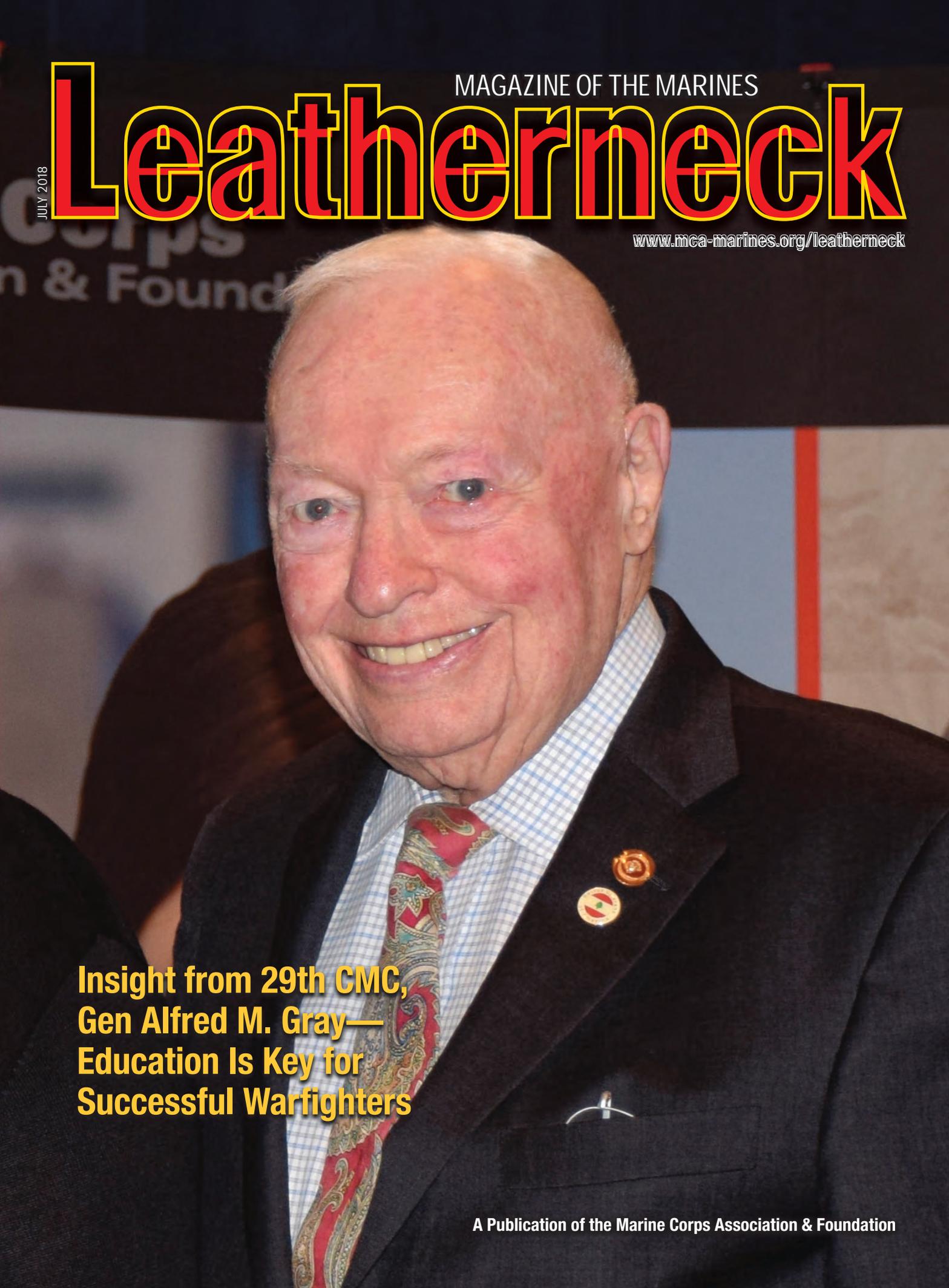


MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

JULY 2018

Leatherneck

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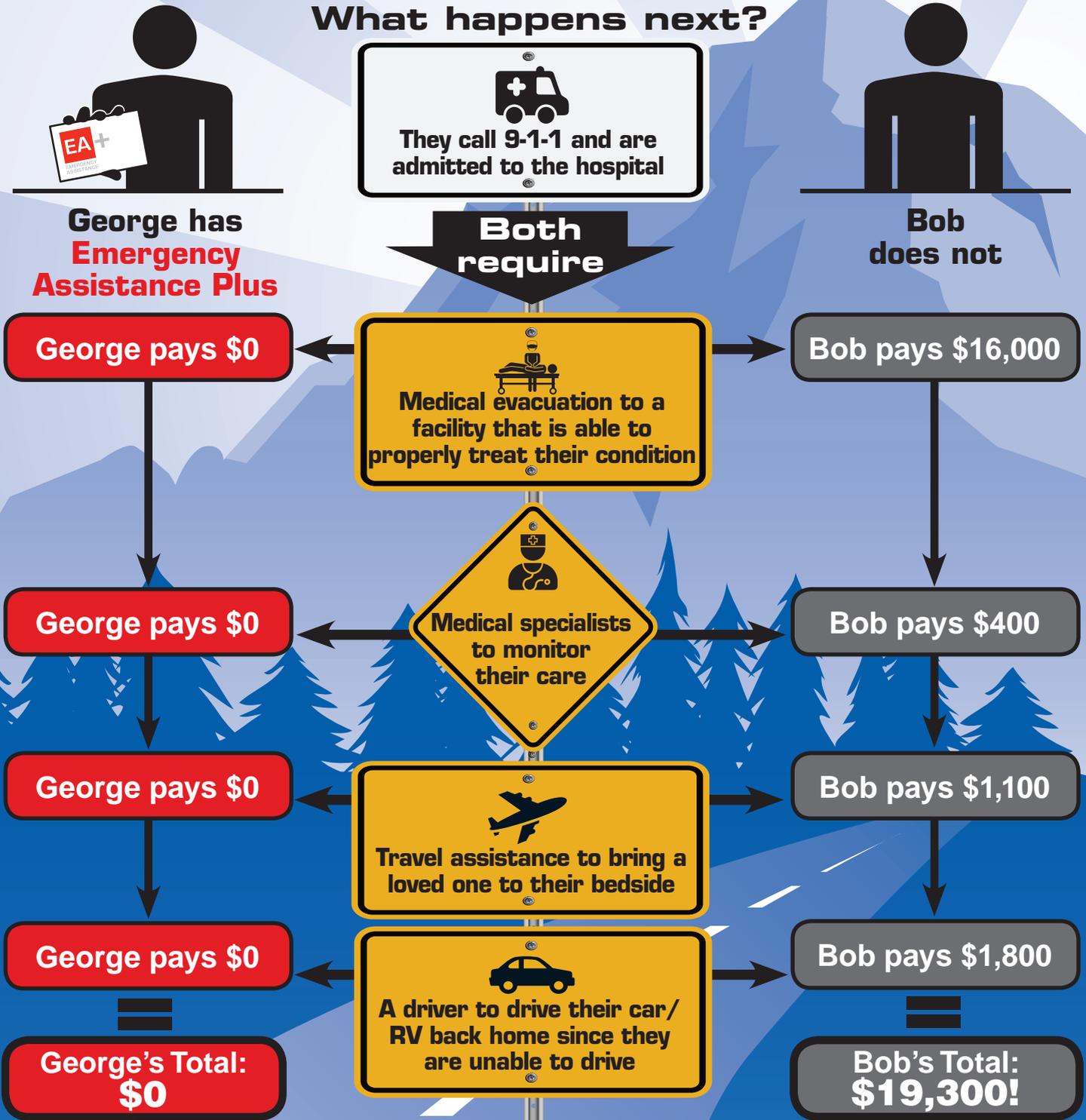
**Insight from 29th CMC,
Gen Alfred M. Gray—
Education Is Key for
Successful Warfighters**

A Publication of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation

What if you were Bob?

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COVER: Gen Alfred M. Gray, 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, sat down with the editors of *Leatherneck* and *Marine Corps Gazette* for a personal interview. Read “Legacy of the 29th Commandant: General Al Gray Continues to Serve,” on page 42. Photo by Ron Lunn. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Letter of the Month

(Leatherneck will pay \$25 for a "Sound Off Letter of the Month" submitted by an MCA&F member or provide a one-year courtesy subscription to a non-member whose letter is selected.)

For three days this summer, Aug. 3-5, members of The Basic School's "Echo" Company, 5-83, will be gathering for their 35th reunion. As we've been preparing for the reunion, many of us have been sharing bios and updates of where we've been and what we've done since we graduated in 1983.

Here's a short story that I've shared many times as I've opened up about my time in the "Old Corps." It uniquely demonstrates the "We" not "Me" ethic that the Marine Corps instills in all Marines.

Just before "tank week" in August 1983, my dad, C.J. McBride, passed away suddenly. I highlight that it was "tank week" because it ties in closely to my relationship with my dad.

He and my mom were high school sweethearts who met in 1938. They were both members of the Greatest Generation. He was with the Army's 710th Tank Battalion attached to the 1st Marine Division on Peleliu, while mom did "war work" at the old land title building in downtown Philadelphia.

Peleliu is not a battle we hear a lot about as we lost more than 1,200 men, and after it was taken, it was decided that it wasn't needed as an air base after all.

World War II Marine Eugene Sledge

wrote about the battle in his memoir, "With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa," a tough, but historically significant read. HBO's "The Pacific" devoted an episode to the battle as well.

That's the ancient history as my kids call it. Here's the Echo Co part.

My dad died Sunday evening, Aug. 21, 1983. On the 22nd, at zero-dark-thirty, I was called to the office of our company commander, Captain Mike Reep. My roommates all looked at me quizzically as none of us had any idea why I was being called to the CO's office. One of them humorously asked, "Did you park in Reep's spot last night?"

After an emotional meeting with Capt Reep and the chaplain where I was told of my dad's passing, I was granted 10 days emergency leave. As I packed up and began driving back to "Philly," I realized that I was not going to be able to share any tank stories with my dad.

While I was standing in the receiving line at the funeral in a civilian suit and tie, Second Lieutenants Preston McLaughlin, Rich Regan and Fran Rosato showed up in their "Alphas" with mine in a dry cleaning package. They had gotten them out of the tailors; they were being altered when I left.

I'm one of seven, and most of my siblings' spouses are from large families as well—more than 70 immediate family members. In addition, all of our collective friends were paying their respects. A couple of hundred people were waiting in line.

When my three "brothers" from Echo Co arrived and hustled me out of the receiving line and downstairs to change, everyone took notice. In less than 10 minutes I was back in the line in my perfectly tailored and pressed Alphas.

When word spread that they had driven three hours north, helped get me squared away, paid their respects and then drove three hours south back to Quantico, Va., it caused quite a stir.

Having my uniform made a huge impact the next day when I was handed the folded flag from the Army funeral detail and had the privilege of saluting it as I presented it to my mom.

One of my younger cousins who witnessed the Marines taking care of their own decided to join a year later when he graduated high school.

It's still talked about at family get-togethers 34 years later.

Paul McBride
Doylestown, Pa.

Remembering Sgt Groft

I recently finished reading "Bloody Ridge and Beyond," by Marlin "Whitey" Groft and Larry Alexander. As is my habit, when my April *Leatherneck* arrived, I checked "In Memoriam" for familiar names. I was deeply moved at finding Sgt Marlin F. Groft there. The few words devoted to his World War II service struck me as woefully inadequate. A member of Edson's Raiders, 1st Raider Battalion, he fought on Tulagi, Guadalcanal, and New Georgia. After serving a year back in the States, he requested a transfer back to action and was rewarded with an assignment to the 22nd Marines, 6thMarDiv with whom he fought on Okinawa. When the war ended he served in China with the 22nd Marines. Notably, he served and fought as a grunt in three distinguished organizations: Edison's Raiders, the 1stMarDiv, and the only Marine division never to set foot on U.S. soil, the 6thMarDiv.

The harsh conditions and many battles including hand-to-hand combat he experienced gave him no reason to look kindly on the enemy. But to me, a veteran of WW II and Korea, the true greatness of Whitey Groft, is revealed in the words in which he described his feelings in August 2002 on Guadalcanal. He had been asked to lay a wreath on the memorial to the U.S. troops who liberated the Solomon Islands. He was surprised to learn a Japanese army veteran would participate with him.

After jointly placing the wreath, Groft relayed, "We turned to face each other, and I looked at the man for the first time. I mean, I truly looked at him. What I saw was a little old man, just like me. His skin was wrinkled, he was slightly stooped, and his hair was thin and graying, just as mine had turned snow white.

"In essence, this man was a sort of mirror image of me, and I realized it had been an intensely emotional moment for him as well. He had, I'm sure, lost comrades in the fighting on this island, just as I had. For all I know he and I may have shot at each other on Edson's Ridge. Tears welled up in our eyes and the Japanese man and I embraced."

MSgt Marsden E. Champaign
USMCR, 1942-1946, 1948-1952
Waynesboro, Va.

• Sgt Groft is featured in the article "Bless'em All: July 20, 1943: Raider Attack on Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia," on page 16 of this issue.—Editor

WAYS TO SOUND OFF



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LETTERS | Leatherneck, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134

Black Leather Belts

What happened to the black leather belts? Urban legend from my days in the Corps has it that they were used as weapons in a bar fight so they got rid of them. Can anyone verify this?

Also, can anyone identify the Iwo Jima Marines pictured at right from Co B, 10th Amtrac Bn, 4th Marine Division?

Cpl Bil Pederson
Mauston, Wis.

Junior Officer, Chief of Easy Med

When I came home from my assignment as a Navy medical officer with the First Marine Division in Korea in April 1953, I was sent to Naval Hospital Great Lakes, Ill., as a junior officer on the urology ward. Senior to me was a lieutenant commander and a captain. I was very happy to “sit back and relax” after six months as a battalion surgeon with 3/5 and nine months as commanding officer of “Easy” Medical Company, one of four Navy/Marine forward tent hospitals.

On the day I reported for duty, the captain was detached in order to be treated for TB. Two weeks later the commander was ordered to USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34).

“Where’s their replacements?” I asked. “He’s here” was the answer. “You!”

I, as a lieutenant, was now chief of



COURTESY OF BILL PEDERSON

Iwo Jima Marines from Co B, 10th Amtrac Bn, 4thMarDiv pose for a photo in late 1945. Second from left is PFC Jerry R. Kranz.

urology of the 9th Naval District, comprising eight or nine mid-western states.

I’d had a very good two-year internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, with a year and a half on various surgical wards. I’d done a lot of trauma surgery at Easy Med but my total exposure to urological surgery was one month on the urology ward.

It all worked out. Almost all the surgery cases were well within my expertise—hydroceles, circumcisions, and other relatively minor problems. The few cases I wasn’t qualified to handle were easily transferred to a general surgeon with the expertise.

Birney Dibble
Eau Claire, Wis.

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VMI Football Star

In my role as a historian I was recently looking up information on the Grenada invasion of October 1983 and VMI [Virginia Military Institute] football stars of the 1960s. A friend of mine looked up information on Granville Amos, who lettered in varsity football at VMI from 1962-1964. He was VMI's leading rusher in 1964 and holds the record for the longest touchdown run from scrimmage in VMI's cadet history. Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant in June 1965 through the Platoon Cadet Class program. He served in Vietnam in 1968 and participated in the final evacuation in the spring of 1975.

In September 1964 in the opening game of the season against William & Mary, Amos ran 98 yards for a touchdown but William & Mary won the game 14-12. VMI finished 1-9 that season. They beat Davidson 35-0 in week 6 for their only win.

During the turbulent Vietnam War era, VMI only had one winning season when they finished 6-4 in 1967. In 1974 they made a big comeback winning the southern conference title with a 7-4 record.

I have always had an interest in VMI. 40 years ago I was a senior at T.C. Williams high school in my hometown of Alexandria, Va. T.C. Williams is the largest high school in the state and it was named after a VMI graduate, T.C. Williams, who graduated from VMI in 1915.

Gregory G. Pappati
Alexandria, Va.

A Band of Brothers and Sisters

Captain Cynthia L. (Stewart) Hollingsworth of Wenatchee, Wash., (May Sound Off letter) was disappointed that women Marines were often given short shrift when it came to their accomplishments. This reminded me of an ad (see below photo) that appeared on page 60 in the

August 2016 *Leatherneck* featuring three Marine Corps League veterans saluting. The photo was taken in 2009 at the burial of Sergeant Miriam Cohen who died on Veterans Day at the age of 101, just short of her 102nd birthday. Enlisting in our Corps at the age of 35 she went on to serve 10 years in both World War II and the Korean War.

Although we did not know her, no one hesitated for a moment to show our respects for this Marine. We are truly a band of brothers and sisters.

Bill Ober
Huntington, N.Y.

Corporal's Course

I just wanted to say thank you for featuring "Corporal's Course: 15th MEU Conducts Professional Training at Sea," in the April issue. The Marines in the unit were really excited to see it.

Capt Maida K. Zheng, USMC
Utica, N.Y.

Who Are Your Spotters?

I would like to draw your attention to the story of a great friend and Marine, Dr. James Nicholson. Dr. Nicholson is a Korean War veteran, and a Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient. Several years ago, Dr. Nicholson wrote a book called, "George 3-7th Marines: A Brief Glimpse Through Time of a Group of Young Marines." In his book he relates his story and talks about those he grew up with in Dallas, and those who he served with. One story caught my attention one year on a Memorial Day weekend as we prepared to participate in a memorial march. It was of Johnny Posey, a classmate of Nicholson from Dallas. Johnny was killed on a mountain top in Korea and his remains were returned to the States a couple of years ago. I carry his name tape in memory as I walk.

After Korea, Nicholson completed medical school and practiced medicine in



Left to right: Bill Ober, Chairman National Newsletter Committee; Al Cavallo, Public Relations Officer, Department of New York; and Joe Diehl, Commandant of Detachment 240, Queens, N.Y.

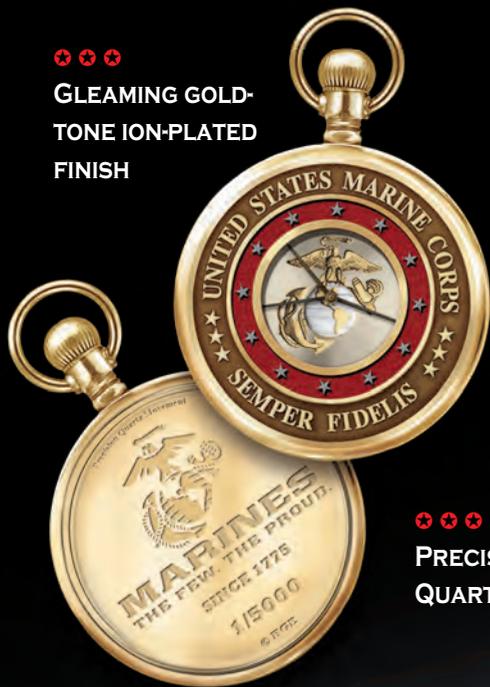
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Greenville, Texas, until his recent retirement. During his time practicing medicine, he treated and counseled many veterans of Chosin. Although he was not at that battle, he was made a member of their group because of the care he provided them over the years.

Nicholson recently asked me, "Who were the spotters in your life?" He was talking about those in our life who provided encouragement or even a kind word that helped you keep striving for improvement and greatness. It prompted me to contemplate his question for the remainder of the weekend and I decided to reach out to those who spotted for me over the years, some without even knowing it.

Nicholson still practices his commitment by reaching out and continually encouraging others to think and become the best they are capable of.

I started reading *Leatherneck* magazine after my oldest son joined the Marine Corps in 2004.

Terry D. Garrett
Heath, Texas

Loss of Stripe

I may be able to bring some clarification to those Marines who felt they lost a stripe along the line.

In 1958, I was a buck sergeant with

MABS [Marine Air Base Squadron] 11, MAG [Marine Air Group] 11, in Taiwan during the Taiwan Straits Crisis. I was proud of those three stripes, I felt I had earned them, and, yes, I enjoyed being called "Sarge." Then the Marine Corps changed the rank structure. It added lance corporal between private first class and corporal, changed the title tech sergeant back to gunnery sergeant, and added two pay grades at the top of the enlisted ranks.

One day I was Sergeant Mueller; the next day I was acting sergeant (E-4) Mueller. To civilians, acting sergeant meant I was a corporal who was given the provisional rank of sergeant for that week or month. To me, it meant my next promotion would be to ... wait for it ... sergeant again and my hope for entry into the staff noncommissioned officer ranks was suddenly put off for another two or three or more years.

Eventually, all the "acting" Marines were either promoted or got out, so it all evened out except for what I consider to be the worst outcome of the entire process. Everyone was suddenly aware of the pay grades instead of the ranks. "Is he an E-5?" "No, he's only an E-4." For the remaining 15 years of my career, I don't know how many times I heard comments like, "We have a new E-7 coming in."

So, to all those Marines I mentioned in the beginning of this letter, don't feel as if you were singled out. You were just some of the unintended consequences needed for the greater good.

MSgt James D. Mueller, USMC (Ret)
Brook Park, Ohio

Marine Corps Basic Badge

I recently received a Marine Corps Basic Badge with "Ex Bayonet" listed just below U.S. Marine Corps. Research shows that it was authorized to wear in 1937 and

[continued on page 70]



COURTESY OF STEPHEN F. GRADY

The Marine Corps Basic Badge was authorized for wear in the 1937 Marine Corps Uniform Regulations.



Leatherneck Readers,

In order to continue to provide a better experience for our valued members, we have upgraded our member database. This upgrade will result in changes to your online profile and will streamline your online activities. All processes will be easier and more user friendly to include updating information and renewing your membership. Even members with little online knowledge will be able to make changes in a matter of seconds.

Changes include:

- Your new username will be your email address. We have also made it easier to update the information in your profile.
- Online transactions, including membership renewals, making a donation, and registering for an event will be faster and more transparent and include stored payment options.
- You will now be able to add the units in which you have served to your profile. This will allow us to send you notifications about upcoming reunions and articles associated with your unit as well as provide us with additional information in order to better inform our future content.
- You will be able to see your transaction history when you log in to your profile to include membership status, donations you have made, and events for which you have registered.

You must update your profile in order to have access to member-only content including *Leatherneck* and *Marine Corps Gazette* articles.

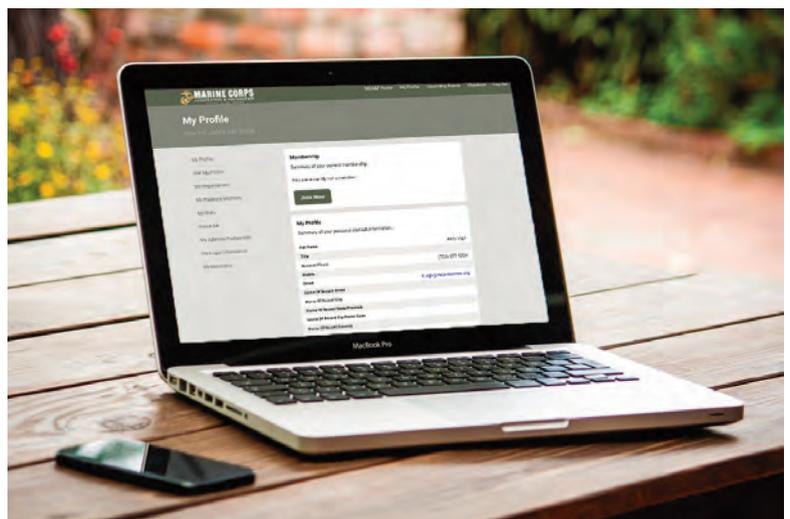
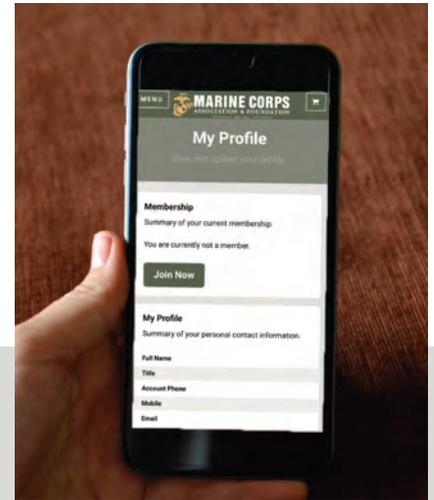
The following link provides detailed instructions on how to update your profile and answers frequently asked questions: www.mca-marines.org/profileFAQs. And, as always, our member services department can help assist you as needed at mca@mca-marines.org or 1-866-622-1775.

We greatly appreciate our loyal members and are excited about this next step to improve your member experience. Thank you for continuing to assist us in our ongoing efforts to support today's Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

W.M. Faulkner

William M. Faulkner
LtGen, USMC (Ret)
President & CEO
Marine Corps Association & Foundation



In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

JORDAN

Sustaining Readiness: Fox Co, BLT 2/6 Trains Ashore

U.S. Marines and Sailors assigned to “Fox” Company, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, completed a series of training events in the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Operations during the month of April.

As the mechanized company of BLT 2/6, Fox Co is made up of an infantry company reinforced by an Abrams M1A1 Main Battle Tank platoon, an AAV-P7/A1 Assault Amphibious Vehicle platoon and other supporting attachments. The lethality of the unit is enhanced by the firepower and transport capabilities provided by its mechanized components.

“As the mechanized company, the [U.S. 5th Fleet] training areas enabled Fox Company to ‘stretch its legs’ and operate as a mechanized force in open terrain that differed from Camp Lejeune,” said Major

Joseph P. Murphy, Fox Co commander. “Training complemented and amplified the predeployment workup and enabled Fox to sharpen its edge and maintain its edge.”

The training included a wide array of day and night live-fire ranges for the mechanized and infantry components, combat tactics implementation and amphibious operations from the squad level to the company level. Fox Co was also able to train in mountainous terrain, which broadened the company’s skill set and increased its state of readiness.

Exercise Eager Lion 2018 in Jordan enabled the unit to take advantage of the country’s training areas to train and self-sustain in austere conditions and provided a convenient location for the unit to receive critical parts and equipment needed for a vital maintenance stand-down.

A capstone training engagement, Eager Lion provided U.S. forces and the Jordan Armed Forces an opportunity to rehearse

operating in a coalition environment and to pursue new ways to collectively address threats to regional security and improve overall maritime security.

“Being able to take a stand-down in training for maintenance during Eager Lion allowed the AAV platoon to get a firm grasp and mitigate any issues that could potentially have risen during the deployment,” said First Lieutenant Isaac Seals, AAV platoon commander. “Having the opportunity to dive deep into the vehicles put the platoon ahead and allowed us to focus on improving our readiness further.”

Fox Co’s participation in Eager Lion allowed AAVs and tanks to gain full operational status, which is significant given the small window within the demanding MEU deployment schedule. The Marine Air-Ground Task Force prioritized vehicle and equipment maintenance to ensure a flexible, adaptable and persistent force.

Space and accessibility are limitations



SSGT DENGRIER M. BAEZ, USMC

Marines assigned to Fox Co, BLT 2/6, 26th MEU run to firing positions during live-fire training on April 21 in Jordan during Exercise Eager Lion 2018. The capstone training engagement provided U.S. and Jordanian forces an opportunity to rehearse operating in a coalition environment and to pursue new ways to collectively address threats in the region.



SSGT DENGRIER M. BAEZ, USMC

A Marine with Fox Co, BLT 2/6, 26th MEU fires an AT-4 rocket launcher trainer during Exercise Eager Lion 2018 in Jordan. The unit focused on training and maintenance while ashore during the month of April.

that the unit encountered while embarked, which made it more critical to complete intensive maintenance prior to returning to sea. Simultaneously and successfully executing training and maintenance while deployed postured Fox Co to execute across a range of military operations as needed.

“The U.S. 5th Fleet sustainment training was invaluable for Fox Company,” Murphy said. “The training combined with an extensive maintenance period has the company staged at peak readiness for potential future operations.”

The 26th MEU trains to sustain expeditionary readiness across a range of critical capabilities both afloat and ashore in order to be prepared to respond to any crisis in the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Operations.

SSgt Dengrier Baez, USMC

DURNESS, SCOTLAND **4th ANGLICO Tests Liaison Skills** **During Exercise Joint Warrior**

With a motto of “lightning from the sky, thunder from the sea,” the Marine Corps’ Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Companies (ANGLICO) provide direct support to various forces working within the Marine Corps’ battle space and conduct the coordination required in order for their commanders to access close air support, artillery, rockets and naval gunfire.

Reserve Marines with 4th ANGLICO, Force Headquarters Group, took part in Exercise Joint Warrior 18-1 in Durness, Scotland, April 18-May 2.

Joint Warrior, an exercise that supports approximately 15,000 servicemembers

from partner nations, is designed and led by the United Kingdom’s Joint Tactical Exercise Planning Staff and is a multi-warfare exercise designed to improve interoperability between allied navies, preparing participating crews to conduct combined operations during deployments.

“Joint Warrior is a multi-national exercise aimed at improving the interoperability between all the allies participating,” said Captain Ryan Matthews, a firepower control team leader with 4th ANGLICO.

“Coming here, our primary intent was to improve on our liaison capabilities with our joint coalition partners, as well as improve our main mission of fire support coordination and bringing that firepower to our allies.”

During the two-week exercise, the Marines of 4th ANGLICO, accustomed to south Florida’s sunny, tropical climate, were given the opportunity to take part in a vast number of ANGLICO-based drills with multiple coalition forces and utilize Scotland’s more cloudy, cold and wet environment.

“Being here, training with the other countries, has been great,” said Lance Corporal Gregory McDonald, a radio operator with 4th ANGLICO. “Joint Warrior, in itself, has been a great experience with me being able to learn a lot of new and different things. The weather has been a factor—it’s definitely colder than south Florida. But for the most part it’s good training for other terrains and different atmospheres. As an ANGLICO Marine, if I do deploy or go somewhere else, I’ll be able to quickly adapt to that weather now.”

In addition to dealing with the changing weather and call-for-fire drills, 4th ANGLICO took part in enhanced training from British forces, including a 10-kilometer crash course in land navigation on Scotland’s hills and marshland and an eight-hour cold weather survival exercise where they learned how to build a shelter, make clean water and clean a fresh animal carcass.

“Working with the ANGLICO Marines



CPL DALLAS JOHNSON, USMC

British Army SSG Steven Kelly, a survival instructor with 29th Commando Regiment, Artillery Battery, shows Marines with 4th ANGLICO how to quickly escape from zip-tie handcuffs using the laces of their boots during Joint Warrior 18-1 in Durness, Scotland, April 26.

has been really good,” said British Army Captain Tom Murray. “They’ve been very enthusiastic to learn what we do and very happy to take part in some of the things we’ve coordinated, like the survival exercise. On that, they were keen to learn what we do and what we learned in the British Army. They’ve also been a part of some land navigation and it’s something they also really enjoyed and taken a lot away from as well.”

Looking back on the 14-day exercise, 4th ANGLICO enhanced one of the most invaluable skills required of them: working together with military forces from partner nations.

“Interoperability is one of the main tenets of our mission in conducting liaison, and we certainly achieved that goal,” said Matthews. “This exercise was definitely a success in that we achieved interoperability with our hosts by conducting fire and close air support to our partner nations. Our Marines were able to call for fire from Dutch, German, Turkish and British ships, as well as our own U.S. Navy. Ultimately, we speak the same language and have the same intent. It’s been a good experience learning the way they

do things and showing them the way we operate as well.”

As all Marines know, the call to arms can come at any moment. For the Reserve Marines of 4th ANGLICO, the training and experiences gained at Joint Warrior will undoubtedly lead them into success when their particular skill set is needed.

Cpl Dallas Johnson, USMC

PACIFIC OCEAN Marine Demonstrates “Future” By Printing Part for F-35B

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, are now capable of “additive manufacturing,” also known as 3-D printing, while underway.

On April 16, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 successfully flew an F-35B Lightning II with a part that was supplied by CLB-31’s 3-D printer. During the MEU’s spring patrol, a plastic bumper on a landing gear door of one of the aircraft became worn out. Though it’s a small and simple part, the only conventional means of replacing the bumper was to order the entire door assembly, a process that is both time-consuming and expensive. Utilizing



CPL STORMY MENDEZ, USMC

CWO2 Daniel Rodriguez, a maintenance officer with CLB-31, 31st MEU, holds a 3-D printed plastic bumper for an F-35B Lightning II landing gear door aboard USS Wasp while underway in the Pacific Ocean, April 19.

CAMP FUJI, JAPAN



SGT CARL KING, USMC

ABOVE THE CLOUDS—A Marine with Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division posts security during Artillery Relocation Training Program 18-1 at Combined Arms Training Complex, Camp Fuji, Japan, May 3. ARTP 18-1 is a Japanese-funded routine training exercise that allows Marines to conduct live-fire training in Japan. The Okinawa-based 3/12 is the only forward-deployed artillery battalion in the Marine Corps.

a newly released process from Naval Air Systems Command for 3-D printed parts, the squadron was able to have the bumper printed, approved for use and flown within a matter of days.

“As a commander, my most important commodity is time,” said Lieutenant Colonel Richard Rusnok, the commanding officer of VMFA-121. “Although our supply personnel and logisticians do an outstanding job getting us parts, being able to rapidly make our own parts is a huge advantage as it cuts down our footprint, thus making us more agile in a shipboard or expeditionary environment. In this instance we were able to team with our sister unit, CLB-31, to not only rapidly manufacture a replacement but also save thousands of dollars in the process.”

This innovative technique is the process of replicating a digital 3-D model in the real world. 3-D printing software breaks the digital model down into layers, which can be reproduced by the printer. The printer then builds the model from the ground up, layer by layer, creating a tangible object.

Sergeant Adrian Willis, a computer and telephone technician, was thrilled to be selected by his command to work with a 3-D printer.

“I think 3-D printing is definitely the future—it’s absolutely the direction the Marine Corps needs to be going,” said Willis.

The Marine Corps is all about mission accomplishment and self-reliance. From day one of boot camp, recruits are taught to have a “figure it out” mindset, and 3-D printing is the next step for a Corps that prides itself on its self-sufficiency.

“Finding innovative solutions to complex problems really does harken back to our core principles as Marines,” Willis said. “I’m proud to be a part of a new program that could be a game-changer for the Marine Corps.”

CLB-31 uses its 3-D printer as an alternative, temporary source for parts. The purpose is to assist Marines with mission accomplishment in the event that mechanical parts fail.

As a permanently forward-deployed unit, it can be both crucial and difficult for the Marines of the 31st MEU to get the replacement parts they need for sustained operations. Their mission—to deploy at a moment’s notice when the nation calls—is not conducive to waiting for replacement parts to be shipped from the other side of the world. Capabilities like 3-D printing feed the MEU’s expeditionary mandate.

“While afloat, our motto is ‘fix it forward,’ ” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel Rodriguez, CLB-31 maintenance officer. “3-D printing is a great tool to

make that happen. CLB-31 can now bring that capability to bear exactly where it’s needed most—on a forward-deployed MEU.”

Making further use of the MEU’s 3-D printing capability, the MEU’s explosive ordnance disposal team requested a modification part that acts as a lens cap for a camera on an iRobot 310 Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle—a part which did not exist at the time. CLB-31’s 3-D printing team designed and produced the part which is currently operational and is protecting the drone’s fragile lenses today.

The templates for both the plastic bumper and lens cover will be uploaded to a Marine Corps-wide 3-D printing database to make them accessible to any unit with the same need.

As the Indo-Pacific region’s force in readiness, the 31st MEU continues to

brainstorm new opportunities for its 3-D printer, such as aviation parts and mechanical devices that can be used to fix everyday problems, and will continue to push the envelope in an effort to make the MEU a more lethal and self-sufficient air-ground logistics team.

Cpl Stormy Mendez, USMC

OKINAWA, JAPAN Fire in the Hole: EOD Marines, Airmen Conduct Post-Blast Analysis Training

“Fire in the hole! Fire in the hole! Fire in the hole!”

The call rang out through the dense, green Okinawan jungle, followed by a tense silence. Suddenly an explosion sent a shockwave across the mountain. After the shudder from the shockwave faded, the Marine and Air Force explosive ordnance



SGT TIFFANY EDWARDS, USMC

Sgt Christopher Piette and SSgt Joshua Firth, EOD technicians with EOD Co, 9th ESB, CLR-35, set up a 155 mm howitzer round for detonation during post-blast analysis training at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, April 25.



SGT TIFFANY EDWARDS, USMC

Marine and Air Force EOD technicians search for fragments of a detonated 81 mm mortar during training at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, April 25. The training was designed to instruct junior technicians on the safe disposal of ordnance and examination of blast craters to determine potential locations for hostile enemy positions.



SGT TIFFANY EDWARDS, USMC

Sgt Christopher Piette measures an 81 mm mortar round for disabling and disposal during post-blast analysis and render safe procedure training at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, April 25.

disposal (EOD) technicians waited silently for a few moments. The 30-second period after detonating ordnance is crucial and is spent listening closely for any lethal shrapnel flying through the air.

Technicians with EOD Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35 and Air Force EOD Flight, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, 18th Wing conducted post-blast analysis (PBA) and render-safe procedure (RSP) training at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, April 25.

“Today we focused on PBA and RSP

training for U.S. and foreign conventional ordnance that we could find on the battlefield,” said Master Sergeant Kaliff Eyrick, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, EOD Co, 9th ESB. “The EOD field is a close-knit family across the Department of Defense, and with our EOD brothers from the Air Force, they’re more than welcome to join us and participate so we can learn from each other.”

The Marines and airmen staged the ordnance detonations so the explosions would mimic the patterns of rounds

actually fired from artillery positions, which included 81 mm mortar rounds and 155 mm Howitzer rounds.

“If EOD technicians are called out to the site of a mortar attack, for example, they can use the post-blast analysis techniques they learned here to examine the blast crater to estimate the distance and location of the origin of the attack to help stage a counterattack,” Eyric said. “They also examine fragments of the rounds to identify the type of ordnance used by the enemy.”

According to Staff Sergeant Joshua Firth, a section leader with 2nd Plt, EOD Co, the training also gave the Marines and airmen a chance to practice disposal of newer types of heavy explosive ordnance, which are harder to detonate by older techniques and procedures.

“With the way newer explosives are being designed today, manufacturers are aiming for better safety with transport and storage, as well as longevity, and those new explosives are harder to initiate under traditional means,” Firth said. “We use the applied physics of explosive theory to impart more energy into the ordnance item itself to trigger the main charge.”

For Air Force Staff Sergeant Colin Frost, an EOD technician with EOD Flight, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, participating in the training with experienced Marines was of great benefit to him.

“It’s true that we’re different branches, but EOD goes across the entire spectrum of the military. There’s a lot of knowledge that we can gain from them and their senior technicians’ real-world experience is extremely valuable and it shows in their instruction,” Frost said of the Marines.

Sgt Tiffany Edwards, USMC

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. Improving Readiness: West Coast Installations Train for Emergency Response

Marine Corps Installations–West, including Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.; Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and other regional commands conducted their annual exercise *Semper Durus*, April 23-27. *Semper Durus* is designed to establish a learning environment for personnel to exercise emergency response plans, policies and procedures as they pertain to crisis situations, specifically terrorist attacks on the installation.

“It’s important because it improves capability for sustained regional command and control procedures,” said Lieutenant Colonel Will Chronister, the operations and planning director for Marine Corps Installations–West. “It also improves



CPL DYLAN CHAGNON, USMC

Marines and DOD personnel communicate in an EOC during a notional “active shooter” scenario as part of Exercise Semper Durus on MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 25. The training is designed to help regional command and control officers improve response procedures during crisis situations.

individual installations’ abilities to respond effectively to hazardous events.”

Throughout the four-day exercise, Marines, Sailors and Department of Defense civilian personnel, representing each command, coordinated crisis and contingency actions in their own Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

An EOC is a central command and

control facility responsible for pushing information to headquarters elements and on-scene decision makers in order to make decisions that protect lives, property and maintain continuity of the organizations.

“The EOC is the single focal point where all the subject matter experts from every area of Marine Corps Installations–West are able to consolidate information and

coordinate actions to build a clear picture for the [commanding general] to make a decision in a time of crisis,” said Chronister.

One of the events was a simulated bomb threat in a base housing area, which prompted members of the EOC to direct and coordinate the establishment of an Evacuation Control Center (ECC).

“We stood up the [ECC] in order to prepare for possible evacuations of base personnel in the future,” said Jerry Vanlancker, emergency manager, Marine Corps Installations–West. “This fits into [Semper Durus] because it’s the responsibility of the base to ensure that if, in a real event, people have to evacuate, they have a safe place to go when they’re being forced out of their homes.”

In addition, there were simulated scenarios across the region, including a “suspicious package” on MCLB Barstow, an “active shooter” on MCAS Yuma, a radiological dispersion device detonation on MCAS Camp Pendleton and a decontamination site at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton.

“The less you do something, the worse you do it,” said Chronister. “As we routinely do exercises like this throughout the year, it ensures our reaction is strong and our response is proper, if and when a crisis occurs.”

Cpl Dylan Chagnon, USMC



CPL DYLAN CHAGNON, USMC

During Exercise Semper Durus, Marines and DOD personnel operate their individual stations in the EOC at Camp Pendleton, April 25.

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

The OD

Back in 1958 most of my platoon from I.T.R. was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines. A lot of us went to Company F, 2/6. We went straight to Morehead City, N.C., so we never saw the inside of our barracks until we returned from the Mediterranean six months later.

This story happened in the barracks one night at 2400 hours when the officer of the day (OD) turned out the lights. The "old salts" played a game called The Dirty Dozens. One Marine would start the game by yelling short one-liners that included insults and colorful expletives. Nothing was aimed at anyone in particular. Other Marines would join in and try to come up with something funnier than the others. It would last a short time and was the funniest thing the green Marines, like me, had ever heard.

A gung-ho young second lieutenant eventually was assigned as the OD. He came into the squad bay, yelled, "lights out" and said, "Good night, girls." No sooner had he turned out the lights some Marine yelled, "The OD is a sh--bird!" The OD came back in, turned on the lights and roared, "Who said that?" You could have heard a pin drop.

Getting no response, he turned out the lights again but stood inside the squad bay doors. This time a Marine from the other end of the barracks yelled, "The OD is a double sh--bird!" The OD was fuming when he turned the lights back on. He ordered us out of our barracks in our bare feet and skivvies. It must have been

one of the coldest nights on record. He told us we were going to stand there at attention until the guilty parties broke rank and came forward.

After about 10 minutes of threats not one Marine came forward. Finally, while standing in front of us he told us he was proud to be with F/2/6. "I know now that no Marine in F/2/6 would ever collaborate with the enemy," he said. Then he dismissed us and we all ran back inside and headed for the heaters.

He ordered us back in our bunks and stood in front of the squad bay doors for a while then yelled, "Lights out," and left. Sure enough, someone yelled, "The OD is a triple sh--bird!" The second lieutenant never came back in.

I guess it could be said that it turned out to be a draw. Some of us gave the edge to the OD since we almost froze our a--es off.

Dave Yates
F/2/6, 1958-1961
Sebring, Fla.

House Mouse Payback

In the 1960s I was assigned the job of "house mouse" in boot camp. A house mouse is a diminutive individual who scurries about in the drill instructor's office policing and doing odd jobs. One day I was sent as a runner to deliver a message to another platoon's DI. I ran to another building and through a narrow corridor to deliver the message.

Rivalry between platoons was very intense. When I left, mysteriously the corridor was closed off. The only way out was an exit at the end of the squad bay. The problem was that the platoon began to form a gauntlet of 70 to 80 pissed

off "maggots." I had no choice. I had to go through them.

When I arrived back at my platoon I looked like I had been run over by a bus. I was covered by shaving cream in the most unusual places. However, when their messenger later came through our squad bay, he had to come through our gauntlet. I was placed at the end to bid him adieu.

Carlos Simonetti
Queens, N.Y.

Serenading the Regimental Inspection

In 1964 while stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., I was serving as the S-4 of 3/1 when I was notified by the regimental S-4 that the commanding officer of the regiment, Colonel C.W. "Carl" Hoffman, desired to inspect the battalion supply areas. I alerted the appropriate personnel and preparations began.

The battalion supply areas were located in a large building in which battalion supply had the largest space and individual company supply areas were established in a series of small cubicles. The cubicles were roughly constructed of plywood, 2x4s and chicken wire. It was not possible to see from one cubicle to another because of the plywood bulkheads, but there was open space overhead so that sound travelled easily throughout the building.

Col Hoffman was an accomplished trumpet player and, in fact, had organized his own dance band to help pay his way while in college. I had previously attended a social function where he, accompanied by his wife on piano, entertained the guests with several well-received trumpet solos.

At the appointed time I accompanied Col Hoffman as the inspection began. Upon entering the first company area, he saw a bugle and picked it up, put it to his lips and proceeded to run through a couple of musical riffs. From the other side of the cubical a loud voice protested, "Knock that sh-- off, we're having a regimental inspection." Without a word he replaced the bugle and continued the inspection.

In 1978 Major General C.W. Hoffman retired as the Commanding General, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. After his retirement, the Carl Hoffman Dance Band performed dance music in the San Diego, Calif., area for many years. He passed away on May 31, 2016, at the age of 96.

Col Richard H. Stableford
USMC (Ret)
Dumfries, Va.

Show Some Respect

In early October 1966 after locating and engaging elements of a large North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force moving south over the western portion of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Vietnam, we returned to Dong Ha for debriefing. I learned I would also be debriefed by Secretary of Defense McNamara and General Westmoreland who were touring the area. "Great," I thought. Maybe they would like some advice on how to win the war.

Of course no one was interested in my opinion and Secretary McNamara only wanted to hear about the adventures we had on the patrol. After telling my war story, I left the tent to rejoin the rest of the patrol.

GEN Westmoreland followed me and our point man out and began

questioning us. I could tell from his line of questioning that he was keenly interested in how we operated as a five-man recon team. Everything was relaxed and informal until the general began questioning the point man, Lance Corporal Robert Hughes. Hughes was taking the term informal to a new level and I wasn't happy.

When the general left, I lashed out at Hughes. "Do you know who you were just talking to?" I asked sternly. "And do you think it might be nice if, just occasionally, you said, 'Sir' when speaking to a four-star general?" Hughes turned to me with a stunned expression. "But Sergeant," he pleaded, "I'm a Marine. I didn't think I had to say 'Sir' to an Army officer."

David G. Robin
USMC, 1957-1972
Perris, Calif.

Fresh Tomatoes, Anyone?

My father, Technical Sergeant Clarence "Clancey" Fields, served in the Corps from 1939 to 1945. He survived both Pearl Harbor and Iwo Jima. At Pearl, he was attached to the 1st Defense Battalion. The battalion was sent to Wake shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack; however, he was given permission to miss the float to be best man at his best friend's wedding. He would then follow on and rejoin his unit at a later date.

Wake fell before he could rejoin them; he was then re-assigned and sent to Johnston Island which is quite small. After arriving on the island, he went exploring. He found an old, wooden water tank which was slowly leaking from the shaded area underneath. To his surprise, underneath the tank and well hidden by high weeds and vegetation, were several tomato plants with ripe tomatoes. He picked some and hid them until chow time.

At chow he laid out three

tomatoes while making a big deal about it. His buddies' jaws dropped as they looked on in envy. Fresh produce was always in short supply. "Hey, Clancey, where did you get those tomatoes?" someone asked. He wouldn't tell them, but he did share them as far as they would go. The next day he showed up at chow with three more tomatoes. Again he refused to tell where he was getting them.

From then on he was the target of being spied on and followed wherever he went. However, he was stealthy enough that no one ever found his stash.

I'm sure he was the most popular man on the island at chow time.

Sgt Kenneth L. Fields
USMC, 1966-1969
Columbia, Mo.

Don't Fool With the School Troops

I went through Officer Candidates School in the early spring of 1969 and was commissioned that June. The brief story I am sharing happened either in OCS or at The Basic School, in Company C, Class 3-70. Maybe if any of my training/school mates read this, they can place when it happened.

We were training in defending a position at night somewhere in the hills and woods of Quantico, Va. The exercise was part of what was called a three-day war. We were carrying M14 rifles and our rifles had firing adapters to function with blanks. We also had empty 3.5 bazookas; maybe just something more to lug around. We had no blank ammo for the bazookas.

We were going to be attacked by school troops who were enlisted Marines whose job was to help train us. As we waited for the attack it was pretty quiet; nothing was going on. Maybe the school troops were waiting for us to get exhausted or sleepy as night fell. Due to boredom, or

my troublemaking side, I hatched an idea. Maybe not a good idea, but an idea nevertheless. I took off the blank firing adapter from the M14 and with the help of another Marine, fired the M14 thru the empty bazooka. Wow! It made a very satisfying swoosh sound and concentrated the night-time muzzle flash of the M14 blank into a bigger flash as it left the bazooka tube. After some fun screwing around we stopped, but my little prank had a downside.

The school troops didn't think it was funny. For a while they didn't attack us because they weren't

With the help of another Marine, [I] fired the M14 thru the empty bazooka.

convinced we didn't have live ammo for the bazooka. And no good deed goes unpunished.

The school troops got us back. Remember we were on a three-day war exercise and we were told what to take with us. The next morning after my prank had nearly thwarted the night defense training exercise, a group of us were walking across an open field heading to a tree line that also had a small creek in it. As we got closer to the tree line, C4 gas grenades started falling in our midst. A gas attack was not in the plan as far as we knew and the packing list did not include gas masks. It was a surprise gift from those school troops paying us back for the bazooka prank. We all ran for the creek and stuck our heads and faces in the water to wash the gas out of our eyes and noses.

Probably lucky for me no one found out who the clown was using the empty bazooka for pyrotechnics. They got us good. Nobody

was injured in the slightest so it was no harm, no foul. But the lesson was clear; don't fool with the school troops.

Capt Bill Beck
Boise, Idaho

Dry Cleaning Mishap

Marine Security Guard (MSG) duty in Brazzaville, Congo, was considered a hardship post during my time there in 1978 and 1979. I think we redefined what that meant one day when a good buddy of mine, Sergeant Rocky Leeroy Burton, called the Marine house from Post 1 and asked me to bring him a pair of dress blue trousers.

Reacting like any good Marine I rustled up a pair of his trousers and raced off to the embassy. When I got there, Rocky was about to pass out. He had reported for his day shift and had put on a pair of freshly delivered trousers from the dry cleaners. The solvent from the cleaning solution, aided by his body heat, caused fumes to rise up, gagging him. I dutifully relieved him so he could change and get back on post.

We had a good laugh at Rocky's expense.

Sgt Thomas Ring
USMC, 1975-1980
Great Falls, Va.

Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? Maybe it's a boot camp tale or a good old sea story that will have us in stitches? We would love to hear your stories and see any accompanying photographs. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Patricia Everett, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to p.everett@mca-marines.org. We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA&F membership for the "Sea Story of the Month." Spread the word! 🍷



USMC

Members of the 4th Raider Bn navigate a creek in the rainforest on New Georgia. The long shoulder weapons carried by two of the Raiders are British-made Boys antitank rifles purchased by the Marine Corps before the war.

“Bless ’em All”

July 20, 1943: Raider Attack on Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia

By Dick Camp

Prelude

Operation Toenails, the invasion of New Georgia, was another step in the Allied advance to isolate the Japanese stronghold of Rabaul. Admiral William F. “Bull” Halsey was assigned to drive northwest from Guadalcanal and take New Georgia in the Solomon Islands. One of the units assigned to the invasion force was the Northern Landing Group (NLG), commanded by Colonel Harry B. “Harry the Horse” Liversedge, consisting of the 1st

and 4th Raider Battalions, 1st Marine Raider Regiment, and one battalion each from the 145th and 148th Infantry, 37th Division. On the night of July 10, 1943, Liversedge’s force landed on the northwest shore at Rice Anchorage, moved overland to seize Dragons Peninsula and the enemy’s barge bases at Enogai and Bairoko. At the same time, the Army’s 3rd Bn, 148th Infantry, headed deeper into the interior to establish a blocking position on the trail connecting Enogai-Bairoko

with Munda, while the 3rd Bn, 145th Infantry divided itself, with half securing the beachhead and the remainder serving as the reserve force.

Bairoko

During World War II, Japan used Bairoko Harbor to resupply its forces at the airfield on Munda Point, situated along the south coast of New Georgia. Allied forces deemed Munda critical for control of this section of the Solomon Islands and necessary for the continued progress northward toward Japan. Liversedge’s plan for taking Bairoko was for Companies B and D of the 1st Raider Bn and all of the 4th Bn to advance from Enogai, while the 3rd Bn, 148th Infantry, moved out along the Triri-Bairoko Trail. His intent was for the two prongs to converge on the Japanese forces at Bairoko from two directions. The attack was to be supported by an airstrike timed to coincide with the attack. The 3rd Bn, 145th Infantry was tasked to guard the vital base at Triri.

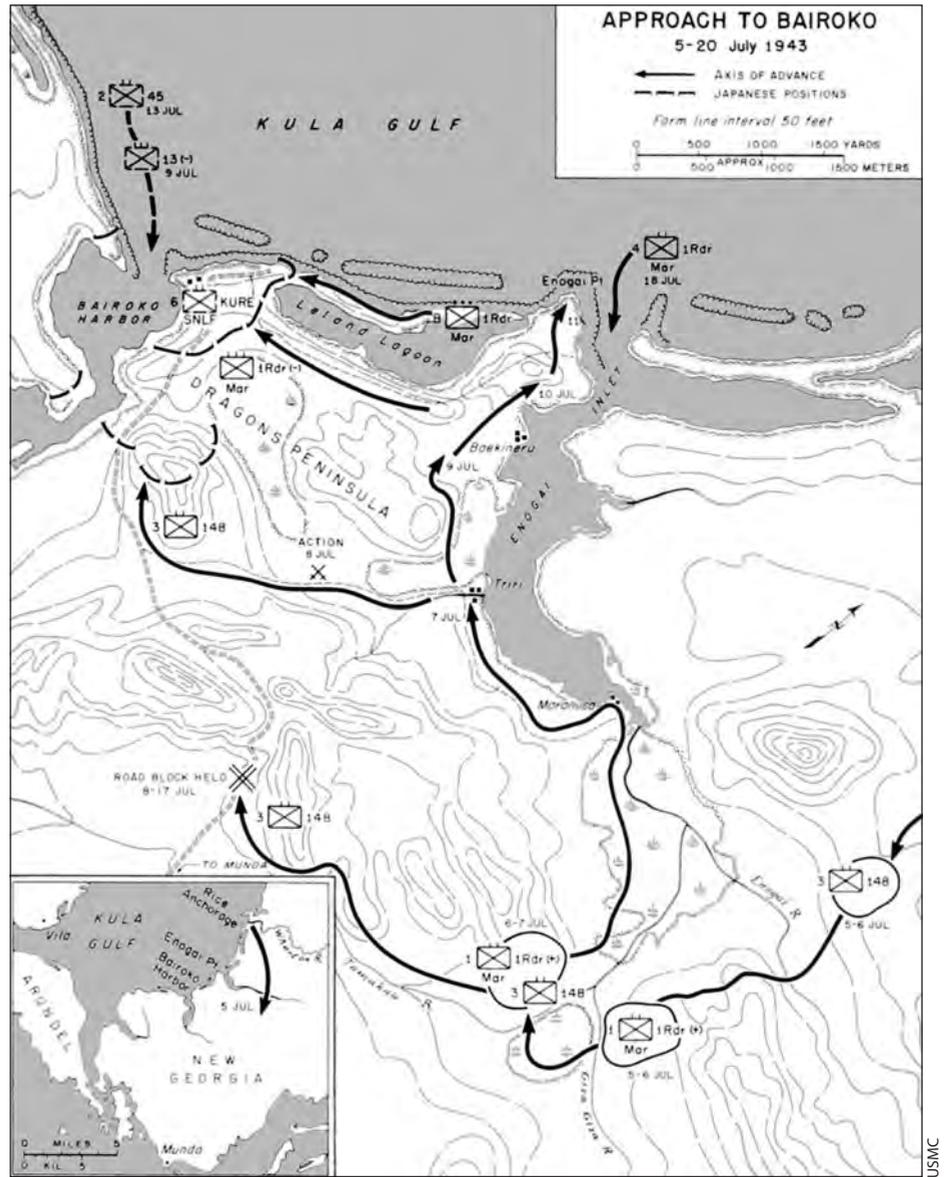
Prior to the New Georgia landing, four small Raider reconnaissance patrols, each consisting of an officer and a few enlisted men, were sent out. In mid-June, Captain Clay A. Boyd, the commanding officer of Co D, and seven Marines had scouted the NLG's landing beach. They also hacked a path through the brush to within 1,500 yards of the Japanese outpost at Bairoko, all in the immediate neighborhood of a battalion of the Emperor's soldiers.

On the morning of the landing, Boyd's scouts signaled that the beach was undefended and proceeded to place flashlights on jutting points of land and the beach for the landing craft to guide on. Private First Class Jack F. Trach noted, "All eyes were straining for the lights. For a while we had only one light, finally the second gave us our objective." Boyd commented, "There's something fascinating about fighting in the brush. It's like playing cops and robbers" He remarked that New Georgia was "kind of a pretty island, though a little weird looking."

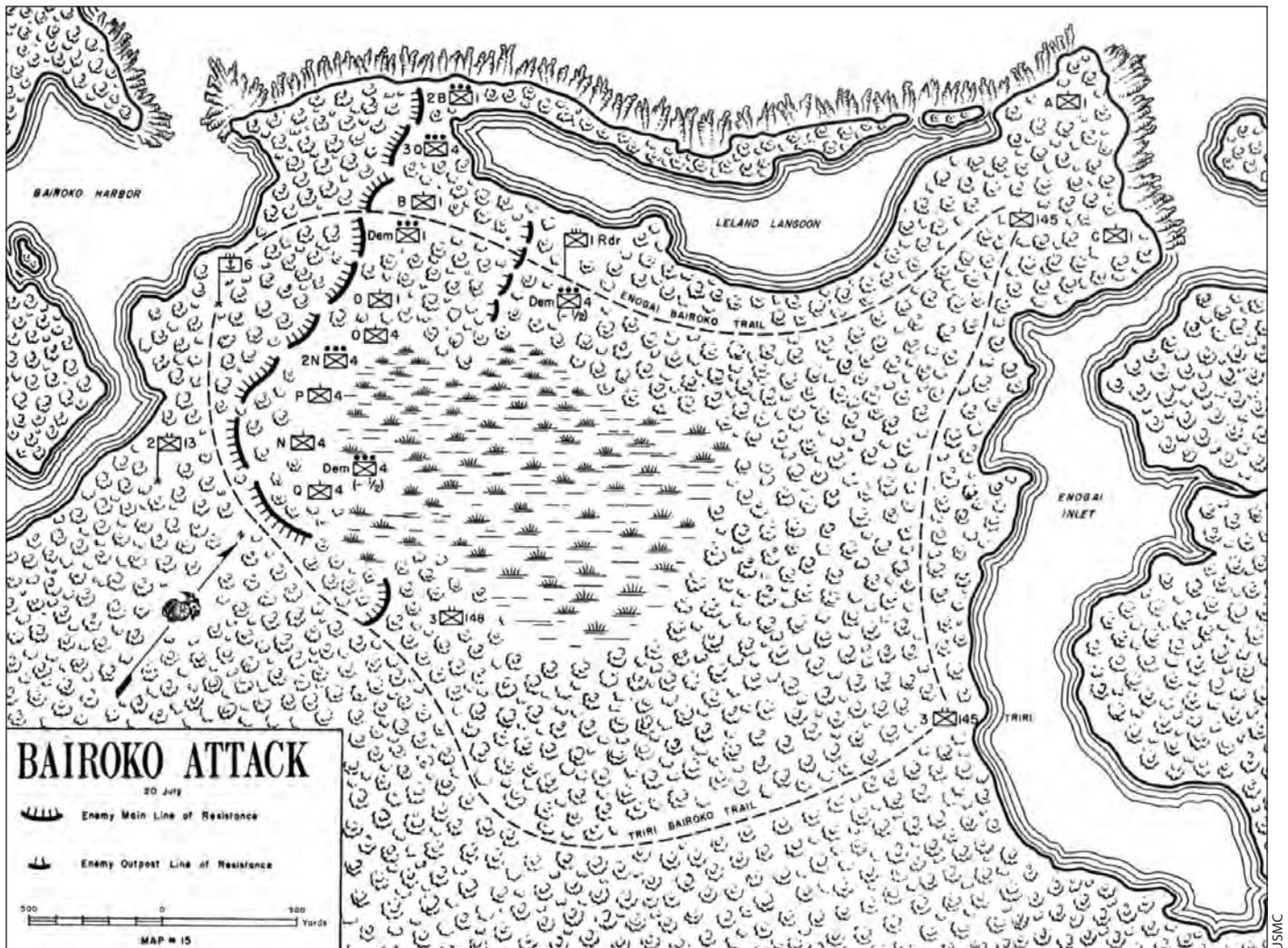
The information on hydrography and terrain the patrols brought back, coupled with the photographs they took, still left a lot to be desired. Intelligence reports indicated that Bairoko was defended by one Japanese Army battalion, some artillerymen and part of the Kure 6th Special Naval Landing Force; however, it was later determined that the actual strength of the garrison included the 2nd Bn, 45th Infantry, the 8th Bn, 6th Field Artillery and elements of the Kure Special Naval Landing Force—roughly 1,400 to 2,000 men. The reports also indicated the Japanese were alert to the presence of the Marines and were digging in, preparing to resist.

Lieutenant Yunoki Satoru, the Japanese Special Naval Landing Force (Kaigun Tokubetsu Rikusentai) intelligence officer, had detected the scouting parties and sent patrols out to locate them. Satoru found scraps of American food and a torn letter to a Marine from his girl—which he painstakingly pieced together—on a jungle path only half a mile from the Japanese camp.

On July 5, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel B. Griffith's 1st Raider Bn landed from seven destroyer-transport in a downpour of chilly rain. Raider Marlin "Whitey" Groft wrote in "Bloody Ridge and Beyond, A World War II Marine's Memoir of Edson's Raiders in the Pacific," "Stepping from the dry bowels of the destroyer to the rain-whipped world outside was a discouraging start to this mission." The men piled into 10-man rubber boats lashed to Higgins boats, which towed them 1,500 yards up a river to the anchorage. "It was a wet



Coastwatcher Donald Kennedy, left, talks with Capt Clay Boyd, commander of Co D, after one of Boyd's scouting missions.



ride, both from the rain and from the spray of the Higgins boat's wake," Groft noted. The small landing area became congested—only four boats at a time could unload—exposing the Raiders to Japanese gunfire. "Tracers began carving fiery arcs through the sky from onshore gun positions," Groft wrote. "We put our heads down and prayed." Fortunately, the Japanese shore batteries missed the crowded landing site and the Raiders were able to offload and establish a hasty perimeter for the night.

In the following days, the 1st Raider Bn attacked and captured the village of Triri on July 9 and Enogai on July 10, resulting in an estimated 350 enemy dead. Fifty-four Raiders were killed and 91 were wounded. On the 18th, the understrength 4th Raider Bn, under Lieutenant Colonel Michael S. Currin, arrived to reinforce the NLG. During the period of July 11-19, the Marines conducted combat and reconnaissance patrols to scout out the approaches to Bairoko. Liversedge noted, "Ground reconnaissance was by no means all it should have been," and little information was obtained.

On July 16 and 19, in preparation for



The Marines of the 1st Raider Bn captured this Japanese 140 mm coastal defense gun on New Georgia.

the attack, SBD Dauntless dive bombers, TBF Avenger torpedo bombers, and B-25 Mitchell bombers were launched in strafing and bombing strikes against bivouac and supply dumps. Japanese probational officer Toshihiro Oura noted in his diary, “At 2 p.m. some 20 bombers came over and dropped a string of huge bombs ... the concussion is terrific.”

“The rumble of the detonations provided us with a grim satisfaction that, perhaps, we might find the Japanese defenses flattened,” noted Groft. Liversedge also requested an air strike on the 20th in support of the Raider attack, but it never materialized.

At 8:30 a.m. on July 20, six companies, roughly 800 Raiders, “saddled up.” The 1st Raider Bn’s Co B under Captain Edwin B. Wheeler took the lead, followed by LtCol Currin’s 4th Raider Bn. Second Lieutenant William J. Christie’s 2nd Platoon, Company B covered the extreme right flank of the advance by moving along the Leland Lagoon sand spit. In “Repulse at Bairoko, New Georgia, July 1943,” Eric Hammel wrote, “Christie’s mission was to attempt to outflank the Japanese main line at its northern terminus.”

The movement began over the Bairoko jungle trail, which was described by retired Major General Oscar F. Peatross in “Bless ’em All: The Raider Marines of World War II” as, “slogging up the slopes of extremely rugged hills and tobogganing down the back sides, usually into mangrove swamps; slipping and sliding in the stinking mud; tripping over hidden roots and falling onto sharp outcroppings of coral or basalt. In this manner, inch by agonizing inch, the long column snaked its way toward Bairoko.” Technical Sergeants and combat correspondents Frank J. McDevitt and Murray Harder, noted, “Our march began in the rain and it ended up in the rain ... the further we marched, the worse the terrain became.”

About an hour and a half after starting, native scouts with Wheeler’s point spotted a four-man Japanese outpost about 800 yards northeast of Bairoko. Griffith immediately deployed the battalion—Wheeler’s Co B on the right and First Lieutenant Frank Kemp’s Co D on the left—and overran the outpost and continued to push through the dense undergrowth against increasing resistance. Suddenly, intense machine-gun fire raked the Raiders’ lines with a steady, knee-high crossfire. “We heard the all-too-familiar whir of invisible bullets buzzing through the jungle,” Groft wrote. “We ducked down, seeking whatever shelter the heavy foliage and twisted tree roots afforded us.”

The Raiders ran head on into the Japanese main line of resistance—well camou-



USMC

Mutually supporting bunkers such as this formed strong points on the enemy main line of resistance at Bairoko. In the absence of heavy supporting weapons and flamethrowers, the Marines found it nearly impossible to reduce these positions.

flaged log and coral bunkers protected by snipers firing from trees and hidden ground level positions—located in four successive lines on parallel coral ridges running north and south some 300 to 500 yards east of the harbor. The attack bogged down. Corporal Jack Salter, Co Q, 4th Raider Bn, explained, “We were aware that they [the Japanese] were masters of camouflage. They had established below ground defensive positions with connecting trenches. This enabled them to shift personnel from one position to another depending on the need.”

With both companies engaged, Griffith committed his only reserve, the demolition platoon, into the firing line on Kemp’s left and sent Liversedge a message. “Harry, have committed the works ... movement forward continues.” Liversedge reacted by ordering Currin’s battalion into the battle line. Co P, led by Captain Anthony “Cold Steel” Walker, passed through the demolition platoon and continued the attack, pushing the Japanese back to within 500 yards of the harbor. Walker noted, “We attacked and broke the [Japanese] outpost line and pushed on, taking casualties from unseen enemy machine guns and rifles. We finally reached a ridgeline just in front of the enemy’s main line of resistance. I never saw a dead [Japanese] all afternoon, only

dead Marines.” Currin ordered Captain Earl Snell’s Co N to support Walker and cover his left flank.

On the extreme right flank, Co B tried to link up with Christie’s platoon on the sand spit but failed because of heavy machine-gun fire. Meanwhile, Co D smashed through the first two of the four enemy defense lines and seized the high ground within 300 yards of the harbor. Corporal Henry C. “Popeye” Poppell wrote in his diary, “We keep moving forward against very heavy machine gun fire for a few minutes & then mortars [90 mm] begin to bark ... the [Japanese] have found the range and they are pounding us mer-

Raider Battalions

The Raider battalions were specifically trained for jungle fighting, amphibious raids, and behind-the-lines guerrilla operations. Each Raider battalion consisted of four rifle companies, an engineer platoon, a demolition platoon and a headquarters company. For support, they carried 60 mm mortars and light machine guns. The battalion’s strength varied between 700 and 950 men.



Casualties from the fighting on Bairoko had to be treated in place or evacuated by aircraft. Some wounded men were carried from the field then evacuated by rubber boat.

cilessly.” Casualties mounted alarmingly. “I found a level place in the jungle protected by a low coral wall and set up my aid station,” Navy Lieutenant Commander James F. Regan noted. “By nightfall we had 200 casualties crowded into that little space, fully a fourth of them were stretcher cases.”

Co D lost contact with Walker. Currin pushed Co O in to fill the gap. At 2:45 p.m., Co D was hit by an intensive mortar barrage, followed immediately by an enemy counterattack that forced Kemp’s men to withdraw. Kemp quickly reorganized his badly depleted company and launched a vicious attack that drove the enemy off the ridge. By 4 p.m., the Japanese were pinned in an area measuring 200 to 300 yards from east to west and approximately 600 yards from north to south. Griffith, believing that one more company could carry the battle, sent a runner to Liversedge requesting reinforcements to launch a knockout punch. Since no reserves were available, Currin had ordered Co Q, his last uncommitted company, into position to support the left of the Raiders’ line.

By late afternoon, the Raiders had been

fighting for six hours or more and were on the verge of exhaustion. They were running low on ammunition and water and had suffered the loss of almost one-third of their strength. Liversedge sensed that the attack was stalled. He sent Griffith along the front to determine whether the day could still be carried. Griffith went to each company’s position and was appalled at the losses. He returned to the regimental command post. “I told Liversedge we couldn’t take the place. By this time we had nearly 250 casualties and had another 150 men tied up getting them evacuated to air stations and to Enogai. There was nothing to do but pull back to reorganize, re-equip, get some rest, try to get something to cope with the [Japanese] 90 mm mortars, and get the wounded out.”

Liversedge agreed with Griffith’s assessment and issued orders for the battalions to pull back into defensive positions for the night and prepare for a withdrawal in the morning. “When word circulated that we were pulling back, we were stunned,” Groft wrote. “We all thought that, somehow, a way through the [Japanese] lines would be found and that we would achieve our mission. Bitterly,

we dug in. What the hell had it all been for?” The companies started pulling back shortly after 5 p.m. Marines from battalion and regimental headquarters companies carried the wounded back in crude stretchers made from folded ponchos and tree branches.

As the exhausted Raiders dug in, doctors and corpsmen treated the wounded, trying to stabilize them for the long slog ahead. First Lieutenant George E. Leppig, the regimental adjutant, led about 80 walking wounded back over the rough trail to Enogai just before dark. For the most part, the night of July 20-21 was quiet, except for a small probing attack, which left one Raider killed and nine wounded. The Japanese left five dead in front of the lines.

The withdrawal started at dawn. Liversedge designated four defensive positions or “staging areas” where the column would stop and rest. About 90 minutes after the first stop, the column was met by friendly natives who took over the job of carrying the stretchers. As the force retired from the second to the third stop, they heard the sound of bombing. Liversedge’s request for air support to “cover our withdraw” bore fruit. A series of air strikes dropped more than 133 tons of bombs on Bairoko. By 2 p.m., all the Raiders were safely within Enogai’s defensive perimeter. In all, the 1st Marine Raider Regiment suffered 46 men killed in action and 190 wounded.

Bairoko Evaluated

Henry I. Shaw Jr. and Major Douglas T. Kane wrote in “Isolation of Rabaul, History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II,” “Although the Marine battalions were forced to admit failure in taking the assigned objective of Bairoko, the seven hour attack by men armed with only grenades, rifles, and light machine guns against an enemy of near equal numerical strength barricaded in heavily fortified bunkers stands as one of the finest examples of personal courage in Marine annals.” On Aug. 25, Bairoko was captured by the 3rd Bn, 145th Infantry without firing a shot. The Japanese had evacuated the place—lock, stock and barrel.

Author’s bio: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the former director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former deputy director and director (acting) of the Marine Corps History Division and a prolific author. His most recent nonfiction books, “Shadow Warriors” and “Assault From the Sky,” are available from The MARINE Shop. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.

Japanese Defense

The enemy’s four fortified lines ran in an arc measuring 1,000 yards long and 500 yards wide at its deepest point. Their positions were studded with five-man heavy machine gun bunkers with interlocking fields of fire. They were covered by logs and coral with narrow, well-camouflaged gun slits and were almost impossible to spot. The heavy machine-gun nests were supported by lighter machine guns and several 90 mm mortars that could lob 12-pound rounds 4,000 yards. Snipers, many of whom were tucked away in trees, rounded out the Japanese defenses.

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Below left: A newly commissioned 2ndLt Matthew Freeman and his mother, Lisa, stand together in Memorial Hall on his graduation day from the Naval Academy in 2002. Today, Freeman's name is enshrined in the hall among the other graduates who were killed in combat.

Below right: A plaque on the Freeman Barracks in Afghanistan honors the actions of Capt Matthew Freeman, who was killed in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, Aug. 7, 2009.



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

The Matthew Freeman Project

Amidst Tragedy, Gold Star Mother Finds Healing In Honoring Son's Memory

By Sara W. Bock

Mom, Dad, I can never repay you for all you have done for me. You made me into the man I am today. I hope that I have made you proud. That has always been my goal. I love you both so much. Tell the girls that I love them and couldn't be a prouder older brother. I have always tried to be an honorable man and I truly believe in what we are doing here. I am doing this for my family, so that they need not fear; my country, so that it can be a beacon of light for the entire world; the men around me, because no one could ask for a more august company than the men of the U.S. Armed Forces; and finally, I do this for myself so that I might know the measure of myself and in the end not be found wanting. I believe that it is my duty to fight and having done all that I can to simply stand against this and all the evil works upon this Earth.

—Captain Matthew Freeman's final journal entry, written five days before he was killed in action in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, Aug. 7, 2009.

Almost nine years have passed since her son's death, and as she reflects today on the events surrounding the tragedy, Lisa Freeman can't help but recognize the messages and "signs" that Captain Matthew Freeman unwittingly left behind for her—ones that would help carry her through the hardest days of her life and would guide her to honor his memory by continuing his legacy of service.

There was his final journal entry, addressed to her and her husband, Gary, a retired Navy commander, just five days before Matthew was killed by Taliban insurgents during Operation Brest Thunder, Aug. 7, 2009, while serving as an individual augment with 4th Marine Regiment in the Shpee Valley of Kapisa Province, Afghanistan. A C-130 pilot, Matthew had enthusiastically volunteered to leave the cockpit for a ground tour as a fire support team leader and company advisor to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 201st Corps, Afghan National Army.

There was the time seven years earlier, at his graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 2002, when Matthew, known as "Matt" to his



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

family and friends, took her into Memorial Hall to show her the names of fallen graduates.

“These are the real heroes, Mom. These are the ones who died fighting for their country,” he told her. At the time, she thought it an odd place to visit during such a celebratory occasion, never imagining that her son would one day be listed among them.

There was the poignant moment between mother and son when Matt, stationed in Okinawa, Japan, with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 152, took leave to visit his family in his hometown of Richmond Hill, Ga., just outside Savannah. He gave his mother a challenge coin inscribed with a scripture from the book of Ephesians: “Wear the Armor of God.”

“Mom, you don’t have to worry about me. God will be with me,” Matt told her as he handed her the coin. It’s a memory Lisa still replays in her mind—the last time she would ever see her son alive.

And then there was a phone call from Afghanistan a few days before his death, during which Matt uttered the last words that his mother would ever hear him speak.

“Mom, can you get a fundraiser going before school starts?” he asked her. “The kids are so cute; the people are so nice. They’d rather have pens and paper than food and water. Can you get some school supplies sent over here for me?”

It was just the type of request Lisa would expect from her son, who from a young age continually displayed a propensity to look out for everybody



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

Above: In Afghanistan, U.S. servicemembers distribute school supplies collected by the Matthew Freeman Project: Pens and Paper for Peace, an initiative Lisa Freeman began based on her son’s last words to her in 2009.

Left: Midshipmen Matthew Freeman, right, and his close friend Liam Hughes, left, don their dress uniforms during Plebe Parents’ Weekend at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., in 1998.

else, she said. He had a big heart and was always the first to raise his hand to volunteer when people needed help and was well-known and loved in the Richmond Hill community. His loyalty to country, Corps and family—his parents; two sisters; and his wife Teresa, his high school sweetheart and an Air Force officer who he married just weeks before he was killed—was unwavering.

Before she had the chance to talk to Matt again, Marines in uniform would show up on the first day



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

Above: On his winging day, Freeman receives a third-generation pair of naval aviator wings, passed down by his grandfather, RADM D.L. Freeman, USN (Ret), right, and his father, CDR Gary Freeman, USN (Ret), second from right.

of school at the middle school where she had taught for many years to deliver the news that would be any mother's worst nightmare.

"I collapsed right there, and everything changed at that point," said Lisa, recalling the devastation she felt that day and the turmoil she endured in the days to come. She relied heavily on her Christian faith and on the knowledge that her son died a hero, having been posthumously awarded a Bronze Star with combat "V" for his unwavering courage during a firefight in which he led his Marines to a rooftop position in order to better observe the enemy's firing position. It was there that he was mortally wounded after engaging several insurgents.

Matt, a third-generation naval aviator with a dream of one day attending test pilot school like his father, loved to fly but, his mother said, he felt truly fulfilled working with junior Marines on the ground.

"He came home after training with these guys and said, 'Mom, I love to be a pilot, I loved what I did, but my favorite thing has been working with these guys,'" Lisa recalled. "He really loved people and he really enjoyed working with these young guys."

In the midst of her grief, Lisa also relied on the support of her local community, including the people who completely lined a 17-mile stretch of road to pay their respects as her son's body was brought home. And then there were all those who helped make her son's final wish, to provide school supplies to Afghan children, a reality. The Matthew Freeman Project: Pens and Paper for Peace was born, sending 16,000 pounds of school supplies to Afghanistan and Iraq, where American troops put them directly in the hands of the local children.

"With other money that was raised in his honor, seven libraries were built in Afghanistan for the children," said Lisa.

But as the situation in Afghanistan evolved, the pens and paper were being received by community leaders rather than by forward-deployed U.S. troops. It became nearly impossible for Lisa and her team to confirm whether the local children were receiving them. This prompted Lisa to contact the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), looking for advice on how to refocus the Matthew



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

Carrying school supplies collected by the Matthew Freeman Project's Pens and Paper for Peace initiative, U.S. servicemembers prepare to distribute them to children in Afghanistan.

Freeman Project. How could she best continue to honor her son's memory?

"They said we really could use some support for our siblings of the fallen," said Lisa. "That they were what they called 'the forgotten mourners.'"

Lisa knew right away that it was the perfect opportunity. She had watched her two daughters grieve after Matt's death—and noticed that people didn't seem to consider the impact on them as much as on her and his wife.

"So many people came up to them and said, 'How's your mom?' 'How's Teresa?' and wanted to know how we were doing," remembers Lisa. "And my girls would look at me later and say, 'But nobody said, how are you doing?'"

Yet the loss of their older brother had a profound effect on their lives; both stopped their college educations and moved back home for a period of time after Matt's death. Recognizing that there weren't any scholarship programs exclusively for Gold Star siblings, Lisa decided to take what resources the Matthew Freeman Project had and shift its focus to these forgotten mourners.

Through private donations and funds raised at the organization's annual Captain Matthew Freeman Memorial 5K run and Georgia's Run for the Fallen, the Matthew Freeman Project awarded its first Gold Star Sibling scholarship in 2012. Applicants must be siblings of a fallen military member who was killed while deployed in a combat zone and must be entering or attending an accredited university or college. They also are required to write an essay describing their relationship with their sibling and how his or her death affected them.

"I can tell you that the siblings are very broken," Lisa said, adding that many have come to her and said that their application essay was the first time



Above: A young Matthew Freeman always dreamed of joining the "family business" as a naval aviator and hoped to one day become a test pilot like his father. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Freeman)

they had expressed their grief on paper, an act that helped them through the healing process.

In 2015, the Matthew Freeman Project scholarship expanded to include siblings of servicemembers who died from combat-related suicides. Each recipient is awarded \$2,000 the first year and can apply for a \$1,000 renewal each subsequent year.

Lisa acknowledged that the monetary awards may not be huge, but it's the only program of its kind for siblings, and she tells each recipient that she considers it a gift from their fallen brother or sister.

In 2014, an unexpected door opened that would give the Matthew Freeman Project yet another purpose. A young woman from Lisa's church recently had lost her brother, a medic and Silver



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

Dana Williams, the first recipient of the Matthew Freeman Project's Gold Star Sibling scholarship, holds a photo of her fallen Marine brother.



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

During a ceremony at her church in Richmond Hill, Ga., Lisa Freeman presents the first "Matthew Bears" to the nephews of a fallen servicemember. Lisa had the idea to create the bears when the boys' mother, mourning the loss of her brother, came to her looking for advice.



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

Above: 1stLt Matthew Freeman is pictured here with his sisters, Virginia and Marybeth. For Lisa Freeman, watching her daughters grieve their brother's death led to her decision to establish a Gold Star Sibling Scholarship in Matthew's honor.

Star recipient, in combat. She tearfully sat in Lisa's living room and explained that she and her family hadn't been able to get anything of her brother's because his wife was hesitant to part with his things.

As Lisa, a talented seamstress, sat and consoled the grieving sister, she had an idea. She remembered that shortly after Matt was killed, her cousin had bears made for the Freeman family using Matt's uniforms. They were a tangible source of comfort.

"Well, maybe she would give you some uniforms and I can make bears for your children and for her two little girls, who were his daughters," Lisa said to her. A few weeks later, the woman came back to Lisa's house with a bag of uniforms in hand.

Lisa lovingly sewed the bears by hand and scheduled a presentation to the family during a Sunday church service. The local news got wind of her endeavor, and a CNN crew showed up at her house to film a segment that would air on Memorial Day. The "Matthew Bears" quickly gained nationwide attention. What had initially been a one-time gift to a local family became something that Lisa couldn't get off her mind. She would wake up every morning thinking about the bears, feeling as though it was an endeavor she was meant to pursue. But she struggled with the effects of degenerative disc disease, and sitting and sewing for hours put her in tremendous pain. How could she take on the commitment that growing the "Matthew Bear" program would require?

Clarity came to her when she opened up her email inbox after she was featured on CNN. There were more than 1,000 emails.

"As I started to open these things up, over half of them were seamstresses from all over the country. Even England and Australia. They were from everywhere," she recalled. She realized she could make the dream a reality by establishing a network of volunteers. "I could just see Matthew smiling," she added.

Lisa and her daughter built databases and established an organizational system for fielding both requests for bears and offers to sew them. She started matching families with seamstresses as geographically closely as she could, providing the opportunity for many of them to meet each other. From newborns to grandparents, Matthew Bears have provided comfort for more than 600 grieving loved ones to date.



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

These daughters of a fallen servicemember were among the first group to receive "Matthew Bears" made from their father's uniforms. After sewing her first batch of bears, national coverage on CNN opened the door for Lisa to create a network of seamstresses who help fulfill requests for bears.

Aaron Benjamin, right, and his mother, Judy, hold bears made from uniforms worn by his brother, MSgt Adam Benjamin, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. The seven bears pictured here were among the 13 that the Benjamin family received from the Matthew Freeman Project.



COURTESY OF AARON BENJAMIN



COURTESY OF AARON BENJAMIN

“So many of these seamstresses are people that wish they could do something to help our military and this was their gift to be able to do that,” said Lisa. She speaks of the stories she hears from them—how they cried as they tore the seams apart, and the emotion that goes into working with these uniforms—and knows that she was meant for this.

Lisa sends the seamstresses patterns, gold stars, eyes and a special “Matthew Bear” label along with a letter, and the family requesting the bears sends the uniforms directly to the seamstress they are paired with.

For Aaron Benjamin, whose brother, Master Sergeant Adam F. Benjamin, USMC, was killed in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2009, while serving as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician, the priceless gift of bears made from his brother’s uniforms stirred up a lot of emotion for him and his family.

“He was a model Marine. Everybody loved him,” said Benjamin of his brother, referencing story after story the family heard from his fellow Marines after his death. “And the bears just topped it off. I was so happy that all of my siblings will have a piece of him all the time.”

When Aaron heard about Lisa’s endeavors with the Matthew Bears, he knew it was something he wanted to have done for his family—his mother, father, grandmother and 10 siblings. He gathered up his brother’s uniforms and contacted Lisa, with whom he immediately felt a bond.

“Lisa will do anything she can for anybody,” said Aaron. That included making sure the Benjamin family received the 13 bears he requested, thanks to the efforts of three different seamstresses. “She’s a wonderful person,” he added, expressing his gratitude for all she does to help his and other grieving families.

When Lisa Freeman remembers her son Matt, she thinks of his adventurous spirit, the big grin he always wore on his face, even in military photos—he wasn’t one for the “somber, tough guy looks,” she says—and his contagious laugh. And while

she says she’d do just about anything to hear that laugh again, she also believes with all her heart that he is more alive than ever. He continues to leave her signs, but now they’re in the faces of the Gold Star siblings who receive scholarships in his name and the children who cling to the bears lovingly stitched from the uniforms of their fallen loved ones. And they’re in the stories that she continues to hear, and the letters and emails she continues to receive, from people whose lives Matt touched in so many ways. Touching the lives of others in his memory, said Lisa, has brought her healing from her family’s tragedy.

Author’s note: If you’re interested in assisting the Matthew Freeman Project by sewing bears or making a donation, or if you’d like to request a bear or apply for a Gold Star Sibling Scholarship, visit www.freemanproject.org.

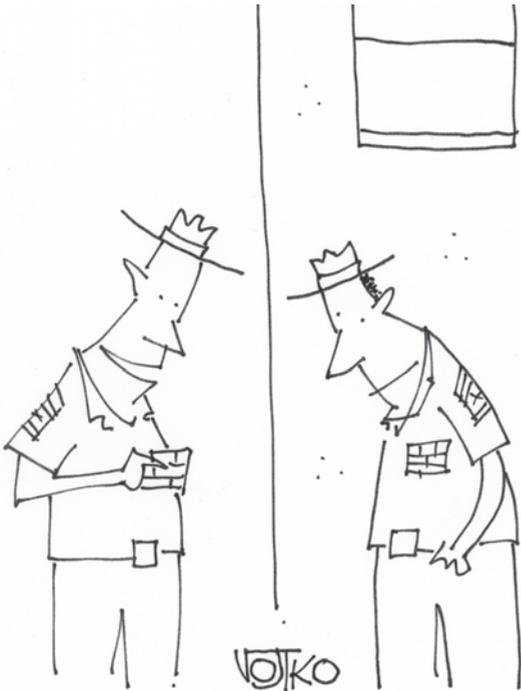
Author’s bio: Sara W. Bock joined the Leatherneck staff in 2008 and is presently the magazine’s only full-time writer. She has a bachelor’s degree in English and is the wife of a Marine aviator. 🇺🇸



COURTESY OF LISA FREEMAN

While training with the 4th Marines Embedded Training Team just prior to their deployment to Afghanistan, Capt Matthew Freeman told his mother that the experience had been his proudest time in the Corps.

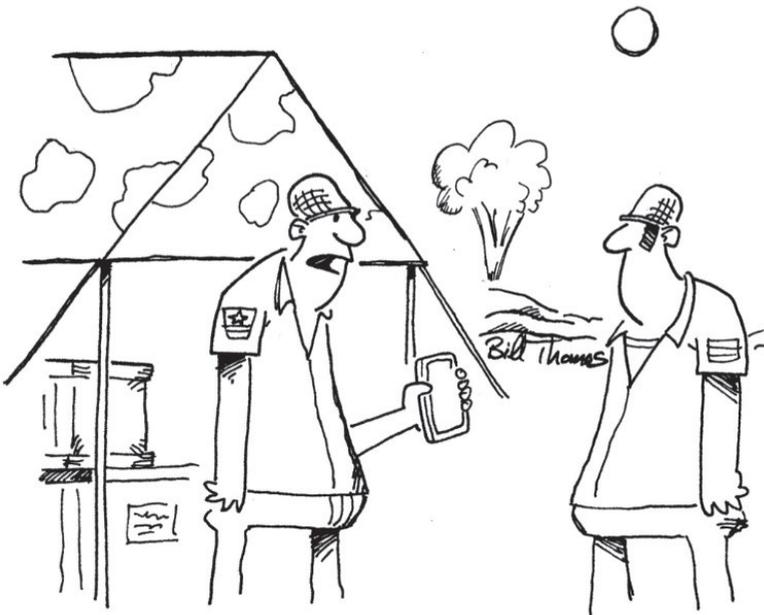
Leatherneck Laffs



"This one's for me letting the captain beat me at golf."



"Really! Sniper hazing?"



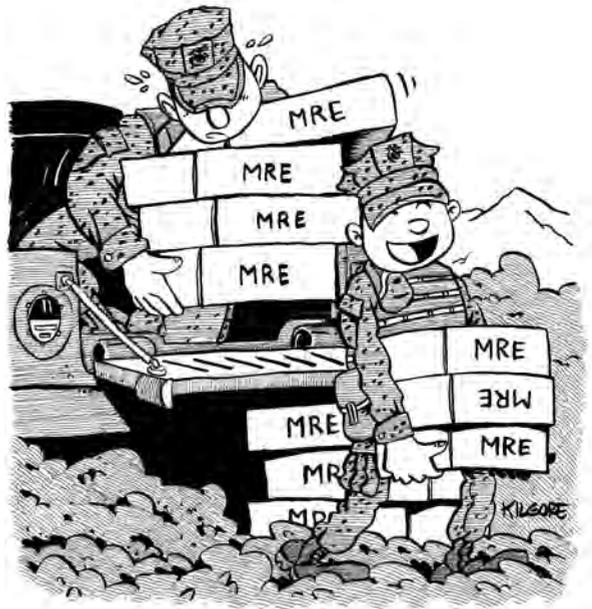
"I called the general for air support and it went to voicemail."



"I really like the Marine uniform. I get plenty of likes on Facebook."



"I think he's getting the hang of it."



"I always wanted to work on a food truck."



"So you feel there's hostility in the workplace ..."

The Haze of War At CUZCO WELL, Cuba, 1898



By Patrick McSherry

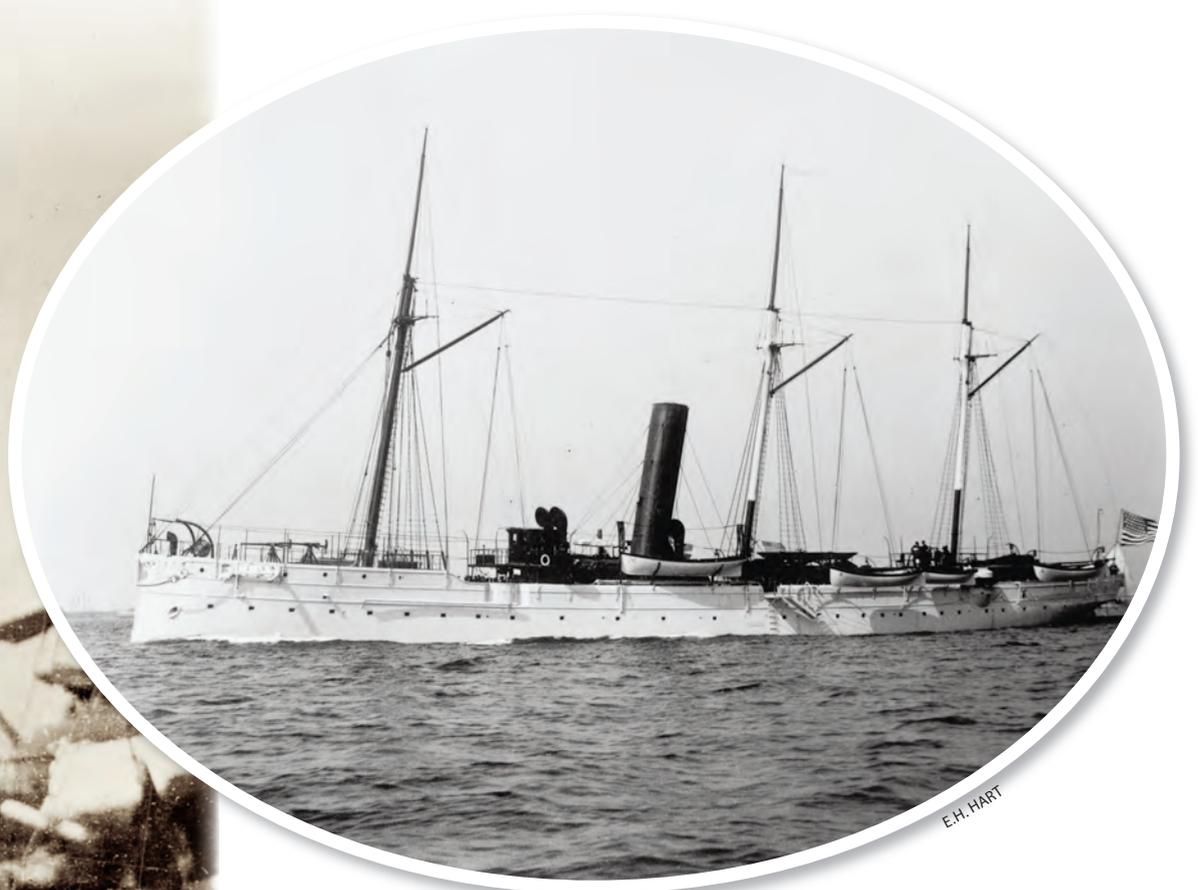
“It was a blazing, bitter hot day on top of the ridge with its shriveled chaparral and its straight, tall cactus plants. The sky was bare and blue, and hurt like brass,” wrote war correspondent Stephen Crane. The Marines of the 1st Marine Battalion were kneeling, standing and lying prone on the remote Cuban ridgeline, pouring down a steady fire into the valley below. They were outnumbered about two to one, but they held the high ground and had the Spaniards on the run.

Tiring of the harassing attacks on their foothold camp at Fishermans Point, a hill

at the entrance of Cuba’s Guantanamo Bay, the small Marine force decided to take the offensive. The day had dawned hot on June 14, 1898, and by mid-morning the Marines were on the march under the blistering sun. Approaching the Spanish camp from the sea side, the Marine force of 160 men, joined by about 50 Cuban fighters, had almost taken the Spanish by complete surprise. However, as they approached the last intervening ridge, they were spotted, and to gain the high ground, had to charge up the side of a long-dormant volcano. It was a tough climb with the men finding that they would “go up 1 foot and slip back 6.” The Battle of Cuzco Well had begun.

The Marines beat the Spaniards to the high ground, driving off the few who held the ridge in hand-to-hand combat. Then the small force began raining rifle fire into the valley and the Spanish troops who had taken cover in the thick foliage below. Periodically, a Spaniard would break from the covering thicket—about an acre of bushes with large, oily green leaves—to try to escape, but the man would generally pay for the attempt with his life. The concealed Spaniards kept up a steady fire at the Marines and their Cuban allies, their Mausers firing smokeless powder and not betraying their positions. The Marines found themselves at a loss as they could not see their adversaries in

A signalman (left) from 1st Marine Bn at Camp McCalla holds one of the official red and white single flags in June 1898. A telescope for reading signals that were being received is to his left. The dispatch boat USS *Dolphin* (inset) aided the Marines at Cuzco Well by bombarding the Spanish position.



E.H. HART

(PG-24), which had been shadowing the expedition just offshore—and have her gunners direct their fire into the valley to make it an uncomfortable place for the Spaniards. To bring his plan into action, Elliott bellowed for a signalman.

The first to leap to the call was Private John Fitzgerald. He tied his polka-dotted neckerchief to his Lee rifle and stood up. Nearby was an unlikely witness to the unfolding scene—newspaper correspondent Stephen Crane—already well-known as the author of “The Red Badge of Courage.” Before the force had left camp, Crane had suggested to Elliott that he could serve as an adjutant on the expedition that was short on officers, and his offer was accepted. Crane witnessed the unfolding drama on the volcanic ridge and recorded the events for his readers.

Sending the signal to *Dolphin* was not going to be a rapid procedure. The signaling system in use was the old Myer “wigwag” signal system, developed 40 years earlier, just prior to the Civil War. The system required the signalman to stand straight, moving only to drop the make-shift signal flag to his left or right to designate “1” or “2” respectively. The system required letters to be spelled out by combinations of these two

digits—for instance “B” was 2112 and then designating an end to the letter by dropping the flag forward and the end of a word by repeating this action three times. Words had to be spelled completely since a code had not been previously established between the vessel and the Marines. Crane watched Fitzgerald—he referred to him as “Clancy” in his writings—perform his laborious and dangerous task.

Crane later wrote, “At first Clancy moved a ways down the safe side of the ridge and wigwagged there very busily. But ... those on the *Dolphin* did not see it. So Clancy had to return to the top of the ridge and outline himself and his flag against the sky ... As soon as the Spaniards caught sight of this silhouette, they let go like mad at it. To make things more comfortable for Clancy, the situation demanded that he face the sea and turn his back to the Spanish bullets. This was a hard game ... to stand with the small of your back to volley firing ... We all cleared out of his neighborhood.

“It cannot be denied that Clancy was in a hurry. I watched him. He was so occupied with the bullets that snarled close to his ears that he was obliged to repeat the letters of his message softly to himself. It seemed an intolerable time

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the dense growth of the valley and their advance began to lose energy.

The Marines’ commander had to react quickly to regain the momentum. Unfortunately, the heat had taken its toll on the Marine command structure. The commander of the expedition, Captain George Elliott of Company C, went down, along with Captain William Spicer of Co D, both victims of the heat during the charge up the steep slope. Both would rejoin their troops about a quarter of an hour later. Pushing his overheated body into action and reorienting to the changed conditions, Elliott realized that the stalemate needed to be broken. He decided to make use of USS *Dolphin*

before the *Dolphin* answered the little signal. Meanwhile, we gazed at him, marvelling every second that he had not yet pitched headlong. He swore at times ... Finally the *Dolphin* replied to his frantic gesticulation and he delivered his message. As his part of the transaction was quite finished—Whoop!—he dropped like a brick into the firing line and began to shoot.”

Immediately, the ship let loose its guns on the valley, including the thicket and the small structure that was being used as a Spanish command post. As the shells landed among them, Spanish troops knew their position was untenable and broke, retreating under the ship’s shellfire and the highly accurate rifle fusillade of the Marines.

On an adjacent ridge, having taken a different route to the field of action, a platoon of the battalion’s Co A had arrived on the scene and now attempted to cut off the Spanish retreat. They were held back by the firing of *Dolphin*, whose shells were now passing beyond the thicket and onto the hillside where Co A had appeared. Again, a signalman was needed. This time, Sergeant John Henry Quick responded to the call. He, too, had to stand atop the ridge exposed to the fire of the retreating Spanish troops while signaling *Dolphin* to cease its fire. Crane wrote of Quick, identifying him by name in his account, that he “would not have given a tin tobacco-tag for his life,” while he performed his duty. Quick later had to repeat his signaling a second time.

Though they had shown bravery and



Sgt John Henry Quick

fought hard, the larger Spanish force was outmatched, surprised and demoralized. The battle was an unqualified success for the small Marine force. By capturing the camp and its well, the only freshwater source in the vicinity, the Spanish were forced to withdraw 12 miles. This left control of the entrance to Guantanamo Bay firmly in the hands of the Marines and the U.S. Navy. This was critical strategically as the bay was needed as a smooth-water base to allow the naval vessels to re-coal from colliers rather than having to leave Cuban waters for fuel. Also, the bay would provide a refuge should severe weather threaten the naval forces blockading nearby Santiago Bay.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Spanish prisoners of war captured at Cuzco Well. The prisoners are shown aboard the collier *Abarenda* on June 14, 1898, the same day they were captured .

In the battle, two Cubans were killed and two more wounded, and the Marines had three men slightly wounded. However, about 60 Spaniards were killed, 150 wounded, and one officer and 17 men were captured. In addition to the casualties listed above, the Marines had 23 men overcome by heat.

In his report of the action, Capt Elliott lauded Sgt Quick for signaling during the battle. The report made no mention of Pvt Fitzgerald’s actions. Five months later, in November 1898, Elliott, at the behest of the battalion commander, Colonel Robert Huntington, recommended Quick for the Medal of Honor. In his letter of recommendation, he stated Quick signaled USS *Dolphin* three times. His detailed letter stated: “Sergt. [Sergeant] Quick volunteered to signal using a dark blue flag belonging to the Cubans. After a trial of twenty minutes it was found impossible for the USS *Dolphin* to read the signal against the background, and that it was necessary to make it from the crest of the hill so that the flag would show against the sky. Sergeant Quick in each occasion stood fairly on the crest, his back to the enemy, a number of whom opened fire, and made his signal as coolly as if on a parade ground, bullets drifted by him, and some cut the dust near his feet of which he must have been conscious. When the signal was ended, the Sergeant remaining in the same ground, would kneel and fire.”

Though he mentions that the signaling occurred three times, Elliott only describes the first signal that was sent—that done by Private Fitzgerald—as this was done when the firing was at its hottest and when the signalman was in the most grave danger. He had failed to notice that the signaling was the work of two different men. He only recommended one, the second signalman, John Quick, for the Medal of Honor.

What would lead Elliott to make the grave error of recommending a man for the Medal of Honor while describing the actions of another? This is particularly inexplicable because he would have known Quick well, and he failed to realize that the man to whom he gave orders and instructions was not Quick, nor was the man in the uniform of a noncommissioned officer.

The apparent reason for Elliott’s error lay in the heat. Prior to the battle, nine men abandoned the expedition because of “exhaustion.” After the battle, 22 men were evacuated to USS *Dolphin* with heat issues, in addition to Captain Spicer of Co D. Spicer was only 26 years of age, and many of the men were of comparable age or younger. Elliott was the “old man” at 52. It is also known that both Spicer

and Elliott “were almost suffocated with heat” and were out of action from the heat for about 15 minutes immediately prior to the first signaling attempt. It can be assumed that for the expedition commander to allow himself to be out of the action he must have been suffering a profound heat-related medical condition. This may have limited his ongoing ability to command, something further indicated by the platoons of his company acting independently under his lieutenants, First Lieutenant Lewis Lucas and Second Lieutenant Philip Bannon, something Elliott notes in his report, commenting

that they “were handled with the best of judgment.” Elliott was acknowledging that they operated under the judgment of his subalterns, not his own.

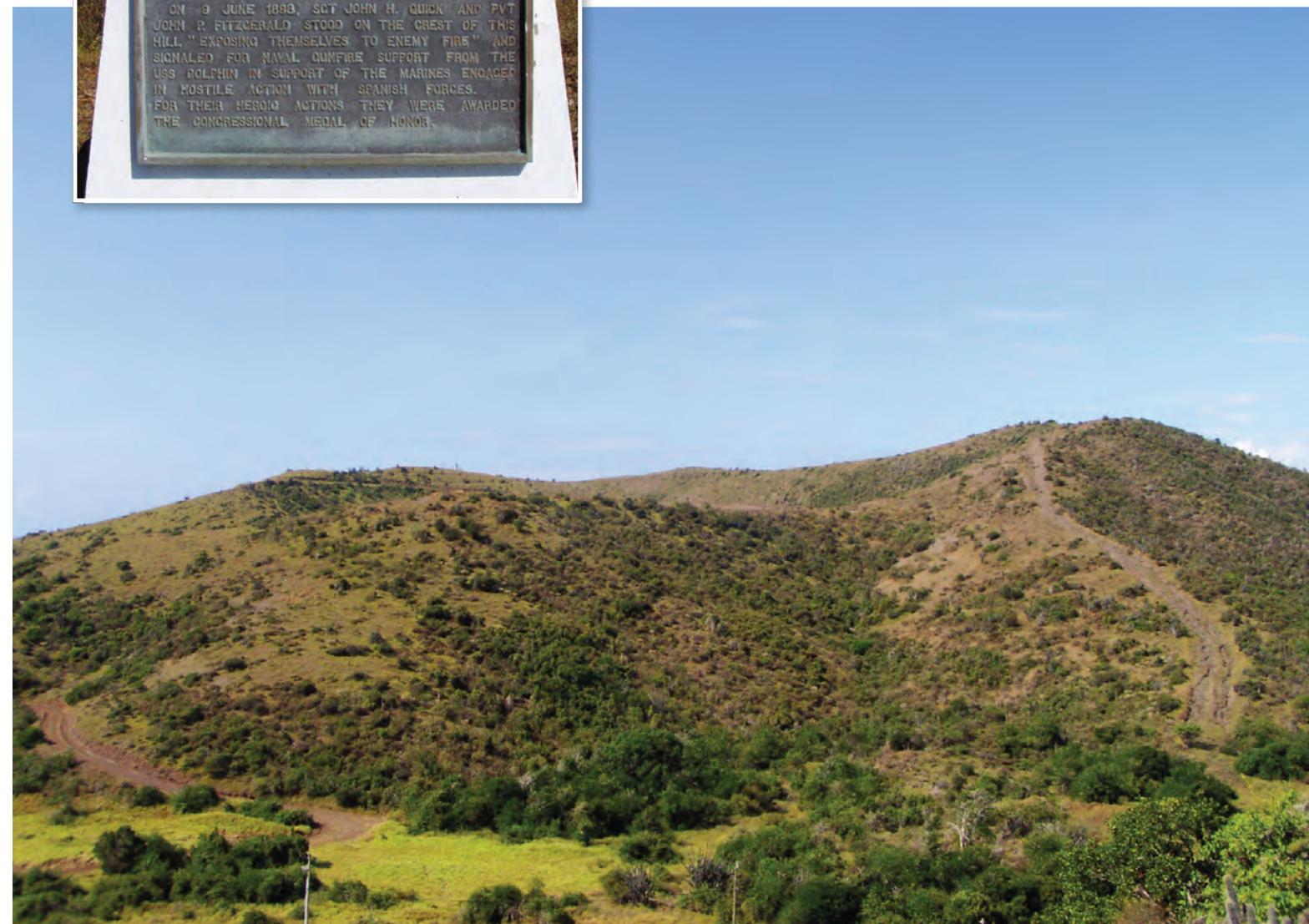
How would the heat have impacted the expedition commander? It has been shown that “heat stress can impair ... cognitive functions including long-term memory, short-term memory, decision making,” among other issues. Elliott’s condition may have been such that his memory was impaired, and he was unable to recognize or remember that the initial signalman was not Sgt Quick. Elliott’s report has about 550 words describing the expedition up to

the point he would have gone down from the heat, something he does not mention in his report. The remainder of the battle—the majority of the action—was described in about 160 words. He seemingly could not provide details on what occurred in the remaining one and three-quarter hours of the battle.

Luckily, there were other witnesses. Stephen Crane made a very favorable impression on the officers and men of the 1st Marine Battalion. Several of the officers remained in contact with him following his time with the Marines at Guantanamo Bay. In February of 1899, Crane’s article describing the signaling at the Battle of Cuzco Well appeared in *McClure’s Magazine*. The article later appeared as a chapter in a collection of Crane’s articles, “Wounds in the Rain.” Shortly after recommending Quick for the Medal of Honor, Elliott wrote to Crane stating that he “was afraid that the letter [of recommendation for Quick] was a little dramatic but your article braced me up in my opinions for we seemed to agree on the sergeant’s actions.” Interestingly, Crane’s article made it clear that two men were responsible for the signaling, and that John Quick was the second of the signalmen to perform that very hazardous duty.



This monument (left) was erected near Cuzco Well battlefield (below) honoring Sgt Quick and Pvt Fitzgerald. The final position of the main force of the 1st Marine Bn force was to the right of the high ridge of Cuzco Well. From this point Pvt Fitzgerald and Sgt Quick signaled for naval gunfire support. (Photos courtesy of Patrick McSherry)





COURTESY OF PATRICK MCSHERRY



COURTESY OF PATRICK MCSHERRY

Above: The trail shown is the probable route by which the Marine force entered the battlefield at Cuzco Well. The trail ran between the sea cliff and the toe of the slope of the volcanic ridge which shielded their advance from view.

Left: More than 100 years after the battle, shells from Marines' Lee rifles are still visible on the ridge where their main firing line was positioned.

Given his condition during the battle, it is entirely possible that Elliott was not fully aware of his error until he read Crane's article on the signaling episode. Quick himself may not have been aware of what was included in the letter of recommendation until it was too late. This may explain why Quick did not act on the offer of a commission. However, it is clear, Elliott's error aside, that John Quick fully earned the Medal of Honor for his actions that day.

Time moved on. John Fitzgerald rose to the rank of gunnery sergeant

prior to leaving the Corps. In 1910 he was an employee of the U.S. Customs Service in New York City. At about that time, Fitzgerald contacted his former commander, George Elliott, concerning the Medal of Honor. Elliott had continued in the Marine Corps, rising to the rank of major general, and was now the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Elliott followed up on Fitzgerald's inquiry and recommended him for the Medal of Honor in what was nearly his last act before retiring. Elliott ended his distinguished career on Nov. 30, 1910.

In his letter of recommendation, Elliott noted that Fitzgerald "performed duty of a similar character to that of Sergeant Quick ... their conduct being almost exactly alike." Elliott then did something very telling. Rather than rely on his own memories of the events in question, Elliott cited Stephen Crane's account describing "the signaling done by Sergeant Quick and Private Fitzgerald. The action of these men he [Crane] described in a little book called 'Wounds in the Rain.' I do not think he had overdrawn the facts in any degree and I therefore [enclose] a copy of that part of his book" In short, Elliott could not relate his own memories, but relied on those recorded by Stephen Crane. However, to Elliott's credit, he took the initiative to correct the 12-year-old error.

In December of 1910, a dozen years after the Spanish-American War ended, John Fitzgerald received his Medal of Honor.

Author's bio: Patrick McSherry is the editor of the Spanish American War Centennial website. He studied the Cuzco Well battlefield firsthand in 2006. 🐼

Advancing at Soissons

Marine Tenacity, Uncommon Endurance Shift Momentum to the Allies



COURTESY OF JAMES R. NILO

Second Division artillery moved up on a road to Soissons on July 18, 1918. The French and British called it the Second Battle of the Marne, but to Americans it was the Aisne-Marne Offensive.

By J. Michael Miller

“The story of your achievements will be told in millions of Allied homes tonight,” said Major General James G. Harbord, commanding general of 2nd Division, on the legacy of the two days of battle at Soissons.

The 4th Marine Brigade played a vital role at Soissons, helping to capture 3,000 prisoners, 66 pieces of artillery, more than 100 machine guns and trench mortars—all in only two days of battle. Most importantly, the attack achieved one of the greatest American breakthroughs of the war—advancing 5 miles into the German lines.

Yet, Soissons appears to be largely unknown to most Marines. The battle

of Belleau Wood remains the most prominent of all Marine battles of World War I; however, the true significance of Belleau Wood cannot be fully understood without understanding Soissons. The two battles are closely connected, with Belleau Wood playing a role in halting the German offensive on the Marne River while Soissons turned the tide of battle, forcing the enemy to actually withdraw from the river.

The Marines were selected specifically by the French to initiate the attack, along with the American 1st Division and the Moroccan Division that contained Foreign Legion and Senegalese units. Each of the units selected was made up of elite assault troops who were intent on breaking into the flank of the German salient at Soissons. If the attack could break or even

threaten the German supply lines there, the enemy would have to withdraw back to their original positions or lose the bulk of their forces on the Marne River.

The key to the attack was operational security. The French commanders held the details from the Americans as well as from their own army to ensure surprise. They waited until July 15 when the German offensive on the eastern and southern side of the Marine salient failed, then moved their forces during the night of July 16-17, 1918. The three assault divisions gathered near the massive Forest de Retz, preparing for a night march into the forest covering their movement from German aircraft. The attack had to begin before dawn the following day, July 18.

The movement to assault proved a crucible for the 4th Marine Brigade that



was forever etched in their memories as the most challenging of the war. The veterans of Belleau Wood only rested 11 days before loading on French camions (trucks) with their usual Vietnamese drivers, ready for what some hoped would be a trip to a quiet rest area. Veteran Marines knew that the appearance of the camions guaranteed a return to the front. The Marines, loaded with all of their gear, climbed into the trucks and the column proceeded north.

Bouncing over “jolting, narrow, gravel road full of chuck holes,” as described by Private First Class Havelock Nelson, 97th Company, 6th Marine Regiment, allowed little opportunity for sleep. The erratic

driving by the exhausted Vietnamese, many drinking wine to stay awake, did little to rest the Marines. Several camions overturned during the night and were pushed off the road to allow the column to proceed.

The exhausted Marines arrived outside the Forest de Retz the following morning in a foul mood. Dust from clouds of road grime covered each Marine and most offloaded into the fields with empty canteens and no water in sight. The sun blazed down on the Marines as they rested in the hot open fields, inducing a stupor created by a lack of sleep, food and water. Orders finally arrived in the afternoon. The 4th Marine Brigade would make a

night march through the forest roads until reaching the other side where the German front line lay. The Marines planned to attack at 4:35 a.m., following a rolling barrage of Allied artillery.

The Marines moved into the forest preparing for another night without sleep. At first, the trees of the medieval forest proved cooler than the fields, as the trees merged overhead to block the sun and the German observation aircraft. Water was still absent, causing the march to become more painful with each step. Sweat rolled down each face, making furrows in the dust and dirt and soaking their woolen shirts and blouses.

A small puddle of water along the road

Parcy-Tigny



Left: A view of the terrain on which 1st Bn, 5th Marines attacked. The town of Tigny is visible in the distance.

Below: American servicemen along with horse-drawn carts, French cavalry and artillery passing out of the Forest de Retz. (Photo courtesy of Army History and Education Command)



were forced into the ditches as they avoided the traffic nightmare in the road and the danger of being crushed in the sea of vehicles. "Shoulder straps of the heavy packs began to cut relentlessly into our shoulders," Nelson recalled, "causing a dull throbbing ache to spread along the shoulder muscles into the muscles of the neck. Frequent shifting of the rifle from one arm to the other or hoisting the pack from the bottom with both hands for a few minutes failed to bring any relief."

The absence of sleep for a second night combined with the lack of food and water caused the misery of the night march to become a sheer matter of stubborn Marine determination to reach the far side of the forest by 4:35 a.m.

Just as the Marines believed their pain could get no worse, a torrent of rain suddenly appeared, accompanied by flashes of thunder and lightning. The problem of lack of water instantly disappeared, but the road turned into a sea of mud, making each step treacherous. The only way to proceed was for each Marine to hold onto the pack of the man in front of him as it was impossible to see in the darkness. The driving rain also turned the misery of the packs into new torment. The water added extra weight to the packs thoroughly soaking each Marine. The experience of the march through the Forest de Retz can hardly be

fully described, but every Marine who made that march remembered it as much as any combat he encountered.

As the hours passed, arriving late for the attack became a real concern for the Marine commanders. If the Marines missed the rolling barrage, the advantages of surprise and artillery support would quickly disappear. The 5th Marine Regiment was to begin the attack with the 6th Marines in reserve. By 4 a.m., neither regiment was in place. Maj Julius Turrell's 1st Battalion leading the advance for the 5th Marines was several hundred yards from their jump-off point. Turrell had no time to reconnoiter the ground over which he would attack. There were no signs of French guides to lead them into position. He directed his men to run ahead into the woods on the left of the road, giving each man two extra bandoliers of ammunition as he passed. Maj Ralph Keyser, commanding the 2nd Bn, did the same as his men moved to the right, personally handing out the bandoliers.

At 4:35 a.m., the artillery barrage opened, roaring over the heads of the running columns of Marines, with the concussion shaking the ground underneath the feet of the Marines sprinting into position. After 10 minutes, the shells moved farther ahead, allowing the Marines to charge into the forest, leaping over fallen trees taken down by the bar-

ARMY HISTORY AND EDUCATION COMMAND

drew Marines like a magnet, each man intent on filling his canteen as quickly as possible before the water ran dry. Mud, leaves and sludge prevented a quick refill so canteen cups were used to pull the water from the pond. Despite the mire spiced by innumerable hobnailed shoes, PFC Nelson remembered, "That drink of water stands out in my memory today as the sweetest, most refreshing drink I ever had."

As the dark of night appeared, the main forest road soon turned into a mass of trucks, horse-drawn carts, tanks, staff cars, French cavalry and artillery, all intent on reaching their jump-off positions for the early morning attack. The Marines



American soldiers march on their way to their camp in France June 6, 1918.

rage. They soon ran into a series of interlocking machine-gun positions, protected by strings of barbed wire. The shells failed to eliminate any of the German guns and only alerted them to the American attack. The veterans of Belleau Wood knew exactly how to take on the machine guns. Marines fired on the gunners while small groups of other Marines crawled on the flank of each position until close enough to charge with their bayonets.

Sergeants Matej Kocak and Louis Cukela both received Medals of Honor for their actions in the first 20 minutes of the assault. Kocak eliminated the infantryman guarding the flank of a machine gun with his bayonet and the butt of his rifle before leaping into the gun pit to quiet the gunners. The Germans turned their

weapons toward Kocak but their short burst of machine-gun bullets merely missed, knocking off the Marine's helmet. Kocak jumped into the pit, killing three Germans with his bayonet but six more attacked him. Outnumbered, Kocak swung his bayoneted rifle to keep his enemy away, but the Germans closed in around him, ready to exact their vengeance. Just at that moment, the Marines of Kocak's platoon arrived to save their sergeant by taking the six Germans as prisoners. At the same time, Sgt Cukela knocked out three machine guns using his bayonet and captured German hand grenades.

With the German main line of resistance eliminated, the Marines pushed deeper into the woods. Joining in the advance were men of the 1st Moroccan Division. Although the Americans and Africans could not understand the others' language, they fought together with the same tactics.

The Moroccan and Senegalese battled with a hatred of the Germans, taking no prisoners. The Allied attack soon reached the edge of the wood, bursting out into long fields of wheat and sugar beets. The Marines did not hesitate, attacking deeper into the German rear, taking on enemy artillery batteries that opened direct fire on them. The Marines felt the hot path of the shells as they passed through their ranks but after the first shots fired, the German artillerymen were no match for the Marines and Senegalese.

The Marines and Africans plunged deeper into the German position, mixing in with soldiers of the French battalions of Schneider and Renault tanks, supporting the attack. The combined Allied force drove the Germans from the town of Chaudon and the Maison Farm. By 9 a.m., the attack paused in a ravine north of the town of



Above: German prisoners in Soissons, France, during WW I.

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Vierzy, having taken all objectives in little over four hours.

The attack punched a wide hole in the German defenses, potentially offering a collapse of the entire enemy defensive line, exposing the vital Soissons-Chateau Thierry Road. No further advance was ordered. No one expected such a sweeping defeat of the German defenders, and when word of the extent of the breakthrough reached French headquarters, the news was scarcely believed. This was all accomplished with Marines operating on almost no sleep, food or water for two days after an exhausting night march in the pouring rain.

The Marines rested, seeking water, food and care for the wounded and the dead. The attack far outpaced the medical line of evacuation, so the injured were collected in the ravine to await transport, cared for by the corpsmen embedded with the

Senegal infantry were attached to Marines during the fighting at Soissons.

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infantry companies. The hot sun blazed down on the exhausted Marines and they searched nearby houses and farms for sustenance. As the hours passed by, no further orders reached the Marines or the 3rd Army Brigade. With every minute that passed, German reinforcements arrived to fill the gap in their line. The enemy knew the importance of the American breakthrough and the danger of a collapse of the entire line was imminent unless the 2nd Division was stopped. The vital line of supply for the entire salient, the Soissons-Chateau-Thierry Road, lay only 2 1/2 miles from the American line. With only fragments of German units defending the ground, the German commanders knew they had to hold the road until nightfall when fresh units would arrive.

New orders from the French XX Corps commander arrived in the afternoon, directing a renewal of the attack at 6 p.m. The Marines and soldiers of the Division sought to advance to the cut of the vital Soissons-Chateau Thierry Road.

At the appointed moment, the 1/5 Marines attacked the town of Vierzy, driving the Germans out after a house-to-house battle fought with bayoneted rifles against machine guns. Turrill's men captured many prisoners, but halted at the eastern edge of the town, allowing the 23rd Infantry to proceed past the town into a mile-wide field of wheat and sugar beets. The field provided little or no cover for anyone moving toward the road, which was located on higher ground just beyond. The Marines watched as the soldiers moved past and were pinned down by a massive artillery barrage after proceeding only half a mile.

At the same time, Maj Keyser's 2/5 Marines attacked across the field to the north, supporting the 9th Infantry attempting to reach the road as well. The assault quickly broke apart as Keyser pulled his men to the left against the German 110th Grenadier Regiment, firing directly down the flank of the American advance. Six French tanks arrived to support the Marines. Artillery fire soon bracketed the tanks, knocking them out one by one.

The Marines continued their attack, pressing forward toward the town of Lechelle. A combination of artillery fire and machine-gun fire halted the Marines who were pinned down, unable to advance further. The Marines held their ground until nightfall, digging in while awaiting further orders.

Orders came during the night from the French XX Corps to renew the attack the following morning, again with the vital Soissons Chateau Thierry road as the target.



Above: Remains of a Schneider tank at Soissons. (Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Archives and Special Collections)



Above: A French Renault tank during the Marine advance on Soissons. German gunners had little difficulty knocking them out. (Photo courtesy of James R. Nilo)

The losses of the morning attack paled in comparison to the evening assault in the open sugar beet fields. The 5th Marines, 9th Infantry and 23rd Infantry were reduced in strength, leaving only the reserve 6th Marines able to continue the fight. Lieutenant Colonel Harry Lee commanded the regiment, supported by the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, the Army 2nd Engineer Battalion, and any other 2nd Division units still in the fight.

As daylight broke over the battlefield on July 19, Lee moved the 2,800 men of the 6th Marines through Vierzy into the deadly field beyond, halting just short of the Army line left from the night before. The formation of the 6th Marines

proved "magnificent" with Maj John A. Hughes' 1st Bn on the right and Maj Thomas Holcomb's 2nd Bn on the left. Maj Berton W. Sibley's 3rd Bn formed the reserve, taking its place behind the two lead battalions. Lee moved his men forward at 7 a.m. into the field and waited for the French tank support to arrive. The German artillery soon detected the Marine advance and sent over shells, causing casualties to mount before the attack even began.

At 8 a.m., the tanks arrived, signaling the attack to begin. The 6th Marines had never trained or fought with tanks before, so they were wary of the new vehicles joining their attack. The 3-mile per

hour speed was immediately a concern, slowing the Marine advance significantly and resulting in more time in the open fields. The Marines immediately noticed the tanks were drawing fire, causing them to give the tanks plenty of leeway. By 9:50 a.m., the lead Marine battalions advanced past the 23rd Infantry's line. Both Holcomb and Hughes felt positive about the success of their attack.

None of the Marine commanders, however, recognized they were moving into a kill zone of German artillery and machine guns that were already ranged on every foot of ground in the fields. The Marines moved into a box held by the Germans on three sides, waiting to open fire once the Americans were in deep enough that getting out would be nearly impossible. The 1st Moroccan Division had yet to advance to the north to secure the 6th Marines flank, while the French 38th Division failed to keep up on the right flank.

At 10 a.m., the Germans opened on the 6th Marines with full force, ripping into both flanks with a roar of artillery and staccato of machine-gun and rifle fire. Holcomb's battalion turned north to take on the Germans near the town of Villemontoire, while Hughes concentrated on the town of Tigny on the right. Lee sent his reserves of Sibley's Battalion and the Marine 6th Machine Gun Battalion into the center of the attack to fill the gap between Holcomb and Hughes. All of his men were now engaged, with little success in moving forward. Each of the Marine companies lost officers and senior enlisted who were taken down within minutes. Any Marine who moved in the fields drew immediate fire. Casualties mounted by the minute until every company dug in where it was pinned down by the German fire.

The French tanks were knocked out one by one, sending up burning pyres of smoke to mark the destruction. Some French crews abandoned their tanks, choosing to take their chances in the sugar beet fields. The Germans held complete control of the air, using aircraft circling overhead to adjust artillery fire. Fighter aircraft made repeated strafing runs in the intervals between artillery barrages, dropping hand grenades as well.

The Marines fought back the best they could. Two tanks captured by the Germans threatened Hughes's 1st Bn from the south. First Lieutenant Macon C. Overton's 76th Company held the area and received orders to take out the enemy tanks. First Lieutenant Walter S. Fant Jr. deployed his platoon into the wheat fields around the tanks, losing two-thirds of his men in the movement. Fant and two of his men reached the Germans but they ran out of



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Captured German machine guns on the road from Villers-Cotterets to Soissons.

ammunition by the time they closed with the tanks. The Marines broke into the tanks' hatches and fought the enemy with trench knives and fists until the crews of both vehicles were killed. All three Marines were seriously wounded in the fight; Fant was found unconscious, bleeding from his wounds inside one of the tanks after the fight was over.

Second Lieutenant Clifton B. Cates commanded a platoon of the 96th Company attacking in the direction of Villemontoire. He found himself as the lone surviving officer still able to lead the remains of the company, which lost 20 men killed and 56 wounded during the fight. Although wounded in the knee, Cates gathered all available Marines in a small roadbed, still engaging the enemy. Cates reported to Holcomb, "I have only two men left out of my company and 20 out of other companies. We need support but it is almost suicidal to try and get here as we are swept by machine-gun fire and a constant artillery barrage is upon us. I have no one on my left, and only a few on my right. I will hold."

Nightfall ended the battle, enabling the 6th Marines and 6th Machine Gun Bn to withdraw under the cover of darkness. French troops came in to relieve the Marines and were reluctant to remain on positions so far forward. The entire 4th

Marine Brigade pulled back to the Forest de Retz where they were issued food and water for the first time since July 16. The Marines then moved to a rear area for rest and refit in preparation for more combat. The Soissons Chateau Road was not taken until long after the Marines retired, but the attack by the 2nd Division on July 18 and the 6th Marines on July 19 allowed Allied artillery to fire on the road, forcing the Germans to retire from their salient. From that moment on, the Allies maintained the initiative, pushing the Germans back from their hard-won gains.

The battles of Belleau Wood and Soissons are entwined forever, as one cannot be fully understood without the knowledge of the other. The achievements of the 4th Marine Brigade at Belleau Wood culminated at Soissons. If Belleau Wood was the anvil from which the 4th Marine Brigade was formed, then Soissons was the hammer.

Author's bio: J. Michael Miller retired from the Marine Corps History Division in 2016 after more than 30 years of service and is now writing a multi-volume history of the Marine Corps in World War I. The first volume of the series will be published in the summer of 2018 and will cover the battles of Belleau Wood and Soissons.

LEGACY OF THE 29TH COMMANDANT

General Alfred M. Gray Continues to Serve



Few Marines have had as significant and lasting impact on the Marine Corps of today as the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alfred M. Gray, whose tenure as the Corps' senior Marine was more than 25 years ago. His legacy in combat is reflected in his Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, four Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts, and Gen Gray's continuing influence on the professional development of Marines and Marine Corps doctrine over the last 40 years is second to none.

"General Gray is a Marine's Marine—a tough warrior and demanding taskmaster with a heart of gold. In the toughest of situations he always saw the opportunity to make a difference by doing what was right and never worrying about who got credit," said Gen Gray's former aide, retired Lieutenant General George Flynn.

Background

A native of New Jersey, Gen Gray enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1950 and served in reconnaissance billets as he worked his way through the ranks up to the grade of sergeant. The son of a Navy veteran, the general's decision to join the Marine Corps was a bit surprising to his family. "My father had been a seaman in the Navy in World War I. And when I came back from enlisting, he said 'Are you going to go to Bainbridge or Great Lakes?' I said Parris Island!"

His service as an enlisted Marine greatly influenced the rest of his career, and the general fondly remembers his best day in the Corps as the day he joined the ranks of noncommissioned officers. "I think as excited as I ever was as a young Marine ... my proudest day probably was when I got to put corporal on my return address on the envelope [home]. That was a very, very good day."

SSGT J. S. SANDERS, USMC

By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

Gen Alfred M. Gray, 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, attends the change of command ceremony for Marine Helicopter Squadron 1 (HMX-1) at Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico, Va., on July 9, 1987.

Author's note: The editors of Leatherneck and the Marine Corps Gazette were privileged to sit down with Gen Alfred M. Gray, 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, for an extensive interview in late April. As he celebrates his 90th birthday, he's every bit as sharp and witty as he was in the late 1980s when he served as the Corps' senior Marine. Gen Gray reflected on his time in the Corps and his strongly held belief in the importance of educating Marines.

Early Assignments in the Corps

His early years as an officer were spent in the infantry, but recognizing the need for improved signals intelligence, the future Commandant helped "restructure the Corps' cryptologic operations" and assisted in writing the doctrine for signals intelligence support to combat units. (*Editor's note: See "Radio Battalions in Vietnam During Operation Dewey Canyon" on page 50.*) The infantry officer ended up commanding the first Marine Corps' signals intelligence unit in Vietnam in 1962 and assumed command of 1st Radio Battalion later

“Thirty five years ago, we had the Beirut bombing of our BLT headquarters. I was in command of all the Marines and the 12 sailors and the three soldiers that were killed. They were all my people.”

in the war. His impact on the intelligence and communications communities is such that the General Alfred M. Gray Trophy for Outstanding Communications Leadership is presented to a Marine captain each year at the Marine Corps Association & Foundation’s annual C4 Awards Dinner. He is also in the National Security Agency’s Hall of Honor which pays “tribute to the pioneers and heroes who rendered distinguished service to American cryptology.”

Even before his selection to the general officer ranks, Gen Gray’s career was one that today’s Marine Corps officers would envy, given his significant time leading Marines vice serving in staff billets. In addition to his time as commanding officer of 1st Radio Bn, he also commanded 1st Bn, 2nd Marines and went on to lead 2nd Marines, 4th Marines and the 33rd Marine Amphibious Unit.

As much as he enjoyed leading Marines, he is quick to mention that not all of his days in command were good days. Two events in particular stand out in the general’s mind. “Some of the worst moments of my career were 43 years ago this morning (April 29, 1975) when we had to finish the evacuation of Saigon.” Then-Colonel Gray, the commander of Regimental Landing Team 4, was in charge of the

withdrawal of the ground security force from the American embassy. “It was a good moment from the standpoint that our people accomplished the very difficult mission under extraordinary circumstances with no casualties in the ground security force.” But unbeknownst to Gray, in the chaos of the evacuation, two Marines who had been killed earlier in the day at the Defense Attaché’s office were left behind. “I will tell you how furious I was when I found out back on the supply ship and how long we worked behind the scenes to try to get them back. We finally got them back, thanks to Senator Kennedy’s intercession, a year later. I never forgot that.”

Gen Gray said the worst day in his decades of service was Oct. 23, 1983, when he was serving as the Commanding General, 2nd Marine Division. “Thirty five years ago, we had the Beirut bombing of our BLT headquarters. I was in command of all the Marines and the 12 Sailors and the three soldiers that were killed. They were all my people.” As he has many times over the last three decades, the general plans to go to the Beirut Memorial in Jacksonville, N.C. in October to attend the ceremony



**BGen Alfred M. Gray,
CG 2ndMarDiv**

USMC

Gen Gray meets with troops following a live-fire demonstration.



SGT C.R. STOUT, USMC

“When I first got to Washington we were in bad shape with the Congress; the Congress was mad at the Marine Corps because of the incident in Moscow.”



Above: BGen Gray participated in Exercise Team Work '76 while serving as CG, 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade.

Above right: The Commandant visited 1st Bn, 5th Marines during Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia.

that commemorates the anniversary of the bombing.

The general later commanded Landing Force Training Command; 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade; Fleet Marine Forces Atlantic; II Marine Expeditionary Force; and Fleet Marine Forces Europe. His staff assignments are indicative of his wide ranging skill set; he also served in the Training and Education Division, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Division and the Marine Corps Development and Education Center. Such a diverse career path provided the general with the solid foundation from which to institute numerous changes and initiatives during his time as the 29th Commandant.

Heading to Washington, D.C.

A somewhat surprising choice when selected as Commandant in 1987, Gen Gray was considered by some to “lack the smooth edges you normally see in Washington,” according to a Defense Department official who was quoted in an article in the *Washington Post* announcing Gray’s nomination. The general laughingly remembered, “There was



a big criticism of this and that, and that I didn’t have any couth and chewed tobacco. It was a whole laundry list of criticisms.” He continued, “They thought I had never done anything with the Congress. They didn’t know how many times I briefed them about NATO.” So, in typical Al Gray fashion, the new Commandant took the bull by the horns, and made a concerted effort to work with everyone on Capitol Hill.

“When I first got to Washington, we were in bad shape with the Congress; the Congress was mad at the Marine Corps because of the incident in Moscow.” Sergeant Clayton J. Lonetree, an Embassy Security Guard, had admitted earlier in the year to handing over classified documents to the Soviet Union. He was convicted of espionage at a general court martial in August, 1987.

After leaving his office at the end of each day, Gen Gray went to Capitol Hill. “I called on probably 90 percent of the senators and their officers. I talked to principals; I talked to staffers; I talked to secretaries. I talked to people who wanted to talk to me. I called on about a third of the House



ROBERT WARD

The Joint Chiefs of Staff gather for an informal portrait at the Pentagon. From left to right: Gen Alfred M. Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps; GEN Carl E. Vuono, Chief of Staff of the Army; Admiral Carlisle A.H. Trost, Chief of Naval Operations; GEN Larry D. Welch, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; GEN Colin L. Powell, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs; and GEN Robert T. Herres, USAF, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

and the message was very simple. What you see is what you get. We're going to tell you what the Marine Corps needs. And then step back and take what you give us."

The new Commandant's approach worked. "Tell it like it is. Don't ever, ever, ever tell anyone anything but the truth. Don't be afraid to bite the bullet."

Initiatives

According to Dr. Charles Neimeyer, retired Marine lieutenant colonel and former director of the Marine Corps History Division, Gen Gray is one of the most important Commandants of the modern Marine Corps era. "Throughout his time as Commandant, General Gray constantly emphasized the individual intellectual growth he knew was necessary for a future Marine Corps. Moreover, General Gray's seminal book, "Warfighting" (FMFM-1), has been, in my opinion, one of the most important contributions toward doctrinal development in Marine Corps history. Warfighting rightfully takes its place alongside the Tentative

Manual for Landing Operations and the Small Wars Manual as part of the 'holy trinity' of all-time Marine Corps doctrinal publications."

Published in 1989, "Warfighting" described the tenets of maneuver warfare and was a prime example of Gen Gray's approach to leadership. In

Gen Gray makes a point while speaking during a conference aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA-4) in 1990.



SGT KISSLING, USMC



SGT EDWARDS, USMC

His affection for Marines is clearly evident as Gen Gray speaks to a group from 2nd Bn, 5th Marines, in the field.

his foreword Gen Gray wrote: “This book describes my philosophy on warfighting. It is the Marine Corps’ doctrine and, as such, provides the authoritative basis for how we fight and how we prepare to fight. I expect every officer to read, and reread, this book, understand it and take its message to heart You will notice that this book does not contain specific techniques and procedures for conduct. Rather, it provides broad guidance in the form of concepts and values. It requires judgment in application. The thoughts contained here represent not just guidance for actions in combat, but a way of thinking in general. This manual thus describes a philosophy for action which, in war and in peace, in the field and in the rear, dictates our approach to duty.”

Those who served in the Marine Corps of the late 1980s often heard the CMC denounce the careerism that seemed to be prevalent throughout the Corps. “I’m your monitor” and “Don’t send your uniforms to the dry cleaners” (since you might not be at the same duty station to pick them up) were often heard at all-hands meetings at which the new head of the Marine Corps spoke. “Homesteading” became a dirty word as Gen Gray shifted the Corps’ focus back to warfighting and a reminder that every Marine was a rifleman. He started with the Schools of

Infantry and instituted Marine Combat Training for all enlisted Marines who were not assigned the military occupational specialty of infantry. Thirty years after implementation, the success of the training is evident in the performance of non-infantry Marines throughout Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom among many others.

The Commandant’s Professional Reading List

Establishing Marine Combat Training Battalions was only the beginning of Gen Gray’s initiatives. He also established what is now known as the Commandant’s Professional Reading List saying, “Success in battle depends on many things, some of which we will not fully control. However, the state of preparedness of our Marines (physical, intellectual, psychological, operations) is in our hands. The study of our profession through selected readings will assist each Marine’s efforts to achieve operational competence and to better understand the nature of our “calling” as leaders of Marines.”

Quick to deflect some of the praise he has received for the highly successful program that is still going strong almost three decades after its inception, Gen Gray said: “Reading programs in the military was not a new idea. The Army had them, but they were for officers only, they weren’t for everyone else. In my own experience, we had learned a hell of a lot through reading. I can remember when I was a young officer when I went to Korea on my first tour there and I read a book called ‘Koreans and

“Homesteading” became a dirty word as Gen Gray shifted the Corps’ focus back to warfighting and a reminder that every Marine was a rifleman.



Above: President George H.W. Bush watches as the CMC, Gen Alfred M. Gray, attaches a battle streamer to the Marine Corps flag during the National Victory Celebration held in honor of the Allied forces' liberation of Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. (Photo by JO1 J.D. Dimattio, USN)

Left: President Bush talks with Gen Gray prior to speaking to Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., in 1991.

PH1(SW) JEFF ELLIOTT, USN

“I wanted a plan to have a first class library at Quantico. I wanted to call it a research center because the library has an administrative connotation and the Congress wouldn’t buy it.”

Marines of the support staff of the Amphibious Warfare School gather around Gen Alfred M. Gray, 29th CMC, for a group photograph. Kneeling in the front row from left: Sgt Howard, LCpl Gamboa, LCpl Sobotta, LCpl Murdock, Gen Gray, Cpl Juba, Cpl Lore and Cpl Oliveri. In the back row are, from left: LCpl Diaz, LCpl Stephens, LCpl Wallace, SSgt Vaccaro, Sgt Hamilton and Sgt Fuchs.

Their Culture.’ Learning how their villages were constructed and the way they operated was a help when I served in Vietnam.

“I remember in 1956 when I was in special operations up in northern Japan. And that’s when this fellow wrote the book, ‘The Ugly American’ which incidentally President Eisenhower directed the military to read. It was all about Laos initially, but it was also about the cultures, not understanding the cultures and the mores and languages of different regions, and our inability to look at other countries and other people through their eyes which is something I harp on even today.

“And so most of what I learned through the years I learned through reading personally ... I used to read a lot about the Mideast. I knew the value of it and I felt that again it goes back even to our experiences in Vietnam and some things we did. And I felt that had we operated in a smarter way and taught our people more—you can’t send everybody to school so reading was a good way to learn. I wanted that for everybody. I said the privates and PFCs should read the Marine Corps Guidebook. Everybody else has to be in the reading program.



Gen Gray and Jan, his wife of more than 30 years, greet his former aide, LtGen George Flynn. (Photo courtesy of LtGen George Flynn, USMC (Ret))

And so from lance corporals on we had the reading program. And my thought was very simple. What I was trying to do was hook them on reading.”

According to one Marine veteran, the Commandant’s goal worked too well. Gen Gray said, “I got one letter that I will never forget. Former Marine father from Colorado says ‘I want to know what the hell you’re doing with my Marine Corps.’ He says it isn’t the same as it used to be. ‘My son came home from 13 months in Okinawa last week. And of course he hugged his mom and he shook hands with me and the first thing he said was, “Dad, is that library still around the corner? Because I need to get a book.’ He said, ‘My son never read a book in his life!’ ”



CPL MCCORMICK, USMC

The Marine Corps University

Perhaps Gen Gray's greatest accomplishment as Commandant was the establishment of the Marine Corps University in 1989. The Gray Research Center, a cornerstone of the University, was named in his honor a few years later in recognition of his many contributions both to the study of arms and the professional development of Marines. "When I became commandant in 1987, I said I want to establish a university." And in typical Al Gray fashion, that's exactly what he did.

"You know how everything was a pink routing sheet and all that bureaucratic hoopla? And of course as you know, I was not from that school. I just wanted to establish a university and I wanted to do it soon." Recognizing his role, the CMC ensured his Marines had all the support needed to accomplish such an ambitious task. "I wanted a plan to have a first class library at Quantico. I wanted to call it a research center because the library has an administrative connotation and the Congress wouldn't buy it." When asked where the money was coming from to fund the project, Gen Gray simply said, "That's my job. I will find the money."

He directed his staff to take a look at other services' efforts, in particular the Air Force and their programs and facilities at Maxwell Air Force Base, where he had spent significant time throughout his career instructing various courses. "I already was going to adopt the Maxwell thing but I wanted them to come up with the idea. That's part of how you get things done. That was the genesis of the idea of the research center." Today, the Marine Corps University provides resident and non-resident education to more than 65,000 students annually—students of all grades from all services, numerous government agencies and other countries. The Alfred M. Gray Research Center is one of the pre-eminent research libraries in the military and is home to the Marine Corps History Division and the Marine Corps Archives which contains tens of thousands of maps, documents, oral histories, and command chronologies.

Advice for Younger Marines

When asked what was the best piece of advice he ever received, Gen Gray went back almost 70 years to his recon platoon commander in the early 1950s, who spoke to him after he had been recommended for a commission. The general quoted the captain decades later. "To be a good officer he said what you've got to do is study hard and you've got to be out there and roll around the mud with the troops every day and then at night. I never forgot that and always tried to do that," said Gen Gray. The Marines who had the privilege of serving with him would confirm he succeeded.



ANDREW NOH

"Retirement"

To say that Gen Gray is retired is a bit of a stretch. He has the energy of a man half his age and his continued service reflects that. He serves in a variety of billets within the Potomac Institute including Chairman of the Board of Regents, as well as serving as the Chancellor of the Marine Military Academy, the Chairman of the U.S. Marine Youth Foundation, and as a trustee of the American Public University System. He is a frequent visitor to Quantico where his sage counsel is sought in a variety of venues, many centering on the Marine Corps University. The former commandant also regularly attends many of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation's professional and awards dinners where his introduction is usually greeted with the loudest ovation of the night.

LtGen Flynn perhaps best described the former commandant when he said of the Marine whose history of service, innovation, and education is second to none: "His lasting legacy will be his selfless dedication to the true loves of his life: his wife Jan, his Marines, and his Corps." 🇺🇸

Capt Raymond N. Takor, USMC was the recipient of the 2017 General Alfred M. Gray Trophy for Outstanding Communications Leadership. LtGen Daniel O'Donohue, Deputy Commandant for Information, assisted Gen Gray, center, in presenting the award on April 19, at MCA&F's annual C4 Awards Dinner, Crystal City, Va.



USMC

Intelligence gathered throughout Operation Dewey Canyon was crucial to its success. Here, members of 9th Marines inventory weapons and ammunitions captured during the operation in the largest haul of enemy supplies taken during the war.

Radio Battalions in Vietnam During Operation Dewey Canyon

By Scott Laidig

The most successful offensive operation in Vietnam occurred in early 1969, about a year before the Marines started to withdraw from that long ago war in a faraway clime and place. Named Operation Dewey Canyon, it was hardly surprising that the Marines were so stunningly triumphant. Marine success was built on a solid foundation—senior commanders who understood and knew how to use intelligence—and a very professional group of little-known but highly effective noncommissioned and staff noncommissioned officers.

Operation Dewey Canyon was supported by a largely unknown and still highly secretive unit of Marines—the 1st Radio Battalion. Major Alfred M. “Al” Gray, future 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, had led an intelligence unit reinforced by a rifle company into Viet-

nam almost a year before large Marine combat units arrived in March of 1965. By 1967, under the leadership of then-Lieutenant Colonel Gray, the “spooks” had come into prominence. In the run up to the Tet Offensive of 1968, Gray’s Radio Battalion (RADBN) knew full well where and how the enemy would attack across I Corps. Senior Marine leadership became increasingly confident in the ability and usefulness of the well-trained, albeit mysterious, intelligence unit.

Throughout the latter part of 1967 and all of 1968, Marine combat units in Vietnam had been largely tied to fixed bases. The infamous McNamara Line, named for the then-Secretary of Defense, had been built across northern I Corps and while designed to be an electronic barrier to stop North Vietnamese infiltration into the South, in reality it did little more than tie Marines to a series of combat bases. This disposition led to artillery duels and

the famous Battles of Khe Sanh and Dai Do, among others. It was not how the Corps, and particularly Major General Ray Davis, the commanding general of 3rd Marine Division, wanted to fight. MajGen Davis intended to get the 3rdMarDiv away from their bases and take the offensive.

Davis’ plan was to attack enemy units by displacing artillery to within easy supporting range of helicopter-borne infantry. Davis had spent time as a deputy to Lieutenant General Richard Stilwell and the Army’s 24th Corps and had learned much about how that service employed its helicopters. He was determined to use all of his available combat power in much the same way.

Timely, pertinent intelligence played a significant role in the success of the operation. Marine Signal Intelligence/Electronic Warfare/Signal Security (SIGINT/EW/ SIGSEC) units had been re-established in the mid-1950s and Marine Com-

munications Intelligence (COMINT), known as radio intelligence platoons, employed during World War II to support naval operations, had been disbanded after the war. There was no such Marine capability for the Korean War. Plans for Marine SIGINT/EW/SIGSEC units, called radio companies and later radio battalions, were approved as a result of Major General Robert Hogeboom's study to shape the future Corps in 1954. The next year, one of the first officers selected to serve in the SIGINT field was First Lieutenant Al Gray. During the late 1950s, Gray led numerous SIGINT detachments in direct support of brigade and force exercises in the Pacific. Many Marine generals came to learn the value of using SIGINT/SIGSEC to support operations.

Resistance to SIGINT's direct ties to combat units remained powerful within the Corps throughout the 1960s and even into the 1970s. For example, then-Brigadier General Leonard F. Chapman, the future 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps, refused to hold the special security clearances needed for access to SIGINT information for fear it might preclude him from holding higher combat-related commands. Throughout the Vietnam War, only infantry commanding officers and very limited numbers of staff officers and staff noncommissioned officers were given the necessary clearances. Information about the radio battalion and its mission and capabilities was not taught at The Basic School or any of the various SNCO and NCO academies. What "spooks" did was very much unknown to most Marines, and most "spooks" liked it that way. The majority of cryptologic officers and non-commissioned officers not only preferred hiding behind their inscrutable ways and mysterious methods but also reveled in the concept of being "behind the green door." Few outside the SIGINT community had knowledge of or control over them.

When Maj Gray assumed command of 1st Radio Bn in Da Nang in July 1967, much changed. Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman, the commanding general of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, was an intellectual who knew SIGINT. Cushman had observed Maj Gray's work at Headquarters Marine Corps in the early 1960s and knew of Gray's deep ties to SIGINT. In addition, throughout his time with the 12th Marine Regiment in Vietnam (1955-1957), Gray had served as an unofficial advisor on special intelligence matters, including evaluating and processing SIGINT, to the III MAF commander—first to LtGen Lewis Walt and then subsequently to LtGen Cushman. Additionally, he provided similar support to his 3rdMarDiv commanders, Major General

Kyle and MajGen Hochmuth. Despite the fact that Gray had been promised command of an infantry battalion when he voluntarily extended his combat tour for a third time, Cushman had other ideas and sent his subordinate to command 1st Radio Bn. Characteristically, Gray threw himself into full-time intelligence work and changed how the RADBN conducted its business.

Gray aggressively pushed to provide direct support to combat units. RADBN operators—usually sergeants or corporals—were directed to provide all assistance possible to unit commanders located within close proximity to various RADBN detachments spread throughout I Corps. This close liaison occurred often

breaking the Viet Cong and NVA codes in the late summer and early fall of 1967. It was a gigantic intelligence coup.

Gray left Vietnam on emergency leave in January 1968 but the RADBN continued to directly support Marine ground forces. When MajGen Ray Davis arrived at the 3rdMarDiv in May 1968, he set about changing how the Division operated. Davis, like Cushman, was very familiar with SIGINT. As a colonel, he had met then-Captain Al Gray in Japan in the 1950s. Their relationship continued throughout Davis' career and into retirement. There was no reluctance on the part of the commanding general to use SIGINT.

Much of what the RADBN exploited

The culmination of the operations-intelligence teamwork resulted in the Marines breaking the Viet Cong and NVA codes in the late summer and early fall of 1967. It was a gigantic intelligence coup.



MajGen Ray Davis, right, and Col Robert Barrow promote 1stLt Miles Davis, Gen Davis' son, during a break in action during Operation Dewey Canyon.

without the combat Marines learning sources and methods. The supported units, however, quickly came to realize that if the spooks offered intelligence about the NVA, it probably was right.

Gray also enabled SIGINT to work closely with all other MAF and Division intelligence units and ensured that all Army intelligence activities, fixed sites and the local aviation company worked together to produce a unified, single assessment of enemy activity. Intelligence was closely integrated with operations. The culmination of the operations-intelligence teamwork resulted in the Marines

was limited by distance from the targets and the terrain. By embedding spooks with artillery units—sometimes even in infantry units—as they displaced throughout the battleground, any enemy activity detected nearby could be fully and rapidly exploited. Gunnery Sergeant William I. Jones, Staff Sergeant Paul Plante, and Corporal John House were three of the Vietnamese linguists attached to the 9th Marines. Typically, they were co-located with a battalion headquarters, or they were positioned near the command post.

Accompanying each Marine linguist was a soldier from the Army of Republic



USMC

Marines inspect a captured NVA 122 mm gun. The timely intelligence and support provided by 1st Radio Bn during Operation Dewey Canyon played a critical role in the success of the operation.

of Vietnam (ARVN), who assisted the Marine in interpreting and transcribing what was heard. Corporal Tinh was Plante's constant companion. Tinh was also a dedicated professional whom Plante admired and respected highly. By this time in the war, RADBN teams were exploiting NVA communications fully. Not surprisingly, both the RADBN Marines and their ARVN cohort were well accepted by Barrow's warriors. During

While Plante and the others passed their information directly to the operations officer, operations chief or intelligence officer or chief, combat Marines quickly learned to "read the signs." For example, if the spooks suddenly appeared wearing flak jackets and helmets, those close realized enemy mortar or artillery attacks might be imminent. Or highly perishable information derived from communications might be disguised as the results of direc-

combat operations in Vietnam. He selected a young lieutenant colonel, a student at the Command & Staff College, to accompany him and give an "intelligence assessment." The student was Al Gray.

Operation Dewey Canyon and the support provided by the RADBN Marines also provided the impetus to the eventual formation of the Radio Reconnaissance Teams and Radio Battalion Detachments becoming integral parts of all Marine Expeditionary Units (Special Operations Capable) in the late 1980s. Importantly, Marine combat units and attached RADBN elements continued to hone their relationship during the battles in Iraq and Afghanistan. Evidence that the Marine Corps had overcome any resistance to having spooks in large numbers was reflected when 3rd Radio Bn was activated in 2003.

At the height of the operation, the RADBN teams might provide several warnings per day. Everyone involved realized these warnings saved Marine lives.

Dewey Canyon, either Plante or Tinh manned their PRC-25 around the clock. The most significant low-level communications the Marines intercepted reflected NVA fire control coordination or other low-level infantry talk. It was the RADBN fixed direction-finding sites throughout northern I Corps that found high-level NVA communications, and then pinpointed the location of sub-units and sub-sub-units. The voice communications, always very short range, were from these lower level units.

tion finding. At the height of the operation, the RADBN teams might provide several warnings per day. Everyone involved realized these warnings saved Marine lives. And as a result, in later years both Davis and Barrow reported that they "could finally fight the enemy and not the terrain."

Interestingly, when Davis returned home and became the commanding general of the Education Center in 1970, the Marine Corps dispatched him on an extended public relations tour around the country. Davis briefed various audiences about

Author's bio: Scott Laidig, a graduate of the NROTC program at Ohio State University, served as an infantry platoon leader in 2/4 in Vietnam, 1966-1967. After Russian language school, he served in cryptologic billets aboard submarines in the Pacific Fleet. He co-founded two defense-related businesses before retiring to Montana. He is the author of "Al Gray, Marine," Volumes 1 & 2.



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New Rifle Aimed to Improve Lethality of Marine Scout Snipers

The Marine Corps is adopting a new precision sniper rifle to increase the lethality and combat effectiveness of scout snipers on the battlefield.

The Mk13 Mod 7 Sniper Rifle is a bolt-action rifle that offers an increased range of fire and accuracy when compared to current and legacy systems. It includes a long-action receiver, stainless steel barrel and an extended rail interface system for a mounted scope and night vision optic.

The Mk13 is scheduled for fielding in late 2018 and throughout 2019. Units receiving the Mk13 include infantry and reconnaissance battalions and scout sniper schoolhouses. The weapon is already the primary sniper rifle used by Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC).

Fielding the Mk13 ensures the Corps has commonality in its equipment set and Marine scout snipers have the same level of capability as North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, said Master Sergeant Shawn Hughes of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“When the Mk13 Mod 7 is fielded, it will be the primary sniper rifle in the Marine Corps,” said Lieutenant Colonel Paul Gillikin, Infantry Weapons team lead

at Marine Corps Systems Command. “The M40A6 will remain in the schoolhouses and operating forces as an alternate sniper rifle primarily used for training. The M110 and M107 will also remain as additional weapons within the scout sniper equipment set.”

The Marine Corps identified a materiel capability gap in the maximum effective ranges of its current sniper rifles. After a comparative assessment was conducted, it was clear that the Mk13 dramatically improved scout sniper capabilities in terms of range and terminal effects.

The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment Scout Sniper Platoon used the weapon for more than a year, including during a deployment in support of the experimental Sea Dragon 2025 exercise. Feedback from MCSC’s assessment, MARSOC’s operational use and 3/5’s testing of the weapon system led to the Corps’ procurement of the Mk13.

The Mk13 increases scout snipers’ range by roughly 300 meters and uses the .300 Winchester Magnum caliber round, a heavier grain projectile with faster muzzle velocity—characteristics that align Marine sniper capability with the U.S. Army and Special Operations Command.

“The .300 Winchester Magnum round

will perform better than the current 7.62 NATO ammo in flight, increasing the Marine sniper’s first round probability of hit,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tony Palzkill, battalion gunner for Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry-East. “This upgrade is an incredible win and will allow snipers to engage targets at greater distances.”

The Mk13 also will be fielded with an enhanced day optic that provides greater magnification range and an improved reticle.

“This sniper rifle will allow Marines to re-engage targets faster with precise long-range fire while staying concealed at all times,” said Sergeant Randy Robles, Quantico Scout Sniper School instructor and MCSC liaison. “The new day optic allows for positive identification of enemies at greater distances, and it has a grid-style reticle that allows for rapid re-engagement without having to dial adjustments or ‘hold’ without a reference point. With this type of weapon in the fleet, we will increase our lethality and be able to conceal our location because we are creating a buffer between us and the enemy.”

MCSC completed new equipment training for the Mk13 with a cross section of Marines from active-duty, reserve and training units in early April.

“The snipers seemed to really appreciate the new capabilities that come with this rifle and optic,” said project officer Captain Frank Coppola. “After the first day on the range, they were sold.”

In a time where technology, ammunition and small arms weapon systems are advancing at an increasingly rapid rate, it is extremely important to ensure the Marine Corps is at the forefront of procuring and fielding new and improved weapon systems to the operating forces, said LtCol Gillikin.

“Doing this enables the Corps to maintain the advantage over its enemies on the battlefield, as well as to secure its trusted position as the rapid crisis response force for the United States,” he added.

Kaitlin Kelly

Iwakuni-Based Marines Rescue Boat Passengers

Two Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 171 were walking alongside the Nishiki River in Iwakuni City, Japan, April 1, enjoying the scenery near the Kintaikyo Bridge, when they noticed a sightseeing cruise boat trapped



KRISTEN MURPHY

Sgt Randy Robles, Quantico Scout Sniper School instructor and MCSC liaison, explains the features of the Mk13 Mod 7 Sniper Rifle during training at MCB Quantico, Va., March 29. MCSC will field the Mk13 in late 2018 and throughout 2019.



LCPL LAUREN BRUNE, USMC

Cpl Dawson Hatzman, an engineer with MWSS-171, stands under the Kintaikyo Bridge in Iwakuni, City, Japan. On April 1, Hatzman and Cpl Lucas Iacarella rescued a boatman and his passengers from a dangerous current in the river near the bridge.

under the bridge in a precarious position and at risk of being swept downstream to nearby rapids.

The boatman managed to drop the anchor in a desperate attempt to stop the boat, but the current was too strong. He jumped into the cold water and tried to push the boat upstream but was unable to overcome the force of the river.

Corporals Dawson Hatzman and Lucas Iacarella made the quick decision to run across the bridge and down to the water's edge where they kicked off their shoes to help the man and his passengers.

Together the Japanese boatman and the two Marines pushed the boat back to the safety of the far side of the river. The man thanked them for their help, and they went their separate ways. Later, the boatman sent a letter to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni thanking the two men for their help that day.

"I don't think it's heroic. It's something that everybody should do," said Hatzman, adding that he never expected an event to occur off duty that would test what the Marine Corps has instilled in him over the years.

Making quick decisions to help someone you don't know while risking your

own safety displays the fundamental traits of honor, courage and commitment all Marines are expected to live by.

"I think that's the whole purpose of being a Marine," said Hatzman. "Taking the initiative to step up and make a difference in the world. It's our duty to, wherever we can. It's important because we get to build that relationship [with our Japanese hosts]."

LCPL Lauren Brune, USMC

Marine Boxers Set Sights On 2024 Olympics

Boxers stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., competed in the Marine Corps and Chevrolet Freedom Fight exhibition at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 14.

Lance Corporal Keandre Blackshire, Corporal Malik Collins and Cpl Oubigee Jones fought in the exhibition on behalf of the Marine Corps Boxing Team. Two



CPL BENJAMIN McDONALD, USMC

Cpl Oubigee Jones practices striking techniques at MCAS Beaufort, S.C. An administrative specialist with the station's IPAC, Jones was one of three Marines from the air station who competed in the Marine Corps and Chevrolet Freedom Fight exhibition at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 14.

of the three Marines emerged victorious.

“We were invited to Camp Lejeune to fight in front of an audience of retired and current boxing legends as well as retired Marine Corps generals,” said Collins, an administrative specialist at MCAS Beaufort. “It was a great experience and we were able to learn a lot from it.”

In order to prepare for a fight, the Marines focused on eating right and strengthening their bodies and minds.

“We are up at 5:30 a.m. just to start our first workout of the day,” said Jones, also an administrative specialist. “We always train together to motivate each other and push each other to our limits. We like to work out three times a day to maximize our potential to grow and work on our techniques. However, working out is only part of the training. We have to watch what we eat and make sure we maintain our weight class.”

In order to participate in the fight, each Marine’s chain of command had to approve of their participation.

“I have seen these Marines working out before work, during lunch and after work,” said Master Sergeant James Williams,

the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of outbound for the Installation Personnel Administrative Center. “I can see the drive these Marines have and the will to fight and the will to keep fighting. As a Marine Corps Boxing Team alumni, I would be honored to see these Marines continue that tradition of excellence and hard work.”

For many Marines, playing a sport is a way of relieving stress and getting exercise, but for Blackshire, Collins and Jones it’s even more than that.

“You can play basketball, football and soccer but you cannot ‘play’ boxing,” said Collins. “When you train for boxing, it’s a whole different mentality and workout. You have to utilize your entire body instead of just specific muscle groups. When you are in that ring it’s just you and everything you have worked for. Only you bring home that victory and only you are the reason for a loss. We want to keep improving ourselves and if they stand up the Marine Corps Boxing Team again, we will be able to represent the Marine Corps and win. But for now, we are honing our craft and working toward the 2024

Olympics where we can represent not only the Marine Corps but the entire United States as well.”

Cpl Benjamin McDonald, USMC

“America’s MAG” Celebrates 50 Years of History

Memories were recounted as Marines and veterans shared stories of their time in service during the 50th anniversary ceremony for Marine Aircraft Group 39 at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 16.

MAG-39, also known as “America’s MAG” was first activated at Quang Tri Airfield in the Republic of Vietnam on April 16, 1968. Originally assigned to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, MAG-39 supported operations during the Vietnam War until October 1969. Since Vietnam, America’s MAG has continued to build on their illustrious history of supporting Marines worldwide in a range of military operations including troop and cargo transport, humanitarian relief assistance and combat operations.

“Today is important because we have a chance to see our legacy,” said Lieutenant



LCPL JUAN ANAYA, USMC

Col Matthew T. Mowery, CO of MAG-39, 3rd MAW, cuts the ceremonial cake during the air group’s 50th anniversary ceremony at MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 16.

Colonel Louis P. Simon, executive officer of MAG-39, 3rd MAW. “The Marines of the past and the Marines of the present get a chance to socialize together and talk about support with our ground brothers and sisters.”

Colonel Matthew T. Mowery, the group commanding officer, invited previous members and commanding officers to speak to the crowd about their experiences.

“It really gives a sense of identity,” said Simon. “It gives an opportunity to hear about what the MAG was like in its origin and throughout the last 50 years. It gives us sort of a sense of belonging and ownership.”

Throughout MAG-39’s proud history, its squadrons have served around the world and close to home. During base-wide flooding in 1977 and 1978, the unit provided support to the Marines and families that lived in base housing.

Colonel Terry “Skip” Curtis, USMC (Ret), recalled, “During that time there were Marines stranded in Camp Pendleton. How did they get their food? How did they get their water? With the support of MAG-39 helicopters we flew water and



LCPL JUAN ANAYA, USMC

During the rededication and battle color ceremony held to commemorate the proud history of MAG-39, Col Mowery speaks to the active-duty and veteran members of the air group at MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 16.

food out to people.”

“I’ve been part of MAG-39 for most of my career,” said Brigadier General Mike Aguilar, USMC (Ret), a former commanding officer of MAG-39. “So many of the Marines that I met here today are Marines I served with, so it’s really

an opportunity to reacquaint myself with them. It really feels like part of a family and that’s why it’s important to me to participate today.”

LCpl Juan Anaya, USMC and Sgt Brytani Wheeler, USMC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL JOSEPH JACOB, USMC

“But I don’t want to go to recruiting duty.”

Submitted by
GySgt Mark McKie, USMC (Ret)
Coloma, Mich.

This Month’s Photo



SSGT VITALY RUSAVSKIY, USMC

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Dream up your own Crazy Caption. *Leatherneck* will pay \$25 or give a one-year MCA membership for the craziest one received. It’s easy. Think up a caption for the photo at the right and either mail or email it to us. Send your submission to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email it, referencing the number at the bottom right, to leatherneck@mca-marines.org. The winning entry will be published in two months.



COURTESY OF MICHAEL S. HAINLINE

Arlington, Va.

Veterans of 1/5 Honor Fallen During Award Ceremony Reunion

A group of Marine veterans from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines gathered in Arlington, Va., May 5, where they visited the graves of their fallen brothers 1stLt Kevin Wooten, 1stLt Darren Bell and LCpl Andrew Hernandez in Section 15E of Arlington National Cemetery. The three were members of "Charlie" Co, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and were killed in a helicopter crash in South Korea on May 20, 1989.

Also during the gathering, Colonel Thomas Savage, USMC, presented the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Michael S. Hainline, a veteran of 1/5, for his heroic actions on Sept. 19, 1989. As a corporal, Hainline was on terminal leave and working at a manufactur-



COURTESY OF MICHAEL S. HAINLINE

ing plant in Illinois when a disgruntled employee opened fire on a co-worker. Hainline tackled the assailant and wrestled the weapon away from him, administered first aid to the victim and provided a description of the gunman and getaway vehicle that ultimately led to his arrest. Nearly 30 years after the incident, the Marine Corps recognized his bold actions and initiative with a presentation of the medal, which he accepted with the proud support of his fellow Marines.

Submitted by Michael S. Hainline

Okinawa, Japan

Hauge Hall Named for WW II Medal of Honor Marine

Family members of Corporal Louis J. Hauge, who posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Okinawa in May 1945, were present at the headquarters building of Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan, April 30, as it was rededicated as Hauge Hall in recognition of the corporal's heroism.

"We dedicated this building to Cpl Hauge because after studying him and his unit, we found out that his unit [1st Marine Regiment], was dug in at this very camp," said Colonel Forrest C. Poole, regimental commander of CLR-35. "He and his unit defended this position while Marines traveled here to assist the southern assault."

As a machine gun-squad leader, Hauge and his Marines, trapped by a barrage of mortar and machine-gun fire, engaged in an assault against a heavily fortified Japanese hill. Hauge saw the two guns responsible and sprinted through an opening, hurling hand grenades. He was wounded before he reached the first gun, but pushed through to successfully destroy both enemy



LCPL JAMIN POWELL, USMC

positions. As the second gun placement was destroyed, Hauge was killed by Japanese snipers, but his Marines rose from their bombarded positions to finish the assault on the hill.

"We are very honored to know that he is not forgotten and to know the Marines remember him," said Joe Braunschweig, Hauge's nephew, who attended the ceremony.

Submitted by LCpl Jamin Powell, USMC

Parris Island



COURTESY OF DAWN MCGEE

“Pvt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club” Welcomes New Marines to the Corps Family

When Pete Lindenthal joined the Parris Island Spouses’ Club in 2016, he was asked to be its community outreach chairman and was given the specific task of coming up with something the club could do for the new Marines during Family Day—the day prior to recruit graduation.

“My thought was, ‘Most of these Marines have family coming to dote on them, so I’ll focus on those who don’t have families coming,’” said Lindenthal, who not only is a Marine spouse but

also a Marine veteran himself. “It’s important to let those new Marines know that even though their family isn’t around for them, they are now part of a much larger one—the Marine Corps family.”

Named “Private Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club” in a nod to The Beatles album of a similar name, Lindenthal’s idea was met with the support of the members of the group, which is made up of both enlisted and officer spouses. Each Family Day, volunteers with Pvt Pepper’s greet new Marines whose families are unable to travel to Parris Island for the momentous occasion. They shake their hands, offer their phones so the Marines can call home, ask them about their future MOS and provide snacks and drinks.

“For many families, it is a financial hardship to make the trip to Parris Island for graduation. For others, they undertake becoming a Marine without the support of their families,” said Julie Martin, president of the Parris Island Spouses’ Club. “I love seeing the smiles and laughter upon being called ‘Marine’ and telling them they completed something that many people cannot—earning the title United States Marine.”

In addition to Pvt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club, the Parris Island Spouses’ Club promotes fellowship and camaraderie among spouses and raises money for college scholarships. This year, the club awarded more than \$10,000 in scholarships to military dependents.

Submitted by Dawn McGee

Bradenton, Fla.

After 45 Years, Marine Given Final Resting Place

On April 18, members of the Marine Corps League Desoto Detachment 588 held a funeral service with military honors at the Sarasota National Cemetery in Florida. It didn’t appear to be much different from any other service of its kind—but it was anything but ordinary.

The detachment had been given a box containing the cremains of Marine veteran Marcella Cowan Byerly, who died in 1973. The box also contained her ID card, certificate of military service and record of cremation. It was found in the corner of a garage being cleaned out and had apparently been there for many years. Cpl Cowan had served on active duty from 1953 to 1955.

“None of us knew her personally, but as Marines we couldn’t just let her cremains be thrown away,” said Major Bob Fields, USMC (Ret), a member of the detachment.

In addition to the Marines of Detachment 588, two Marines



COURTESY OF MAJ BOB FIELDS, USMC (RET)

from Detachment 54 and 22 Patriot Guard Riders helped with the interment honors, bringing Cpl Cowan to her final resting place.

Submitted by Maj Bob Fields, USMC (Ret)

“Corps Connections” highlights the places and events through which active-duty and veteran Marines connect with one another, honor the traditions of the Corps and recognize the achievements of their fellow leathernecks. We welcome submissions of photos from events like the ones featured here. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to s.bock@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos. 🐼

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Marine Family Receives Adapted Smart Home

During a dedication ceremony in Vista, Calif., May 3, Staff Sergeant Brandon Dodson, a former member of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, was presented with a new, state-of-the-art “smart home” for his family. The home was provided by the Gary Sinise Foundation’s Restoring Independence, Supporting Empowerment (R.I.S.E.) program, which provides customized homes to America’s most severely wounded heroes and their families.

A medically retired double amputee, Dodson lost both legs just above the knee when he stepped on a hidden pressure plate improvised explosive device (IED) in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2014.

In 2017, the R.I.S.E. program decided to provide Dodson and his family with a gift that would change their lives. Over

the course of 13 months, the foundation partnered with various organizations to create a home designed specifically for Dodson’s needs as a double amputee. All lights, window curtains, security cameras and TVs are controlled by his iPad. The house floorplan was designed specifically so he could move around freely. All counters in the house are lower and more accessible than average, and the master bathroom is wheelchair accessible.

In a letter addressed to the Dodson family, program founder and actor Gary Sinise offered his best wishes for their new home. “Brandon, there is no question that you have made a difference, inspiring us all with your resilience, your courage, and your ‘Marines never quit’ attitude in everything you do. It has been my grand privilege to get to know you and to have played a part in supporting this effort,” Sinise wrote.

After many years of rehabilitation,

Dodson and his family can finally settle down and live happily in their new home.

For more information about the Gary Sinise Foundation, visit www.garysinisefoundation.org.

LCpl Megan Roses, USMC

Editor’s note: While undergoing treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., SSgt Dodson was featured in the November 2016 issue of Leatherneck in the article “Prosthetics Advancements: Innovators Create Solutions for Marine Amputees” by Sara W. Bock.

Blue Star Museums Welcome Military Families for Ninth Consecutive Summer

The National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families recently announced that museums nationwide have signed on for the ninth summer of Blue Star Mu-



Retired Marine SSgt Brandon Dodson; his wife, Jasmine; and son, Indy, laugh during a dedication ceremony for their new smart home, May 3, in Vista, Calif. The new home was provided by the Gary Sinise Foundation’s R.I.S.E. program.

seums, a program that provides free admission to our nation's active-duty military personnel from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Blue Star Museums is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and more than 2,000 museums nationwide, including children's museums, fine art museums, history and science museums, zoos and nature centers.

"Visiting a museum is a great way to get to know a community—whether it's in your hometown or a stop on a road trip," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "We appreciate the enthusiasm of museums all across the country who open their doors for military and their families to spend time together and have new arts experiences."

Blue Star Museums is one way museums express appreciation to the American military for its service and share America's cultural treasures with servicemembers. Blue Star Museums also provide a way for military families to feel connected to their community, especially for those families who have recently relocated through a change of station.

"As many military families spend the summer months moving from one duty station to another or reconnecting with a parent who has returned from deployment, Blue Star Museums helps servicemembers and their families create memories," said Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Roth-Douquet. "Blue Star Families has great appreciation for the generosity of the museums across the country who roll out the red carpet for the families who serve alongside their servicemembers. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers."

This year's Blue Star Museums program welcomes many new participating museums, such as the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum in Indiana and the GulfQuest National Maritime Museum in Mobile, Ala. These museums will join longtime participants such as the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, N.D., the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., and the New Children's Museum in San Diego.

The free admission program is available for active-duty and reserve members currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces; National Guardsmen; U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps; and NOAA Commissioned Corps. Up to five family members can accompany the servicemember for free. Qualified members must show a the DOD common access card (CAC) or



JAMES KEGLEY

Sgt Jimmy Ochan and his son, William, enjoy their visit to The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., at the 2015 launch event for Blue Star Museums.

ID card for free entry into a participating Blue Star Museum.

For a full list of participating museums, visit www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Blue Star Families

Camp Pendleton Gets a "Lyft"

In collaboration with Marine Corps Community Services, rideshare company Lyft is introducing a new program to increase access to transportation for individuals on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The program, "Base Mode," creates a special category for individuals requesting

develop an official transportation contract with the company.

"This program is meant to provide an additional opportunity for servicemembers, retirees and their families," said Roberto Chavez, the business manager for services and vending, MCCS Camp Pendleton. "A lot of Marines are here for [temporary additional duties] or schooling and may not have a privately owned vehicle, so anytime we can offer a service to the Marines and Sailors, it is a good thing for us."

Camp Pendleton is the first Marine Corps installation to implement this program after it has shown promise on other installations like Fort Meade in Maryland. The end goal is to provide servicemembers with convenient and affordable transportation options.

"We want to unlock opportunities for Marines to have access to get around the base and the region," said Major Brandon Newell, the chair for mobility transformation, Marine Corps Installations Command. "We are looking for means [of transportation] that are smarter, cheaper and more efficient for all of our personnel."

The program officially launched on the Lyft mobile app in May. For more information, visit <http://www.mccscp.com/lyft/>.

Cpl Dylan Chagnon, USMC



MCCS

rides to and from the base, connecting them to drivers with access to the installation.

"We're really excited to give our military members and their families a very convenient and economic method of transportation," said Hao Meng, San Diego market manager for Lyft. "We're always looking to grow our relationship with military and veteran organizations and are happy to provide transportation services."

Lyft is under a one-year test contract with MCCS—a trial run of sorts—to

DPAA Identifies Remains of WW II Marines

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) recently announced that the remains of several U.S. Marines, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified.

U.S. servicemembers who died in the Battle of Tarawa were buried in a number of battlefield cemeteries on Tarawa. Recovery operations were conducted in 1946 and 1947 and the remains that could not be identified were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. Recently DPAA began the process of disinterring those remains for identification.

The Marines whose remains were disinterred and identified are:

1stSgt David H. Quinn, 24, of Temple, N.H. He was assigned to Company C, 2nd Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

PFC Harold V. Thomas, 21, of Columbus, Ohio. He was assigned to Co F, 2nd Bn, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2ndMarDiv.

In June 2015, History Flight, Inc., a nongovernmental organization, notified DPAA that they had discovered a burial site in Betio Island. Remains were recovered and turned over to DPAA for identification.

The Marines whose remains recently were recovered and identified are:

Cpl Raymond A. Barker, 22, of Evanston, Ill. He was assigned to Co C, 2nd Tank Bn, 2ndMarDiv.

Cpl John V. McNichol, 20, of Altoona, Pa. He was assigned to Co E, 2nd Bn, 8th Marines, 2ndMarDiv.

DPAA

Funeral Held for Corpsman Killed During Korean War

The remains of U.S. Navy Hospitalman 1st Class William G. Payne, 41, of Springfield, Mo., were buried May 11 in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

In late November 1950, HM1 Payne was assigned to the 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, in the Yudam-ni area of North Korea. Payne was killed during the fighting on Dec. 1, 1950, and reportedly was buried in a temporary cemetery.

Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that previously were returned to the U.S. by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by U.S. recovery teams. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency scientists used anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis as well as circumstantial evidence to positively identify HM1 Payne.

There are more than 7,700 Americans still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

DPAA

1stSgt Robert W. Barnett, 61, of Bastrop, Texas. During his 22 years in the Marine Corps he served with HMX-1 and was a veteran of Operation

Desert Storm. His awards include the Navy Commendation Medal. After his retirement, he worked as a long-distance truck driver and started his own trucking business.

Peter J. Baum Sr., 80, of Hobart, Ind. After completing boot camp at MCRD San Diego, he served at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He was on the All Marine swimming and diving teams. He later had a long career in law enforcement, which included duties as a rescue diver. He was a member of the MCL and his sister also is a Marine.

Edgar L. Becker, 83, in Palm Springs, Calif. He was a Marine who served two tours in Vietnam.

Maj Ralph A. Boehner, 100, of Greeley, Colo. During WW II, he served in the Pacific and saw action on Eniwetok and Engebi. After the war he had a career in the feed and grain business. He was a member of the MCL.

LCpl Austin Cahill, 21, in Kailua, Hawaii. He was a machine gunner in Wpns Co, 1st Bn, 3rd Marines based at MCB Hawaii.

GySgt John N. Clark, 73, of Indianapolis, Ind. He was a Marine who served for 21 years from 1963-1984.

Lewis "Gerald" Collins, 77, of Hurricane, Utah. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served four years.

Cpl John S. Fluckiger, 95, of Ellington, Conn. During WW II he was a member of the 4thMarDiv and fought on Roi Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. After the war he worked in the aerospace industry.

PFC Floyd C. Fogg, 91, of Pearl River, La. During WW II he served with the 23rd Marines on Iwo Jima where he was wounded twice. He also saw action in the Solomon Islands.

Bruce Gauthier, 86, of West Chesterfield, Conn. He was a Marine of the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Maj John B. Gilmer, 96, of Louisa, Va. He served with the 3rdMarDiv on Guam and Iwo Jima during WW II. He later went to law school and had a career as an attorney.

Henry M. "Hank" Green Jr., 92, of San Antonio. He enlisted during WW II and saw action in the Pacific, including on Peleliu and Okinawa. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Maj Wayne T. Gregory Sr., 89, of Springfield, Mo. His 22 years in the Marine Corps included service aboard USS *Princeton* (CV-37) and tours in Korea and Japan.

Roy Hawthorne Sr., 92, of Window Rock, Ariz. He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 17 and served during WW II. During the Korean War he served in the Army. He received the Congressional Silver Medal in 2001 for service as a Navajo Code Talker in the Pacific in WW II.

PFC Harley R. Hebel, 86, of Crooked Lake, Wis. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

William D. "Don" Jones, 75, of Florence, S.C. He was a third-generation Marine who served in Japan, Guam and Vietnam.

1stLt J. Richard "Rick" MacMurray, 79, in Delray Beach, Fla. He served at MCAS New River in the 1960s.

PFC John Martins, 84, of Ware, Mass. From 1956 to 1958, he was assigned to the 2nd Engineer Bn, 2ndMarDiv as a heavy equipment operator. He later owned the Dyna Kite Corporation.

Sgt R.H. "Mac" McDonald, 85, of Ellington, Conn. He served in 4th Bn, 10th Marines and 2nd Bn, 11th Marines from 1950-1953. He later was a teacher for 33 years.

Zell Miller, 86, in Young Harris, Ga. He served in the Marine Corps for three

years. He later had a career in politics; he was elected governor of Georgia for two terms and was a U.S. senator from the state.

Maj Walter N. Morrison, 91, in Duxbury, Mass. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in WW II. After the war, he went to Yale University. After his 1950 graduation, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. During the Korean War he commanded a rifle platoon.

1stSgt John M. Naccarato Jr., 93, of Swansboro, N.C. He was a 32-year veteran of the Marine Corps. During WW II he was assigned to the 4thMarDiv and saw action in the Pacific island-hopping campaign. He was wounded twice in the fighting on Iwo Jima. He later served three tours in Vietnam. After his retirement from active duty, he opened a body shop, which he ran for 30 years.

Cpl William F. "Bill" Piasecki, 72, of Attleboro, Mass. During the Vietnam War he was assigned to Lima Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines. His awards include a Purple Heart.

David E. Roberts Jr., 94, of Pulaski, Wis. He was a veteran of WW II who saw action on Saipan and Tinian. After the war he had a 32-year career with the FAA.

SgtMaj Warner Samson, 89, of Santa Rosa, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine

Corps in 1946 and retired in 1972. He was a veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. After his retirement he had a successful career in real estate.

Donald O. "Don" Schultz, 89, of Appleton, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 1945 graduation from high school. He later graduated from college with a degree in political science and went to work for the U.S. Postal Service, serving as the Postmaster of Appleton.

Cpl Michael B. Squibb, 60, of Loveland, Colo. He was a Marine who served from 1976-1979. He graduated from boot camp at MCRD San Diego and became a crew chief with HMH-462.

LtCol Joseph A. Swartz, 88, of Cotuit, Mass. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War. He had a civilian career as a researcher and later as a math and science teacher.

Ruthanna M. Ungvarsky, 86, of Hagerstown, Md. She was a Marine Corps veteran. She was a member of the American Legion and was active with her church.

Pvt Patrick A. Vega, 21, in San Diego, Calif. He died as a result of cardiac arrest during recruit training.

Elmer W. Weise, 77, of Green Bay, Wis. He served in the Marine Corps and later had a career in the construction

industry as the owner of a contracting business.

Maj Ed Weiss, 78, of Sierra Vista, Ariz. He was a Marine Corps aviator who was commissioned in 1964 through the Platoon Leaders Class. He was a helicopter pilot who flew the UH-34 with the HMM-163 "Ridgerunners" during the Vietnam War. His awards include the Air Medal (29 awards).

MSgt Bradley A. Westerdahl, 89, in Raleigh, N.C. He enlisted during WW II and served until 1968. He was wounded at the Chosin Reservoir. He served two tours in Vietnam. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V," the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" and a Purple Heart.

In Memoriam is run on a space-available basis. Those wishing to submit items should include full name, age, location at time of death (city and state), last grade held, dates of service, units served in, and, if possible a published obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear. Submissions may be sent to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, Va., 22134, or emailed to leatherneck@mca-marines.org or n.lichtman@mca-marines.org. 🇺🇸



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Books Reviewed

AL GRAY, MARINE: THE EARLY YEARS, 1968-1975, VOL 2. By Scott Laidig. Published by Potomac Institute Press. 422 pages. \$17.96 MCA Members. \$19.95 Regular Price.

Alfred M. "Al" Gray was the 29th Commandant of our Marine Corps from 1987-1991. "Make no mistake about it," wrote General James L. Jones, "Al Gray was meant to make a lasting imprint on the Marine Corps, and he fulfilled that destiny." The 32nd Commandant also stated that Gen Gray never lost sight of his mission and was truly a transformative leader.

Volume I of Scott Laidig's envisioned three-volume set spanned the years 1950 to 1967. Now, this gifted Marine biographer presents us with "Al Gray, Marine: The Early Years 1968-1975, Vol 2."

Al Gray was born in Rahway, N.J., in 1928. He was a fine athlete and played baseball, basketball and football. He enlisted in the Corps in 1950, the same year the Korean War broke out. Speedily promoted to sergeant, Gray was tapped to attend officers training in Quantico, Va. His early tours of duty included serving with 11th Marine and 7th Marine Rgts of the 1st Marine Division in Korea. As a major, Gray served in 12th Marines of the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam.

Volume 2 of Scott Laidig's master work details the intriguing details of Al Gray's service between 1968 and 1975. During this action-packed period of his career, Al Gray served as a lieutenant colonel and colonel. By 1968, Lieutenant Colonel Gray had already logged 28 months in the Republic of Vietnam.

Following a brief tour back in the States, LtCol Gray returned to Vietnam and dealt with surveillance and reconnaissance matters. He commanded 1st Radio Battalion which worked effectively with the Marine intelligence apparatus in I Corps.

LtCol Gray went on to command 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines; 2nd Marine Regiment; 4th Marine Regiment; and Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. In 1971, LtCol Gray attended Marine Corps' Command & Staff College where, in addition to being a strong student, he also assisted in projects for the Combat Development Center. Later, he attended

the Army War College where he was considered an exceptional student and where he relished being exposed to the best minds in government and industry.

While serving as the commander of the 33rd Marine Amphibious Unit and Regimental Landing Team-4, he also served as Deputy Commander, 9th Marines Amphibious Brigade. He also headed the Marine/Navy team that successfully withdrew Americans from Phnom Penh in Cambodia and Saigon in South Vietnam.

LtCol Gray successfully served during the difficult times after the American withdrawal from the Vietnam War. The Corps suffered greatly from the effects, and aftereffects, of the Vietnam War. The Marine Corps, like her sister services, was severely challenged to recover from the negative effects of rapid demobilization and the ill effects of drug use and racial discord. Col Gray faced these challenges with vigor and proceeded to restore honor, pride and discipline to his Marines. He was successful in re-invigorating the much-needed

warrior ethos we honor today. His efforts helped building unit morale which in turn fostered Corps pride and unit cohesion. Gen Gray is credited with redefining the war fighting paradigm to one of "maneuver warfare." Maneuver warfare would define the coming battles fought in the Middle East. Gen Gray's lasting legacy might be summed up in this brief, but powerful utterance: He was a thinking Marine, and he never lost sight of the mission.

"Al Gray, Marine: The Early Years, 1950-1967," Vol 1, won the coveted Colonel Joseph Alexander Award in 2014. We only expect that this fine book, "Al Gray, Marine, Vol. II," will be a strong contender, if not the favorite, for next year's Alexander award for the best new biography. Moreover, we enthusiastically look forward to reading, "Al Gray, Vol. 3."

Bob Loring

Author's bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer, who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine.

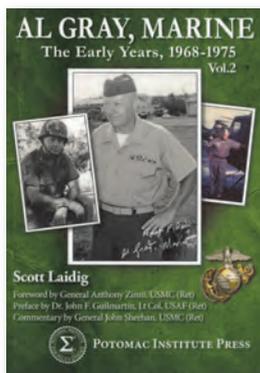
ECHO IN RAMADI: THE FIRSTHAND STORY OF U.S. MARINES IN IRAQ'S DEADLIEST CITY. By Scott A. Huesing. Published by Regnery History. 256 pages. \$27 MCA Members. \$29.99 Regular Price.

Few books can capture what was called "the sting of battle" in the film "Patton" and bring it to life for the reader. It is no surprise that a book from a Marine who has engaged in war can ring so true. Scott Huesing has experienced this vivid sting more than most combatants. According to the dust cover biography, "Scott A. Huesing is a retired USMC infantry major with more than 24 years of service, both enlisted and as a commissioned officer. His career spanned 10 deployments and he conducted operations in more than 60 countries worldwide.

During his deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa, he planned, led, and conducted hundreds of combat missions under the most austere and challenging conditions. He had the privilege to command "Echo" Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines as part of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Special Operations Capable (SOC), while attached to 1-9 Infantry Battalion ("Manchu"), 1st Brigade Combat Team (1 BCT "Ready First"), United States Army, as part of the surge strategy in Al Anbar Province, Iraq."

The book concentrates on Huesing's time as a Marine officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He states: "During this nearly nine-month deployment (our mission: kill or capture anti-Iraqi Forces [AIF]), Echo Company stood in the line of fire daily in Ramadi—the most dangerous and densely populated area of insurgent activity in 2006. It would test us and would take the best of us. Echo Co was made up of 248 men."

What is truly gripping is the way that Huesing breaks down the wall of author to reader. This is apparent from the chapter about his condolence call to the mother of a fallen Marine or an "Angel" as Marines call them. The whole chapter on "Angels" is cutting to the bone. Believe me, you will care about the Marines who Huesing fought with. Nothing is left as an afterthought. Huesing's writing is as clear as crystal. Huesing is quite clear that despite the "superman" or "wonder woman" archetypes for which Marines are legendary, he makes it plain that everyone is all too human.



Huesing does not mince words. He tells it like it is. Although a dedicated Marine, he does not sugar-coat the fact that this is a book about war with all of its deadly consequences. If the reader is looking for some Pollyanna, pie in the sky, feel good detritus, look elsewhere.

Huesing manages the job of keeping the reader oriented well. Many sections have an exact date on them, and he explains military terms clearly to his audience. As far as his writing style goes, no one could ever accuse Huesing of being long-winded. He states the facts and does not bore the reader with extraneous information. This quality is rare in the writer. The temptation to go long at the mouth is never visited.

Huesing never ceases to be amazed at the perfidiousness of the Iraqi enemy: "For the insurgents, killing their own people was business as usual. They did it with wanton disregard for the people they harmed and for nothing more than getting their hateful point across. To them civilians were obstacles on their way to their objectives—or pawns to use to gain an advantage on the battlefield. Time and again, we encountered the effects of their callousness and blatant disregard for human life."

Huesing has quite a handle on the great bond that Marines have in battle. "What makes us good, what makes us great is the brotherhood. It's not that the individual Marines are the most lethal weapon on the battlefield, nor how straight they shoot, nor how they attack and kill the enemy with an unbridled ferocity that makes us great. They're not just warriors—they're artisans, musicians, poets, comedians and yes, sometimes writers."

Huesing also has some sage philosophies about being a Marine Corps officer. "There is no such thing as combat leadership. I never subscribed to the idea that because one had been in combat, shot at, or injured it made them a better leader. Leaders lead in any condition, although some shine a little brighter under chaotic conditions—real leaders control the situation even in the absence of chaos. Training for restlessness and boredom is not a mission-essential task, but something a good leader has to deal with to keep Marines sharp when the madness begins."

The ghost of the years in Iraq still lingers for Huesing. He is quite matter-of-fact about the mission of Marines in other countries. "We'll never lose the permanence of what we saw—never be

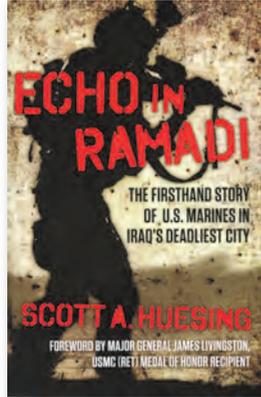
able to "un-see" some of the worst actions of humanity; never ignore the echoes of what was heard. But Echo Co will always have a sense of pride that we helped so many who could not help themselves—the true spirit of what Marines do."

Huesing is candid about his struggles with post-traumatic stress. He is executive director of Save The Brave, an organization that helps veterans with their problems with PTSD, and has generously donated a portion of his profits from the book to the organization. The ongoing war in Iraq is still a fresh topic for analysis, but Huesing relays the exploits of himself and his fellow Marines with a timeliness

that is tempered with insight beyond this man's years. The humility of Huesing's narrative is as clear as a shout in the night.

Joseph D'Alessandris

Author's bio: Joseph D'Alessandris is a freelance writer who currently resides in Pittsburgh, Pa. He obtained a bachelor of arts from the Pennsylvania State University where he studied advertising and film history and criticism.



LEST WE FORGET: THE GREAT WAR: WORLD WAR I PRINTS FROM THE PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY. By Michael W. Robbins. Published by Pritzker Military Museum & Library. 400 pages. Available on Amazon.com.

As far as beautiful books go, this one is way up there. The real calling card for "Lest We Forget" is the panoply of propaganda posters from all sides in World War I, all full page and in full color, including the famous "Teufel Hunden" poster and the iconic Uncle Sam "I Want You" poster. In all, 166 full-page, full-color plates of these posters grace "Lest We Forget." On the nature of propaganda

posters, the book states: "No one who has viewed World War I posters can doubt that propaganda is an art. Stating the strong case for the rightness of one's cause, in words and pictures, is not a new development, but during the years 1914 to 1918, the ingenuity, impact, and effectiveness of the graphic poster reached new heights of sophistication and power. Even now, a century later, many of the strongest images and words remain memorable and famous, their messages stated with undiminished clarity. These innovative posters carry an impact that transcends their status as art objects." And let's not forget the bounty of vintage photographs, 180 in all, which are included in this sumptuous volume.

"Lest We Forget" is the result of a partnership between the United States World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. It is the companion to an exhibition that will take place at the Pritzker in Chicago. The Pritzker also contains WW I oral histories and journals of its participants.

Colonel Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG, (Ret) states in the forward that to understand the end of the colonial era and the reasons for WW II, we must examine WW I in detail. Although the touchstone of the war is generally agreed to be the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Germany actually started the war with the invasion of Belgium and the Netherlands. Of the Central Powers, Germany wanted to expand its territory. Germany was also threatened by France and Britain's colonies in Africa and in the Pacific. Germany's alliance with Austria-Hungary would prove to be a heavy millstone to Germany due to its steady decline. Of the Allied forces, Britain would form a tenuous alliance with France, both having clashed in the past.

As a film scholar, I was amazed to learn that WW I was the first war to be documented in moving images. It is stated in chapter one that "...wars were no longer 'Napoleonic' matters of horses and swords

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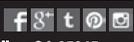
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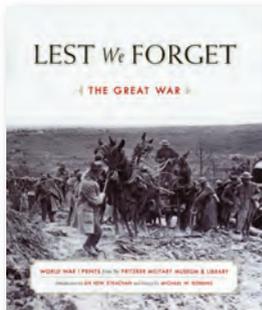
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and aristocratic officers, or limited set-piece battles marked by élan and glory. Instead, combat became industrial-scale slaughter involving such technical innovations as mass production, rapid force automatic weapons, chemical weapons, high explosives, internal-combustion engines, submarines and torpedoes, aircraft, and electronic communications—and it engulfed entire civilian populations So in fear and dread of what their opposite nations were doing or might be planning, most of the European countries embarked on military build-ups. They fell into an arms race.

Tragically the arms they embraced were unlike any that the world had fought with in the past. Advances in technology had brought more accurate long-range rifles, reliable rapid fire machine guns, heavier and more accurate artillery, motor vehicles, aircraft, more powerful explosives and effective submarines.” In addition to these deadly weapons was the introduction of flamethrowers and tanks. Germany would terrorize Great Britain with the introduction of the zeppelin. Germany would also

be the first nation to use poison gas but the use of aircraft in warfare was realized first by the United States. World War I would also be the first war where propaganda was used to affect public opinion. The war is also well-known for the fighting that consisted mainly of trench warfare. Enormous casualties with little land gain were a major aspect of the war.



As the press info states: “May through November 2018 marks the centennial of main combat operations of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. In that six month period, the United States lost twice the number of soldiers that were killed in the 10 years of the Vietnam War. An astounding 9 million soldiers worldwide

perished during the four year conflict. . . . The Great War was the first major war in which national governments organized and conducted propaganda campaigns that sought to influence public opinion, both to support the nation’s war effort and to create a negative image of opposing nations Germany used propaganda to portray its aggressive acts as defense, (and) how all countries sought to raise money as the war dragged on, and how

the U.K. steered American opinion to a pro-British position.”

A most interesting aspect is the change in how the pallor of the war would affect countries: “In many countries, the abrupt declarations of war were greeted with popular demonstrations, with flags and patriotic music, and with rallies and speeches. The challenges of conducting a war were seen as a test of national strength and even manhood, in a misplaced application of social Darwinism that was a strong intellectual current of the time.” The hostilities were viewed early as a temporary situation. This would change with the reality of the war being “a long slog of deadly attrition with no end in sight.”

“Lest We Forget” will be a welcome addition to both the beginner who knows little about the war and to anyone who wants a collection of photos and propaganda posters. The book would be an ideal introduction and overview of WW I for high school students. Half of the proceeds earned by the book’s sales will be donated to the WW I Memorial in Washington, D.C. Any Marine would be proud to have this handsome volume grace their coffee table.

Joseph D’Alessandris




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Special Events

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn. Professional Development and Training Symposium**, Aug. 20-23, New Bern, N.C. Contact Kate Stark, 385 SW 254th St., Newberry, FL 32669, (352) 448-9167, hq@usmccca.org.

• **MCA&F Acquisition Awards Dinner**, Aug. 23, Springfield, Va. Sarah Cohen, (703) 640-0174, s.cohen@mca-marines.org.

• **MCA&F Intelligence Awards Dinner**, Sept. 20, Arlington, Va. Sarah Cohen, (703) 640-0174, s.cohen@mca-marines.org.

Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn. (all eras)**, Aug. 4-12, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact June Cormier, P.O. Box 9000, Box #902, Oceanside, CA 92051, (760) 763-3267, june.oldbreed@fmda.us.

• **5thMarDiv Assn.**, Oct. 16-21, Champaign, Ill. Contact Ray Elliott, 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802, (217) 840-2121, rayelliott23@att.net.

• **Marine Corps Mustang Assn.**, Aug. 8-12, San Antonio. Contact LtCol Richard J. Sullivan, USMC (Ret), (508) 954-2262, sul824@verizon.net, www.marinecorpsmustang.org.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Sept. 13-16, San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, (760) 908-2322, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Sept. 26-29, San Diego. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Veterans Assn.**, Sept. 20-23, New Orleans. Contact Norm Johnson, 6100 Cochrane Rd., Marlette, MI 48453, (989) 635-6653, nwgj@outlook.com.

• **Seagoing Marines Assn.**, Sept. 11-15, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Bob Sollom, (540) 840-9310, soll136@msn.com.

• **The Chosin Few**, Sept. 5-9, Norfolk, Va. Contact Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., (757) 625-6401, 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23517, www.afr-reg.com/chosin2018.

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Sept. 11-16, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumcl3usmc@verizon.net.

• **1/27 (1stMarDiv FMF, RVN, 50th Anniversary Reunion—all other 27th Marines battalions welcome)**, July 18-22, Alexandria, Va. Contact Felix Salmeron, (469) 583-0191, mar463@aol.com.

• **2/3 (RVN)**, Sept. 26-29, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Art Ferguson, (623) 780-1819, clydesdadfergy@aol.com.

• **2/9 (all eras)**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 302-4126, dits35@verizon.net, www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3 (1960-1962)**, Oct. 15-19, Las Vegas. Contact Burrell Landes, 2610 West Long Circle, Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net.

• **Battery Adjust, 3/11 (all eras)**, Sept. 19-23, Orlando, Fla. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dwmiller48@gmail.com.

• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-1967)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.

• **C/1/1 (Korea, 1950-1955)**, July 22-24, Reno, Nev. Contact Paul McPartland, 5922 Twin Bend Loop, New Port Richey, FL 34652, (727) 859-3279.

• **E/2/3 (RVN)**, Sept. 9-12, San Antonio. Contact Bill Smith, (925) 997-8041, da190@aol.com.

• **E/2/5 (1965-1972)**, Oct. 18-21, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Doc Doughty, 1455 Roebbling Tr., Pensacola, FL 32506, (850) 723-9453, dhdoughty@cox.net.

• **F/2/7 and H/2/1 (1965-1966)**, July 15-20, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Ron Gryn, (352) 638-2872, boatmanron@gmail.com.

• **G/2/5 (all eras)**, Oct. 24-28, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact Larry Ortiz, (505) 629-6393, iso.vngrunt@yahoo.com.

• **K/3/7 (all eras)**, Aug. 12-16, Savannah, Ga. Contact Bill Gerke, (631) 433-8575, msggerke@aol.com.

• **3rd 155s, M/4/12, 3rdMarDiv**, Sept. 9-13, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Alex Jablonowski, (248) 505-2183, 3rd155s.m4.12@gmail.com.

• **Support Co, 3d Engineer Bn (RVN, 1967-1968)**, Sept. 11-13, Ocean City, Md. Contact A.J. Folk, 215 Sweetwater Lane,

Newmanstown, PA 17073, (610) 589-1362, ajfpa@comcast.net.

• **1st Provisional Marine Brigade ("The Fire Brigade," Korea, 1950)** is planning a 65th anniversary reunion. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@aol.com, www.miltours.com.

• **Youngstown, Ohio Marine Reunion, MCL Det #494**, Aug. 18, Youngstown, Ohio. Contact Chester Kaschak, (330) 533-6084.

• **Subic Bay Marines Survivors**, Aug. 22-26, Nashville, Tenn. Contact A.J. Allen, (208) 941-3345, aj@mikebrowngroup.com.

• **U.S. Naval Disciplinary Command Portsmouth, N.H.**, Sept. 9-13, North Conway, N.H. Contact Don Ferry, (972) 334-0609, don.ferry@sbcglobal.net.

• **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 28-30, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, slickstuff@nwcable.net.

• **Marine Barracks NWS Yorktown**, Aug. 10-12, Yorktown, Va. Contact David Greene, marinebarracksyorktown@gmail.com.

• **Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan**, Nov. 6-9, Las Vegas. Contact Herman Cospy, 1co_spy@sbcglobal.net, Bob McCarthy, coach430@aol.com, or Ruben Chavira, bngrm@aol.com.

• **USMC SATS/EAF/Morest (MOS 7011, 7002)**, Oct. 16-20, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Dick Althouse, (760) 741-7629, califyayhoo@sbcglobal.net.

• **105th OCC, 1st Plt, Co C, December 1977 (staff NCOs, officers and commissioning female Marines)**, Oct. 18-21, Quantico, Va. Contact Debbie Thurman, (434) 929-6320, debbie.thurman54@gmail.com.

• **TBS Class 3-67/41st OCC**, Nov. 15-18, New Orleans. Contact Fred Lash, (703) 644-5132, fredanddonnalash@verizon.net.

• **TBS, Co K, 9-68**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jim Stiger, (206) 999-1029, jimstiger@earthlink.net.

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• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.

• **Warrant Officer Screening Course, 1st Plt, Co D, January 1974**, is planning a reunion. Contact Capt Joseph C. Chiles, USMC (Ret), (619) 729-9562, joseph.chiles@gmail.com.

• **“Kilo” Co (Plts 277, 278, 279 and 280), Parris Island, 1961**, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Martin D. Smith, USMC (Ret), 10 Lee Ct., Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-3653, martann843@gmail.com.

• **Plt 94, Parris Island, 1955**, Sept. 17-18, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact Dale Wilson Sr., wzeke35@aol.com, or Orville Hubbs, onpahubbs@gmail.com.

• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.

• **Plt 171, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact J.P. Kuchar, 33 Sheridan Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840, (732) 549-6468, jpkuchar@mac.com.

• **Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.

• **Plt 245, San Diego, 1965**, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, srt8o06@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 266, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 256-0554, don814u@hotmail.com.

• **Plt 329, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact Thomas Payne, 2220 Flat Branch Rd., Ellijay, GA, 30540, (706) 635-4540, corap@ellijay.com.

• **Plt 340, Parris Island, 1963**, is planning a reunion. Contact Garrett W. Silvia, (508) 992-7392, gwsil@comcast.net.

• **Plt 431, Parris Island, 1945**, is planning a reunion. Contact 1stSgt George P. Cavros, USMC (Ret), (262) 782-7813, gcavros88@gmail.com.

• **Plt 1018, San Diego, 1968 (50th Anniversary)**, is planning a reunion in Salem, Ore. Contact Dan Stombaugh, (541) 606-0398, dwstombaugh@msn.com.

• **Plt 1034, San Diego, 1968 (50th Anniversary)**, Sept. 8, Phoenix. Contact Oscar F. Borboa, (602) 809-0623, oscarbaz@cox.net.

• **Plt 1040, San Diego, 1968**, is planning a reunion. Contact Stephen Norpel, 206 N. 7th St., Bellevue, IA 52031, (563) 451-8417, snorpel@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 1059, San Diego, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact Dave Jamieson, (805) 896-7404, daveyo_jamieson@msn.com.

• **Plt 1096, San Diego, 1968**, Oct. 4-8, San Diego. Contact Dan Hefner, (312)

504-4658, drh818@msn.com.

• **Plt 1098, Parris Island, 1970**, is planning a reunion. Contact Michael Shea, (786) 280-8202, mikek2709@comcast.net.

• **Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66**, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@roadrunner.com.

• **Plt 2077, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact SgtMaj Raymond Edwards, USMC (Ret), 100 Stephens St., Boyce, LA 71409, sgtmajretired@gmail.com.

• **Plt 2086, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Kennedy, (707) 527-8319, wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 3041, San Diego, 1968**, July 2018. Contact Dan Kirkman, (206) 383-9018, teager2@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 3042, San Diego, 1968**, is planning a reunion. Contact Gary Berry, (614) 679-1499, tagpresident@verizon.net.

• **Plt 3108, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Bob Rees, USMC (Ret), (619) 940-9218, bobrees86@gmail.com.

• **Plt 4035, “Papa” Co, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **Marine A-4 Skyhawkers**, Nov. 1-4, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Mark Williams, 400 Howell Way #102, Edmonds, WA 98020, (425) 771-2030, rogerwilco14@gmail.com, <http://a4skyhawk.info/article/notices>.

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons-49**, Sept. 8, Earlville, Md. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), (609) 291-9617, (609) 284-2935, mabsreunion@comcast.net.

• **MACS-9**, Aug. 8-11, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Tom Boyle, (319) 631-1912, tboyle621@aol.com.

• **VMA(AW)-533 (all eras)**, Sept. 6-8, New Orleans. Contact Jerry Callaway, 6545 Union St., Arvada, CO 80004, (303) 946-7893, j2callaway@q.com.

• **VMFA-115**, Sept. 7-9, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact Patti Kaas, (717) 422-6796, kaasfamily4@gmail.com, <https://115marinereunion.com>.

• **VMFA-323 “Death Rattlers” (75th anniversary reunion)**, Aug. 2-5, San Diego. Contact T.C. Crouson, vmfa323reunion2018@gmail.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS Antietam (CV-36)**, Sept. 19-22, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact L. Ray Young, (316) 680-0252, lyonelyoung@outlook.com.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 10-14, St. Louis. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV/CVA/ CVS-12)**, Sept. 19-23, Mobile, Ala. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2/LHD-7)**, Oct. 10-13, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Robert G. McAnally, 152 Frissell St., Hampton, VA 23663, (757) 723-0317, yujack46709@gmail.com.

• **USS John R. Craig (DD-885)**, Sept. 5-9, Bloomington, Minn. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net.

Mail Call

• Danielle Chapman, danielle.chapman@yale.edu, to hear from any **Marines of color**, particularly **African-American Marines**, who were active duty in **September 1969** and remember **ALMAR 65** or would like to talk about their experiences in the Marine Corps during that era, for a book she is writing.

• F.J. Taylor, fjtusmc@gmail.com, to hear from members of **Plt 1066, Parris Island, 1966**.

• Ralph "Gil" Gilbertsen, P.O. Box 33, Garfield, MN 56332, (320) 226-8329, to hear from or about **Dennis "Denny" CLARK** of Texas, who was a member of **Plt 185, Parris Island, 1960**.

• Larry Honan, 19 Regional Rd., Annandale, NJ 08801, (908) 217-4765, getsome35@hotmail.com, to hear from members of **Plt 1047, Parris Island, 1966**, and from Marines who served with him with **3/5 in Vietnam, 1967-1968**, particularly the **Marine on the right** in the below photo.

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• Claude Risen, (601) 648-2916, to hear from members of **Plt 143, Parris Island, 1948**.

Wanted

Readers should be cautious about sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered.

• Richard Beach, 2800 S. Andrews Rd. Lot 9, Yorktown, IN 47396, (765) 228-8502, wants **photos** and a **recruit graduation book** from **MCRD San Diego, 1957**. He does not recall his platoon number, but graduated in **March or April**.

• Scott Carey, (203) 915-3530, scott_carey@sbcglobal.net, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 182, Parris Island, 1958**.

• Fernando Urroz, fjurroz@sbcglobal.net, wants a recruit graduation book for **Plt 2079, San Diego, 1968**.

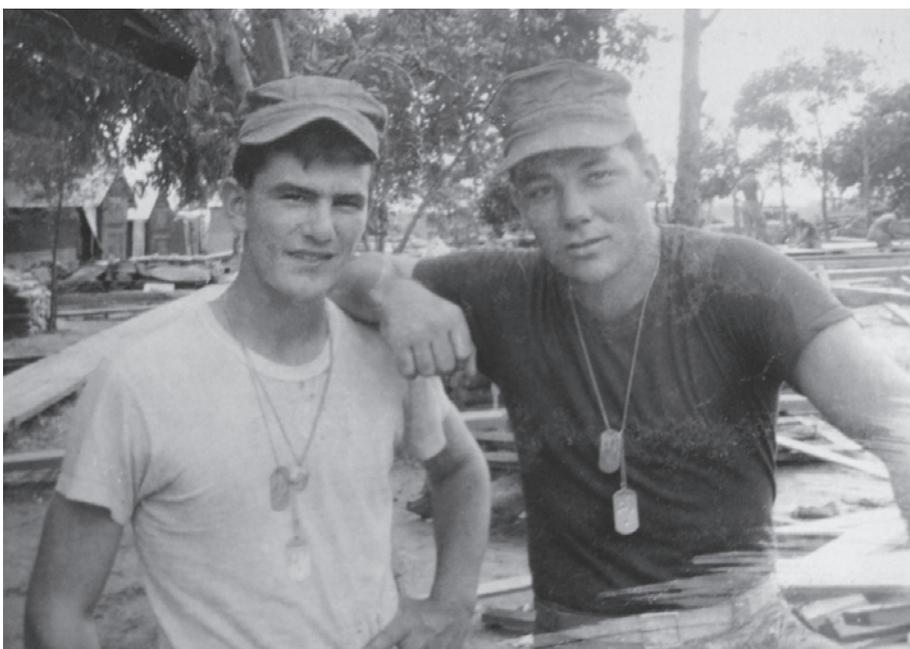
• F.J. Taylor, fjtusmc@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 1066, Parris Island, 1966**.

• Rogers Cross, (757) 675-3679, rogerscross@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 1007, Parris Island, 1972**.

• Gregory Berg, (562) 430-6353, grberg@verizon.net, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 2020, San Diego, 1969**.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• Rick O'Hare, (248) 349-7036, rohare@aol.com, has 70 issues of **Leatherneck** from **1976-1983** for sale.



COURTESY OF LARRY HONAN

Larry Honan, left, would like to hear from the Marine pictured on the right who served with 3/5, RVN, 1967-1968.

SOUND OFF
[continued from page 6]

was discontinued in 1968. I served 1958 to 1961 and never saw or heard of it. What did you have to do to earn one?

Stephen F. Grady
Stoughton, Wis.

• According to the History Division, the Basic Badge was introduced in 1937 for weapons qualifications. The “Ex Bayonet” denotes expert qualification. The badge was discontinued in 1968.—Editor

Reconnecting with GySgt Maffioli

What a surprise seeing Len Maffioli and Damaso Sutis, veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima, in *Leatherneck’s* May issue in We—the Marines.

I had the pleasure of serving under Master Gunnery Sergeant Maffioli as a Marine Security Guard in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1969 and 1970.

Approximately 15 years ago, my neighbor asked me if I read the book, “Grown Gray in War: The Len Maffioli Story.” He handed me the book and when I fanned through it, I noticed a photo of Maffioli greeting Mrs. Robert Newman, the ambassador’s wife, at the 1969 Marine Corps Birthday Ball. I was shocked because I



COURTESY OF GYSGT JOHN D. FOSTER, USMC (RET)

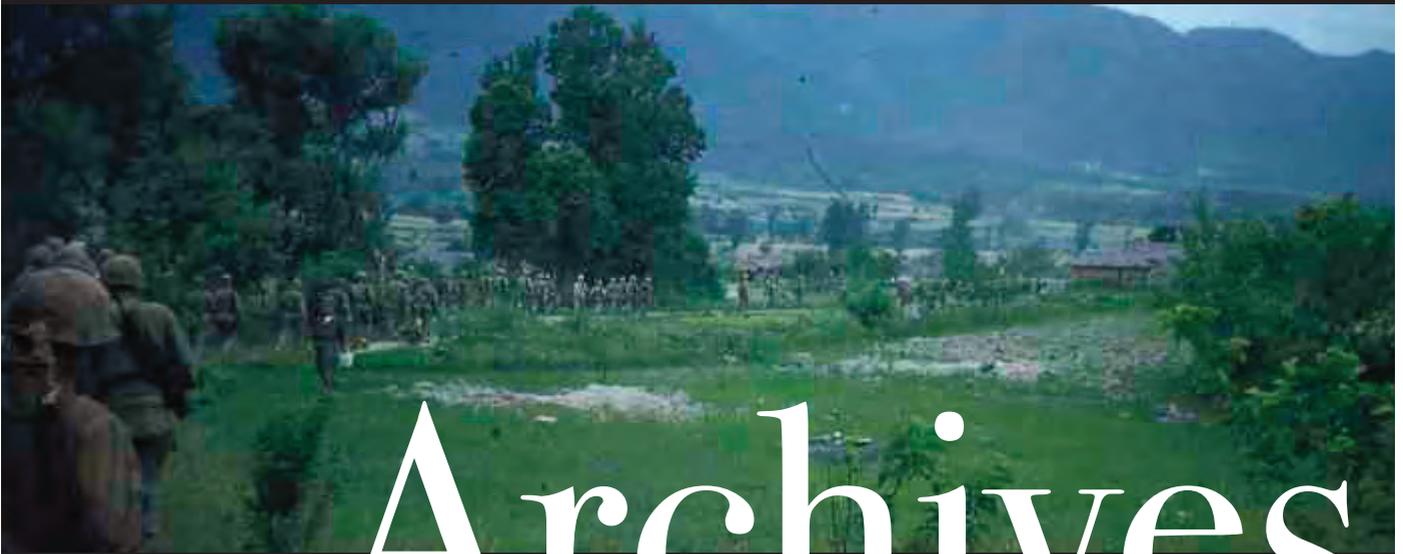
MGySgt Len Maffioli, center, welcomes Mrs. Robert Neumann, the wife of Ambassador Robert Neumann, to the Marine Corps Birthday Ball celebration at the Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1969, as Sgt John Foster looks on.

was standing right next to MGySgt Maffioli when that picture was taken. I have the same photograph, but in his book I was cropped out.

My neighbor met Maffioli at the Marine Corps Museum at MCRD San Diego, and

happened to get his phone number. He gave me the number and I immediately called Len. He picked up on the first ring. I asked if this was Len Maffioli. He said, “Speaking.” I said, “This is John Foster.” He said, “I used to know a Sergeant John

Membership gives you access online at
www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/archive



Archives

EVERY ISSUE OF *LEATHERNECK* SINCE 1921 & *MARINE CORPS GAZETTE* SINCE 1916
20 JULY 1950 | THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE IS MOBILIZED FOR DUTY IN KOREA

Foster.” I said, “Speaking.” After about an hour of catching up, he apologized for the editor cutting me out of the picture. And he graciously sent me an autographed copy of his book.

GySgt John D. Foster, USMC (Ret)
Palm Springs, Calif.

Three Relatives KIA, 1945

I recently read the “Sound Off” letter of Joseph B. Tedder in the January 2017 edition regarding John H. Hubacher Jr., who was killed in action on March 1, 1945, on Iwo Jima. It might interest Mr. Tedder to know that the Hubacher family also lost two other men earlier that year.

Raymond Hubacher, John’s brother, was a QM3 USCGR on USS *Serpens* (AK-97), anchored in Lunga Bay on Jan. 29, 1945, when the ship blew up in what the Navy said was an accident. Raymond and more than 250 officers and men were killed in the explosion. The names of the casualties are inscribed on the USS *Serpens* Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. Their remains are buried there as well.

Bernard W. Hubacher, a cousin who was a private in the U.S. Army, died Feb. 23, 1945, of wounds sustained in action while serving with the 5th Infantry Division, 11th Infantry Regiment. He is buried in



COURTESY OF SCOTT T. HARTMAN

Cpl Tony Stein, Co A, 1st Bn, 28th Marines, 5thMarDiv received the Medal of Honor for his action on Iwo Jima.

in the Luxembourg American Cemetery, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

I am an Associate Member of Marine Corps League Detachment 569, Medina County, Ohio, and play “Taps” with the Honor Guard. For several years I have played “Taps” at the grave marker for Raymond and John and their parents. Additionally, I drive to Calvary Cemetery in Kettering, Ohio, to play “Taps” at the grave of Tony Stein, who also was killed on March 1, 1945, and was from my mother’s childhood neighborhood.

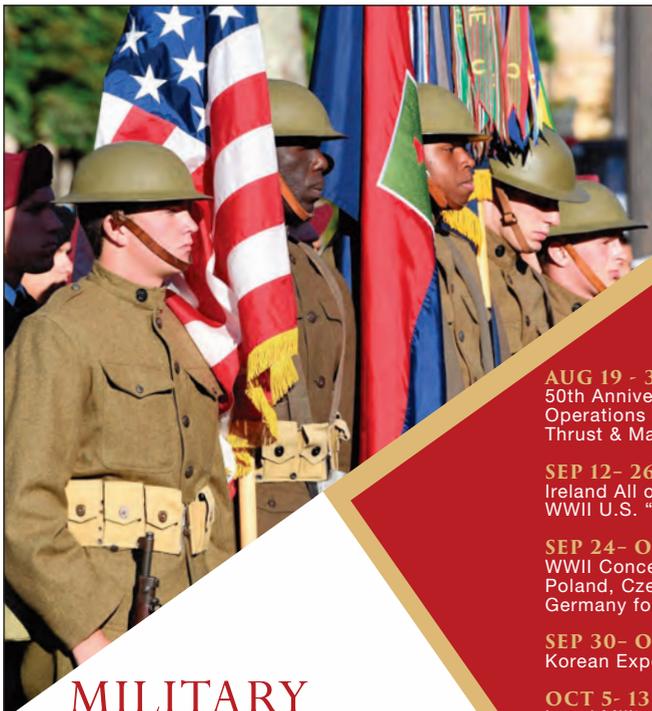
Scott T. Hartman
Akron, Ohio

Reader Salutes MajGen Bolden

General Bolden has seen more cultural change than most over the past six decades. He was a good Intruder pilot, a good leader of Marines, a good astronaut, a good NASA administrator and throughout it all, he has been a great man. I am glad to have served with Charlie Bolden, aka “Panther.” After reading the interview, I am even more impressed with my former fellow 533 Marine. He is an inspiration, and I look forward to renewing our friendship when he comes to the “Rose Garden” reunion in Pensacola. Oorah Gen Bolden! Your life has exemplified the essence of Semper Fi!

James Dooley
Via Facebook

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an email to: leatherneck@mca-marines.org. Due to the heavy volume, we cannot answer every letter received. Do not send original photographs, as we cannot guarantee their return. All letters must be signed, and emails must contain complete names and postal mailing addresses. Anonymous letters will not be published.—Editor 🇺🇸



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Read “Vietnam: Then and Now” by P.L. Thompson in the April 2017 *Leatherneck* for a firsthand account of an MHT Battlefield Tour at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/2017/04/vietnam-then-and-now

Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

VIVE L'AMERIQUE!—Thousands of people lined Paris' newly christened Avenue du President Wilson to cheer for the American Expeditionary Forces as they marched in an Independence Day parade on July 4, 1918.

Schools and businesses were closed for the day and public transportation was filled to capacity as Parisians from all across the city and the surrounding suburbs gathered early in the morning to claim a spot so they could watch the unveiling of the name plate for Avenue du President Wilson and to celebrate America's Independence Day with U.S. troops. French girls, holding huge floral bouquets, stood on balconies of buildings along the route and showered the Americans with flowers.

A brass band playing "The Star Spangled Banner" kicked off the festivities and the crowd went wild when the Marines—many of whom left the Chateau-Thierry region only the night before—marched by. An article in New York's *The Evening World* newspaper described the scene for readers

the next day: "As the flag of one Marine company appeared the crowds once again broke into frantic applause, for the whole of France had heard of the famous troops and the way they had distinguished themselves ... fighting."

General John J. Pershing, USA, issued a message to U.S. troops in France that stated: "On this anniversary of our Independence the officers and men of the American Expeditionary Forces on the battlefields of France renew their pledges of fealty and devotion to our cause and country. The resolve of our forefathers, that all men and peoples shall be free, is their resolve. It is quickened by sympathy for an invaded people of kindred ideals and the war challenge of an arrogant enemy. It is fortified by the united support of the American people."

See "Advancing at Soissons: Marine Tenacity, Uncommon Endurance Shifts Momentum to the Allies," on page 35 to read more about Marines in World War I. 🇺🇸



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