



## Newsletter Snow Photos Bring Back Memories



*Editors note: The following commentary I got from Dick Jepsen ... his comments refer to the "snowy Bulge photos" that I used in our last newsletter. I thought you'd like to read Dick's comments, so here they are. Thank you Dick.*



Walt, the pictures you sent resemble our area entry into Thirimont to some extent. There were no jeeps. All ground pounding, The slopes were much steeper. Considerable overhead fire coming from a fire fight some yards to the front I never located the shooters. Visibility was probably 100-200 yards. In most cases the snow was about to my hips. This was a night attack and we had captured the first 3 or 4 houses in Thirimont before the Germans became

sufficiently awake to react. From then on it was all day and into the night before they were convinced to pull out.

A rifle sergeant came by and wanted us to help them take one of the houses. He assured us we could see the house as a target. In a sense he was right. We could see the upper parts of the house but the firing was coming from the ground. After a couple of mortar rounds dropped on us from their searching fire we were out of action and were good targets so we got the hell out of there. The Germans were using mostly small arms fire and were firing a little too high. They came close getting bullet holes in the legs of two machine guns. Considering one leg ran parallel to the spine and one leg ran across each shoulder when carried the gunners were mighty lucky. All in all in the nearly two days of fighting we had one man wounded in the nose...that bullet made a nice clean hole through his nose. Another million dollar wound. This action kept on for a couple of days I believe until we were ready to capture St.Vith. But higher headquarters ordered us to stop and let the 7th Armored Division capture St.Vith which we had virtually captured anyway.





## Commo From The 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team



*Editor's Note: The following is a short email from MAJ Morrison to all the OHA guys and the 30th ID veterans who read the Old Hickory Chronicle newsletter.*

The 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team has finished Christmas leave and passes and is in the process of moving to Camp Shelby, MS for two months of training followed by a mission rehearsal exercise at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, CA. As the Brigade S1 currently, I am in a unique position to see how the experience of the last deployment is really contributing to the overall readiness of OLD HICKORY. The soldiers have top notch, combat tested NCOs who are really giving our



soldiers the best preparation possible for this next challenging assignment. In April, the Brigade will hold a deployment ceremony at the Cumberland County Coliseum. During this ceremony the Brigade will receive its Iraq Campaign Streamers from the first deployment. The 30th will have three Campaign Stars earned during its last deployment. No doubt the unit will earn at least one more prior to coming home sometime in 2010. My best to all of you in the New Year and look for pictures from our training very soon! MAJ Wes Morrison

LTC Wilkins response to Hank Stairs' and the OHA's Request to attend their Deployment Ceremony has been very enthusiastic! He thinks it's an outstanding idea for the OHA and the WWII gents to attend because there is a genuine need for their attendance from a historical and protocol perspective. LTC Wilkins says their Brigade Commander, COL Lusk, definitely wants the WWII IDA veterans and OHA guys to participate and to attend the deployment ceremony as much as possible. This is our chance to show our Brigade brothers that we're behind them 100% so get off your butts, email me now and sign up to be part of the ceremony. Capt Hinton needs names ... the protocols are being decided and we'll be working with Capt Hinton to determine just how and what we'll be doing at the ceremony. The next step is yours...will you be there?

## **THE 30<sup>TH</sup> BRIGADE'S DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY IS 14 APR 09 AT THE FAYETTEVILLE COLISEUM IN FAYETTEVILLE, NC...BE THERE!**

Yes, the OHA Board knows times are tough, we know most of you work and given today's economic troubles we all need to keep our jobs. That said, however, the oHA Board believes it's very important to join Hank Stairs, Tommy Oglesby, Ed Middleton and all the other WWII veterans who will be attending the deployment ceremony to show support for our Brigade brothers for what they're about to do. I've been sending e-mailing information about this event, asked for suggestions about how we might contribute and gotten some good ideas. I'll be sharing all of it with Capt. Hinton who's working with me to finalize details. So, if it's in your power to be there, then sign up now guys, cuz time is runnin' out!



# OHA Unit News

## Guys: It's Time to Sign Up for the 30<sup>th</sup> IDV of WWII Reunion In Charleston, SC March 26 - 29, 2009

It's time to sign up for the Annual Reunion of the 30th Infantry Division Veterans of WWII which will be held on **26 - 29 March 2009**, in Charleston, SC, at the Ramada Inn Charleston. Guys, let's make a real effort to join your WWII 30th veterans as well as their friends and family. Reserve your room before Feb 26 and the room rates will be \$79.00 per room which includes a **Free Hot Buffet Breakfast** for two. **Here is a breakdown of the meal costs: Thursday Reception 6:00 PM \$20.00, Friday Lunch \$20.00, Friday Dinner 6:00 PM \$25.00, Saturday Lunch \$20.00, Saturday Banquet 7:00 PM \$35.00.** Frank Towers and the vets are looking forward to seeing as many of you as will be able to come. So, make your Hotel Reservations now! *Call: 1-843-572-2200, make sure you mention that you are part of the 30th Infantry Division Veterans of WWII reunion group to get the special rate.* Guys, it's time to step up to the plate and do our part...let's answer the call for our veteran buddies just as they did 65 years ago...yah, times are tough but the vets deserve our support. So, stop your whining and let's plan to be in Charleston NOW!

## 2009 FIG Was Cold & Snowy But A Pretty Good Affair!



You can see from these pictures that we had some snow cover. You can also tell from the way we are dressed that it was cold. All in all, we had a pretty nice time of it.



# More GAP Photos





# The Doughboys Page



## “Go to Hell Caps”

Jay Callaham provides us with this article which is taken from: *The diary of Willard Newton of the 105th Engineers, 30th Division, American Expeditionary Force for May 1918 to February 1919.*

**July 5, 1918:** “The Company takes a long hike in the morning, taking the road that leads by the aviation field. In the afternoon we are issued overseas caps, but we still keep our hats. The caps we are issued are also known as “**go-to-hell caps**,” as they do not keep the rain and sun out of our faces. It is made so it can easily be carried in a blouse or breeches pocket when it is necessary for us to wear the steel helmets. After the caps have been issued we are told by the captain to wash our dirty clothes.”

WHAT THE MEN MUST WEAR  
By Richard Connell



We didn't realize what the phrase “horrors of war” really meant till we saw the overseas cap. Some of us thought it

was a joke. But, the “joke” was on us. So, it appears to have



been designed by a German plotter with a sardonic sense of humor. Perhaps one of the Simplicissimus artists did it.

No matter how handsome a man may be in a campaign hat, put him in one of these tricky bean protectors and he looks like:

- (a.) A low burlesque comedian or
- (b.) A Swiss yodeler or
- (c.) Frisco Red the Yegg or
- (d.) A Winter Garden chorus man.

These caps are “distinctly individual”, alright; no two are alike. Perhaps they were made in the dark. The only outfit with less uniform headgear is the Chinese labor battalion.

The one thing our chapeaux are good for is to absorb moisture. They can get wet quicker and stay wet longer than any object now known to science.

And snappy! Wet or dry they are almost as snappy in appearance as a mess tin full of three day old corned willy. The genius who evolved these caps was probably responsible for other parts of our uniforms. They represent an early period in his career of practical joking.

We have been in war nearly two years without discovering why all O.D. shirts are size 16; why all blouses are made for Jess Willard or Charlie Chaplin; why some blouses need a weekly shave, else their wearers will look like spaniels; why pants are so deliberately made that they can be worn out sleeping in them one night in a feather bed; Perhaps we will learn --- après la guerre!

*Article image lifted from the website of the 107th Infantry, 27th Division, originally published in the Christmas 1918 edition of the 27th Division's weekly "Gas Attack"*

# OLD HICKORY PIN UP

*Those March winds are sooooo cold.....*

## March

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				

## April

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		





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## **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](http://www.angelfire.com/nc/stug) or mail to:

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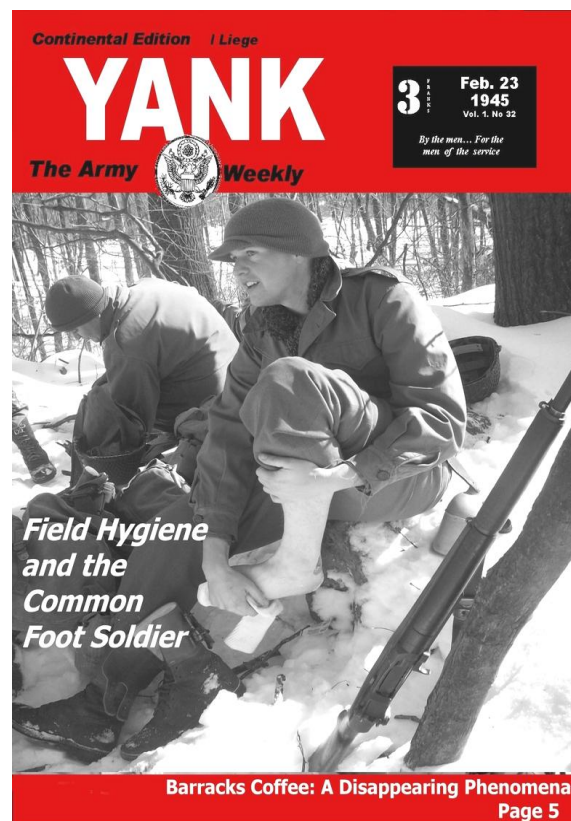
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Many thanks to **Ron Crawley** for creating this very fine cover highlighting one of Company K's most notorious squad leaders... the one and only SSGT.Charlie Noble!

## **Upcoming Events**

**March 21, 2009**

Camp Croft Discussion Event  
Spartanburg, SC

Contact: Ron Crawley

**March 26 – 29, 2009**

30th IDV of WWII Reunion  
Charleston, SC

Contact: Walt Sowinski

Contact: Neil Trivette

**April 14, 2009**

30th Brigade Deployment  
Ceremony -

Fayetteville, NC

Contact: Walt Sowinski

**April 17-19, 2009**

The "Spring Great War"

Event - Newville, PA

Contact: Jay Callahan

**April 25-26, 2009**

The "Armies Through Time"  
Timeline Event

Camden, SC

Contact: Jay Callahan

**May 23 – 24, 2009**

Kings Mountain Timeline

Contact: Katherine Lynn

Park Ranger

# Daughter of Holocaust Survivor Sends 30th IDAV of WWII A Thank You Note

Editor's note: Buster Simmons provided me with a copy of this letter sent to Frank Towers by the daughter of holocaust survivor Elisabeth Seaman. It is a very moving letter and reinforces how important these reunions are to many of the attendees. Frank Towers has intimated that there could be additional Holocaust survivors attending the 2009 reunion.

Dear Frank; I attended your 30th Infantry Division Veterans of WWII Reunion in Fayetteville in March, 2008, with my mother, Elisabeth Seaman. Last night, as we celebrated New Year's eve, my friends and I reviewed the events of the year. The 2008 reunion was one of the big ones for me and for Tom. I was moved by the friendliness and warmth of the veterans, and filled to the brim with the stories of all the survivors, both the soldiers and the holocaust victims.

It was great to be there with my mother when she experienced two big moments in her life: the first moment was when Peter Lantos confirmed that there were indeed wildflowers on that hill by the train ... at that moment my mother's memories changed from black and white to color! The second moment, was when you honored the holocaust survivors by making them honorary members of the 30th Infantry Division.

Before that night, such honors had no meaning for me ... I never understood why people gave them. But that night, after those two days - which were as full of fresh new life experiences as a week - your gift had huge meaning. To be united with one's liberators, for a person who had been humiliated to non-human status, to be considered one with one's life-savers...it brings tears to my eyes again. Although I am just the daughter of the survivor, I seem to share much of her emotion - and some I have not seen in her. Who knows how the heart works? A surprising benefit of the welcome and kindness I felt from so many of your people, was that I have felt more at ease, less shy and more confident of having a good time at subsequent social events this year. Eternally grateful, Peggy Wonder



## These WWII Posters Still Have Meaning Today!

