



# The Old Hickory Chronicle

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

May/June 2006

## Passing of a Friend

*By Mike Owens*

Through my association with the OHA, I have been given the opportunity to meet many of my personal heroes. I have had the privilege to participate in five 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division National Reunions over the years. As a result, my heroes have become my friends. That is why it is very hard to write this article for the newsletter. I recently found out of Mr Arn's passing. I first met Mr. Ed Arn at the Myrtle Beach Reunion. I was somewhat in awe of his personal record while he was known as Captain Arn / F Co / 119<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. However, he had a way of putting you at ease. Furthermore, he would eventually start telling jokes and conversing like you were old friends.



**Ed Arn (left) / Tony Vasquez (right).  
Fayetteville, NC Reunion**

Mr. Arn was a consummate story teller. He could weave a tale that would actually have you on the edge of your seat. He never tried to make his exploits larger than life. But, on the other hand, he was just a guy in his mid-30s at the time of Pearl Harbor who never thought a man of his age would be allowed into a Combat Zone. He never dreamed he would actually lead a Company into battle. He told me more than once the difficulty of making decisions that resulted in casualties to "his boys". It seemed to me that he felt the pain and loss as much now as he did 60+ years ago. I will never forget my association with Mr. Arn and his son Kit. I feel myself fortunate for having had the opportunity to have

spent a few hours in the presence of one of the 30<sup>th</sup>s finest. Recently, I have had the privilege of reading "Arn's War". I must say that it was one of the finest WWII combat narratives I have ever read. I encourage all of you to make it a point to read it. So, in closing, thank you Captain Arn, until we meet again.

# Veteran's Day 2005

*By Clint Yarbrough*

On November 12<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veteran's Day the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park held a military timeline through the ages. Eight members of the Old Hickory Association came out to help with the timeline. This event has been going on for several years and the OHA has participated in the past. But with other events for Veteran's Day taking precedent we had gotten away from this great event. I had overlooked this event for the last couple of years but Jay Callahan that portrays WWI 30<sup>th</sup> Division at the event posted on the OHA WWI yahoo list about it. I spoke with Don Long with the National Park Service and they were happy to have us come out. One thing that really adds to this event is the how local it is to those of us that live in the Western Piedmont and who aren't used to having events this close to home.

Those that participated wore a variety of uniforms to give the public an idea of the changes that took place just during one war. Those that attended are as follows: Mark Aman who portrayed the Spanish-American War, Sean Foster who portrayed 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne from the Sicily Drop, his wife Mandy and new daughter Juliana that came out in 1940's Civilian dress, Jeff Howard wore the '43 combat uniform, Ken Hyatt portrayed a US Navy Sailor, Matt Koonts wore HBT's and combat gear, Walt Sowinski wore the '37 wool uniform with the '41 field jacket as an MP, Neil Trivette wore his denim uniform with WWI equipment for a PreWar National Guard impression, and Clint Yarbrough portrayed a soldier from the Korean War.

This event really turned out great. We had a beautiful autumn day, a great turnout by the public that remained steady but was not overwhelming, and a great opportunity to spend time with our friends doing something we love. We had opportunity to talk with members of other groups portraying time periods and also talked to several very good prospects for new recruits. Numerous participants have expressed how much fun they had at this event and I am hoping that we will have this become one of our yearly events. This is a local event and not one where we would need a great turnout. Even though we may have other events that may come up, I believe that we should still be able to have 4 or 5 members come out to this event. I am hoping next year we will be able to bring out the '42 command tent and set it up as we have done in the past at the State Capital. I will keep you posted and looking forward to seeing you all at the event next year!

# OHA Board of Director Election

For the first time in years we will be holding an election for members of the board of directors of the Old Hickory Association. In the past we had just enough members nominated to fill the five positions and didn't need to actually hold an election. This year we had 12 members nominated with a second. They were: Brett Bondurant, Sean Foster, FJ Hale, Jim Higgins, Pat Morton, Ray Oakes, Mike Owens, Russell Scott, Don Shupe, Walt Sowinski, Neil Trivette, and Clint Yarbrough.

Of these 12, Brett, Ray, and Don declined the nominations. Each nominee was asked to supply a brief paragraph about what they feel their qualifications are and their plans for the future of the OHA.

Included with this newsletter is a ballot. Please pick FIVE candidates and return the ballot by May 27th, 2006 to Don Shupe, 219 South Ridge Drive, Garner, NC 27529. Results will be announced at the annual meeting on June 3rd, 2006

## **Sean Foster**

I have been involved in WWII re-enacting for the past 10 years. For the time I have been living in NC, I have been a member of the OHA since 1996 (1996-2000, 2003-2006). While living in Oklahoma (2000-2002) I became the assistant commander of the group I was in. I help moderate the main WWII re-enactors online forum, and through it I have access to event information, other units, and suppliers of uniforms & equipment.

In the OHA I have helped coordinate group purchases of uniforms, and have held various roles in tactical re-enactments from private to BAR gunner to squad leader.

I would like to help develop the OHA's portrayal of the veterans of the 30th through more simulated military training on a regular basis. I have been contemplating methods to help OHA members to become more involved in the aspects of the organization in which they share interest and abilities. I realize that not everyone wants to go to tacticals, and some members are not collectors, but I believe there is a place for everyone in the OHA, and we can all learn from one another.

The OHA is the longest-standing WWII re-enactment and memorial group in the area, and if elected I will do my utmost to maintain this high distinction and to continue to let the OHA be the standard by which other units are measured.

## **FJ Hale**

If elected to the board, it will try to hold myself to the same standards as those who have been instrumental in the founding of this grand organization. I will be at every event, unless it effects my earnings. I will put the other interests second to the OHA. I honestly don't know how I could top Don, Sparky, Anthony to name but a few of the men who have invested so much. I promise my very best effort, up to the point of driving the membership mad with details, in every effort we make. I have one more elbow and maybe a knee for the cutter and I will be 18 again! This should be over by July 4, God willing, and I really mean it. Thanks to you all."

## **Jim Higgins**

I am pleased to accept the nomination to serve on the Board of Directors of the OHA. My qualifications include: Six years of WWII living history with the OHA. Multiple years as Range Officer at the annual OHA Butner Live-Fire event. Firing detail commander at the annual OHA Memorial Day cere-

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mony. 2 years as Platoon Sgt. at Ft. Indiantown Gap, one further year as Platoon Leader and then 2 years as K Company commander at FIG. Planning and/or attendance at multiple displays, reenactments, parades, one funeral service, etc. Two prior terms of service on the OHA Board during which time I assisted in obtaining 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status for the group and served as corporate (OHA, Inc.) Treasurer in addition to the regular Board Member duties. Assisted in organizing the two most recent 30th Division Association Tarheel Chapter Veteran's Reunions. Have traveled as far as the Catskill Mountains of New York and St. Louis, MO to represent the OHA. In addition to the above, I have successfully managed a small business for 20 years.

### **Pat Morton**

As the dawn of a new century breaks upon us, it is important not to forget the action of those who so bravely sacrificed in the century that has closed. As veterans pass away, and as events fall further into the past, they are unfortunately moved to a location in the modern psyche called "forgotten about" These veterans and the events that they experienced cannot be lost, for to forget about them is to forget about much of what shaped the world we live in today. The OHA is in a truly unique position to keep this legacy alive. Through living history, battle reenactments and direct cooperation with veterans and veteran organizations, the OHA has the ability to preserve the experience of the WWII soldier by bring their experience alive to a broad audience. This preservation is also crucial in the fact that as veterans pass away their individual stories will pass as well. Reunions, interviews and the incorporation of this information into public displays and events will help to ensure that the stories and individual experiences of the soldier of the 30th Division is not forgotten.

If elected as a Board Member to this OHA, I will bring academic excellence (B.A., M.A. and 1 year of Ph.D. work in the field of Military History) Historical preservation knowledge (2 years as Executive Assistant at Historic Bethabara Park) and practical application of project management and long-term project planning and administration to this organization. All of these skills I will apply to the utmost to the continued success of the mission of the OHA.

### **Mike Owens**

Thanks for the nomination for the Board of Director's for the Old Hickory Association. I would like the opportunity to serve again. Like all of you, I grew up watching WWII Movies and reading the history of the different battles. My interest in the time period has always been very strong. I personally have a connection to the war itself. You see, my father is a WWII veteran. I grew up hearing the tales of Armor School and eventually the Parachute School at Ft Benning. So, over the years, I have met many fine veterans through his association with the 11th Airborne Division Association. So, naturally, when I found out that there were living history groups dedicated to perpetuating the history of the US Military effort during WWII, I jumped at the chance to participate. I was very fortunate to find a group as dedicated to "doing it right" as the OHA. The dedication to detail makes the OHA stand out at any event in which we participate. What I thoroughly enjoy about the group is the camaraderie at events. We have all forged friendships amongst the membership of the group. Furthermore, all new comers are welcomed to participate and are rapidly acclimated once they arrive at a event. The leadership of this group has been tireless workers. Either in the fore front of event planning or behind the scenes once an event starts, believe me, this group does more work to make everyone's participation enjoyable than you will ever know.

What I enjoy most about the OHA is their interaction with some of the true hero's of WWII. What I am referring to, of course, is the 30th Division veterans. I will never be able to thank this generation enough for what they did for our country. So, I feel that by offering to serve and participate at Reunion' is my little way of

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saying thanks. My participating in the event planning and the actual Reunions themselves is truly the reason I consider myself a living historian.

My vision of the future for our group is to continue to smoothly run the Reunions for the 30th IDA at present and as far in the future as the 30th IDA continues to hold Reunions. By doing this, we allow the veterans and their families to enjoy themselves without the worries of the planning and running of the Reunion itself. Also, I would like to see 2 recurring events/year at Camp Butner. So, in closing, thanks again for your vote of confidence in nominating me for another term on your Board of Directors.

### **Walt Sowinski**

I am honored to be nominated for the OHA Board of Directors. I am semi-retired and would have sufficient time to fulfill my duties. I am committed to honoring the service of all the WWII veterans but most specifically the men of 120th Inf. Reg. - 30th Division. I am an ardent student of WWII history and try to bring what I learn to the people we interface with at our displays. I promise, if elected, to bring honor to the Old Hickory Association. Thank you.

### **Russell Scott**

*(I did not receive a response from Russell, I don't know if he is away but I didn't hear back from him as to whether or not he would accept the nomination.)*

### **Neil Trivette**

I accept the nomination. Member OHA since 2001.

Member NC Military Society. 2005 and 2006. Displayed 30th ID WWI collection at last years annual meeting in Raleigh.

Collector of militaria for about 15 years. Specialize in 30th ID WWI and WWII.

Attended 5 30th ID Association National Reunions.

Attended 3 Tarheel chapter state association reunions.

Member of OHA delegation to Francis Currey Day in New York.

Reenactments. FIG and Warren County.

Living History Displays. Columbia/Camden Celebrate Freedom, Virginia Air Show. Guilford Court House MTA. Charlotte MTA.

Future of OHA must be spent educating the public about WWII and the "Greatest Generation."

### **Clint Yarbrough**

I accept the Nomination to the Board of Directors. I first joined the Old Hickory Association about the time the group was forming. It was with the OHA that I had my first experiences with reenacting. I have always had a love of history but the OHA gave me an opportunity to not only read and learn about it but to also live it. I have been reenacting for approximately 11 years. In those 11 years I have seen a lot of changes come about for the me, the group and the hobby.

During the time that I have been a member of the OHA I have had the opportunity to participate in the group in several different ways. I have been the recruiter for the OHA for approximately 5 years; contacting persons that have shown interest in the group, providing them with information and also helping them with

acquiring their stuff. I have been a member of the Tactical Committee for approximately 6-8 years and being the chair person for the last 5. Being the head of the tactical committee has given me the opportunity to help plan and organize events that we participate in. The task also requires the organization of squads and selecting who will be in leadership roles. In accomplishing this task I have utilized all the members of the committee to assist me in making the decision so that everyone has the best times at events. I have also been a member of the Board of Directors for the last 4 years. During this period I believe that the OHA has grown and made numerous changes for the better. We have become incorporated as a Non Profit Organization which I believe will help the OHA in numerous ways in the coming years.

What does the future hold for the OHA? I see the next two years as a critical time within the organization. The last two years have brought numerous changes to the lifestyles of several key members of the group including myself. In October of 2004 I started a new job with the Guilford County Sheriff's Department. This job requires me to work every other weekend. Also in April of 2005 my wife and I had our second daughter. Things have dramatically changed for me. Prior to these two events I was trying to participate at all our events. I personally believe that to be a leader of the group you should set an example to the members by participating as much as possible. Unfortunately I won't be able to live up to this standard over the next several years but I plan on still being a driving force within the group. I see our relationship with the 30th Veterans Association continuing to grow as we begin taking on the responsibility of organizing the National reunions. These guys are dying off fast and I believe that our greatest responsibility is to help them continue to hold reunions as long as possible. I would like to see the OHA continue to grow and expand. I dream of a time when we could field a full platoon by the TO &E of 30th guys at the annual Battle of the Bulge reenactment. But I would also be happy being able to get a squad of guys to come out on a regular bases. My biggest thought of the future of the OHA is to be able to continue to get together with my friends and having fun while making sure that the legacy of the 30th is passed on.

## Time for Dues!

It's that time of the year again. If there is a red X under the picture of Uncle Sam than you need to pay your annual dues of \$20. Newer members! If there isn't a red X then your application fee covers your dues for the coming year.

Please make checks payable to: The Old Hickory Association or OHA and mail to Don Shupe, 219 South Ridge Drive, Garner, NC 27529.

Dues must be paid by June 30th to maintain active membership.



**I WANT YOUR DUES**

**REGULAR MEMBER - \$20**

### **Butner Training Event; May 12/13**

We will be holding a training event at the National Guard Training Site in Butner on May 13th. The main focus of the event will be World War II marksmanship training and will include live fire. We will be in "C" kitchen area and using the adjacent range.

Because it is Mother's Day on Sunday, we will conclude the event Saturday afternoon so everyone can get back home that evening.

There will be a \$5 registration fee to cover the costs of the training area and range which can be paid at the event.

For those that wish come in on Friday evening we will open registration Friday at 6pm. As of this time we are planning on sleeping in dog tents. If you don't have a shelter half contact me and we can supply some extras. All meals will be on your own.

You will need to supply your own ammunition for the live fire. For the new members who might not have their M1's yet, we will arrange for you to borrow an M1 or a '03 Springfield.

We will start Saturday morning at 0900.

A map to the training area is included with this newsletter.

For planning purposes, please email or call to let us know if you plan to attend.

shupeda@msn.com, or 919-550-0205 (leave message)

### **National Reunion of the 30th Infantry Division Association**

The OHA will be hosting the national reunion for the 30th IDA September 20 - 23, 2006 at the Clarion Hotel Greensboro Airport.

A schedule, registration form, hotel reservation form, and tour information are included with this newsletter. I would like to encourage as many members as possible to attend as much of the reunion as you can. This may be your last chance to sit and talk with there veterans of the 30th Division.

We will be running the hospitality suite and we'll have a display set up there. We will also be providing a color guard for the Memorial service on Friday morning. We already have a number of volunteers for the hospitality suite but we will need members to help with the display and the color guard.

If you can help contact Don Shupe.

### **Annual Meeting**

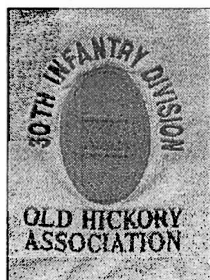
We will be holding our annual business meeting on June 3, 2006 in the grandstand located in the center of the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. That is also the same date and location as the North State Militaria Show.

Come to the show, take a short break from spending your money, and sit and be part of the annual business meeting of your association. The meeting will start at 12 noon.

# For Sale

## Old Hickory Association Items:

Grey T-Shirt w/ OHA logo, S-XL \$10, XXL \$12.50  
Golf Shirt, White or Grey, w/ OHA, S-XL \$22.50, XXL \$25.00  
Grey Sweatshirt w/ OHA logo, S-XL \$18, XXL \$20.00  
Ball Cap, Grey body w/ blue bill w/ OHA logo, \$11.00  
Prices do not include shipping.  
Contact Brett Bondurant  
919-431-0984,  
bondol@nc.rr.com



## Reproduction Items:

World War II 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](http://www.angelfire.com/nc/stug)  
Todd Hogan, 224 S. Melville Street, Graham, NC 27253  
Email: thogan@triad.rr.com

## World War II Impressions

U.S. Army uniforms and accessories. Catalog available.  
7165 Adwen Street, Downey, CA, 90241  
Fax and Phone: (562) 927-6922 Email: WWIIMPRESSIONS@MSN.COM

## What Price Glory

Reproduction uniforms and accessories.  
238-A Commission Street  
Salinas CA 93901  
Toll Free Order Line: 888-431-2351  
Inquiry Line: 831-754-2351 <http://www.whatpriceglory.com/usunif.htm>

# Upcoming Events

## May 13, 2006

Butner Training event  
Contact Don Shupe

## May 29, 2006

Salute to 30th ID  
Old Capital Grounds  
Raleigh, NC contact Don Shupe

## Memorial Day Weekend

TimeLine  
King's Mountain National Park  
Contact Clint Yarbrough

## June 3, 2006

Annual Meeting of OHA  
Militaria Show, State fairgrounds  
Raleigh, NC

## July 4, 2006

Fourth of July Display  
Capital Grounds  
Raleigh, NC

## October 2006

Chesterfield, VA Air show

## October, 2006

Buck Springs Reenactment  
TBD

## September 2006

30th IDA National Reunion.  
Greensboro, 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. Articles are contributed by members of the Association and submissions are always welcome.  
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