

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



“OLD HICKORY NEWS”



“30TH WAS THE OUTSTANDING INFANTRY DIVISION OF THE ETO.”
SLA MARSHALL, 1946

APRIL 2014

30th IDA President’s Message

This issue will focus on our upcoming Reunion to be held in Raleigh, NC 23-27 July 2014. I cannot wait to see everyone again. This year’s reunion is really special because of the year, 2014. It is not only the 70th anniversary since Old Hickory landed in Normandy, France but also the 10th anniversary of Old Hickory entering Iraq. What I remember about my experiences in Iraq is how almost everything we did was 60 years apart from our World War II brethren. When my Company trained at Camp Blanding, FL for two weeks in late 2003 for our deployment, I reminded my soldiers, that their forbearers had been in the same place some 60 years earlier, training for combat. It is amazing how we have those ties that bind us together by a single patch and unit. Please join us this year for the reunion. I really want to encourage our Iraq veterans to come out this year and see each other, talk about old times and make new friendships with a World War II Veteran or their families. I can honestly tell you that my friendships and conversations with our 30th World War II Veterans are one of the best reasons to attend these reunions; we just need more Iraq veterans to get the same wonderful experience. You will be amazed at how much you have in common with someone who served in your “outfit” almost 60 years apart. It is a bond that never dies. OLD HICKORY!

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We look forward to seeing you at the Ramada Inn Blue Ridge, Raleigh North Carolina

"Nonsense. S-2 reported that machine gun silenced hours ago. Stop wiggling your fingers at me."

Key Dates in Old Hickory's Rich History:

February 12, 1944 The 30th Infantry Division departed their Port of Embarkation of Boston for Europe aboard the SS Argentina, SS Brazil & SS John Ericsson.

February 22, 1944 The 30th Division arrives in Great Britain with the 120th Infantry Regiment at Glasgow, Scotland, and the 117th and 119th Infantry Regiments at Liverpool England. Upon disembarkation, the Division soon proceeds by train to the south coast of England.

February - June 6, 1944 The Division conducts an intensive training period in England.

June 8-15, 1944 The 30th Division crossed the English Channel to

June 15, 1944 30th Division went into combat south of Isigny, relieving elements of the 101st A. B. Division and the 29th Infantry Division.

February 23, 2004 The 30th Heavy Separate Brigade (Armor) began deploying to Kuwait for Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

March 12, 2004 The Brigade made the long road march from Kuwait to Area of Operations Hickory along the Iraq / Iranian border and suffered its first combat casualty since WWII.

June 6, 2004 On the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, the Old Hickory combat patch is awarded to Brigade Soldiers deployed to Iraq.

April 5, 2009 The 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team (Armor) Torch Party departs Pope Airfield, North Carolina for Kuwait to begin the Brigade's second and final deployment to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-10.

May 30, 2009 The 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team (Armor) Baghdad assumes control of Operational Environment Hickory in Baghdad for its last tour in Iraq.

The Old Hickory Award

Each year a 30th Infantry Division Association member who has made contributions that benefit the association is selected to receive the Old Hickory Award. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, send a short note, email or make a telephone call to Hank Stairs. Hank needs all nominations **BEFORE JUNE 25** in order to provide time to have the final name selected and to have the plaque completed in time for the reunion.

Hank Stairs, 73 Potomac Dr, Basking Ridge NJ 07920 or email: hstairs30@gmail.com or phone: (908) 350-3597.

Traveling with Dad

After completing the Infantry Officers Basic Course, I was assigned to the 1st Armored Division in Germany, and had the opportunity to travel with my father, Alexander Korolevich.

Dad served as a PFC in Company D, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division. He was assigned to a Browning-30 caliber water Cooled Machine Gun crew and was often attached to B Company, 1st BN, 120th Infantry Regiment.

We first toured the beaches and then moved on to Mortain where Dad remembered going through the town and having a skirmish with the Germans. The Germans pulled back and my dad and his MG crew moved forward. We found the grassy pasture where my dad said they all collapsed from running (especially those carrying the water cooled MG).

As we continued down the road, he told me to stop and showed me a dirt trail running beside a little stone shed and some trees. He said some of his buddies and he got strafed by the "American Luftwaffe" on the dirt trail. The plane started firing so they drove through into the trees. Fortunately, no one got hurt and pilot either identified them as American soldiers or he ran out of ammunition.

A bit further down the road he told me to stop again and back up. we got out of the car and my dad said he ran from the hedgerow where I was parked across the road to the hedgerow on the other side. We walked down the hedgerow a little bit and my dad said they got in a firefight near where we were standing. As the shooting began, everyone hit the dirt and my dad said that he kept seeing the leaves move on the ground near his face. Since he was pinned down, he pushed some of the leaves aside to see what was moving and again saw the leaves jump. It didn't take him long to realize that a sniper was shooting at him, so he decided to move just a bullets hit the spot where he was laying.

Later that day, during the war, my dad was hit in the back by a bullet or shrapnel that had went through his pack. He was sent to the aid station where the medics put some salve and a bandage on the wound. Dad said that an officer came into the aid station, looked at him and a few others and said "you're still warm, get back to your units". It seems the German counterattack at Mortain was heating up.

We resumed our trip through France and got to Belgium. In Maastricht we went to a nice restaurant but were having a hard time figuring out the menu. The head waiter saw my dad's 30th Division pin on his jacket. The whole staff then came out and with their broken English and my broken German got it across that my dad was here in WWII. The waiter, chef and owner were children during the war. We ended up with a meal fit for a king and they refused payment.

The next stop on our trip was Malmedy; we looked for the places pictured in our 120th Infantry Regimental history book, and also visited the spot where the Malmedy Massacre occurred. My father told me that he had gone by the place a few times during the war, but didn't see the bodies of the GIs because they covered with snow. After the bodies were discovered, they were initially moved to a shed by the railroad tracks that were behind the house Dad and his squad was billeted.

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Above: Malmedy Massacre / Below: Malmedy Massacre Memorial



was sent to the rear for 3 days to get patched up. When he returned from the latrine, he found a Purple Heart medal on his cot; Not much of an award ceremony.

Compiled from material submitted by Mike Korolevich.

After departing Malmedy, we headed towards the Siegfried Line, Kerkrade and Germany. In Kerkrade my dad said he stayed in the basement of a shop near a place called 5 corners. He said that he and some other guys found a pig. They killed it and cooked it hair and all.

Leaving Kerkrade, We drove through the Siegfried Line, where Dad pointed out a stone barn on the west side of the Siegfried line that his unit had their Command Post. He then showed me where his MG crew had sat up on the east side of the dragons teeth. While at the Siegfried Line, he said that he and some of his squad were sent back to the rear for a shower and change of clothes. While returning to the MG position the next day, the German's opened fire on them, and as they jumped for cover, one of his buddies landed in a pile of cow dung. He said that everyone started laughing and must have looked crazy to anyone seeing them laugh while they were taking MG fire. Fortunately, no one was hit and they made it back to their position.

In Germany it was harder for find recognizable places as so much damage had occurred and the rebuilt areas did not match the maps or Dad's memories. He was slightly wounded in his ankle by shrapnel while in Germany during the war. He

Congratulations to the following:

- Bernie Williford selected to become the commander of the 113th Sustainment Brigade

Editor's Note: All widows please contact the editor and or Membership Chair if you wish to keep receiving your copy of "OLD HICKORY NEWS".

Also, a special Thank You to Marlene Winson for her work on the CO B, 120th Newsletter!!!!

Carrying on the Tradition of Old Hickory

John Setera joined the North Carolina Army National Guard in May 1994 and was assigned to Company C, 1/120th Infantry Battalion, 30th Enhanced Brigade (IN). Over the years, John has served in Old Hickory Units to include Company C, 1/119th Infantry Battalion, Company B, 1/120th Combined Arms Battalion, and Company B, 1/252 Combined Arms Battalion as a full time Readiness NCO. Additionally, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 as a Squad Leader / Platoon Sergeant, and for Operation Iraqi freedom 09-10 as a Platoon Sergeant.

Following in his father's footsteps, John Setera recently joined the Army National Guard and is assigned to Company B, 1/120th Combined Arms Battalion in Nashville, North Carolina the same armory that his father was assigned for 17 years.



SFC John Setera and his son, PFC John Setera at Fort Benning, GA upon PFC John Setera's graduation from the U.S. Army Infantry School.

THE AUXILIARY OF THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Dear Auxiliary Friends,

I trust that all is well. It is hard to believe that we're just three and a half months away from our next reunion. I really look forward to seeing you in Raleigh on July 23 – 27.

The tea was a huge hit last year and we plan to host another this year. Please let me know if you would like to assist with this year's preparation. Additionally, I want to make the reunion more exciting and enjoyable for everyone, so I want to hear your ideas on other activities that everyone can take part in.

Also, for the Auxiliary to continue, it is very important that it maintains its ties to our WWII era members (spouses, widows, and children) as well as to embrace the families and friends of our Iraqi and Enduring Freedom Veterans.

I ask each of you to begin thinking of nominations for our future officers. Remember, all members in good standing, and who routinely attend the business sessions during the annual reunion are eligible to hold office. Also, in addition to nominating members as future officers, I would like each of you to provide recommendations on which veterans organizations we should consider making future donations. I can be contacted at our email (30thida.auxiliary@gmail.com)

On another note, please keep our dear friend Michelle Hyatt in your thoughts and prayers and wish her a speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing her in July.

See you soon, Katy

Reminder to Send in Your Dues: Annual: \$10.00 / Life Time: \$75.00

Hickory tree and plaque commemorates Old Hickory Soldiers

On March 23, a hickory tree and plaque commemorating the combat service of the 30th Infantry Division and the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team were unveiled at along the Freedom trail adjacent to Freedom Memorial Park in Fayetteville, North Carolina.



Cliff Wilkins and Wes Morrison, present an M1 Garand to Edward Middleton 1st LT (Retired) during the hickory tree memorial ceremony near Freedom Memorial Park

The 30th Infantry Division earned the nickname "Old Hickory" in honor of the Indian fighter and hero of the Battle of New Orleans, General (later President) Andrew Jackson. In the years following WWII, the 30th Infantry Division Association (IDA) began to plant hickory trees and install plaques in the host cities of its annual reunion or on veteran’s trips to Europe in order to honor the legacy of the Division.

The 30th IDA held a reunion in Fayetteville in the early 1990s, but did not plant a hickory tree. Thus, WWII Veteran Edward Middleton of Fayetteville, who served in the 730th Light Ordnance Company, 30th Infantry Division as the division armament officer in 1944 to 1945 worked with city leaders and the 30th IDA to bring one to the city.

Prior to the unveiling of the plaque, Edward Middleton was honored with a special gift - a framed M1 Garand, which was the main battle rifle of the Army during World War II.

Material for article and Photo by Amanda Dolasinski

30th Infantry Division Association TAPS: A Tribute to those comrades who have gone on before. “OLD HICKORY FOREVER!”

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Bruce Adkinson | CO C, 743nd Tank Battalion, WWII |
| James “Jim” Burleigh | 117th Infantry, WWII (POW) |
| Stanley Hoffman | CO B, 120 th Infantry, WWII |
| Steven Hunt | CO A, 105th Engineers, OIF |
| Rocco D. Marzilli | 30th Quarter Master Company, WWII |
| Maland Nowland | 30 RECON, WWII |
| Kenneth Parker | CO B, 120 th Infantry, WWII |

Note: it is the 30th IDA’s goal to recognize all of our veterans; thus if your veteran has departed this earth and he / she wasn’t honored in TAPS, please send the editor the information.

30th Infantry Division Association 2014 Reunion Registration Form

Raleigh, North Carolina, 23-27 July 2014

Cost	Cost per person	Number Attending	Total
Registration Fee	\$35.00	_____	\$_____
Wednesday 23 JUL 2014			
Reception Dinner	\$20.00	_____	\$_____
Thursday 24 JUL 2014			
Dinner	\$24.00	_____	\$_____
*Choices Pork Chops, Grilled Chicken Breast, or Vegetarian			
Friday 25 JUL 2014			
Lunch	\$19.00	_____	\$_____
*Light Lunch Buffett			
Dinner	\$22.00	_____	\$_____
*NC Style Pig Pickin'			
Saturday 26 JUL 2014			
Dinner	\$25.00	_____	\$_____
*Choices are Roast Beef, Grilled Chicken, or Vegetarian			
If attending all events the cost is \$145 per person			\$_____

Breakfast Buffet is included with your Room each Morning

Please return to Melissa Culbreth by 1 JULY 2014

Mail To:

Melissa Cullbreth
119 East Winston Street
Youngsville, NC 27596

For Room Reservations Contact Ramada Inn Directly (Room Rate: \$62.00 per night plus tax)

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

OLD Hickory News
CS Jones, Editor
5504 Forest Pine Drive
McLeansville, NC 27301
30thida@gmail.com



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

30INFDIVASSN.ORG

Application for Membership And Payment of Annual Dues

Mail To: **Charlie Britt**
7300 Turtleneck CT
Raleigh, NC 27616
Email: 30thida@gmail.com

Date _____

- I am inclosing Membership/Annual Dues of \$15.00 please indicate which year.
- I am inclosing Associate Membership Dues of \$20.00
- I am including \$125 for a Life Membership_____.

I am also enclosing a donation of \$_____ to the General Fund to help subsidize the printing and postage for our less fortunate members.

I am also enclosing a donation of \$_____ to the Memorial Fund to help promote the legacy of the 30th Division.

Please send my 30th Division News to:

(Print Legible)

Name: _____

Spouse's Name _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ + _____

Wartime Unit _____ Phone _____

Email _____.