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www.big-red-one.org

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The Big Red One Living History Organization, Inc. is a Non-profit, Educational unit. Dedicated to preserving history, and providing educational events for the public.

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Battle of the Bulge 2010 Event Big Hit

Fort Indiantown Gap, Penna.

After Action Report tells it all, well almost all.

I want to thank our members that attended the Battle of the Bulge event at Indiantown Gap. The event this year was the best that it has been in quite some time. Many of those in attendance have said that it was the best ever of the Bulge events put on by the Federation.

Big Red One Attendees:

T/3 Markey, Robin

Sgt Genowitz, Mark

Sgt Travis, Robert

T/4 Kern, Charles

Cpl Aulenbach, John

Cpl Kowalkowski, Steve

Pfc Jeffers, William

Pvt Bard, Travis

Pvt Barton, Robert

Pvt Brown, Michael

Pvt Budnick, John

Pvt Bush, Gary

Pvt Bush, Jacob

Pvt Dolhanczyk, Jeff

Pvt Hain-Matson, Jeff

Pvt Kirby, Russell

Pvt Kirby, Scott

Pvt Knaper, Thomas

Pvt Lehrmann, Matt

Pvt Matuszek, Walter

Pvt Stratton, William

Pvt Wagner, John

Pvt Zappone, Andrew

Hipple, Roger, (CWC)

Army Nurses Corps

2nd Lt Hipple, Linda

2nd Lt Lare, Nancy

2nd Lt McGinnis,

Laura

2nd Lt Updegraff,

Lorraine

Re-enactors Appreciation Weekend in Gettysburg
March 5,6,7, 2010

Point person will be 2nd Lt Nancy Lare.

Big Red One Vehicles:

M3-A1 Half-track (Hain-Matson)

WC-52, weapons carrier, 3/4-ton Truck (Kern)

Motorcycle w/sidecar (Markey)

MB, 1/4-ton truck (Dolhanczyk)

Harrisburg Militaria Show

March 20-21, 2010
Point person is T/4 Charlie Kern.

Fort Mifflin Event
April 23,24,25, 2010

Point person will be 2nd Lt Bob Travis, aka Lt. Zipper.



Registration Issues:

All the registration forms were checked several times to ensure that they were indeed filled out correctly before mailing. The registrations and checks from Big Red One were mailed in to the Federation in a single large envelope. However, when the event website was checked a couple weeks after they were sent in to verify that all our members were registered about 1/3 of those signed up were not listed. This was later fixed, as it turns out they were overwhelmed with registrations for the event this year.

Flea Market:

Once again there was a good selection in the flea market this year. All of the major vendors of reproductions were in attendance. One vendor did have to set-up in a tent due to the one building being renovated. * Editor's note* Another vendor was selling service shoes (Ankle boots), for \$25 a pair. I'm slowly breaking them in so they will be ready for Reading.

Thursday Recon:

Though it was billed as a tactical this was not the case. The purpose of the recon actually gives the unit commanders and the vehicle drivers on both sides the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the training area that will be used for the tacticals during the event. After the initial map reading exercises were over we were given the remainder of the session to further reconnoiter the area either mounted or dismounted. Many of the participants took this as an opportunity for a trail ride.

Despite the fact there was no firing during the recon Company K used the next best thing on the Germans, verbal abuse. Private Hain-Matson assisted in the recovery of a mired jeep by loaning his tow chains. This was the warmest of the three days in the training area at 40°F.

Friday Tactical:

After finding our primary defensive positions Company K settled in and waited in the cold. The temperature had plummeted overnight into the single digits plus wind chill from the day before. Our three supporting vehicles, (the half-track, weapons carrier, and motorcycle w/sidecar), soon joined us. Unfortunately, Dolhanczyk's jeep was not present in the tactical due to some mechanical issue.

We initially were not expecting to see action so soon based on previous Bulge events. The German attack came from the left of the company's position not long after the vehicles arrived. Company K held its position for a time allowing a neighboring unit to withdraw. When it came our turn, the half-track provided mobile cover fire for the company to withdraw. It was pretty much a running battle throughout the day. At one point a German got on the radio and taunted the company commander. It was later found out that Company K was up against one of the better German units, the 2nd Gebirgsjager. Aside from the frigid temperatures the tactical on Friday went well with few complaints. There was a bit of a concern about ammunition supply for Saturday for some, but that was later fixed.

Saturday Tactical:

The day started as cold as it was on Friday with the exception that the Allied units would be retaking the ground given up to the Germans. The coordination between the company and the vehicles was improved by the placement of a 2-way radio in the half-track. Another improvement over Friday was a supply of hot coffee carried by the half-track.

Company K's initial advance met little resistance up to and including our initial check point. The company then held in our advanced positions until the units on our left flank caught up due to being delayed by terrain and German opposition. The company's advance then resumed after our flank caught up. Resistance stiffened as we approached a wooded area beyond a road that ran perpendicular to our advance. Not long after we gained a foothold in the wooded area a halt was called due to a medical emergency. After the medical emergency was resolved the advance continued. Company K ended the day not only succeeding in retaking the positions held Friday morning, the company also in the process succeeded in turning the Germans' flank and attacking them from behind.

A special tip of the hat to our drivers, vehicle crew members, and their vehicles, they were key on several occasions Saturday. Charlie Kern evacuated several people getting hypothermic to a warming station. There were several occasions the half-track played a role. Those that stick out are: Exposing the positions of approximately 35 Germans, concealing the advance of a squad taking a crossroads, and aiding in the destruction of a self-propelled gun.

Report Submitted by Cpl. John Aulenbach



This year four women participated with the unit, eating Co. K chow and serving in the field hospitals during the tactical and battle scenarios. As a retired Paramedic, I was put to good use maintaining the Battalion Aide Station in the billeting area, while most of the troops were in the field. The patient load was manageable with only one causality during the two days. Over all it was one of the safest re-enactments I can remember with only four reportable casualties.

2nd Lt's Lare, McGinnis, Updegraff, and Hipple, 1st Infantry Division, 1st Medical Battalion

Pennsylvania Chapter
8th Air Force Historical Society
*** Fisher-Booth Squadron ***

Our next luncheon is scheduled for:

March 20th, 2010 - 12:00 Noon

Williamson Restaurant
Easton & Blair Mill Roads, Horsham, PA
(215) 675-5454

Luncheon meetings are open to **All** veterans, civilians, or anyone with an interest in history. Come meet, talk, and enjoy a few hours with several veterans, wives, and others with shared interest and make some new friends.

Luncheon Menu - (New special price - \$17.50 all entrees)

Chicken Marsala w/sautéed mushrooms & marsala wine - \$17.50

Roast Top Sirloin of Beef w/bordelaise sauce - \$17.50

Pasta Primavera w/vegetables & garlic butter sauce - \$17.50

(Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM)

Make checks payable to and mail to: **Chris Boswell**
219 N. Reading Ave.
Boyertown, PA. 19512

Questions? Contact: (610) 367-4134 Email: ccrb@dejazzd.com

Reservations must be made by Wednesday Mar. 17th. Please let me know beforehand if you would like to speak or make any announcements, so I can prepare introductions and schedule time allowance. If you need display table space, let me know. - CB
(Note – Last minute reservations are ok if you can let me know before 10 AM the day of luncheon)

Guest Speaker: Elwood Taylor

Elwood joined the Marine Corps in 1972 and served four years. Later on, he became a 7th grade school teacher at Pottsgrove Middle School where he has been teaching American History for 23 years.

Elwood's hobby over the past 20 years has been collecting and preserving historic and antique U.S. Flags. He will be sharing with us a portion of his collection of flags spanning over the past 150 years. About 30 of these flags will be on display.

As a self-educated expert in flag history, Elwood will tell you things about our flag that you never learned in school, and you will be quite amazed. This is a fascinating presentation that will give you a renewed appreciation of our flag.

Elwood currently resides in Upper Pottsgrove, PA



Message for President Robin Markey

Fort Indiantown Gap went very well this year. I want to thank all our people who participated and made it a fun, smooth running event. We didn't really have time to have a full-fledged meeting there, but, 3 out of the 4 officers were at the event, myself, Mike Brown and Roger Hipple. We did have a very brief meeting and talked over several things that needed discussed. We also initiated and carried out to promotions that were in the works for a long time. Jack Budnick (Buddy Budnick) finally made PFC, although almost lost it not long after he received it because he was caught not wearing the proper uniform. John Aulenbach to Technician 4th Class. Congratulations guys.

We talked briefly on WWII Weekend at the Air Museum, as more is learned from the museum meetings that Mike Brown and John Aulenbach and some others attend, we'll keep you up to date. We need to know what tents people are bringing. Also it was stated about setting the tents up in a more military manner, this pertains more to the air corp than anybody else. Also, a lot of other units throw their tents around haphazardly. Our encampment is usually set up in a good military useful arrangement. Actually our encampment is set up closer to military spec than a lot of others. With the fact that we have our courtyard or parade field which we use for vehicle parking. It also allows the public to wander in without obstacles. With the larger vehicles parked toward the rear the people will come in to see the them and everything else that's displayed in the courtyard area.

We're not sure as of yet whether 1st Lt. Gray will be able to attend Reading. He and I talked several times about this subject and also with the fact that there's going to be around 20 MP's this year in the encampment. 1st Lt. Gray had the idea to give Sgt Buttons (Bob Travis) a temporary rank promotion to 2nd Lt. for the Reading WWII event and I agreed this would be a good idea. He is mainly in charge of the MP's, but all military courtesy will be used and if 1st Lt Gray is not able to participate at WWII Weekend at Reading, 2nd Lt Buttons/Zipper will also be in charge of the formations. Remember to salute the officers, especially in a combat area.

Thanks,
Robin Markey
President - Duty First

PS - As a side note - Officers are not allowed to drive vehicles. So I guess there will be several of us chauffeuring the new Lt. around the area.



Sgt T./3 Robin Markey bravely serving as on advanced recon mission to locate and secure the location of the Donut Dollies in our sector.



Once the Donut Dollies were located they were directed to the rest of the division, here seen supplying the M3-A1 Half-track crew with much needed refreshments.

Editors Notes...

After an eleven month absence of the unit's newsletter it is good to be able to continue with our special edition of the Stars and Stripes. As many of you know I suffered a fall last April and had my hands splinted for most of the year. At the end of last year the hand specialists tried injecting medications directly into the joints to help control the pain. This seemed to help and will probably have to be repeated again. I did find out that I was allergic or non-tolerant to most every pain medication dispensed by the VA. I would like to thank Jeff Hains-Mason for keeping up with the web site to provide valuable information to the unit. Please continue to check the site, for late breaking news and information, and be sure to visit the photo section for more pictures of the events. Also thank you the Jack Budnick for his recruitment efforts, with so many new members we will start to have to wear name tags to tell who's who. Or wait until you do something stupid and be given a call sign, like, Crash, Fire God, Buttons, just to name a few..