

“Hold until relieved”

Operation Deadstick

RE-ENACT
SA
INC.



In the early hours of 6 June 1944 as a precursor to the D-Day Landings, the British Army planned and executed an operation by airborne troops to capture intact two road bridges in Normandy that crossed the River Orne and the Caen Canal, providing the only exit eastwards for British Forces landing on Sword Beach. Operation Deadstick was its codename.

RE-ENACT SA TACTICAL EVENT

Mt Crawford Forest, SA

29th – 31st May 2020



Information Pack

Background

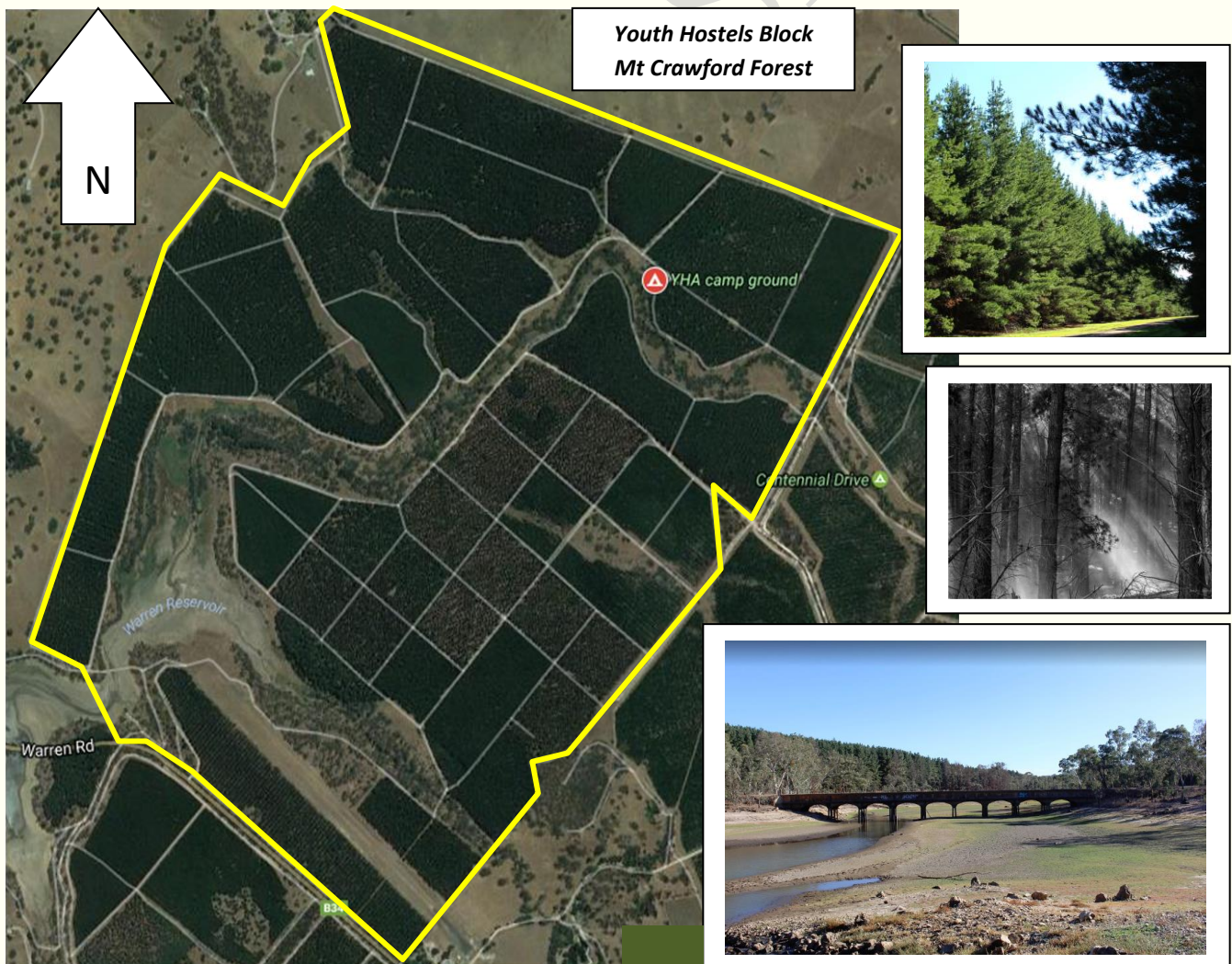
Re-Enact SA will conduct an immersive tactical event set on the Normandy coast area of France, as it was on the 6th of June 1944.

The Area of Operation (AO) was just inland from the Invasion Beaches. Expect fierce resistance!

The event is to be hosted at the Mount Crawford Forest for the weekend of 29th-31st May 2020. The forest is located about 1.5 hours (60km) drive from Adelaide City.

The location is a large pine forest, measuring approximately 2km long by 1.5km wide. The area contains a mix of high and low density pine compartments separated by an unsealed road system. Below is an image of the AO and following images showing some further detail.

It comprises a disused bridge, a water feature and airstrip. Perfect for defence and strategic assault.

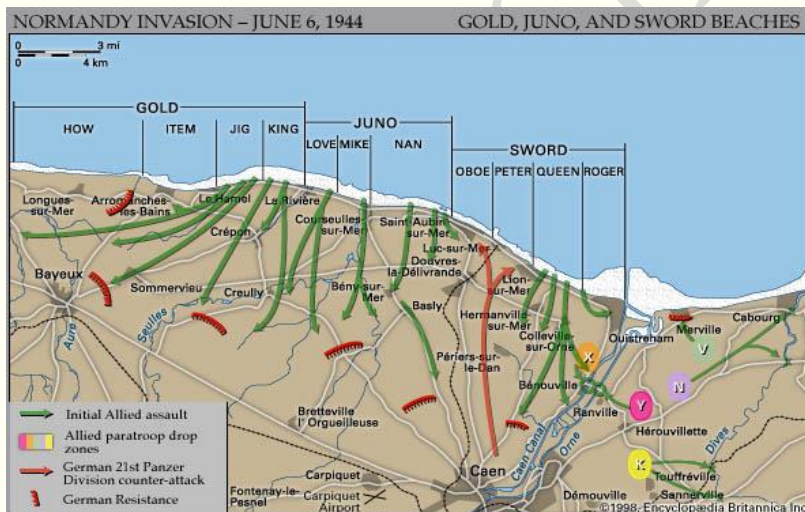


Historical Situation



The bridges were guarded by 50 men of the 736th Grenadier Regiment based at Ranville. They were a static formation that had been based in Normandy since 1942. The Division's eight infantry battalions had to defend 21 miles of the Atlantic Wall and it was poorly equipped with foreign, captured weapons and conscripts from Poland, Russia and France.

Their orders were to blow the bridges if it looked as though they would be captured. However, the 21st Panzer Division moved into the area in May 1944 and the 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment was based at Vimont just east of Caen. The Regimental Commander, Colonel Hans von Luck trained the regiment in anti-invasion operations. Although the Division was equipped with older PzKw MkIV tanks, the men were veterans of the North African campaigns.



The bridges themselves were well-defended. On the west bank of the canal bridge there were three machine gun emplacements, with a further machine gun and anti-tank gun on the east bank. To the north were three further machine guns and a concrete bunker. An anti-aircraft tower dominated the southern flank and there were sandbagged trench systems along the banks.

Mission

Re-Enact SA is to carry out a private tactical weekend in the Mount Crawford Forest. The aim is to recreate the sights, sounds and adrenalin of infantry combat as experienced during the Second World War and to do so while representing authentic soldiers - uniforms, weapons and equipment from the Normandy Campaign.

The weekend revolves around events of June 1944.

Execution

An advance party from RSA will arrive on site approx. 13:00 on Friday the 29th of May 2020. Members who are free at this time are encouraged to assist with the setup of the camp. Participants should aim to arrive prior to 15.00 unless travelling from interstate (to allow sufficient light prior to sundown). The set-up of props and establishment of the camp area will take place on Friday.

Briefing by the Sub Unit Leaders and Safety Officer, will take place 19:00 on Friday evening and will contain the primary combat scenarios of the event incorporating missions, objectives, vehicles, props etc, as well as the event safety briefing.

In recognition of the historic elements of this battle, the first group of scenarios will commence pre-dawn on Saturday morning. It is important to ensure you arrive on time for the compulsory event and safety brief on Friday evening to ensure you are able to take place in the initial scenarios. A secondary briefing will be given on Saturday morning, following the first scenarios, for those who cannot attend Friday evening / late arrivals.

The event will conclude after the scenarios are completed on Saturday, however light skirmishing will continue for those who remain on Sunday morning before camp is broken as a part of pack up.

Base camp will be situated at the YHA campground (as marked on the map) and non-tactical vehicles can be parked there. This area will serve as a military camp and a Soldier's socialising area outside of daylight hours, however a degree of decorum will be expected whilst in uniform representing soldiers of the Second World War.

The battles will be conducted in a fully immersive sense. Each Section Commander will be given freedom to achieve their objectives over the weekend. How they carry out those orders is up to them. The overall theme of the event will be German Forces defending various lines of defence, while the Allies are trying to break through. There will be a variety of different mission types for both sides involved.

The scenarios, props and forest areas used will be tailored to suit the volume of attendees and the vehicles attending.

Command Structure and Communications

The event will be organised by the event planning committee, with sub units leaders in the role of project manager.

Sub Unit Leaders (SUL) at this event will be:

Steve Smith 0427 540 150, steven.smith12@bigpond.com (Allied)

and Brendon Hampton 0418 362 267 rusty_bits@hotmail.com (Axis).

During the event, a non combatant event coordinator will oversee the execution of the event and site security. The event coordinator is David Lean, d.a.lean@bigpond.net.au, 0400 268 223

The Senior Safety Officer is David Lean, d.a.lean@bigpond.net.au, 0400 268 223.

Where an attending interstate group is of sufficient size, in consultation with Re-Enact SA, an NCO may be appointed from the group and the group continue working together - whilst operating under the overall command of either the Allied or Axis SUL.

Indicative attendees, impressions and proposed weapons should be submitted to Re-Enact SA by 22nd February 2020.

Each side's Section Commander and their 2IC will be issued with a map (main area map see above) and a simple button compass to aid in navigation.

SULs, the Event Coordinator and the Senior Safety Officer are to carry charged Hand-held UHF radios for emergency communications.

Impressions

- ALLIES: Primary impression: No.3 Commando & Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Secondary impressions for Non Combatants - Continental late war Commonwealth (UK, CAN) or US.

- AXIS: Primary impression: Panzergrenadier or at the very least Continental Heer Infantry. Secondary: Waffen SS

- In order to be more inclusive of the re-enacting community we have allowed a wider range of impressions than was present at the specific action selected for the event theme. The impressions however, are still constrained to those suitable for the Normandy area 1944. Preference is on attendees to make a concerted effort to attend in primary impressions to enhance unit cohesion and appearance.

- Non combatant vehicle owners must be dressed in the period of their vehicle specific to this campaign.

Authenticity

There will be a variety of participants at the event from experienced re-enactors to new comers stepping into kit for the first time. We ask for your patience and assistance in helping these guys into the hobby and tips to help them dress and act authentically.

However minimum standards still apply. All participants are asked to be suitably attired with period uniform and equipment.

No sunglasses or electronic watches, no non period webbing/uniforms etc. are to be worn.

Appropriate haircuts are expected.

These standards will assist to ensuring everyone can enjoy the event and the post event photos and videos.

Vehicles

Vehicles can be used as the Sub Unit Commanders see fit, in consultation with their owners. However, all vehicles must only use clearly defined, established roadways within the forest and obey all normal road rules due to the conditions of entry as defined by Forestry SA. Re-Enact SA and friends are intending to provide the following (however, further vehicles are also welcome):

- GMC CCKW 6x6 (Allied)
- M8 Greyhound TBD (Allied)
- Jeep TBD (Allied)
- German Motorcycle combination (Axis)
- 1941 Chevrolet flat- bed truck (Axis capture)
- German Skoda Staff Car (Axis)
- Kettenkrad TBD (Axis)

Firearms

Firearms may only be operated by suitably endorsed licence holders. All event participants who are operating a firearm must be able to demonstrate competent safe operation in accordance with RSA's "Firearms Instruction". Under no circumstances are firearms which are illegal in South Australia to be brought to the event. No paint ball or "gel blaster" firearms are to be operated at the event.

Blanks

Blanks will be available at the event, but to ease the administrative burden from the weekend, organisation prior to the event would be appreciated. Priority will be given to those who have already advised of their requirements. Blanks will be sold in bags of 20 for \$25.

Allies: Please contact Steve Smith steven.smith12@bigpond.com for any amounts required

Axis: Please contact Brendon Hampton rusty_bits@hotmail.com

Pre-payment to our bank account as listed under "event fees" is preferred.

Please email through your receipt once payment has been made to the Treasurer Chris Thompson cplusk@bigpond.com.au

For those paying on the day, YOU MUST BRING EXACT CASH.

Attendees will be permitted to use other blanks that have been manufactured by approved suppliers. All blanks will be inspected for suitability and cross contamination.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS ANY LIVE AMMUNITION TO BE PRESENT AT THE EVENT FOR ANY REASON!

This includes on person, stored in camp or vehicles (inspection applies)

No reloaded blank (blanks that have been fired, reloaded, and re-crimped into another blank) are to be used!

Pyrotechnics

As per Forest SA rules no fireworks are to be used at this event.

The use of smoke flares is permitted and will be supplied for participants to use during the event. All spent and unused flares must not be left in the forest.

Gas guns will be in use at the event for simulated machine gun and Artillery fire.

Administration and Logistics

On arrival all participants will need to register with the event coordinator at the camp. Please ensure you are holding a valid firearms license (if using one). Also hand your completed march in form, provided as part of this pack.

All event participants must be covered by suitable public liability insurance. Generally this is expected to be under the Australian Living History Federation, however alternatives may be considered at the discretion of Re-enact SA. Other clubs are expected to provide proof of cover for members attending this event.

Facilities and Accommodation

The camp area will be a non-period correct area and will not be used for the tactical.

Re-Enact SA will provide a number of tents for accommodation, but those requiring accommodation are requested to advise as part of event registration to ensure sufficient space is available. It is also possible and encouraged to set up period tents in the tree line for a more authentic experience.

Basic field ablution facilities (one on site toilet) are available at the camp. There is no water supply on site, however RSA will coordinate with members to provide water for the camp site. Everyone must come with a full water bottle.

Re-Enact SA prides itself on looking after our State forest; all rubbish will be removed from the site. Participants are reminded to pick up your used blanks and flares as you go.

Catering

RSA will provide a hot cooked meal Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday evening. Saturday lunch (field) and Sunday breakfast are self-catered.

It will not be logistically feasible to tailor individual meals, so those with special dietary requirements will need to be prepared to self-cater their meals should the provided meals not meet these requirements. Those with known allergies should identify these on the march in form.

During the day, combatants will not be returning to the camp site. For this reason, participants will need to bring enough food and water with them for the whole day. Period rations are preferred, but modern rations can be consumed if kept out of site (and photos....)

As always, it is your responsibility to ensure your water bottle is full.

Hexamine type stoves may be used in the field provided they are not lit within the forested areas.

Safety

All participants are to carry a No.15 Wound dressing during all tactical engagements. RSA has Emergency First Aid equipment for the event which will be kept with each Sub Unit in the field.

Participants with existing medical conditions must ensure these are clearly identified on the march in form and notified to the event safety officer. Those with medication must ensure this is always on your person along with sufficient identification and instruction to enable assistance in the event of an emergency.

A compulsory event and safety brief will be given at 19:00 on Friday evening. This will include the use of firearms and operating with vehicles. Therefore, SUL's must ensure that by this time their squads are dressed, equipped and ready.

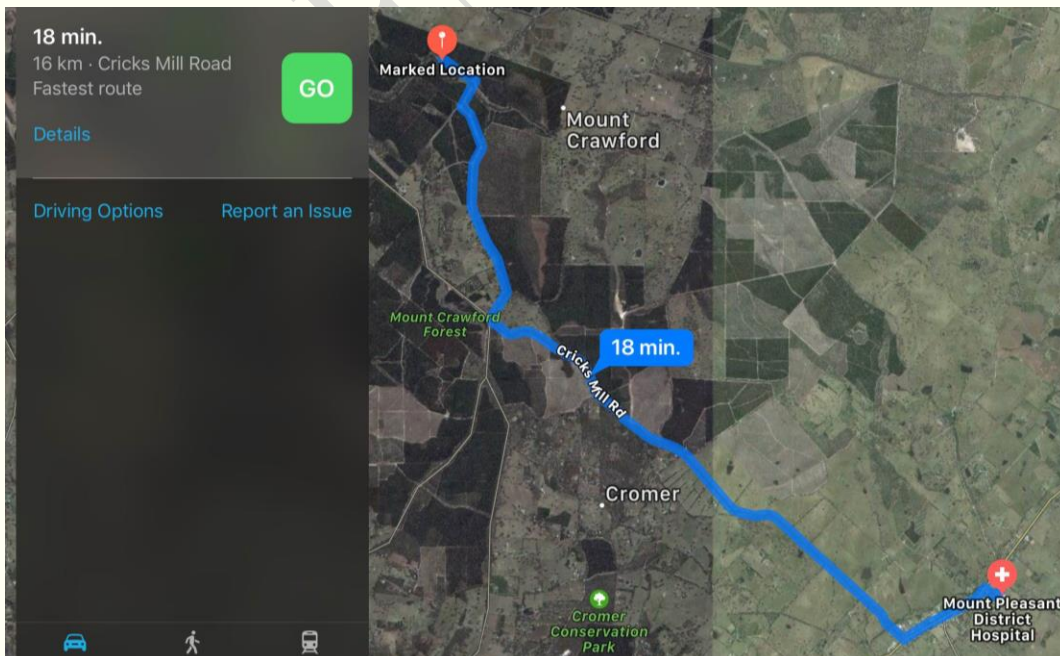
Anyone not available for the Friday safety brief will not be able to participate in the first group of scenarios on Saturday morning.

You are strongly encouraged to arrive on Friday afternoon, however if this is not possible, you must be on site and ready by 07:30 or you will be unable to participate in the remaining scenarios of the event.

Medical evacuations

In the event that an emergency evacuation is necessary, the local hospital is Mount Pleasant District Hospital. SA Ambulance Service will be contacted as required depending on the situation.

Dial 000 - Ambulance, vehicle will be travelling on Cricks Mill Road towards Mount Pleasant Hospital.



Event Fees

Event fees have been set at \$75 for RSA members and free for all interstate attendees, vehicle club participants and photographers. The fee is to cover the two days hire of the Forestry SA area and partially cover catering and heavy vehicle fuel and transport.

This fee is payable prior to the event.

Please make your EFT payment to (include your name and the word "tactical" as a reference):

Branch : ANZ Bank - Glenelg Branch

BSB Number : 015 250

Account Name : Re-enact SA

Account Number : 279201239

If you could also email the receipt/receipt number to the Treasurer, Chris Thompson cplusk@bigpond.com.au to advise this has been completed. As it takes several day to process payments, please ensure these are completed no later than Monday 25th May.

Event Registration

Interested attendees should register for the event by 22nd February 2020. Please complete the included Attendees Register Template and submit to your relevant SUL or Re-enact SA contact person.

Allies: Please contact Steve Smith steven.smith12@bigpond.com

Axis: Please contact Brendon Hampton rusty_bits@hotmail.com

Distribution List

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