



The 30th Infantry Division Association's 2008 National Reunion Is A Great Success!

The 30th Infantry Division Association 2008 National Reunion was blessed with great weather, great attendance and can certainly chalked up as being a great success. On Wednesday, the iron three OHA men, Neil, Walt and Chuck, showed up to set up our usual impressive display and to



set up and man the hospitality room bar as the reunion guests began to arrive that afternoon. Held at the Crabtree Inn in Raleigh, the reunion again was hosted by the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team members of the 30th IDA. This year's reunion was truly special since the Brigade guys have been mobilized and they'll be going back to Iraq early in 2009.

However, before they ship out, they were able to share some quality time with their WWII veteran buddies. We all did some serious drinking,



eating, story telling and friendship renewals. The 30th Brigade guys were again very pleased to have us Old Hickory guys at their side to help their personnel who worked like beavers to make sure the vets were well taken care of. The "second shift Iron 11" OHA members attending were Neil Trivette, Walt Sowinski, Mike Owens, F.J. Hale, Ken Hyatt, Matt Koonts, Chuck Eatmon, Brett Bondurant, Jay Callahan, Tony Spataro a new member and Pat Grogan. We again were lucky to have the same large room we had last year which would allow us set up our display and still function as the hospitality suite. Mike Owens made sure the sounds of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman were available in the bar area which was always crowded and no one went away thirsty.

It was great to visit with our old friends like Hank Stairs, Tom Oglesby, Sam Gaziano, Jack Moore, Lamar Sibley, George Small, George Kennedy, John Cronan, Frank Deegan, Inez Peoples, Grace, Libby and Max Tyner. We also got to rub elbows and be with our good Brigade friends including LTC. Wilkins, MAJ. Walls, MAJ. Morrison, CAPT. Hinton and his daughter Carmen, MSG Jerry Jackson, SSG Jimmy Nance,

SSG Matt Register and his wonderful wife Amanda. There were many more guests and Brigade troopers whose names escape me but suffice it to say we all had a great time.



The OHA, ably assisted by SSG Jimmy Nance, provided the necessary Color Guards for the Men's Business Meeting and the Memorial Service. We once again insisted that a Brigade member should be part of every Color Guard since they were now "part of the 30th IDA team." LTC Wilkins agreed and assigned SSG Nance to join us and since he was the ranking NCO, he carried the National Colors, Walt Sowinski carried the Old Hickory Regimental Colors, Mike Owens and Matt Koonts were the escorts and Neil Trivette was the overall Commander of the detail. George Kennedy specifically stated that the inclusion of a 30th Brigade member in the Color Guard was a splendid touch and should be continued...needless to say, we were all in total agreement!



30th IDA Reunion Pics



More From The Reunion



Some Special Mentions: The OHA extends special and heartfelt thank yous to: Howard Benson for donating a box containing maps, Field Training Manuals, a 19 Corp map, poems by Robert Bradley who drove a jeep onto Hill 314 to pick up the Mortain wounded and original "German propaganda leaflets" dropped on American positions urging their surrender; to Frank Deegan for donating \$20.00; George Kennedy gave 2000 reunion Old Hickory wooden nickel, 2 1999 reunion placemats, a 1987 and 2001 30th IDA membership cards and photos from the Celebrate Freedom Columbia, SC Airshow; Mr. Sibley donated \$5.00 and George Small and Mickey donated \$60.00; to Emma Potter for making two wonderful cakes-a lemon chess pie and her pineapple cake with white frosting...she also wants to give us a photo of the 117th Regiment boys of Company L while in Camp; to Tommy Oglesby for donating an OHA decorated clock (it was won by Howard Benson) and a beautiful Old Hickory decorated quilt won by Jerry Jackson. What was really special was the OHA about Tommy's donation was

we were allowed to sell tickets for a drawing and then to retain the cash proceeds...truly an everybody wins scenario; to Don Shupe for allowing us the use of his grenades display and his field inspection display, to Michelle Hyatt for her photos and last but certainly not least, to the 30th Brigade for providing room accommodations for the OHA guys to use in lieu of us having to rent hotel rooms! **To show our sincere appreciation, Matt Koonts, Mike Owens, Ken Hyatt, Jay Callaham and Walt Sowinski gave the Brigade team the OHA red logo U.S. Army shirts right off our backs – they were most pleased!**



Next year's reunion of the 30th Infantry Division Association has yet to be decided but Camp Atterbury has been mentioned. Our Brigade buddies will be deployed so they'll not be able to do their superb planning and execution job. So, we'll just have to see what comes about...to be continued!



A Very Special Mention: The OHA can be really proud of and indebted to Jay Callaham who was the key note speaker for the Saturday night banquet. Holy cow did he do one bang up job! He delivered a fabulous power point presentation on the origins of the 30th Infantry Division up and through to the end of WWI...The War to End All Wars. It was extremely well received and Jay was inundated with congratulations by a slew of attendees. For those of you who missed this reunion I can only say it was a "doozy!"

More Reunion Pics



Old Hickory Pin - Ups



September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

*SSG Jimmy Nance selected this little sweetie as our September
October Calendar Pin Up...nice pick Sarge!*

Sea Unearths Secret Nazi Bunkers Hidden For More Than 50 Years!



© AFP/Getty Images

Three Nazi bunkers on a beach have been uncovered by violent storms off the Danish coast, providing a store of material for history buffs and military archaeologists. The bunkers were found in practically the same condition as they were on the day the last Nazi soldiers left them, down to the tobacco in one trooper's pipe and a half-finished bottle of schnapps. This bunker was entombed under the sand dunes until a violent storm swept away the sands three months ago and the bunkers had not been touched since the war. The bunkers were three of 7,000 built by the Germans as part of Hitler's 'Atlantic Wall' from Norway to the south of France. But while the vast majority were almost immediately looted or destroyed, these three were entombed under the sand dunes of a remote beach near the town of Houvig since 1945. They were uncovered only because recent storms sent giant waves cascading over them, sweeping away the sand and exposing glimpses of the cement and iron structures.

Kim Clausen, curator of the Ringkøbing-Skjern museum views a heater retrieved from the bunker. Stamps of the German Eagle of Adolf Hitler and the Swastika were also retrieved. They were located by two nine-year-old boys on holiday with their parents, who then informed the authorities. Archaeologists were able to carefully force a way, and were astounded at what they found. 'What's so fantastic is that we found them completely furnished with



© AFP/Getty Images

beds, 'chairs, tables, communication systems and the personal effects of the soldiers who lived inside,' says Jens Andersen, the curator of the Hanstholm museum. The discovery of the fully-furnished bunkers was "unique in Europe," said Bent Anthonisen, a Danish expert on European bunkers. Expert Tommy Cassoe: 'It was as if the Nazis had just left yesterday'...'It was like entering the heart of a pyramid with mummies all around. What I saw blew me away: it was as if the German soldiers had left only yesterday.'



© AFP/Getty Images

The team working with Cassoe emptied the structures within a few days of boots, undergarments, socks, military stripes, mustard and aquavit bottles, books, inkpots, stamps featuring Hitler, medicines, soda bottles, keys, hammers and other objects. All of the objects from the shelters have been taken to the conservation centre at Oelgod museum, some 20 miles from the

beach to be examined. The centre's German curator, Gert Neblich, judged the find 'very interesting because it is so rare.' "We don't expect contemporary objects like these to be so well preserved. Maybe it's because they were kept for 60 years in the cold and dark like in a big vacuum," he says, carefully showing four stamps featuring Hitler's image and the German eagle, found in one bunker. The Germans left the bunkers in May 1945 after the Nazi surrender. Historical records show that Gerhard Saalfed was a 17-year-old soldier with the German army when he arrived at the bunker in January 1945. Germany surrendered on May 8 1945, but it wasn't until two days later that he and his fellow soldiers left their remote station. They shut the steel doors of the bunker behind them on their remote beach and went to the nearest town ten miles away to surrender. 'The remote location of the bunkers and the drifting sands that covered them saved them from being ransacked,' said Cassoe. *Article By Allan Hall Daily Mail/UK August 2008.*

UNIT NEWS

The OHA Board Has Yet To Assign Roles

The results of the election for the board of directors are in but the new Board has yet to find time to assign the electees their respective roles. Given the summer months, vacations, new jobs for some, the time required for planning and coordinating for the reunion the assignment process has just gotten away from the Board. Staying in their current positions on the board for the next two years are Neil Trivette, Walt Sowinski, Jim Higgins and Mike Owens. Joining the Board for the first time is Jay Callaham who has already made his mark by delivering the key note speech at the 30th IDA's reunion banquet. We're still hoping the 2009 season will produce a more motivated membership and the new Board is working hard to accomplish that goal. The Board will be looking to meet soon and decide what post each elected individual will be assigned. To be continued.

OHA Succeeds In Attracting Some New Members

We have been really fortunate to attract two new members to our group...specifically, Tony Spataro and Richard Sneed. Tony, lives in Wilmington, NC and Richard hails from Greensboro. Tony has already attended his first reunion and was thrilled to be able to speak with and interact with the veterans. We've also had the pleasure of providing Honorary Memberships to SSG Jimmy Nance and MSG Rick Jones. Both men said they wanted to be members and it was decided that since they were being deployed the least we could do was make 'em members! We're also gonna make sure they have their red logo OHA t-shirts too.

Hey Guys - Some Of You Still Owe Your Dues!

Jim Higgins is just panting to get you guys to mail in your dues. At last count, we've only had 19 guys pony up the cash to be counted as full paying members. So let's get with it because if you don't pay your dues you're don't get the newsletter, you don't have any OHA participation rights and you'll be branded a loser for life! So pay up Homer...here's the current rates: A **Renewal** of a Regular Membership is \$20.00 per year...A **New Regular Membership** is \$30.00 for the first year only and an **Associate Membership** is always \$30.00 per year, is a non-voting membership but members will also receive the OHA newsletter and unit updates. Newsletters are mailed six times a year. If you are unsure which category you fall into, just give ole' Jimbo a call at 919-556-1014 and he'll clue you in to the right price.



We Lose Another Good And Loyal Friend



Dr. Millard P. Burt, prominent educator and military band director has passed away. Dr. Burt was born in Fuquay Springs, NC, the son of Raymond A. and Ella Stanfield Burt. He attended the Raleigh Public Schools, Atlantic Christian College, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was an Ole Raleigh Boy and a member of Alpha Sigma Phi. Dr. Burt was Professor Emeritus of Adult and Community College Education at North Carolina State University, and Director of the University Fort Bragg Branch. He was Dean of Atlantic Christian College, Dean of Methodist College, and Assistant Director of the North Carolina Prison System. He was President of the Association of Academic Deans of the NC College Conference, established Southeastern Academy in Lumberton NC, and was a member of Phi Delta Kappa. He was a Mason, a Shriner, and a member of the Scottish Rite. He directed the Sudan and Amran Temple Shrine Bands and was the President of the Shrine Bandmasters Association of North America. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Burt was Bandmaster of the North Carolina National Guard Bands with several designations. His total service was over 47 years.

He served throughout World War II with the 30th Infantry Division in five campaigns of the European Theater of Operations. He was executive director of the North Carolina Military Historical Society and helped established the NC Military Historical Society Museum at Fort Fisher. He was the Founding Director of the Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble, Founding Director of the Raleigh Municipal Band, Director of the Raleigh High Schools Band, and President and Executive Director of the NC Bandmasters' Association. He was a District Governor of Sertoma International and a member of the Wilson, Fayetteville, and Raleigh Sertoma Clubs. He is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Music, Who's Who in Education and in the National Register of Prominent Americans. He was named Tar Heel of the Week and received the Order of the Longleaf Pine. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Cary, NC. He is survived by his wife, Katrina, two stepchildren, Noah and Nathan; two children, Charles and Carolyn; sister, Eloise; brother, Harold and his wife, Pearl; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his brothers, Braxton and Ralph. The funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at the First United Methodist Church, in Cary. Pre-service music will be provided by the 440th Army Band commanded by Warrant Officer Brent Harvey. Burial, with Military and Masonic Honors, were held at Montlawn Memorial Park in Raleigh, NC. Pallbearers were members of the North Carolina National Guard. He will be missed by all.

OHA Marches in the Faith, NC 4th of July Parade



A packed parade hit the streets of Faith Friday. Some say that's because high gas prices and the economy are keeping people close to home. Gas is averaging \$4.02 a gallon in North Carolina today and the Faith Fourth of July Parade drew its biggest crowd ever. For many,



WBTV On Your Side's David Whisenant reports, this is their annual celebration, no matter what the gas prices are. "The ones who are always traditionally here, they're going to be here no matter what the economy is," Faith resident Carolyn McDonald said. The crowds were enormous, Whisenant reports. In many places, parade watchers stood 6 to 8 feet deep to watch the parade. Organizers say people were telling them the high cost of gas made free events like this even more appealing this summer.

"I tell you what, it looks like the biggest crowd we've ever had, it's not going to miss 50,000 by much...I work in Charlotte, a lot of people down there said they would come up here today because they couldn't afford to go to the beach," parade organizer James Alexander said. The parade featured everything from marching bands to beauty queens, the wacky and the weird, a US senator and a would be governor, and even a political message about high gas prices. The parade lasted nearly two hours just missing the real heat of the day. "It's a great place, even President Bush came here one year," Faith resident Ronnie Troutman said. Friday's crowd was mainly families and friends taking it all in. For many, the celebration of the founding of our country bears a dramatic reminder that the high cost of gas certainly isn't the highest price some have had to pay in the past.

We have this e-note from Don and Jane Shupe: They just wanted to thank those OHA members and their families that turned out to make our 4th of July events one of the best yet. We were well received by the crowd during the parade. Last estimate was that the crowd was around 50,000. We (the OHA) were featured in the video shown on the WBTV news coverage of the parade. After the parade we all had a great time back here at pool side. OHA members who participated in the parade and were then hosted by Don and Jane Shupe are: Neil Trivette, Walt Sowinski, Jay Callahan, J.D.

"Hollywood" Layman, Paul and Pam Gill, Ken, Shell and Oliver Hyatt, Robbie, Cheryl and Katherine Lamb and Mark "Sparky" Burfete. Thank you, Don and Jane for a great time.



Sparky was the groups life guard!



Board of Directors

President

Neil Trivette

336-367-3670

ntrivette@triad.rr.com

Vice-President

Walt Sowinski

336-379-8007

wsowinski@triad.rr.com

Treasurer

Jim Higgins

919-556-1014

higginsboats@yahoo.com

Secretary

Mike Owens

919-380-1771

Garand7449@aol.com

Sgt. Of Arms

Jay Callaham

336-854-2008

callaham@bellsouth.net

Reenactments / Recruiting

Clint Yarbrough / Charlie Noble

Marksmanship:

Jim Higgins

Drill & Ceremony:

Mark Burfete

828-863-2253

mrburfete@alltel.net

Displays, 30th ID History –TBD

Mailing Address:

The Old Hickory Association

P.O. Box 1079

Wake Forest, NC 27588-1079

OHA Website:

www.30thinfantrydivision.com

Newsletter Editor:

Walt Sowinski

Email: wsowinski@triad.rr.com

Items For Sale

OHA Items:

Grey T-shirt w/OHA logo, S-XL \$10., XXL \$12.50

Golf Shirt, White or Grey, w/ OHA logo, S-XL \$22.50 XXL \$25.00

Grey Sweatshirt w/ OHA logo, S-XL \$18.00, XXL \$20.00

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

Prices do NOT include shipping. Brett says to "Order directly" from: Custom Embroidery Company
123 Wooding Ave. Danville, VA 24541 ph. 434-799-3153 ...Tell them you are an OHA Member.

Reproduction Items:

WWII Reproduction Rations - Complete reproduction of WW2 K ration, C ration and D bars, as well as other such accessories as Foot Powder, Charms, PK Gum, fuel tablets, batteries and much more. Catalog available. . www.angelfire.com/nc/stug or mail to:

Todd Hogan, 225 S. Melville Street, Graham, NC 27253 or e-mail me at -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 at – WWIIImpressions@msm.com

What Price Glory – Reproduction uniforms and accessories. No Catalog available.

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>



*Officers doin' all the cookin'- yah sure!
I did most of the cookin'. Matt Register
sez he did all the cookin' but well, as
you can see, it's just me cookin'.*



*I know ya'll
are smarter
than that!*

Upcoming Events

September 13-14 - WWI Fly in at
Campbell Field in VA
Contact: TBD

September 20, 21 - Avarasboro WWI
event with the 318th
Contact: TBD

September 20, 21 - Allison Woods, NC
Contact: Neil Trivette

November 7 - 9 - Contact: Jim Higgins
WWI Newville, PA Event
Contact: Jay Callaham

November 7 - 9 Guilford Courthouse
Timeline Event
Contact: Clint Yarbrough

November 7- 9 Camp Butner - OHA
Training Weekend
Contact: Jim Higgins

The Old Hickory Chronicle is the official newsletter of The Old Hickory Association. It is published 6 times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November. OHA member articles are always welcome.

One 30th Infantry Division Soldier's Story

This is David Gordon's story and what he has to say about World War II, fighting the Nazis, getting shot, watching those he cared about fall in battle and rescuing enslaved people from Hitler's grasp.



The Fourth of July is a special day for many Americans. For Pfc. David Gordon, who is now 85 years old and a relic of a time that is slipping further into history, it means maybe even more. Gordon fought the Germans from the D-Day beaches in World War II, preserving the independence of many nations. The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial now overlooks the site where Gordon once fought, and the graves of 9,387 brave soldiers offer sobering reminders of the chaos that took place on the sandy beaches below. "It was like a living nightmare and that was the beginning of it," Gordon said. "The dead bodies, we had to step over them, which gave us a taste of what we were in for."

Gordon said the training he went through was extensive, but nothing truly prepares you for the reality of war. "You can hear about it or you can see it in the movies, but to experience it yourself, you really can't describe it, the horror of it." Gordon enlisted in the Army when he was just 18 years old. Days after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Gordon put college on hold and jumped in a car with five friends; they all enlisted. The Army assigned him to the 119th Infantry Regiment of the 30th Infantry Division and like most soldiers fighting on the front lines, death was just a cat's whisker away.

Gordon's five Purple Hearts are colorful reminders of the scars he still carries today and his Bronze Star is a testament to the time taken away. Now 64 years removed from the beaches of Normandy, Gordon's home in Cary, N.C. is lined with pictures of a beautiful family—children, grandchildren and a memorable ballerina but when he thinks back to his time in Europe, Gordon said he inevitably thinks about those who didn't make it home, his fellow soldiers, his friends, whose lives were cut way too short. "What I think of most often was seeing my buddies, seeing them killed... seeing them killed and all the pain." But World War II was a "necessary war, period," as Gordon says, and he would enlist all over again if he had to.

"Can you imagine if we were occupied by people like Nazi Germany, the SS Troopers, if we were under their control?" Gordon asked. "It certainly would have been worth even my death to have done something to correct that situation." While it's hard to say what all soldiers fight for, it was quite simple for Pfc. David Gordon. He fought for the people whose names he didn't know but whose faces he will never forget. Seventy million people died in World War II including 40 million civilians, and Gordon's stories of Nazi atrocities paint pictures of evil that movies don't do justice. "You can't imagine people being so cruel and inhumane to other people. That's what kept us going, fighting. I couldn't feel sorry for myself. All I could do was wish we could have done more, could have saved more, could have gotten there sooner... Done more." But the men who fought and died on the beaches of Normandy did more than we will ever be able to thank them for. This article was written for the 4th of July 2008. It was Independence Day, as will be tomorrow and the all the days after that, thanks to men like David Gordon and all the rolling hills of unforgotten friends.
Article written by Wes Wilson.

Editors note: *Prior to July 4th, I was contacted by Wes Wilson who got my name from Ilin Chen who interviewed us down at the Fayetteville reunion. Wes asked if I could provide the name of a WWII veteran in his news area. I had Mr. Gordon's card from the Fayetteville reunion and thought he'd be a good WWII veteran for Wes to talk with. Later on, I was contacted by Mr. Gordon who told me how much he enjoyed being interviewed. At that same time, I told him about the 30th IDA reunion in Raleigh and urged him to attend. LTC Wilkins also e-mailed Mr. Gordon and offered to pick him up if that would help him come to the reunion. Alas, Mr. Gordon never responded to either my or LTC Wilkins emails and did not attend the August reunion. I need to see if I can reach him.*