

## After Action Report (AAR) D-Day Conneaut 2008

Allied representatives present, 29th, PPCLI, 1st ID,

Staff represented by Bo Johnstone, Mike Felmlee, Chris Guska, and Sarah Westrick

### Communications and Registration:

- 1) Registration problems with registrations not getting from website to Sarah brought up. This will be taken to committee.
- 2) Participants request a schedule of their events listed, a chain of command, and boat assignment by unit posted on the web site in the re-enactors only area.
- 3) Requested maps of park and area to be included next year in registration packets. It was explained these were planned for this year but cut.

### Authenticity

- 1) All attendees made a point to thank Mr. Guska and the 90th for taking this aspect of the event seriously at several points during the AAR meeting.
- 2) The length and # of times the inspection occurred was discussed Several suggestions were made for changing the format in the interest of time and efficiency
  - a)doing the inspection in blocks and by unit
  - b)doing once at the later formation instead of twice
  - c) Doing it at the earlier formation and saying "too bad" to those who miss it
  - d) doing it as they entered the boatNo discussion was reached and no ideas were dismissed
- 3) Extending authenticity regulations into the camp area to include military courtesies and proper dress was requested. Men in undershirts and hatless in the company street was specifically sited as an issue.
- 4) When asked their opinions of the regulations all attendees stated they felt the regulations more then fair and reasonable. A member of the 29th suggested making them stricter for next year.

### Battle and final formation

- 1) The band created issues at formation by not stepping off at the right point, and the cadences they played at were problematic several suggestions were made for fixing this in the future
  - A) Allowing the band to play a concert immediately prior to the landings as opposed to doing the parade, sort of a serenade for the public as they wait.

B) Providing the band director with music for the event.  
It was adamantly agreed this will be corrected next year

2) There were some communication issues loading the boat that were quickly resolved at the time.

3) Participants felt the battle needs to be scripted more to add interest.

A) Suggested coordinating more scenarios up close with the Germans

B) Requested Germans hold fire until 29th forms up as they did historically

C) Suggested pushing the 1st and 2nd wave farther forward before they die so as to create more of a leap frog effect when the 3rd wave appears.

D) Suggested designating casualties for medics and to insure enough of 1st and 2nd wave survive to aid in assaulting the bluff.

E) Incorporate the Germans more with patrols and depth of defenses

4) Requested Allied and German commander be in radio contact to coordinate scripted events. It was agreed this would happen.

5) More obstacles were requested and pledged. It was reiterated that we have storage space for these and prizes are given for best and most.

A) Requests made for bull dozer to dig shell holes

B) 29th stated they were bringing many more hedgehogs next year

C) Obstacle donation drive and work shops were suggested

6) The pyro was both praised and criticized.

A) More smoke was requested over the entire field

B) It was suggested the bunkers be moved to a position much closer to the German lines as they appeared disconnected to the rest of the scenario.

C) Water charges were requested to add realism

D) It was requested that there be uniformed members of the pyro team working as spotters.

The suggestions the staff stated they would forward to Mr. Fike and the request for spotters was taken under serious consideration.

Event as a whole

1) The 29th wants more space for next year as they will be bringing even more display materials

2) It was suggested the parade ground have its own posted schedule on each side and that units be able to reserve it, or portions of it ahead of the event on a first come first serve basis for drill and other living history events.

3) Public hand outs with the various living history activities listed and a general schedule of them with a map of camp was requested. It was stated that public schedule handouts were planned for this year but cut at the last minute due to budget concerns.

4) Participants requested more security patrols by a third party organization during the dance and battle. Nobody had any thing stolen this year but they want it for next year. It was explained we had groups lined up to perform exactly this duty that failed to show.

5) Several groups emphatically requested we extend the event a day or two to include Fri. and even Thurs.

6) The consensus was that this was an event well done and highly successful with room for positive expansion.

\*\* Note – this document was accepted by the board with multiple revisions and amendments. Copies of the original document are available upon request.