accepted by the 2nd Battalion Commander, until such time as he could

formulate his own. The 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry, completed the relief and accepted responsibility for the area at approximately 061350 August. It must be pointed out at this time, that the positions prepared by the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, were for a hasty defense only and were never intended to contain a strong counter-attack. Although they were sufficient for a hasty defense, they were far from satisfactory for a sustained defense. The line was of necessity extended and thinly held. The Battalion Command and Company Commanders were fully aware of this, and planned to improve the position with fortifications, mines etc., as soon as they became available. Unfortunately, these intended improvements never came to pass.

The 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, had scarcely cleared the area when the first signs of enemy activity appeared. At approximately 1430 hours, a lone enemy plane was sighted overhead. Shortly thereafter, a group of five enemy planes were sighted and bombing could be heard well to the rear. All of the commanders were very much concerned over this, since this was the first daylight air offensive the battalion had ever encountered. The battalion was alerted and continued to improve individual positions as much as possible. Digging was difficult, as the ground was hard and rocky, and in some places, solid rock was encountered eight inches below the surface. The artillery and cannon observers arrived and registered their protective fires. With the exception of the air activity, all had been quiet. The kitchens had accompanied the battalion on the move south, and at dusk, a hot meal was served and two K ration units issued to each man for breakfast and dinner the following day. The area was extremely quiet and seemed much like the rest area of the day before.

Perhaps the battalion was suffering a false sense of security. If so, possibly the following factors contributed to it: a. There was no concrete information regarding the enemy; b. The move to MORTAIN had been made with no enemy contact; c. The French civilians had lined the roads, cheering, throwing bouquets and offering drinks at every halt. One could easily feel that the Germans would not stop short of the RHINE RIVER. If such a feeling existed, it was quickly squelched. .

At approximately 070100 August, the enemy launched his attack in force. Striking from the east and southeast, he quickly overran the roadblock south of MORTAIN, and in a matter of minutes, he was in the outskirts of MORTAIN itself. Small groups succeeded in infiltrating into G Company's sector, screaming at the top of their voices, "Heil Hitler"! The group's attack was vicious and made enough noise that one could easily believe an entire battalion was attacking. Their success was short lived, however. At the first crack of dawn, G Company annihilated them.

At approximately 070200 August, the enemy's attack hit the left flank of the battalion in the vicinity of ABBAYE BLANCHE. The roadblock held its position and inflicted severe casualties on the enemy. A number of the enemy bypassed the roadblock, however, and entered MORTAIN from the north. Since the battalion had no reserve, regiment committed its reserve, Company C, with the mission of driving the enemy out of MORTAIN and reestablishing the southern roadblock. Company C was unable to accomplish this mission, and by dawn, the enemy occupied MORTAIN with infantry and armor. Elements of the 2nd Battalion on HILL #314, were now completely surrounded.

7 August: The Second Day and Night

The dawn was accompanied by a dense fog. So dense in fact, that some of the units on the HILL #314, thought that the enemy was smoking the position. By 0800 hours, the sun had burned through the mist and revealed columns of enemy armor and foot troops streaming from the east and southeast.

Whether the enemy was ignorant of the fact that the HILL #314 was occupied, or had simply chosen to ignore it, is not known and really doesn't matter. His closed formations made a definite target for our artillery. Corps artillery was called in and the casualties and damage to their vehicles was incredible. The undamaged vehicles quickly dispersed and withdrew. The artillery and cannon observers registered additional concentrations, and now a solid ring of artillery fire could be fired on call.

If the enemy had not known before, that the HILL #314 was occupied, he certainly knew it now. Apparently they realized the importance of controlling the hill. If they gained the HILL #314, not only would they eliminate our artillery fire, but would have excellent observation for miles on our positions.

At approximately 1000 hours, the enemy dumped everything in the line of artillery and mortar fire on our positions, and K and E Companies received a bombing and a strafing attack. The enemy infantry, with some armor, followed the artillery preparation closely. Our own artillery was called on and was very effective in breaking up the attack. The main attack had been broken, but not before the enemy had made a penetration into E Company's area. A severe fire fight resulted, and finally the enemy was driven out and the lines reestablished. E Company paid a price for this small victory; casualties were high.

Units on the HILL #314 had been out of contact with the Battalion Commander and the C.P. since the first attack started. The Battalion C.P. was located in the town of MORTAIN, in the Hotel de la Poste. By this time there were more enemy troops in the town, than there were of our own troops, and the Battalion Commander decided to join his units up on the HILL #314. He and his staff were forced into hiding and were captured the following day. The group included the Battalion Commander, Executive officer, S-2 and S-3 and approximately 15 men from Battalion Headquarters Company.

Since there was no communication with Battalion, the senior officer, the F Company Commander, assumed command temporarily. The bulk of F Company was in the town however, and isolated from the rest of the battalion. The defense of the Hill was left to the initiative of the Rifle Company Commanders on the HILL #314. Each Company Commander picked the strongest

point in his area and set up individual perimeter defenses.

At approximately 1400 hours, the enemy attempted to take the HILL from the west, that is, from the town of MORTAIN itself. G Company repulsed this attack in short order, but again the enemy succeeded in inflicting severe casualties. During the night the enemy sent patrols into the area. Although they were allowed to come up onto the HILL, they never got off. Each company formed patrols and ferreted them out.

The last of the K rations were consumed at noon, ammunition was dangerously low and the evacuation of dead and wounded was impossible. This was one of the most serious problems confronting the company commanders. Communication with regiment was entirely by radio, and this contact was sporadic. Regiment was requested to supply by air some food, ammunition and medical supplies. Although the enemy harassed the position all night with patrols, artillery and mortar fire, morale was fair at the end of this period.

8 August: The Third Day and Night

The 8th of August was fairly quiet. The enemy made no serious attempt to take the position. He continued his attack, by-passing the HILL #314. The observers on the HILL #314 had all round observation and made the most of it. The enemy supply lines and rear areas were constantly harassed by our artillery.

The serious problem of food, ammunition and medical supplies still confronted the battalion. Radio batteries were rapidly weakening. In an effort to conserve the batteries, only one company turned on its radio at a time, with the exception of calling fire missions. Orders and information received from regiment was disseminated to the companies by patrol.

The wounded were collected in each company and placed in slit trenches. They were made as comfortable as possible; however there was no medical aid available. Presence of dead did not serve to raise morale. Since most of the dead were in exposed positions, it was necessary to wait until dark to collect them. They too were placed in a central location in each company area, out of sight. Although the men knew the bodies had not been evacuated from the Hill, they couldn't see them and the same purpose was served as if they had been evacuated.

Enemy combat patrols harassed the position all night and the battalion got little or no sleep. In spite of the adverse conditions, morale remained fair.

9 August: Surrender Ultimatum

Attempts by the regiment and the remainder of the division to relieve the battalion had failed. The first gnawing pains of hunger and thirst were appearing. The ammunition supply had dwindled to practically nothing. Several of the severely wounded died during the night. The bodies of the dead, both our own and the enemy, were deteriorating fast in the warm August sun, and the stench on the Hill was nauseating. The future looked anything but bright, and morale was on the rapid decline.

In an effort to relieve the situation, supplies were loaded into two of the division artillery liaison planes, with the mission of supplying the battalion. Both of these planes were hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire as soon as they approached the enemy lines. It was apparent that if the battalion was to be supplied by air, it would have to be done by faster aircraft.

Division tried next to schedule a flight of C-47's for the supply mission. Finally, after four requests were made through slow moving channels, a flight was scheduled for 10 August. This information was relayed to the besieged men, but due to past unpleasant experiences with close supporting air, there was some doubt of success in the minds of the men.

The enemy had no doubt been monitoring our radio and knew the existing situation. At approximately 1800 hours, a German officer approached Company E position under a white flag. He was met by a platoon leader from Company E. The German officer stated that he was an officer of the S.S., and was in a position to offer honorable surrender to the Americans. He further stated that he had admired the stand made by the battalion. He was very careful to point out, however, that the situation was hopeless. He named several of the officers in the Battalion Command group who were captured. He further pointed out that certainly it would be no disgrace to surrender under the circumstances, and promised that the men would be well cared for and the wounded given every possible aid. His last promise was that if his offer was not accepted by 2000 hours, the battalion would be blown to bits. The platoon leader relayed the message to the E Company Commander. Some sources quote E Company Commander as saying that he would not surrender until the last round of ammunition had been fired and the last bayonet broken off in a German belly. Actually the reply wasn't quite so dramatic. It was short, to the point, and very unprintable!

True to their promise, the enemy launched a strong attack at approximately 2015 hours. The battalion ammunition supply was so low, the enemy encountered little resistance other than our artillery. After the enemy had penetrated the position, the E Company Commander called artillery on his own position. This broke up the attack and the enemy took a severe beating. This success served as a 'shot in the arm' to the sagging morale of the men on the Hill.

(Continued on page 4)

10 August: The Air Drop

Although the air drop had been scheduled for 10 August, the men on the Hill had little hope for success. The morning had been spent in comparative quiet. At approximately 1530 hours, a group of our fighter planes appeared and they dive bombed and strafed several enemy areas, starting fires and explosions. After they had accomplished their mission, they circled and came in low over the battalion positions. The men on the Hill jumped for their fox holes, fearing that the fighters had mistaken our positions for that of the enemy. Their fears were false however. At 1600 hours, the fighters returned, escorting a flight of C-47's. Possibly the most beautiful sight the men had ever seen, was the multicolored parachutes lazily floating down. Approximately one half of the drop landed far into the enemy lines, but at least, the battalion had some food, ammunition and a limited amount of medical supplies. One of the most important items contained in the drop was radio batteries. A report was made to regiment of the drop and an attempt to schedule another drop was made, especially for medical supplies.

In the meantime, the S-3 of the 230th Field Artillery Battalion had an idea to relieve the situation. Ten rounds of M-84 (base ejection HC smoke) ammunition were opened, and the smoke canisters and base ejection charge removed. The rounds were then filled with medical supplies, bandages, dressings, sulfanilamide and morphine syrettes. The steel disc in the nose was replaced to prevent the fuse, when detonated, from ruining the contents. Four other shells were treated likewise, and were filled with sand to approximately the same weight. These rounds were to be used for adjustment. The S-3 then made his intentions known to the men on the Hill and gave instructions for opening the projectiles. The adjustment was completed at approximately 2130 hours, and the medical rounds were then fired. None of these rounds were recovered due to ricochets and darkness. Even though the medical supplies were badly needed, the presence of food and ammunition served to raise morale to a new high.

11 August: Enemy Withdrawal

As soon as the mist lifted on 11 August, the artillery again attempted to fire in medical supplies. Six rounds were fired and all were recovered. This operation was only partially successful, however, the concussion being too great for the containers of the morphine and plasma.

Enemy traffic towards the east was increasing, with very little traffic towards our lines. Evidently the enemy was starting a withdrawal. With communications reestablished with regiment and the artillery, the battalion was able to inflict untold damage on the withdrawing columns. Several air strikes were requested, and were carried out at what seemed to be all at the same time. The Air Corps pounded the enemy columns unmercifully, and the burning enemy columns could be seen for miles in all directions. This slaughter continued all day.

During the night, the major enemy foot elements started their withdrawal. Our artillery plastered every available route of withdrawal and was very effective, as was evidenced by the screams and hysterical cries of the enemy. There was no doubt now that relief was certain, and the battalion rested and listened to the constant singing of the outgoing artillery.

12 August: Relief

Elements of the 35th infantry Division had been putting constant pressure on the enemy south of MORTAIN. They were aware of the battalion's situation, and had brought supplies along with their assault echelon. At approximately 1130 hours, the leading elements of the 320th Infantry made contact with G Company. Even though they had undergone heavy fighting, and had suffered severe casualties, they quickly evacuated the wounded and distributed food. The 1st Battalion, 119th Infantry, came through the town of MORTAIN, and made contact with K Company. The 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry was completely relieved at 1300 hours, 12 August. The battalion had succeeded in fulfilling its mission, but at a bloody price. The battalion lost a total of 277 men killed, captured and missing in action.

It would be impossible to record here the acts of self sacrifice and personal bravery displayed by the men and officers of the battalion during this period. They were magnificent. Some of these men were rewarded for their actions; some were not. Due to the fast moving situation, recommendations for awards were processed unusually slow, and some of the men were awarded decorations posthumously. Some of the awards were made as late as November. Some of the recommendations for awards were lost in the scramble to get moving, and were never awarded to those men to whom they were due.

This battalion had often been referred to in official and unofficial documents as the "Lost Battalion of WWII". This is a misnomer if ever there was one – the battalion was isolated, but never "lost".

For additional information about Mortain, check out these books: "Victory at Mortain" by Mark Reardon and "Fire Mission" by Robert Weiss, both available through the Camp Blanding Museum, www.floridaguard.net/cbmuseum/

"Fire Mission" was originally published under the title: "Enemy North, South, East, and West"

Also "Saving the Breakout, The 30th Division's Heroic Stand at Mortain" by Alwyn Feathersen

The Reading Air Show

A review by Walt Sowinski

The Reading Air Show, in my opinion, is a WW2 event that deserves our participation as a unit! The sheer quantity as well as quality of the displayed WW2 military material, aircraft, vehicles, equipment, armaments, uniforms and much more is simply stupendous. The size of the Reading event is about four times the size of the Celebrate Freedom event and the people who run Reading are just as accommodating as our South Carolina friends. In terms of the aircraft on display, Reading had perhaps 30-50% more planes than the Celebrate Freedom folks but that's not the part that causes me to champion our participation as a unit. What really prompts my enthusiasm for Reading is the extensive size and variety of the WW2 unit impressions that are on display. Let also make plain, this event is totally dedicated to the history, sights, sounds and sacrifices of The Greatest Generation." You will begin to feel you have been propelled back to the 1940's because the WW2 impressions are simply overwhelming and you'll be hard put to find any "modern" military stuff to upset your walk back in time. Six encampments of participating military units include British Commonwealth, Russian, Italian, German and American troop formations which portray Infantry, Air Corps, Navy, Medical, Red Ball Transportation, Armor and Administrative Support units. To add some "Hollywood / Saving Pvt Ryan spice" to the weekend, the reenactors put on a blank firing tactical which takes place in a war damaged French village which has been constructed near the active airfield. The "village" is complete with burned out vehicles, partial structures, tilted signage, heaps of abandoned materiel and provides a pretty realistic stage set for the engagement between the participating German and U.S. Infantry units. It's a very well designed feature that reinforces the action experienced by the G.I's when they advanced into France after Normandy.

In addition, there are Home front reenactors dedicated to showing how and what the folks back home were engaged in to support the war effort...they even have a home front radio station studio operation that puts on live performances and includes the latest news from the front. You can experience the "Golden Age of Radio" favorites such as The Shadow, Buck Rogers, period Soap Opera portrayals and Fibber Magee & Molly. All of these high quality impressions are backed up and reinforced by period music and war front news which is broadcast over an area loud speaker system.

Well fellow Old Hickory buds, you say this is not enough to inspire our attendance? Ok, Ok, let me whet your appetite by pointing out a few more attractions you might find interesting. How about the chance to meet, listen to and hob nob with the WW2 guests who attend

this event. The real hero guys we all read about and study...guys like Pearl Harbor survivor Master Chief Glenn Lane, Col. Bob Morgan who flew the Memphis Belle, Sgt. Bill Fili whose B-24 Liberator was shot down over Ploesti and resulted in his capture and imprisonment, Bob McClurg, F4U Corsair Ace who was Pappy Boyington's wingman and Carl Constein who flew the "Hump" in his C-46 Commando in the China Burma India theater. These men conduct scheduled briefings of their WW2 experiences in one of two the two briefing tents set up for the attending crowds, answer any questions and can be found in the Main Museum Hanger all through the weekend.

Ah ha, you like the idea of having a chance to meet and speak with "real deal vets"... well, how does a superb USO Show each night sporting a live swing band dressed in period uniforms and featuring talented male and female singers strike you?

Last but not least, my friends, the Reading Event sports a congregation of militaria vendors that will draw your breath away...all the names you know and love are in attendance just waiting to assist you to lighten your wallet. I won't name the names but I will attest that there were at least 2-3 dozen individual selling tents chuck full of goodies we all lust for. I can honestly say that it's impossible to take it all in even though you'd be there all weekend.

You really have to experience the immenseness of this event to truly appreciate Reading because my words do not do justice to the superb efforts of the Event Staff and the participating units. Regardless of how big this event gets, the organizers state emphatically and I quote..." Our purpose will never change...we want to educate the public and honor those who served both overseas, and on the home front, in order to bring victory to the cause of freedom." Now how can you not want to be a part of that guys!

From the Editor:

The Display Committee of the OHA has looked into participating in the Reading Air Show. It is the committee's opinion that although this is an excellent event, there is not much the OHA could add that isn't already being presented by other groups. Also it is an 8 hour drive and the organizers ask that participating groups set up on Thursday and stay through 5 PM Sunday.

The committee feels that with the right effort, we could make Celebrate Freedom in South Carolina the equivalent of the Reading Show.

There are alternatives that would allow members that would like to attend Reading to do so without the OHA signing on as a group. Contact Walt Sowinski for further information. (336) 379-8007 or walbear@infionline.net

EFFECTIVENESS OF FIRE OF 57 MM ANTI-TANK GUN ON MK V TANK

Submitted by David Curtin

HEADQUARTERS 776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO #758

11 December 1944

On 8 December 1944 a demonstration was conducted by the 776th TD Bn in the vicinity of SCHALBACH, 572-268 with a 57mm AT gun belonging to the 71st Inf. Regt. of 44th Inf. Div. The purpose of this test was to determine the effectiveness of the 57mm AT gun against a Mk V Panther tank. An effort was made to secure AT gun positions so the tank could be fired at from all angles. The terrain was too wet to get the gun into all the desired firing positions, but three positions at different ranges and firing angles were occupied. The crew was comprised of members of the AT crews of the 71st Regt, with two members of each gun crew being present. The Panther tanks previously knocked out by the 776th TD Bn, were used. One tank did spot burn when it was knocked out, while the second tank had a turret fire and it was in this tank's turret that a 3" hole was made with the 57mm AT gun. The AT crews were impressed with the favorable results of the firing and showed a marked increase in their confidence of the 57mm AT gun at the conclusion of the test.

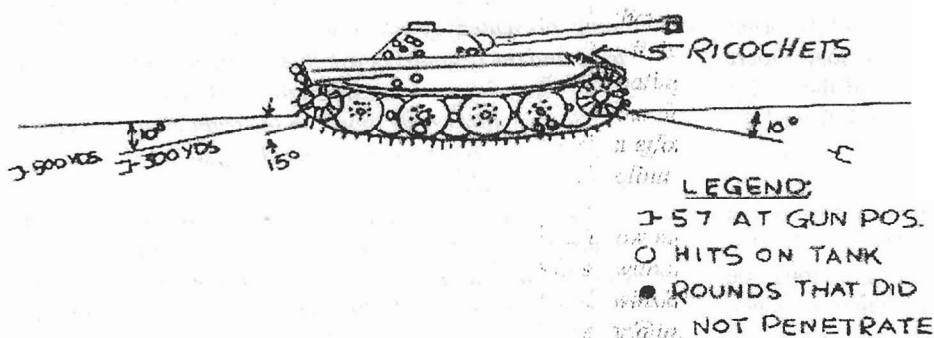
The 57mm AT gun was put into position behind the tank at a range of 300 yds at a 15 degree angle from the tank's flank. From this position 7 rounds of APC were fired.* Three rounds were fired into the turret, all of which made a clean hole and started small fires. Two rounds were fired at the hull just above the track, which made clean holes, but started no fire. Two rounds were fired into the track, which took out one bogey wheel and broke the track.

The gun was moved to a new position of 500 yds. At a 10 degree angle off the rear of the tank. Three rounds were fired into the turret, two on the sides and one in the rear, which made clean holes and started small fires. Two rounds were fired into the rear of the track, which was broken with these two rounds. Two rounds were fired into the rear of the tank, which started more fires. This tank was completely burned by the fire from these two positions.

The gun was moved to a new position of 300 yds range at an 8 degree angle off the front of the tank. Three rounds were fired into the front of the tank. These rounds made slight penetrations then ricocheted off the frontal armor. Two rounds were fired into the turret—one made a clean hole, the other made a hole about three inches in diameter. No fires were started. Two rounds were fired low on the track, these went through the bogie wheels on one side and came through and tore up the bogie wheel and track on the other side of the tank. Two rounds were fired into the front driving sprocket and that track was broken. All but one round fired from this position, which was a bad frontal angle, made clean holes, with the exception of the three fired on the frontal armor, which made only slight penetration.

CONCLUSION: From these three positions, one which presented a bad frontal angle it is evident that the Panther Mk V is vulnerable to the 57mm AT gun. There was no difference in the size of the holes made by the APC at the greater range. All but one of the turret hits were clean-cut holes and not gouged out from the impact of the APC. All but two hits in the turret set off some of the ammunition and started small fires. The hull, the part of the tank between the track and the turret, is vulnerable, and the APC made a slightly larger hole than the diameter of the shell, also a larger hole than was made in the turret. The track and bogie wheels were easily broken. The rear of the tank and turret can be penetrated with the same satisfactory results as the sides of the turret and the hull. Properly employed for flanking fire, it is believed that the 57mm AT gun is an effective weapon against any German Armor. Gunners must withhold their fire until about 500 yards or less, and not give away their position with premature firing at greater ranges. If a tank must be fired on the front, the gun is capable of breaking the track on its strongest part, the driving sprocket, and the tank can be stopped.

*APC="Armor Piercing Cap," or a solid projectile with an especially hardened jacket.



/s/ Louis J. WABLE

t/ LOUIS J. WABLE

Captain, F.A.

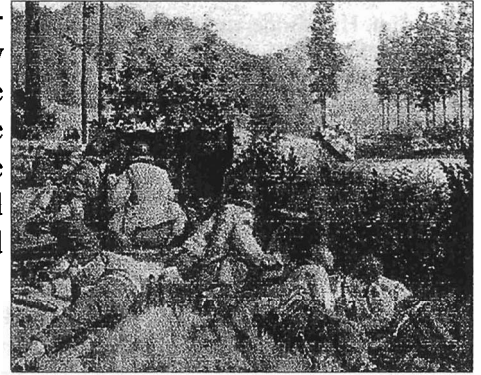
Assistant S-3

Old Hickory Association looking to add M1 57mm Anti-tank gun to collection!

As many of you in the group know, the Old Hickory Association has had an interest in obtaining a 57mm anti-tank gun to its collection for some time. A little over a year ago it looked like one of our members was going to purchase one from the new armor museum in Danville, VA. Despite the fact there was a letter from the museum offering the gun for a reasonable price, on the day the deal was to be closed the owner of the museum doubled the price. Obviously the deal fell through.

Recently one of our members, David Curtin, learned that another 57mm is available. Unfortunately the member that was going to make the original purchase is no longer in a position to make this one. Currently the gun is listed at \$11,000. We realize that this is a huge investment for either an individual member of the group or for the group itself, but it won't be long before there are no more of these available.

So what do we do? As a non-profit corporation we can solicit tax-deductible contributions towards the purchase of the gun, but we all know this could take considerable time. If there is anyone that can help us make this purchase, be it a contribution or suggestions for obtaining the purchase price, or if someone is in a position to make the purchase and then have the OHA purchase it from them in the future, please contact one of the Board of Directors listed on the last page of this newsletter or contact David Curtin for additional information on the gun.



57mm AT Gun For Sale

Live and
ATF Registered



Contact Dave Curtin for Details
delta_limacharlie@yahoo.com
Tel: 804-590-1965

UNIT NEWS

OHA dues are do!

Here is a list of current OHA members who have not renewed their membership for the 2003/2004 membership year. If dues are received before the mailing of the September newsletter you will be dropped from the membership roll. If you see someone on the list that you are in contact with, remind them to send in their dues. Please make out checks to: The Old Hickory Association or OHA, and mail to Jim Higgins, 10917 Coachman's Way, Raleigh, NC 27614. If your name is on this list and there is a question about whether or not your dues have been paid, contact Jim. His phone and email is listed on the last page of the newsletter.

Mark Aman
Thomas Amato
Brett Bondurant
Frank Brewer
Mark Burfete
Scott Burnett
Martin Cooke, Jr
David Curtin
Tom Flowers
Robbie Gouge
Scott Hood
David Howes

Matt Koonts
Robbie Lamb
Randall Lee
Jack McLaughlin
Les Monroe
Andy Sterlen
David Stieghan
Charles Thierry
Neil Trivette
Will Vanderburg
Adam Weber
Kevin Wescott

Additions to Historical Display

The OHA recently obtained a couple of items to add to our 30th Infantry Division Historical Display. The first was an original copy of "Purge of the 30th Division", which the OHA purchased. The second was an original copy of the "History of the 120th Infantry Regiment" which was purchased by Don Shupe and donated to the OHA.

Celebrate Freedom, Veteran's Day 2003

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the OHA would like to present several simulated training sessions at the Celebrate Freedom display this coming fall. In particular we want to have several GI's dressed out as German soldiers talking about German uniforms and weapons. We knew there was a picture of such a training session but couldn't find it. Well it was in the History of the 120th Regiment. I guess we can't get more authentic than that. (See the picture below). Andy Sterlen and Scott Hood have been in touch with members of IR226 and they are excited about participating in this presentation.

Additional news! The location for the event has been moved for this year. Not sure why but there appears to be a conflict with additional events at Owens Field. This year it will be held at W.W.II Woodard Army Airfield in Camden, South Carolina. Camden is just Northeast of Columbia. You can directions and information on the overall event from their website:

<http://www.celebratefreedomfoundation.org/>

Watch for additional information concerning our participation in the September newsletter.

Ebay ID's

We had one addition to our EBay id list which was published in the last newsletter:

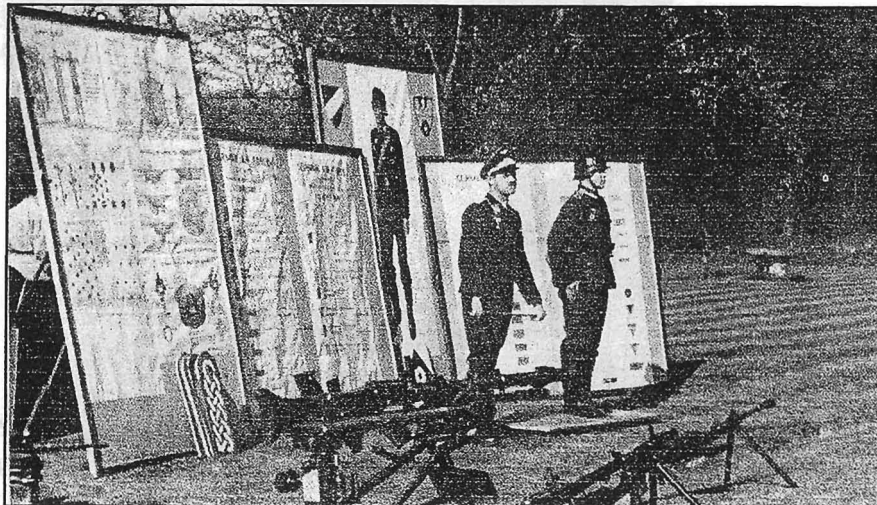
Ray Oakes - Oakesusm

You Came through and Helped!

Needed Items for the OHA

In a previous newsletter we listed some the items the OHA was looking to obtain and you came through and helped us out. Thanks to Charlie Noble (and his dad) for the lengths of EMT tubing we needed for the reproduction Bangalore torpedo.

We also want to thank the following for making donations toward the purchase of the battle streamers for the 30th ID flag:



Photograph from the History of the 120th Infantry Regiment taken during training in England. Caption reads: "Demonstration of German uniforms and equipment."

Brett Bondurant, Mark Burfete, Mark Chambers, Mike Fox, Bob Geurrin, Jim Higgins, Ted and Todd Hogan, Randall Lee, Ray Oakes, Mike Owens, Walt Sowinski, and Clint Yarbrough. We also received an offer of help from Donald Mills of the 30th ID Association.

Help still needed!

We are still looking for assistance in getting our website going and to help with the members handbook that we mentioned in the last newsletter. If you can help contact Brett Bondurant.

Korean War Exhibit Closing. Help Needed!

The Korean War Exhibit at the Granville County Museum in Oxford, NC will be coming to an end the last week of July. We will be participating in a ceremony on Saturday July 26th at 6:30 PM at the museum. **The following weekend we will be breaking down the exhibit as they need to make room for their next exhibit. We will need a good amount of help breaking down the display and moving it to the storage shed in Butner. It will be either Saturday August 2nd or Sunday, August 3rd. Please contact Don Shupe if you can help.**

IR226 Dinner at Cary VFW

Scott Hood has informed us that he will be cooking dinner for IR226 at the Cary VFW on Reedy Creek Rd. on Sept. 27th and has extended an invitation to the members of the OHA to join them for some good German cooking, and a great evening of comradarie. They did this a few years ago and everyone had a great time.

Inactivation/casing of Colors 1st Bn. (M) 119th Inf.

We have been invited to set up a display at the National Guard Armory in Williamston, NC. This will follow the Inactivation Ceremony for the 1st Bn.(M) 119th Inf. at the high school at 1400 hrs. 24 August. This leaves the 120th as the last active unit of the 30th. Contact Don Shupe.

30th ID Association National Reunion

The 30th ID national reunion is coming up August 29th - September 1st. As of now the OHA is planning on making a limited appearance, 4 to 6 members, supplying the Color Guard for the Memorial Service on Sunday, and the historical display, Saturday and Sunday. If any members wish to attend on their own you can contact Don Shupe for registration and hotel information. Remember that next year the National reunion will be in Fayetteville and we will be making a maximum effort for that event.

Airborne Museum Display

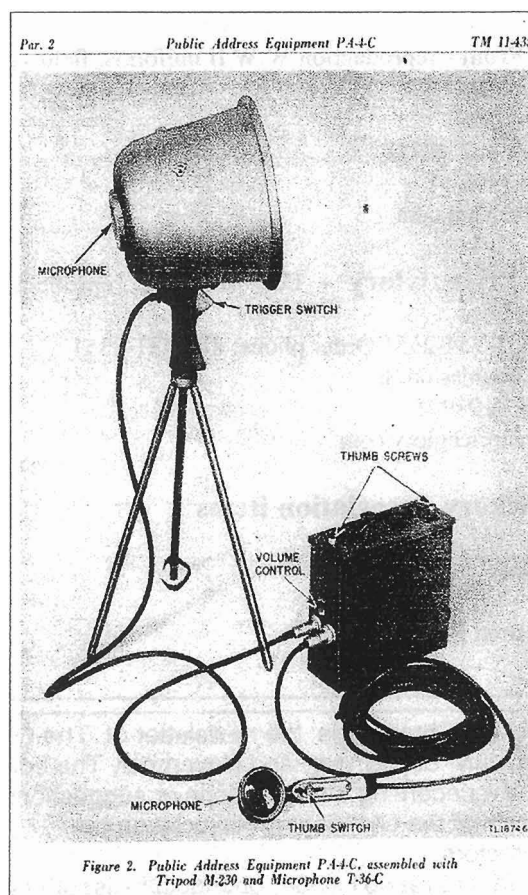
We have a opportunity to do an one day event here in North Carolina at the Airborne Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville. The display event, will be August 16, from 8 am-5 PM.

Because they only want airborne type units, those attending will portray the 325 Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne. Glider infantry wore the same thing as regular infantry, the only thing we

will have to do for the impression is to remove the 30th patch and add on the 82nd Airborne patch or go with no patch. I will leave that up to you. I am looking to do a typical squad display with pup tents, field inspections etc.... Please let me know ASAP who is interested in attending so I can put the program together. Thanks, Brett bbondo@bellsouth.net.

OHA Purchases WW2 Public Address System

Since the last newsletter, the OHA has purchased a WW2 Public Address System as pictured below. Our intent is to use it at displays such as Celebrate Freedom, so the public can hear the narrative of our presentation. We would also use it at our annual Memorial Day Salute to the 30th service. And we would use it at our Camp Butner events particularly on the firing line during the live fire event. We have been able to find batteries for it but have yet to get it operational. If anyone has any expertise in tube amplifiers please contact Don Shupe.



Local chapter of the MVPA

For all you vehicle polishers in the group, there is now a North Carolina Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association. There is a website: <http://www.ncmvpa.com/> As of now it costs nothing to join and will probably stay that way as long as they don't incur any operating expenses.

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 W.W.II uniforms, field gear, and equipment.

430 Rose Lane

Columbia, KY 42728

866-213-3946

www.atthefront.com

What Price Glory - U.S Militaria, reproduction uniforms

Phone: 831-754-2351 Order phone: 888-431-2351

238-A Commission St.

Salinas, CA 93901

www.whatpriceglory.com

Old Hickory Association items

T-Shirts

Golf Shirts

Hats

Contact Brett Bondurant

Coming Events

August 17, 2003

Airborne Museum

Fayetteville, NC

August 24, 2003

Inactivation, casing of Colors, 1st Bn. (M), 119th

Williamston, NC

August 29/September 2, 2003

30th Infantry Division Association National Reunion

Nashville, TN.

September 27, 2003

IR226 Dinner

FWW Hall

Cary, NC

Oct. 10/12, 2003

Butner live fire shoot

Camp Butner, NC

November 7/9, 2003

Celebrate Freedom

Veteran's Day Display

Camden, SC

*Oct 24/25/26?
BattleShip*

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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