

Old Hickory

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Association

Chronicle

September / October 2006

War Department
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Old Hickory Association

Subject: An open letter to all the OHA members
from the new editor of the Old Hickory
Association newsletter.

Gentlemen:

Greetings from the new editor...It's going to be an interesting few months as I try to master the preparation of and distribution of our newsletter. Don Shupe has been expertly doing this job for a good number of years and he's certainly owed a ton of gratitude. He's going to be a hard act to follow and in that context, I'm asking for your patience as well as your help and suggestions.

Over the next few editions, I'm going to try to learn how to use a PC to create an attractive newsletter. Once I've become more proficient with this PC system, I will attempt to introduce some new content, some new and different graphics and try to provide interesting reading materials. Additionally, I promise to continue to publish the basic OHA information we all have come to rely on to know what's going on and to help us to plan our calendars.

It seems that 2006 will turn out to be a rejuvenation date for the OHA. We got a "new" newsletter editor, finally got some new "meat" elected to the Board of Directors and we all hope they'll function as well as the previous Board. Those guys who finally stepped down (Don Shupe and Brett Bondurant among others) did yeoman duty for many years and it's about time they got some relief ... Lord knows they deserve it.

So, as I see it, it's time for all of us to recommit our efforts to keep the OHA as a productive and vibrant group dedicated to honoring the World War II veterans of the 30th Infantry Division.

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Sowinski

Unit News

New Board of Directors

It's taken awhile to get their act together but the newly elected board has finally met and chosen the specific Officers. On the 30th of September, Neil Trivette was elected as President, Walt Sowinski was elected as Vice President, Jim Higgins continued on as

Treasurer, Mike Owens continued on as Secretary and Clint Yarbrough assumed the Sgt. Of Arms slot. All board members said they look forward to getting the Old Hickory Association back into high gear after a temporary lull in the past months.

Butner Live Fire Shoot – 6-8, October 2006

Information as well as the registration forms for Live Fire Shoot have been posted on the Old Hickory Association yahoo group site and are also enclosed in this mailing. This is a pre-registration, invitation only event and no freelancers or stragglers will be allowed. This is a rain or shine event so come well prepared. All OHA members are expected to sleep in the GP medium or in dog tents. The GP will accommodate 16 people and slots will be assigned on a first come basis. Bring your cot if you have one and make sure you have "period" bedding. Bring your mess gear and be sure to have some lunch type food since the mess crew is not planning to serve lunch. You'll need to bring a standard service rifle – for OHA members that will be an M1 Garand, carbine or Springfield – weapon cleaning equipment and a minimum

of 60 rounds of ammunition per match. **Your ammo must be in a period type ammo box with your name clearly printed on white tape and applied to the top of the ammo box.** This shoot is a perfect opportunity for all of the OHA members to get back into the swing of things. The Butner shoot is a great venue to for us to discuss the future direction of the group and to exchange ideas. Every one who has attended the Butner event has always had a good time, met new people as well as seen old friends so let's make sure this event is as successful as past ones. Get those forms filled out, checks written and attached and the completed forms mailed off to Mike Owens at 109 Covewood Road, Cary, NC 27513 by September 15. 2006.

30th ID Reunion–20-24, September 2006

So far, we've had a pretty good response from OHA members who plan to attend this event. As usual, the registration forms are dribbling in at a slow pace so please get moving on filling them out and getting them mailed. We need to view this reunion as a major effort event because these wonderful guys are not getting any younger...neither are we, so let's get with the program. Don Shupe, I believe, is the POC for this event and he'll do his best to answer any questions you may have...however, the bigger issue is for all OHA members to make a supreme effort to attend all or some if this event.

News From the European Theater

'Perfect' Describes 30th Fight:

With the 30th Infantry Division in Germany, November 26, 1944 (AP)

Staging what Nineteenth Corp Headquarters praised as "the perfect infantry attack" the Thirtieth Division snatched two villages away from outwitted German defenders in a matter of minutes in opening its part of the United States Ninth Army Rhineland drive. After tantalizing the Germans for a month with dangling dishpans the boys scored the success in seizing the towns of Euchen and Mariadorf before the startled Germans knew what was happening. "We fooled them by omitting the artillery barrage which normally preceded our attacks," said Lt E. J. Kerrigan of Aberdeen, S. D. "Seeing no artillery fire the Huns didn't think we would attack." "We didn't start the artillery until the infantry was charging a half mile across open fields to the towns. Before the Jerries could do anything about it, we'd taken our objectives.

Some Nazis Caught Asleep.

A number of Germans were caught sound asleep. They were on the night shift that had been digging trenches. The wily doughboys who arrived shortly after noon had to wake them up to capture them. The perfect coordination of the daring attack was achieved through several weeks of careful planning, briefing and study of the terrain. The doughboys tore across the fields and the German artillery fell behind them, if they had walked instead of taking off on the double they would have been hit. As it was casualties from shells and small arms fire were few. One unit hit a minefield, but kept moving and took its objective. Heroes cropped up by the dozen. One Yank whose foot was blown off by a mine had the courage to wisecrack, "for seven years I had a corn on that foot - now it won't bother me any more." The 117th Regiment, which took Mariadorf on the Aachen - Julich road, had been tantalizing the Germans for some time before the attack by waving a red comforter at them when their shells missed. This regiment, commanded by Col. Walter Johnson of Missoula Mont., captured intact the vital Miriadorf bridge under which the Nazis had placed 400 pounds of demolitions. All the enemy had to do was to press a button to blow the bridge up-but they didn't have time.

Attack on Wurselen Renewed: 16 November 1944

While the 120th Regiment, commanded by Col. Branner P. Purdue of Fayetteville Ark. taking Euchen, the 119th renewed its attack on the Germans in Wurselen - the town they had shared with the enemy for a month. During this period the 119th commanded by Col. Edwin Sutherland of San Francisco, annoyed the Germans by rigging up a daisy chain of dishpans and rattling them by remote control at night. The Germans wasted a lot of ammunition on the foolish targets. The hard opening blows of the Thirtieth, coordinated with attacks of the Twenty-ninth Infantry and Second Armored Divisions in adjoining sectors to the north, gave such momentum to the Ninth Army drive that it rolled 10 miles in 10 days against the most desperate kind of opposition. S/Sgt. Freeman V. Horner, 119th Inf. Reg., Co. K was awarded the Medal of Honor for exhibiting extraordinary courage during this action. Horner destroyed 3 enemy machine gun positions, killed or captured 7 enemy and cleared the way for his Company's successful assault on Wurselen.

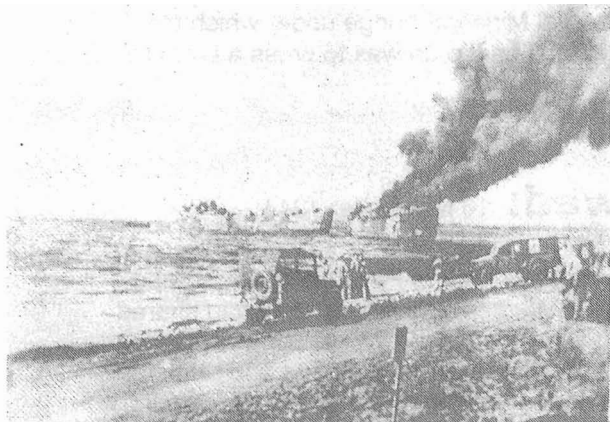
News From the Pacific Theater

Editors Note: During WWII, my uncle, Andrew C. Holda served with the Headquarters Company of the 169th Infantry Regiment of the 43rd Division. The following is a very brief history of what campaigns the 43rd Division participated in.

The 43rd Division was comprised of the 103rd, 169th and the 172d Infantry Regiments. The 43d Infantry Division landed in New Zealand on 23 October 1942. The Division moved to Noumea, New Caledonia, in November and to Guadalcanal, 17 February 1943. The Russell Islands were occupied without opposition, 21 February, and training continued. Elements landed on Vangunu and Rendova Islands against minor resistance, 30 June, but the enemy fought fiercely before relinquishing Munda and its highly valued airfield, 5 August.

Vela Cela and Baanga were taken easily, but the Japanese resisted stubbornly on Arundel Island before withdrawing, 22 September. After training at Munda, the 43d moved to Guadalcanal and thence to New Zealand for rest and rehabilitation. On 19 July 1944, the Division assumed defensive positions at Aitape, engaged in patrols and reconnaissance at Tadi and along the Drinumor River, 25 July, and took the offensive, 8 August 1944, ending organized resistance on the 25th.

On 9 January 1945, the 43rd made an assault landing in the San Fabian area, Lingayen Gulf, Luzon. Under enemy fire, the Division secured the beachhead and fought into the Lingayen Plain by 12 February. The offensive was resumed against the enemy north and west of Fort Stotsenburg, 27 February. After ending Japanese resistance in the Zambales Mountains, the 43d swung south against the Shimbu Line. On 6 May 1945, the attack continued in the Bulucan area. Ipo Dam was secured and enemy opposition smashed in the Ipo area, 19 May. Mopping-up activities continued until 30 June 1945. The Division left Manila, 13 September, for occupation duty in Japan until it left for home.



Munda, New Georgia – August 1443



Grumman fighter lands on
Munda Airfield 5, August 1943

Given the fact that some of us will be attending the 30th Infantry Division National Reunion and some of us will also be attending the Camp Butner Live Fire Shoot, it seems appropriate to review the Code of Conduct you all agreed to and are obligated to follow. We want to insure that we put our best foot forward whenever we are in the public eye. So, review the code shown below and let's all do our best to abide by its contents.

OLD HICKORY  ASSOCIATION

CODE OF CONDUCT

YOU WILL:

Act in a safe and responsible manner particularly around vehicles, firearms, pyrotechnics, and all other equipment.

Conduct yourself in a military manner.

Be expected to obey the orders of the designated commander and all superiors at every event.

Refrain from using inappropriate language when the public is present.

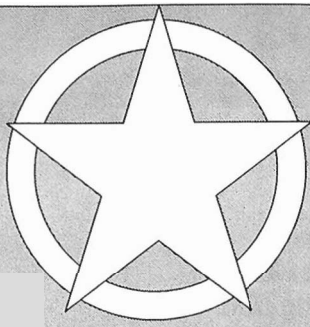
Understand that there will be no consumption of alcoholic beverages at events where the public is present or when firearms are not secured.

- Understand that the designated commander reserves the right to deny participation at an event to any member that is intoxicated.

Understand that the designated commander at an event will determine when or if drinking will be allowed.

Be responsible for guests you bring. Guests violating the Code of Conduct will be asked to leave the event along with hosting member.

- Not be allowed to use illegal substances of any kind.



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 encouraged and always welcome. Contacts for the Old Hickory Association are shown below.

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Displays, 30th ID History -TBD

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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

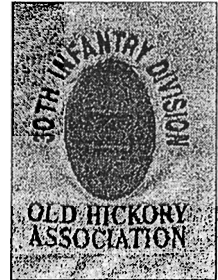
Ball Cap, Grey body w/ blue bill w/ OHA logo, \$11.00

Prices do not include shipping.

Contact Brett Bondurant

919-431-0984,

bondol@nc.rr.com



Reproduction Items:

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Email: thogan@triad.rr.com

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Upcoming Events

September 20 / 24, 2006

30th IDA National Reunion at the Clarion Hotel

Greensboro, NC

October 6 / 8, 2006

OHA Camp Butner Live Fire Shoot

Butner, NC

October, 2006- Date to be Determined

Chesterfield Air Show

Chesterfield, VA

October, 2006- Date to be Determined

Buck Springs Reenactment

Buck Springs Plantation

About Our Newsletter...

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 intended to further the knowledge of our members, to provide Association news of upcoming events and to provide a forum for members to share information as it relates to the WWII living history experience. Story contributions and article submissions are most welcomed and encouraged by your Editor.