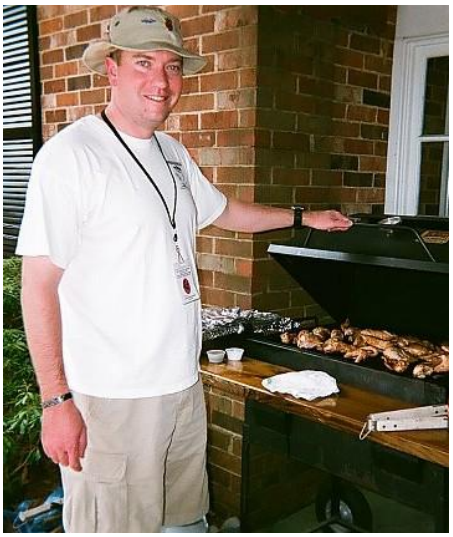
Old Hickory Chronicle
Old Hickory Newsletter
July / August 2010

The 30th Infantry Division Association's 2010 National Reunion Will Be Held in Raleigh, NC From 19–23 August, 2010 – So Be There!

Listen up gomer…This is the biggest and probably the last printed reminder you get to sign up for the 2010 30th IDA reunion. It promises to be a really much larger event than before because our Brigade pals are now back from Iraq and looking to have some bigtime fun like we had in 2007! We are hopeful that we'll be getting together with Frank Deegan, Maxey, Hank & Clara Stairs, George Small, the Kennedy's, Emma Potter, Inez, the Boyett's, the Sibley's, Grace Tyner and all the other pals, wives and sweethearts that make these reunions so enjoyable. We also have it good solid authority that the Brigade signed up a whole new bunch of IDA members while they were deployed in Iraq this last time, so we're looking to have a full house at the ole' Ramada Raleigh. The Brigade guys had a really great time schmoozing with their World War II buddies in past reunions …. who could forget the bar challenges or Lt. Hinton's (now Capt. Hinton) specific request for a bottle of Southern Comfort which we still have and plan to serve to him. Then there was Jimmie Nance, Jerry Jackson, Rick Jones, Norm Walls, Cliff Wilkins, Wes Morrison and the many other great guys who helped to make the reunion such a memorable party. So, gomer, don't even think about skipping out on this reunion … You can't afford to miss it!! Now, let's get it in gear and make your reservations to attend the 2010 30th IDA Reunion cuz it's gonna be the best you'll ever experience…Sign up for it right now!



No Excuses Bucko… Just Be There!

OHA UNIT NEWS

OHA Provides WWI & WWII Display at Kings Mountain

Member of the OHA/30th Division descended on the historic Kings Mountain Battlefield (actually, I guess that would be "ascended") despite foul weather ... again. Brian & Susan Illner, Ashley & Ann Parker, Jay Callaham, Ron, Hunter & Taylor Crawley, along with as friends Jim & Nancy Crocker, and Henry McMillan & family were in attendance. Several members of the Military History Club of the Carolinas (MHCC) were also portraying 20th century US military and brought two military vehicles and numerous displays. The NPS counted 2,476 spectators, fairly evenly split between Saturday and Sunday. The estimated number of reenactors from the various time periods was 87. As usual, impression from the French and Indian wars up to the Gulf War were present.

Highlights of the event included a rainy movie night hosted by the 82nd AB (seven of us huddled under the awning of the amphitheater consuming popcorn and beer to watch "1941"), excellent clothing/equipment/weapons displays by the Illners, Hunter Crawley and Jeff Bonemeyer's War Dog presentations at the visitors center, and the always delicious Saturday evening meal hosted by the Kings Mountain volunteers. This year the presentations were divided by era, Colonial-WBTS, SpanAm-WWII, and Korea-Present. This kept all the demos to about 45 minutes, making sure there was always something going on for the spectators. The new format seemed to work well. Prospective member Henry McMillan of Campobello, SC also joined us for the event. Once again, the "Loudest Small Arms" award goes to Mark (SpanAm) with that dammed noisy Krag-Jorgenson of his. Robbie Gouge (Vietnam) grabbed the coveted "Best First Person" honors for the second straight year. More of us should strive for realism of Robbie's story based on his father's war time experiences ... very real and very emotional. Fewer of us should try to sound like that Krag! Consider the event next year, it was once again a great experience. Article submitted by Ron Crawley

Guys ... It's Time To Pay Your 2011 OHA Dues.

Jim Higgins is just panting to get you guys to mail in your dues. At last count, we've only had 24 guys pony up the cash to be counted as full paying members. Now let's get with it men because you know we really need your cash to keep this OHA boat afloat. So, just as a reminder, Regular renewal membership is $20.00, Associate membership is $30.00. If you are unsure which category you fall into, just give ole' Jimbo a call at 919-556-1014 and he'll make up some story which will cost you more than you should be paying.

OHA Annual Meeting & Board of Director Election Results

The annual business meeting was held at the "Price of Freedom" event which was held in China Grove on June 4 -5, 2010 and was attended by Ron Crawley, Don Shupe, Neil Trivette, Walt Sowinski, Jay Callaham and Brian Illner. On Sunday, Neil Trivette held an additional annual business meeting at the grandstands located in the center of the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh for those guys who didn't get the word about the change of venue. The Newsletter editor apologizes to those members for not publishing the change of venue but will fall on the excuse that he was "deployed overseas" and not in easy communication with the membership. The results of the election for the Board of Directors are in and are as follows. Staying in their current positions on the Board for the next two years are Neil Trivette as President, Walt Sowinski as Vice President, Jay Callaham as Sergeant of Arms and joining the Board again is Clint Yarbrough as a Member at Large and for the first time as a Board member, Brian Illner will be serving as our Secretary. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the members who took the time to participate in this election. We had a very low response from the membership but we're hoping that will change. Jim Higgins declined to serve on the Board but has agreed to continue as our Treasurer which we thank him for. So, the OHA is set for another two years and we're looking forward to generating greater member participation than we've had in the past months.

The OHA Continues To Honor WWII Triad Honor Flight Veterans

Jay Callaham, Neil Trivette, Pat Grogan, Ken Hyatt and Walt Sowinski have continued to be present at the Triad Honor Flights to honor and cheer on the WWII veterans as they fly off to Washington D.C.. For those who have not yet attended this event, here's the schedule of what goes on: On departure day, we arrive at PTI by 0630 - the Vets will already be coming in. We have been showing up as U.S. Army MPs. There are Navy and Marine vets as well, so if some of the USS NC volunteers want to come out as Squid Shore Patrol, that would be most welcome. Our main job is to assist the Vets to help them out of their cars and into the terminal. It's been proven that his is the BEST time to have good interface and chat with them. They're up for the day and most are pretty chatty about their time in service. We're usually finished by 0815 or so as that's when they'll be boarding the plane. For the return of the flight, we arrive at PTI by 1830. For this gathering, everyone needs to dress alike - wools with '41 jacket, overseas cap with 120th pin, tie, garrison belt with 1st aid kit, EMPTY holster for a .45 and EMPTY mags in mag pouch. At this time, we're executing a full color guard and all others function as an honor guard. The departure ceremony is usually over by about 2100 or so, but we generally hang around, chat with some of the vets and let the traffic die down. The sponsoring Rotary Club really appreciates what we bring to the "party" but those of us who've participated consider it a great honor to be invited ...maybe more members will give it a go next year\

The OHA Loses Another Cherished Friend

Edward F. "Buddy" Hicks of Independence, Kentucky, 85, died March 20, 2010 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Ed had been a locomotive engineer for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad for over 30 years. He served in WWII with the 30th Infantry Division, 30th Signal Company in the European Theater as a radio repairman. He received the EAME Theater Ribbon with 5 Bronze Stars. He enjoyed gardening and travel, especially to his 30th Infantry Division Association military reunions where he had recently served as the Association's President. Ed was always easy to talk with and always made you feel special. There is no doubt that Ed will be sorely missed by all of his 30th IDA buddies as well as all of us in the OHA. Ed is survived by his wife, Doretta (Kohrs) Hicks of Independence, son Phillip Hicks of Erlanger; daughters Sallie Heitsman of Anderson Township, Ohio; Kathy Waters of Taylor Mill; Julie Stacks of Bellevue; Debbie Lynn of Erlanger; Sandi Scott of Severna Park, MD as well as their spouses. Ed is also survived by his sister Alma Hicks Drews of Latonia; ten grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and one great great-grandchild.

Latta Plantation "D+30" Event, Huntersville, NC 15 May 2010

The "D-Day Plus 30" event was a great success and will not doubt see a repeat in 2011. Hopefully the OHA can be better represented in the future as this proved to be a good event for spectators, reenactors and for recruiting! The Historic Latta Plantation site is part of the very large Latta Plantation Nature Center and Nature Preserve. Ron Crawley and daughter Hunter Crawley arrived pretty late on Friday evening but the registration area was still open and we were welcomed and given good directions to the camp area. After unloading and setting up dog tents, we enjoyed a couple of movies, projected on the wall of the summer kitchen. Unlike the Kings Mountain movie experience, there was very little commentary this time, which is at least half of the fun with that bunch. A brief rain ran everyone to their respective shelter, Hunter and I to our tents, and the others took up residence in the many outbuildings.

The next morning, I awoke to a #$%@ rooster at about 0500 who continued to crow about every 5 minutes for the next 4 hours! The 504P.I.R./82nd Airborne Division, our host unit for the event, had set up their field kitchen and were serving about 30-40 reenactors at a nominal price. After breakfast, I got Hunter introduced to the medical officer and chaplain where she joined the field hospital as a nurse. After a safety inspection, much of the morning was spent leading patrols with civilian "observers" accompanying us. This was a great idea that could use some refinement, but still went pretty well. We held several fox hole positions (pre-dug, thank God!) while patrols would foray into the woods where Germans were entrenched. The observers learned our hand signals, squad formation, and how to gather intelligence. After a brief firefight we retired back to our position and debriefed. In the meantime, various groups conducted uniform, equipment, and weapons presentations so there was always something going on for the guests. Just after noon we were withdrawn back to the "rear forward area" for lunch. Chicken was served and I hope part of it was that "#$%@ rooster".

By about 1400 it was time to for the battle and our French Resistance friends led us towards the farm house. As a member of the the lead squad, I was destined to fire the first allied shots of the engagement when another squad member, on cue, took a round in the leg from a German sniper. As usual, I didn't see a darned thing but fired for effect anyway! Dragging him to safety (for a distance that seemed a mile away), we were out of action for a period during which the Germans took over the house and buildings. We made a counterattack that, after considerable resistance, sent the Germans in retreat. I was surprised to see Hunter out on the field. Her medical officer called to her to assist another medic as they treated both Allied and Axis wounded. Needless to say, she probably had more fun than any of us. Her first comments were "It is confusing out there" and "You all sure cuss a lot." After the battle, I was pleased to see Ashley, Ann and their son Jay who came to see the battle. Ann complimented us on the battle by saying it was far better than the spectator battles at FIG. Our numbers were small (my guess would be about 80 on both sides), but the size of the battle area around the house made us look larger. We also had a Jeep, a Kubelwagen and a German half-track participating in the action, and all were crowd pleasers.

We had to be back home on Sunday so I missed the following day, but if the weather held, I am sure it was equally successful. Since the Charlotte area is between our South Carolina contingent and the Greensboro folks (and not too far from Raleigh), we should consider this as a regular event. The 82nd guys are a great group of people and readily admit they need more straight leg infantry in their scenarios. They would like to establish a relationship with us and, in fact, even sent me a couple of guys who were asking about getting into WWII Infantry reenacting. The future of the hobby, and our unit, is in recruiting and this would be a good place for us to restart those efforts! ***Article submitted by RON CRAWLEY***

Price of Freedom Museum Event Is A Big Success

The weather was very hot and sunny but that did'nt stop the crowds from showing up for this event. The event organizers had displays of military memorabilia from many periods, including several restored Jeeps, an armored car, a weapons carrier, a search light rig and a U.S. Marine Corps bus. All of these items were spread out on the grounds behind the school house in a flat grassy field. The CMVPA had a good number of their members showing off their military vehicles but the members of The Old Hickory Association were just as noticeable among the all the other people displaying war equipment, uniforms and various other memorabilia. The OHA's mission which is to preserve, restore and display military memorabilia from the World War II era to ensure that the sacrifices made by WWII veterans are not forgotten was well received. Members attending were Neil Trivette, Walt Sowinski, Jay Callaham, Don Shupe (who nearly collapsed from heat stroke because he single handedly set up 98% of the OHA display) Brian Illner and Ron Crawley. There is a well deserved bright side to Don's participation because the Event staff arrived to present Don with a **"Best in Class"** trophy for the 2 ¼ ton weapons carrier vehicle category.

Jay Callaham of Greensboro, who served in the National Guard in the 1970's set up his display inside the schoolhouse and provided an extensive WWI military memorabilia collection for the folks to view. The rarest item, he said, is an emergency ration tin from World War I, still containing the rations including beef bouillon and cocoa beverage powder. Callaham said he has purchased the items in his collection at yard sales, auctions and on eBay. The newest item he displayed is Jay's beloved "Lewis Machinegun" which he purchased earlier this year. Other items in his collection included a mustard grenade, soldiers' diaries, an English-French / French-English dictionary and New Testaments carried by the soldiers in the trenches. One New Testament had a metal cover reading "May This Keep You Safe From Harm."

The "Price of Freedom's" massive collection of military memorabilia began when Dan Ritchie of China Grove gave Mault his Civil Air Patrol manual, log book and other equipment to display at the Texaco station he has run on N.C. 152 for years. After that, he said other veterans started bringing in their uniforms, equipment and memorabilia for him to display. On Saturday morning, the event organizers had a flag ceremony which was extremely well attended by the local area towns folk. Once that was over, many of those people couldn't resist walking down to the vehicle and memorabilia displays. The CMVPA has decided to be a regular participant at this event and the OHA is pretty well in agreement to do the same. This is only the third year that Mault has staged the event and we hope he continues his efforts to make it one of the premier events in the area. He enjoys seeing all the people who come to visit his museum. An artist rendering displayed at the entrance shows his plans for the school building, including separate rooms for each branch of the military and an auditorium for films and presentations. He hopes that teachers will bring school groups to tour the Price of Freedom Museum and that veterans will use it as a gathering place.

SGT. Buster M. Simmons - 120th Infantry Regiment
30th Infantry Division

What follows is Buster's attempt to clarify a WWII experience he had that a friend had emailed him about. It is a very poignant story of brothers meeting amidst the chaos of World War II

Hi Steve: I have not attempted to put much in writing about my personal experiences during WW II. However, as a personal favor to you, I shall attempt one now. I suppose the one experience Tim Davis was talking about was when I got to see him in December 1944, just before the Battle of the Bulge started. The 30th Division was on the line several miles northeast of Aachen, Germany and near Wurselen and Altdorf. Our Regimental Aid Station was set up with the Regimental Headquarters about two miles from where our Cannon Company was located. Just before it got dark on or about Dec.10-12, my CO, Major William E. Knaus, received a phone call from Capt. Krueger, CO of Cannon Company to send me up to his CP on some pretense or the other. He had a surprise for me. So, the driver of the Major's jeep, Loy T. Heavner who was as close to the front line as he wanted to be, reluctantly said ,"Let's go."

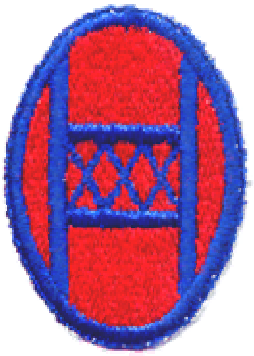
We drove up to the building that was the Cannon Company CP and as it was late in the evening, the sentry halted us and said, "Halt, who goes there?" That's as it should be. I replied, "Sgt. Simmons", to which the sentry responded, "Oh, Sgt. Simmons, NOT the way it should be, but he escorted me to the basement of the house that was Capt. Krueger's CP. Here, as I entered, I saw Capt. Krueger and all his officers seated around a table enjoying their evening meal as though they were at the Officer's Club back in garrison stateside. There were about 7 or 8 of them. I started at the head of the table and saluted Capt. Krueger and then went around the table and saluted all the others, calling them by name. Then, I got to the last two (who I didn't know) and I saluted and said "Good evening, sir " but, when the last one turned around so I could see him, I said, "Good eve...., Bill what the hell are you doing here?" It was my brother and we had just engaged in an action that was easily a one-in-a-million shot!!!!!!!!!!

As it was now dark and my jeep driver was having a conniption fit to get out of there (much too close to the front for him), I asked my brother if he could drive in blackout. "Some" he had said. So, I told his buddy, another First Lt., to get in with Heavner and I'd ride with Bill in his jeep. So far so good. Well, Heavner, who can drive like a maniac in blackout, took off. He got down the road about two blocks and made a right hand turn. My brother lost sight of Heavner's cat eyes and when Heavner made the right turn, he took off like a rocket!! It was then my brother told me he had very limited blackout driving experience, and he had ZERO experience in our situation. He started blowing the horn at the right turn and that landed us in a ditch. Fortunately, Heavner heard the horn and had stopped. I said "Bill, blowing that horn could get us killed up here" so he was delighted to let me drive. Well, we finally made it back to our CP without further incident. Once there, I made all the introductions all around and Bill came bearing a gift of a case cognac from Brussels. We spent that one night together and the next day he was gone. I told our guys that we would share that cognac, one bottle at the time and I would stash one bottle for a Christmas drink all around.

Now that I have said all that, the question arises, what the heck was he doing there in the first place? He was a First Lt., U.S. Army Air Corps flying a C-47 in the 313th Troop Carrier Command and his primary job was to tow GLIDERS with paratroops or supplies to be dropped to our men. He had participated in Operation Market Garden near the towns of Arhnem and Nijmegan north of our location. This action was documented in the book A BRIDGE TOO FAR. He told me that he had flown three separate missions on that "doomed from the beginning" operation as the point plane, one time with a Brigadier General as his co-pilot. That was in September. It was December when I saw him. He was back in Holland to salvage gliders, if they could hold together back to England, for use in future needs of the Airborne Divisions.

When that mission was concluded his group went to Brussels for some R&R and that's where he was when he talked his CO into letting him come to the front to find me. His CO told him that he was nuts to think that he could find me up there where there was a million men. He finally prevailed on him until his CO cut him some orders for he and the other Lt. to get here, authorized him a jeep and gave him authority to gas the jeep up where ever he could talk somebody into supplying it for him. As he got closer, he said he saw trucks that were 30th Div vehicles and he just kept going forward. He was finally stopped by a sentry whose job was to stop ALL vehicles that approached him. When he did, he was in Cannon Company, 120th Infantry area. Had he gotten by that sentry, he would have been in NO MANS land. He convinced the sentry that at he was legitimate because we at that time had been harassed by Germans coming thru our lines in American Uniforms and sporting ID cards. The sentry took him back to his Company CP and there Captain Krueger believed him also. He knew me because we were attached to Cannon Company for meals and I had to keep him abreast of the number of men who ate with him. That was so he could get our ration allowance. He saw an opportunity to have a grand reunion of two guys at the front and set the deal up with my CO. I can never thank them enough.

Shortly after the Battle of the Bulge started, Bill went back to his flying job. He was shot down March 24, 1945. It was the same day as we crossed the Rhine River. So, I guess that's the story that Tim was talking about when he sent me that e-mail. When one stops to think about it ... what were the odds of that happening? I am forever indebted to Captain Krueger and Major William E. Knaus for arranging what turned out to be a final meeting between Bill and me.



HEY ALL YOU BRAVE, HANDSOME OHA MEMBERS...ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION? YOU KNOW THAT ALL OF YOUR FAVORITE WWII VETERANS ARE GONNA BE THERE ...AND THEY'LL BE A WHOLE NEW BUNCH OF YOUR 30TH BRIGADE PALS ALSO PLANNING ON SHOWING UP!

ALL OF THE RESERVATION INFO HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE FILES SECTION IN THE "EVENTS" FOLDER OF THE OHA YAHOO SITE.

SO, WHAT'S IT GONNA BE GOMER ... YOU COMING OR NOT?

REUNION DATES:
18 - 22 AUGUST 2010
RAMADA – RALEIGH
1520 BLUE RIDGE RD.
RALEIGH, NC 27607
PHONE: 919-832-4100
RESEVATION LINE:
800-441-4709
WEBSITE:
BLUERIDGE.PMCPROPERTIES.COM

Old Hickory Pin Up

July

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

August

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				

Board of Directors

President
Neil Trivette
336-367-3670
ntrivette@triad.rr.com
Vice-President
Walt Sowinski
336-379-8007
wsowinski@triad.rr.com
Secretary
Brian Illner
864-486-9620
brianliiner@hughes.net
Sgt. Of Arms
Jay Callaham
336-854-2008
callaham@bellsouth.net
Director at Large
Clint Yarbrough
42wc21@triad.rr.com

Treasurer:
Jim Higgins
Reenactments / Recruiting
Clint Yarbrough / Charlie Noble
Marksmanship:
Jim Higgins
Drill & Ceremony:
Mark Burfete

Mailing Address:
The Old Hickory Association
P.O. Box 1079
Wake Forest, NC 27588-1079

OHA Website:
We will be posting a new e-link in the near future

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 you can 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 – www.wwiiimpressions.com/contact.htm

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**

URGENT NOTICE

It has been reported that our OHA website has been compromised and has a nasty virus embedded. We suggest you NOT go to or try to use the current site since you may experience damage to your computer. We are working on correcting the situation and we will be posting new information as soon as it becomes available. This is NOT a joke ... it is real information which you should take to heart. That is all, carry on.

Upcoming Events

July 5, 2010
4th of July Parade
Faith, NC
Contact: Don Shupe

August, 19-23, 2010
30th IDA National Reunion
Location: Ramada-Raleigh
Raleigh, NC
Contact: Walt Sowinski
Contact: Neil Trivette

September 17-18, 2010
Allison Woods Living History
Timeline Event
Statesville, NC
Contact: TBD

November 5-7, 2010
Great War Spring Offensive
Newville, PA
Contact: Jay Callaham