

## **Allied Representative 2008 Annual Report<sup>1</sup>** **D-Day Ohio, Inc.**

2008 Pre-registered Units:<sup>2</sup>

**US:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Army Group	*1 <sup>st</sup> ID
*2 <sup>nd</sup> Rangers	3RD ID 3RD RECON
*4 <sup>th</sup> CAV	*5 <sup>th</sup> Rangers
*6TH Naval Beach Battalion	10TH Engineers
20TH Combat Engineers	*28TH ID
*29TH ID	35THID
82ND 504TH I CO	82ND 505TH
82ND 508TH	83 <sup>rd</sup> I&R
*83RDID 329TH CO F	*88THID
90THID	*106TH CAV

**Commonwealth:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Polish Armored Division	10 <sup>th</sup> Polish Dragoons
*Perth Regiment	*Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
*Royal Fusiliers	Welsh Regiment
Royal 22 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer's Regiment	

**2007 Units that did not preregister in 2008:**

7 <sup>th</sup> Naval Beach Battalion	34 <sup>th</sup> ID
36 <sup>th</sup> ID	101 <sup>st</sup> Airborne
41 Royal Marines	56TH RECCE
70TH TANK BATTALION	299TH CEB
Royal Army Ordinance Corps	

Participant Analysis: In 2007, 251 participants pre-registered. A final head count for 2007 was not made available for this report. In 2008, 267 participants pre-registered and a total of 222 registered participants attended the event. Eighteen military attendees were walk-ons. Of the pre-registered participants, about 76 percent attended the event.

The following highlights the Allied perspective of the event. Suggestions, ideas and commentary will be provided to the *Event Committee* or in the *Planning Meeting*.

In general the event went well. The weather was far better than that in September and even the forecast for the preceding and following weekends. However, we were not well prepared for the heat and need to consider being more sensitive to the time we ask people to be active. We also will need to ask the *Event Committee* to consider water rations and

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed information was unavailable from the registrar. The Allied Representative recommends data collection methods and information needs be discussed at the planning meeting.

<sup>2</sup> \* Indicates units that preregistered in 2007

watering stations. The generosity of the US Navy really saved a lot of participants who had consumed their canteens before hitting the boats.

Overall, the reception to the higher standard of authenticity was appreciated by most of the re-enactor participants. The 90<sup>th</sup> Division worked hard to meet the needs of several diverse groups even though logistics were tight. Several suggestions were made to speed the logistical process of authenticity inspections. Similarly, concerns were raised about needing an earlier closing time to registration coupled with better advertizing of when that time would be. The web site only said “register at the gate” but did not include a cut-off time. Additional camp and military demonstration ideas were proposed and a couple of participants offered to bring equipment to narrate demonstrations or conduct the narration.

Of the Battle, the scenarios worked well this year – enhanced by the actual use of the Beach Battalion to signal in the boats. The narration provided by Jim Hill of the Niagara Parks Commission was very well received. Many tourists suggested additional speakers as he was difficult to hear in some locations. For future years, a tighter schedule has been suggested by a number of participants and tourists. The actual battle appeared to linger on longer this year and may have lost some of the public – and the zip needed to get up the beach (although this was most realistic for Omaha). Other suggestions included moving the time to be a bit earlier, to allow more time to converse with the public before the site closes and troops need to prepare for the dance.

The dance was again well received—the band was superb and a surprising number of townfolk joined us this year. At some future date, we may need to consider the size of the venue if our outside attendance increases. Dinner was also good and seemed well appreciated by the troops. The downstairs location also worked well. A special thank you to the 90<sup>th</sup> and the 83<sup>rd</sup> I&R for serving as shuttle transports to get the troops to the dinner and dance.

Although ideas were collected in the “after action” meeting,<sup>3</sup> other avenues to gather feedback might be considered by the Board and *Event Committee*. In addition, other sources of volunteers could be considered by the *Volunteer Committee* as some participants picked up in areas where volunteers were not obtained. Overall, the logistics and outcomes of the event progressed substantially forward. Undoubtedly there is always room for improvement, but to those who contributed to the success of the event, “a job well done!”

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<sup>3</sup> At the time this report was compiled, the after action notes had not been formalized or provided to the Board or membership.